



Assistant Vice President for Mission, Church, and Ministry

The Opportunity

Valparaiso University seeks a committed, articulate Lutheran leader with excellent administrative management skills to serve as Assistant Vice President for Mission, Church, and Ministry (AVP for MCM).

An independent, Lutheran comprehensive university of over 3,000 students committed to excellence in liberal arts and professional education, Valparaiso University — or “Valpo” as it is popularly known — has a longstanding national reputation for academic excellence. Its distinctive heritage promotes the interaction of religious faith and secular learning, encourages vocational thinking, and provides a solid foundation to prepare students to lead and serve in both church and society.

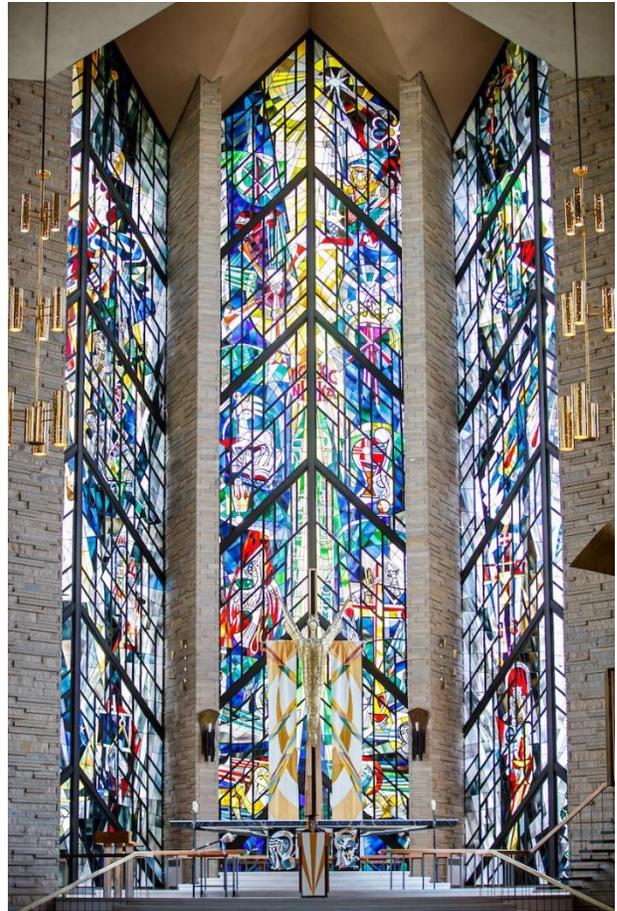
Lutheran Identity and Mission

Since 1925, Valparaiso University has been owned and operated by The Lutheran University Association, a national organization composed of clergy and church laity, the majority of whom are affiliated with Lutheran congregations. While Valparaiso University is under neither the control nor the authority of any church body, it maintains close and friendly ties with many congregations, schools, church workers, and laity of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. The University continues to seek out and treasure a broad range of relationships and partnerships with numerous Lutheran organizations, agencies, institutions, and schools, not only within the community of Northwest Indiana but throughout the United States and beyond.

Valparaiso University strives to be a place where fundamental issues are explored from all angles with intellectual rigor, integrity, openness, and respect — a place where faith and learning are held together in lively interaction. The University’s commitments to excellent teaching and learning and to scholarship and service are informed by the recognition that scholarship, freedom, and faith are ultimately grounded in the Gospel’s promise of God’s unconditioned grace. Likewise, its commitments to justice, diversity, equity, and inclusion are shaped by the conviction that all people are equally God’s creatures and equally the objects of God’s gracious love. Accordingly, the University attracts individuals from all Christian churches, from other religious traditions, and from no religious tradition who are committed to academic excellence and are interested in sympathetic and critical engagement with the Christian intellectual tradition. Inter-Lutheran, intra-Christian, and interfaith dialogue are important components of Valpo’s mission.



The Chapel of the Resurrection, a nationally renowned architectural gem, is located at the center of campus and symbolizes the University's commitment to sustain a gospel ministry of word and sacrament for the nurturing of faith. Two University Pastors — one from the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and the other from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America — work in a unique collaboration to lead daily worship services, provide pastoral ministry and advice, and direct peer ministry and other campus ministry programs.



The Position

Reporting directly to Provost Eric Johnson, the AVP for MCM is charged with promoting, supporting, and advancing the University's Lutheran mission, both internally and externally, including fostering ongoing relationships with various Lutheran denominations and other entities. The AVP for MCM is also responsible for the administrative management of all programs housed in the Helge Center for Mission and Ministry, including chapel and student ministries, the Allen Scholars Program, the Institute of Liturgical Studies, and the Institute for Leadership and Service.

As a member of both the Provost's Council and the President's Council, the AVP for MCM advises Valparaiso University's senior leadership and Board of Directors on the role of the University's Lutheran mission in all aspects of campus life and serves as a spokesperson for the University's mission, vision, and values. The AVP for MCM collaborates with the provost, academic deans, and student life division to develop and support both curricular and co-curricular programs that encourage vocational discernment, religious education, spiritual life, and a commitment to serve others.

