

CLC Certification of Elementary Teachers

(CLC Proceedings 1996 and 2000)

The following was adopted by the 1996 CLC Convention (See Proceedings, page 93f.): CLC Certification of Elementary Teachers

Whereas the CLC at its 1961 convention resolved: "Whereas it should not be our fixed policy to use state institutions of education to educate our youth for the ministry of the church, Be it therefore resolved that we set as our goal a full time four-year college, trusting that the Lord, who has blessed us, will continue to provide for us" (proceedings, Appendix XII, p. IX); and

Whereas the Lord of the Church has answered our prayers by establishing the B.A. in Pre-theology and B.S. in Elementary Education programs at ILC; and

Whereas the CLC has made provision for the certifying of public school teachers who desire to teach in Christian day schools in Bylaw 17D of its Constitution:

"When public school teachers desire to teach in the parochial schools of the CLC, the eligibility of the candidate shall be determined by the president of the CLC. He shall consult with the conference visitor, the local pastor and the Dean of the College department of ILC. This committee of three shall determine which courses (if any) must be completed before such a teacher is eligible for a place on the roster of teachers of the CLC. This is not intended to restrict a local congregation from calling from its own midst"; and

Whereas the lack of specific directives in this bylaw has made it difficult to respond readily to inquiries concerning the number and kind of courses that may be required for CLC certification; and

Whereas this bylaw does not provide for situations in which a person desiring CLC certification has chosen a secular institution instead of ILC for gaining a degree in elementary education; and

Whereas the president of the CLC has requested a review of Bylaw 17 A with respect to the those who received degrees in elementary education from other Lutheran church bodies and now desire CLC certification; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the following paragraphs be adopted by the CLC as a recommended procedure for the granting of CLC certification to elementary teachers:

1. The CLC desires that its future Christian day school teachers receive their training at ILC through the B.S. in Elementary Education program which it has established. Certification is ordinarily granted upon the completion of this degree and the recommendation of the president of ILC .
2. A person who has received a degree in elementary education from a secular institution and has not previously attended college at ILC will ordinarily be granted certification upon the completion of two years in residence at ILC, including the following courses: Old and New Testament Introduction, Dogmatics, Symbolics, Church History, History and Philosophy of Education, Religion Methods, Practical Theology for Teachers, and Teaching Internship.
3. A person who has taken fewer than two years of college at ILC and has subsequently received a degree in elementary education from a secular institution will ordinarily be granted certification upon the completion of up to two additional years in residence at ILC, including the following courses: Old and New Testament Introduction, Dogmatics, Symbolics, Church History , History and Philosophy of Education, Religion Methods, Practical Theology for Teachers, and Teaching Internship.

The following was adopted by the 2000 CLC Convention (Proceedings, page 90!)

4. A person who has taken the first two years of college at ILC and has thereupon received a degree in elementary education from a secular institution will ordinarily be granted certification upon completion of the following: A. One additional year in residence at ILC, including all such courses listed in paragraph 3 above which are available during that year. B. Tutoring by the individual's pastor in any remaining courses from this list. Immanuel Lutheran College will determine the syllabi for these courses and will monitor the progress of instruction. The final determination regarding the acceptability of the instruction will be made by the College Admission Committee (President, Academic Dean, and Dean of Students).
5. A person who has a degree in elementary education from a secular institution and who has completed at least five years of teaching on the elementary level will ordinarily be granted certification upon completion of the following: A. Tutoring by the individual's pastor in Old and New Testament Introduction; Dogmatics, Symbolics, and Church History. Immanuel Lutheran College will determine the syllabi for these courses and will monitor the progress of instruction. The final determination regarding the acceptability of the instruction will be made by the College Admission Committee (President, Academic Dean,

and Dean of Students). B. In residence (regular and/or summer) programs at ILC in History and Philosophy of Education, Religion Methods, and Practical Theology for Teachers.

6. Persons who have received degrees in elementary education from other Lutheran church bodies will ordinarily be granted certification upon the successful completion of a colloquy. The constituency of the committee conducting the colloquy is specified in Bylaw 17 A of the CLC Constitution.

7. Exceptions to provisions in paragraphs 1 through 5 may be granted by the President of the CLC in consultation with those individuals named in Bylaw 17D. Procedures for special situations not covered by these five paragraphs shall be established in similar fashion. Declaration of eligibility for CLC teacher certification rests in each case with the President of the CLC.

