

# ST. TIMOTHY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Goose Creek, SC

Questions Submitted regarding ELCA/NALC



## TWO RELATED QUESTIONS:

**When this was voted down, we were told the vote was final.  
How many times will we vote?**

**This issue has already been voted on and was rejected. At the last congregational meeting and vote on this issue, the congregation was told that if it didn't pass that it would end the discussion and there would be no further exploration of the issue. If that was true, why is this issue being raised again? The congregation has already decided this issue. The issue has already been voted down. Thank you.**

Actually what was "voted down" at our March congregational meeting was the decision to enter into a formal period of discernment with the ELCA in regards to changing to the NALC.

- The vote required to enter that process was 2/3 of the voting members present.
- At that meeting, a majority (60.4%) of members present expressed a desire to further study the issue. Slightly more than 1/3 of those present (39.6%) expressed a desire not to enter into a formal period of further study and discernment.

One reason this issue is being raised again is because several of those who voted with the majority have asked for study materials and opportunities to discuss the theological issues that face us in this denomination. As your pastor, it is my responsibility and privilege to respond to this request. We have not entered into the formal period of discernment that was voted on at our March congregational meeting – we are simply having informed conversations to deepen our understanding of the theological issues involved.

Another reason this issue is being raised at this time is because of our pastoral vacancy. Until we are clear about our theological stance as a congregation, it is impossible to identify appropriate potential pastoral candidates – either for our current vacancy or for future vacancies.

It is important to remember that this issue has arisen solely because of a vote at the national level in the ELCA.

- Not talking about that vote and its consequences for this congregation does not make it go away.
- Teaching theologians throughout Protestantism agree that we are in the midst of a major realignment in Protestantism in the U.S. – some believe it to be the largest realignment since the Reformation. We didn't start it, and we didn't ask for it, but we are in the middle of it. Therefore, we must respond to it.