

Attention Coastal California Laestadian Lutheran Church Board and Delegate

In response to the notification received from the Coastal California Laestadian Lutheran Church of its intent to bring forward a series of motions at the July 3, 2026, LLC Annual Meeting concerning the reinstatement of two former LLC member congregations, please be advised of the following:

Article II, Section 9 of the Laestadian Lutheran Church (LLC) Bylaws provides that a member congregation may be expelled if it does not comply or act in accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws and fails to comply with the decisions made by the LLC.

The LLC Constitution teaches that the Kingdom of God is one and indivisible and that there is one saving faith, one baptism, and one Holy Christian Church. The understanding of the doctrine of the congregation was not acceptable to those who were deceived in the 2022 schism.

At the July 2, 2022, LLC Annual Meeting, after extensive discussion regarding spiritual division within the LLC Member Congregations, the delegates affirmed that the Minneapolis Laestadian Lutheran Church and the Wolf Lake Laestadian Lutheran Church did not travel together in unity of spirit with the other LLC Member Congregations and approved a motion removing them as member congregations. Comments noted that this is a formal acknowledgment of the spiritual division that has been openly acknowledged and has persisted for a number of years. That action was recorded in the official minutes of the LLC, and those minutes were accepted and approved at the July 7, 2023, LLC Annual Meeting.

Subsequent to that action, the Minneapolis Laestadian Lutheran Church challenged the LLC through legal proceedings. Following review of the claims and discussions between legal counsel, the claims were voluntarily dismissed with prejudice, and judgment was entered by the Court on February 27, 2024. As a result, the decisions of the LLC regarding those matters are final and we will not be adding your proposed items to the agenda. Return to mutual faith and fellowship is through individual repentance.

It has come to the attention of the LLC that a delegate from a congregation within the Southwest Mission Area intends to present a motion stating that Coastal California Laestadian Lutheran Church is no longer acting in accordance with the Constitution, Bylaws, and decisions of the LLC and requesting that the delegates initiate the process set forth in Article II, Section 9 of the LLC Bylaws regarding the possible expulsion of Coastal California Laestadian Lutheran Church from membership in the LLC. If the delegates affirm such a motion, that action shall be understood as initiating that process and shall not constitute a final determination regarding the congregation's membership status.

Coastal California Laestadian Lutheran Church will be notified in writing of the delegates' action and provided an opportunity to respond in writing before any final determination regarding membership status is made.

The delegates should also be aware that Coastal California Laestadian Lutheran Church is presently not in good standing with respect to its membership obligations and, pursuant to Article II, Section 5 of the LLC Bylaws, does not possess voting rights at the 2026 LLC Annual Meeting. In addition, efforts by member congregations to engage Coastal California Laestadian Lutheran Church regarding matters affecting fellowship and membership have not resulted in resolution of these concerns.

With continued prayers,

Arvin Pirness

On behalf of the LLC Board of Directors