

*For clergy in the throes of addiction, there are unique levels of struggle, shame, guilt and secrecy. This calls for unique levels of compassion, understanding, accountability and hope so recovery can truly begin. Enter the Fellowship of Recovering Lutheran Clergy (FRLC), a network of rostered leaders, professional church workers and students sharing personal experiences in a place of grace and hope, never judgment. The chains of addiction to alcohol and / or other substances, codependency, pornography, food, etc. can be broken so you can move forward freely and faithfully. Together.*

## OUR PURPOSE

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To help rostered leaders and students begin the road to recovery.

## OUR BACK STORY

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In 1990, two Lutheran Pastors determined that many Lutheran clergy suffered from alcoholism and other addiction and wanted the hand of recovering Lutheran clergy to be there when a Lutheran pastor reached out for help. Thanks to a generous grant from Wheat Ridge Foundation (now We Raise Foundation) the Fellowship developed a firm footing nationally. Since then, we have grown in numbers and have given birth to the Center for Addiction and Faith which has a broader mission of service to the church in addiction ministry. FRLC is not an agency of any church body. We happily coordinate with other denominations and faith groups who have clergy who want to start a similar kind of fellowship.

READY TO TALK?  
VISIT [WWW.FRLC.ORG](http://WWW.FRLC.ORG)  
FOR CONTACT INFORMATION.



## WHAT MAKES US SPECIAL

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We, ourselves, are prodigal sons and daughters who have battled the afflictions of addiction. As such, we are fluent in four languages of the rostered minister or student struggling with alcohol or other dependencies.

- 1) We speak "Pastor" - meaning we know the special challenges of being an addicted church leader.
- 2) We speak "Lutheran" - meaning we believe in and practice grace.
- 3) We speak "Guilt" - meaning we have felt the same shame you feel and the same stigma you fear.
- 4) We speak "Forgiveness and Recovery" - meaning we know there is a path that leads from addiction to healing and hope.

The rostered minister or student struggling with these issues will find no greater group of people to walk with because we have been in their shoes.

## WHAT WE DO

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1. We provide a network of support for recovering rostered ministers and students to connect with each other.
2. We provide this same opportunity for newly recovering rostered ministers and students to gain from the experience, strength, and hope of those in long term, stable recovery.
3. We provide a personal, caring referral resource to synodical leaders who minister to and supervise rostered ministers with all types of addictions.
4. We provide a personal, caring referral resource to seminaries who likewise have students with all types of addictions.
5. We provide multiple online support groups through the Center for Addiction and Faith.
6. We provide an annual retreat for members and partners.
7. We provide educational resources through the web sites [www.frlc.org](http://www.frlc.org) and the Center for Addiction and Faith [www.addictionandfaith.com](http://www.addictionandfaith.com) as well as our book of recovery stories.
8. We send qualified FRLC members to offer educational programs at Synod Assemblies, theological conferences, and seminaries.

## WHO CAN JOIN

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The fellowship is open to all rostered leaders, youth workers and seminary students recovering from and / or struggling with addiction. Membership is anonymous. Anonymity is expected and respected. If your denomination does not offer a program for addict support, or if you are a family member of an addicted church leader, you are welcome here.

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