

LCMS-Appropriate Anti-Trafficking Partnership Guidelines (Clarifying Conservative Partner Beliefs)

Purpose

Community Lutheran Church seeks partnerships exclusively with anti-trafficking ministries and non-profits that hold to a historically Christian, biblically conservative understanding of marriage, sexuality, and the authority of Scripture, while serving victims of sex trafficking with mercy regardless of the beliefs or identities of those served. These partnerships are acts of Christian vocation and mercy, not endorsements of secular or progressive ideologies.

Required Beliefs of Partner Organizations

Partner organizations must:

- Affirm the authority of Scripture as God's Word
- Hold a traditional Christian view of marriage and sexual ethics
- Reject ideological requirements that affirm LGBTQ theology or gender identity frameworks
- Maintain a faith-based mission consistent with historic Christian doctrine (even if non-denominational)

Scope of Compassionate Service

Partner organizations may and should:

- Serve victims regardless of sexual identity, beliefs, or moral positions
- Provide or fund licensed psychological care for trauma recovery
- Offer services without requiring doctrinal agreement from victims
- Treat trauma as injury caused by sin and exploitation, not as moral failure of the victim

Why Funding Therapy Is Not Doctrinal Compromise

Licensed psychological care addresses trauma injuries such as PTSD, anxiety, and depression. Funding such care does not affirm the worldview of the therapist or the identity claims of the client. As with medical or legal aid, the Church supports healing while retaining its confession of sin, repentance, forgiveness, and redemption in Christ alone.

Lutheran Theological Framework

- Two Kingdoms: therapy operates in temporal care; doctrine remains in the Church's teaching office
- Law and Gospel: therapy treats wounds; the Gospel forgives sin and creates faith
- Vocation: God works through professionals without endorsing their beliefs

Guardrails

- Partnerships are service-based only, not doctrinal alliances
- No joint statements on sexuality, gender, or identity
- Congregational control over teaching, worship, and catechesis is preserved

Summary Statement

Community Lutheran Church partners only with conservative Christian anti-trafficking organizations that hold traditional biblical ethics, while serving victims compassionately regardless of belief. Providing trauma-informed psychological care through such partnerships does not compromise LCMS doctrine when doctrinal authority remains with the Church.