Major responsibilities of the position include:

- Provide leadership and support for campus programs supporting the University's Lutheran identity, including leading faculty and staff development programs; incorporate Lutheran content and philosophy in the University's general education program; promote service learning and social justice programs; and participate in faculty and administrative searches.
- Supervise and support the University Pastors and other staff in the Chapel of the Resurrection, the Allen Scholars Program, the Institute of Liturgical Studies, and the Institute for Leadership and Service.
- Serve on President's Council; participate in strategic planning; attend meetings of the Board of Directors; serve on appropriate campus committees.
- Represent the University at key off-campus, church-related events; reach out to pan-Lutheran agencies; and foster ongoing relationships with Lutheran churches and secondary schools. Work with Enrollment Management to recruit and fund Lutheran students. Develop and support programs for those planning to enter ordained and rostered ministry positions.
- Manage budgets, programming development, physical plant, capital projects, and long-term strategic planning for the Helge Center and the Chapel of the Resurrection. Meet, support, and cultivate donor prospects.
- Direct the Lutheran Leader Program, including recruitment and selection, leading weekly meetings, and mentoring the Lutheran Leader students (eight total).
- In consultation with the University Pastors, support and develop ecumenical and interreligious efforts and programs, including coordination of the Helge Program Affiliates.

Opportunities and Challenges of the Role

The Assistant Vice President for Mission, Church, and Ministry must be a seasoned and enthusiastic champion of Lutheran thought and values in the context of higher education. The individual in this position must maintain vital connections to the Lutheran church and broader Lutheran constituencies, deepen the Lutheran ethos and intellectual foundation of the University, and incorporate ecumenical and interreligious dialogue and practice.

Valparaiso University is in a time of transformation and revitalization; with the advent of a new president and provost, many changes are taking place in the campus senior leadership and a new strategic plan will be developed in the next year. The incoming AVP for MCM will need to become a thought partner and important voice in this process, bringing both innovative ideas and traditional strengths into play with respect to the University's unique Lutheran mission.

Qualifications and Characteristics

The ideal candidate will be a nationally recognized Lutheran thinker with a broad network of church and para-church connections and a track record of strong administrative skills. This individual will be conversant with and articulate about Lutheran theology and be involved in a Lutheran congregation. They will have the ability to work collaboratively with both internal and external constituents; exceptional oral and written communication skills; and strengths in the areas

of budgeting, personnel supervision, organization, and strategic planning. An M.Div. or M.A. is required, with a Ph.D., D.Min., or equivalent degree preferred, and at least 10 years of experience in university, denominational, church, or para-church administration.

Institutional Overview



Since 1859, Valparaiso has been an independent Lutheran university with a reputation for not only incredible academics, but a bright, energetic spirit that attracts students who truly want to make a difference in this world. The freedom to pursue truth wherever it leads is at the heart of Valpo's sense of community, uniting its academic and spiritual missions. The University fosters in its students a lifelong commitment to this search for truth, encouraging the development of a sense of personal vocation as well as the intellectual and

professional skills needed to pursue it. An active, inclusive community and an accomplished faculty prepare Valpo graduates to choose and navigate their own paths through life. Life at Valpo offers students a model of community participation, personal responsibility, and respectful concern for others.

- The student-initiated [honor system](#) relies on each student to maintain standards of academic.
- A [collaborative system of university governance](#) assigns students considerable responsibility for residential and social life.
- The [Office of Volunteer Programs](#) and the Community Research and Service Center exemplify a commitment to learning through service that results in Valpo students' logging more than 247,000 hours of community outreach and service-learning each academic year.
- Extensive [Study Abroad programs](#) and a commitment to institutional diversity deepen students' understanding of the world's variety of cultural and religious traditions.
- An active [Chapel and campus ministry program](#) encourages vocational discernment and regular worship practices.

Guided by a strong sense of ethics and informed by a broad understanding of the scientific, religious, and cultural heritage of human society, Valpo alumni have assumed leadership roles in their communities, churches, social institutions, the nation, and the world.

About Valparaiso

Valparaiso, Indiana, the home of Valparaiso University, is a city of nearly 34,000, attractively situated in a rural setting at the edge of the busy industrial district of Northwest Indiana. Its most celebrated event is the annual Popcorn Festival, honoring the heritage of the famous agronomist

and businessman Orville Redenbacher, who made Valparaiso his home. A number of community organizations in Valparaiso have mutually beneficial relationships with the University, offering sites for service learning and community service. Just an hour's drive from campus is the city of Chicago, offering almost limitless resources for culture and entertainment. Chicago is easily accessible by bus or train, and the University often charters buses so that students and faculty can take advantage of the theatres, museums, and other educational benefits of this great city.

Fifteen miles to the north, on the shore of Lake Michigan, are the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore and Indiana Dunes State Park, important recreational and scientific resources that offer a combined 17,000 acres of varied natural landscape.

Leadership



As the 19th president at Valparaiso University, José D. Padilla, J.D., began the charge of reviving the University. A dynamic innovator, thinker, and natural leader, President Padilla brings many skills, experiences, and accomplishments in higher education that are ideally suited to the University's needs today and in the future.

President Padilla joins Valpo as the culmination of a long and successful career in higher education. Most recently, he served as Vice President, University Counsel, and Secretary to the Board of Regents of the University of Colorado System. Prior to that, he served 15 years successfully in a number of senior leadership roles at DePaul University in Chicago, the most recent role as Vice President, General Counsel, and Secretary.

President Padilla is widely respected nationally in higher education as having superior business acumen and a deep personal faith. His broad experience ranges from undergraduate student, to graduate student, alumnus, donor, lecturer, administrator, member of the president's cabinet, and board member. His leadership experiences provide the background to address the University's current needs and, moving forward, the strong desire to increase enrollment and attract a more diverse student body.

President Padilla received his bachelor of education in elementary education from The University of Toledo and his juris doctorate from the University of Michigan Law School.

Application Instructions:

Qualified candidates should submit a cover letter (with salary requirements), resume, and contact information for five references at valpo.edu/hr. Candidates should include in their cover letters a demonstrated interest in and understanding of Valparaiso University and evidence of how their experience and skills can help sustain the University's unique mission. Review of applications will begin on July 6 and continue until the position is filled.