Providing leadership, coordination and advocacy for pastoral education and health within the Synod.

Pastoral Education

The Office of Pastoral Education serves as directed by our Synod in the following resolutions:

- 6-01 Pastoral Formation Committee
- 6-02 Uphold scriptural and confessional qualifications for the Office of Holy Ministry
- 6-03 Affirm the M.Div. route at the Synod’s seminaries
- 6-04 Encourage and support the Global Seminary Initiative
- 6-05 Encourage movement toward an alternative to federal student loans for seminaries
- 6-06 Encourage existing training programs for pastoral ministry in immigrant and challenging ministry settings
- 2013 5-03E Establish policies governing SMP program
- 2013 5-04B Continue and strengthen SMP program

Executive Director

The Rev. Dr. James A. Baneck graduated from Concordia College, St. Paul, Minn., in 1983 with a B.A. in music, majoring in organ performance and choral conducting. In 1987, Baneck graduated from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind., with an M.Div. Baneck served as pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church, Kimball, Minn., and Messiah Lutheran Church, Mandan, N.D. He earned his D. Min. in 2001 from Concordia Theological Seminary. Baneck also served as district president of the LCMS North Dakota District.

Staff

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Pastoral Education
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888-THE LCMS | lcms.org/pastoral-education
Responsibilities Related to the Office of Pastoral Education

**PRE-SEMINARY EDUCATION**
- Assist in pre-seminary formation
- Convene annual gatherings of CUS pre-seminary program directors
- Conduct annual visits with CUS presidents, pre-seminary program directors, and theology departments

**SEMINARY EDUCATION**
- Foster faculty, staff, and student relationships between seminaries
- Advocate for relationship between Synod and seminaries
- Schedule regular visits and adjunct teaching opportunities
- Collaborate with seminaries’ board of regents
- Collaborate with district presidents and seminary faculties during joint meetings

**CONTINUING EDUCATION**
- Direct PALS (Post-Seminary Applied Learning and Support)
- Oversee Preach the Word campaign
- Encourage CE among pastors and congregations of the Synod
- Facilitate development of resources provided by the Synod
- Promote CE provided by seminaries
- Develop system for tracking and reporting CE by pastors

**SYNOD FINANCIAL ADVOCATE**
- Joint Seminary Fund
- Global Seminary Initiative (GSI)

**THEOLOGY PROFESSORS CONFERENCE**
- Coordinate bi-annual Theology Professors Conference

**SEMINARY FACULTY PRIOR-APPROVAL**
- Facilitate prior-approval process

**THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF PASTORAL EDUCATION (PED)**
- Assist the Synod’s chief mission officer in executing the responsibilities related to seminary education which are assigned to him in the Bylaws of the LCMS: “The Chief Mission Officer shall, on behalf of the President, provide leadership, coordination and oversight for pre-seminary education programs, seminary education and post-seminary continuing education, and by providing advocacy for pastoral education and health within the Synod” (Bylaw 3.4.3.8, 2013 LCMS Handbook, p. 126).

“I WILL GIVE YOU SHEPHERDS AFTER MY OWN HEART, WHO WILL FEED YOU WITH KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING.”
( Jer. 3:15)