The 2000 CLC Convention also adopted the following wording for Constitution By-law 17.D –

17.D. Persons within our fellowship who desire to enter the teaching ministry

When public school teachers desire to teach in the parochial schools of the CLC, the eligibility of the candidate shall be declared by the President of the CLC. He shall consult with the Conference Visitor, the local pastor and the Academic Dean of the College Department of ILC. This committee of three shall refer to the guidelines for granting CLC certification to elementary teachers to determine an appropriate course of action for the candidate to fulfill before being considered eligible for a place on the roster of teachers of the CLC.

The classes, which were referred to as required for certification in the above paragraphs, are listed now along with the name of the Professor, who is currently teaching that class, the number of credits and an indication if it is available online or through a skype real-time connection to the class as it is taught.

Class	Description	Credits	Professor	Status
Religion 101	Pentateuch	3	Ude	Online
Religion 102	Joshua – Malachi	3	Ude	Online
Religion 203	Gospels	3	Reim	Online
Religion 204	Epistles-Revelation	3	Reim	Online
Religion 305	Symbolics	3	Ude	Online
Religion 306	Symbolics	3	Ude	Online
Religion 407	Dogmatics	3	Ude	Online
Religion 408	Dogmatics	3	Ude	Online
History 251	Church History	3	Sullivan	Skype
Ed Meth 326	Religion Methods	3	Lau	
Educ 305	Practical Theology	1	Ude	Online
Educ 204	History and Philosophy of Education	3	Sullivan	Skype
Educ 404	Teaching Internship	8	Roehl	

Sometimes, people wonder why our church body thinks there is a need for someone, who has an elementary education degree from a secular university, to take these additional courses to be CLC certified. Look over the list of the first twelve classes required for CLC certification in the graph above. Every one of them is a religious study. If any of these classes were taught at a public college, they were, undoubtedly, taught in a manner which attacked and undermined what the Bible does teach. Public college classes, also, regularly attack Biblical teachings such as: there is only one God, the Trinity, creation took place in six regular days about 6,000 years ago, salvation is

through Jesus Christ alone, the total depravity of man's sinful state, man's reason is not the arbiter of truth, there is absolute truth in the inspired, inerrant Word of God, and redemption is through the blood of Jesus Christ, the God-Man.

The thirteenth class on the list is an internship. It is important that teachers observe and put into practice, while observed, the Biblical teachings. The internship will also provide some experience in other aspects unique to the Christian Day School such as devotions, Christian discipline, and functioning in a multi-room classroom.

So, both the focus and the extent of the certification requirements is to provide the teachers with a thorough training in the Word of God. The church body has the responsibility and right to know that the full-time public ministers of the gospel have had such training. This certification process is, then, not a challenge to non-CLC-certified teachers, indicating that they have not had sufficient training to teach elementary grades. It is saying that as a church, whose single purpose is to teach the Word of God faithfully, we properly hold up a banner for the religious training of those teaching the Word of God in our name. The form for providing and accomplishing such training may vary, but this standard is established in God's Word:

(Tit 1:9 NKJ) holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict. (Yes, this passage is speaking about bishops/pastors, but this passage is not to be limited to the office of "Pastor." Bishop refers to one called to oversee souls. We do call our Christian Day School teachers to oversee the souls in their care, so the passage applies.)

(2Ti 1:13 NKJ) Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.

(2Ti 2:2 NKJ) And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

(2Ti 2:15 NKJ) Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

2Ti 3:10 But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance,

Eph 4:11 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,

We ask those called as full-time teachers in our schools to indicate their subscription to the Book of Concord, The Brief Statement, Concerning Church Fellowship, and Concerning Church and Ministry. Individuals can certainly read them on their own. But, most individuals, reading them on their own, are not going to gain a comprehensive understanding of the history, context, implications of these confessions, nor the current examples of the errors exposed. So, those, who would be public teachers of the Word in our schools, are encouraged to study them comprehensively enough to be able to meaningfully and wholeheartedly subscribe to them.

Certainly, ongoing personal and Bible Class studies may bring an individual to the same goal. We do not diminish the faith or understanding of a layperson. We recognize that a layperson, with their Bible, may indeed be a better theologian than any of those theologically trained. And this certification standard does not dictate what a congregation can do. Each congregation, knowing the spiritual progress of their individual members, can nominate qualified individuals to their call list.

Some have asked what is Immanuel Lutheran College doing to assist teachers in being certified. As of this year, all of the classes, but two, are available online through ILC. Profs have also made special arrangements for such classes, for example, assisting qualified pastors and teachers in the congregation to teach such classes.

Once again, the form of gaining such training in the Word is not required by Scripture, but the standard of training in the Word is established by Scripture.

For more information about online classes go to: [ILC Online Courses](#)