NACSW
A Vital Christian Presence in Social Work

Starting an NACSW Chapter

An open information session for faculty, churches, and members who want to bring people together around faith and social work practice

North American Association of Christians in Social Work · nacsw.org

Our time together

About 30 minutes of information, then open Q&A

1. Why chapters: community and shared resources
2. A chapter vs. an organizational member
3. Kinds of chapters and what they cost
4. How to charter, step by step
5. Running a healthy chapter
6. Next steps and your questions

Who we are

Our mission

To equip our members to integrate Christian faith and professional social work practice.

Christ at the center, not a perimeter of beliefs. We pursue conversation, not necessarily consensus.

65+

years equipping Christians in social work

Many traditions

Members from a wide range of Christian denominations, united in Christ (Ephesians 4:16)

Full Unity in Diversity Statement at nacsw.org

Why start a chapter?

What members and chapters gain

Networking

Connect with chapters, practitioners, scholars, and students across North America

Shared resources

Tools, ideas, and materials flow from NACSW to chapters and between chapters

Recognition

Chapters featured on the NACSW website and in the e-newsletter; Student Chapter of the Year Award

Faith in practice

A place to talk openly about integrating Christian faith and social work

A platform

Opportunities to present research and projects at NACSW conventions

Careers

JobNet postings, plus internship and volunteer opportunities for students

Chapters share resources

Every chapter both draws from and adds to a common pool

From NACSW to your chapter

- Chapter Operations Manual, forms, and meeting templates
- Publications, research, and training materials
- Small grants for university student chapters
- Guidance from NACSW staff and Board

Between chapters

- Meeting ideas, devotionals, and program plans
- Guest speakers and service-project models
- Connection to nearby leaders and chapters
- Shared events and virtual gatherings

From your chapter to the network

- Your events and stories featured on the NACSW website
- Highlights in the NACSW e-newsletter (7,000+ subscribers)
- Presentations at NACSW conventions
- Your ideas become resources for the next chapter

A chapter vs. an organizational member

Two different things that often work together

Organizational member

An institution's membership with NACSW

- Held by a social work program, agency, or church
- Pays annual dues to NACSW
- Covers a designated liaison
- An organization can be a member whether or not it hosts a chapter

Chapter

A local community of people

- Students, practitioners, faculty, or congregants who gather
- Chartered by the NACSW Board
- Led by officers with a liaison or coordinator
- Meets regularly and files a Year-End Report

How they connect: a university's Organizational Membership is what establishes its campus chapter and makes every chapter student an NACSW member. Regional chapters are built on individual memberships, and an organization may sponsor them.

Three kinds of chapters

Pick the one that fits your setting; it determines how membership works



University / Program

Based in an accredited BSW and/or MSW program.

- Program joins as an Organizational Member
- Covers one Faculty Liaison
- Every chapter student is an NACSW member at no extra cost



Church / Congregation

Based in a local church, separate from a social work program.

- Church joins with a flat congregational membership
- One designated church liaison
- Congregants join individually or as a small group



Regional, State, or Field of Practice

Member-driven, not tied to one campus.

- Led by a volunteer coordinator who is a member
- Formed by a small group of individual members
- An agency, church, or university may sponsor

What it costs

The question everyone asks first

University / Program chapters: annual Organizational Membership by program size (enrolled BSW + MSW)

Program size	Annual
Small: up to 50 students	**$457**
Medium: 51 to 150	**$573**
Large: 151 to 300	**$745**
Very large: more than 300	**$916**

Includes one Faculty Liaison and free membership for every chapter student.

~$250 / yr

Church / Congregation

Flat rate, one-year pilot

$0

Regional / State / Field

No charter fee; 5 to 10+ members each hold their own membership

Individual rates: Practitioner $166 · Student / Retired $52 · Recent Graduate $93. All rates subject to annual change; current rates at nacsw.org/membership.

What you need to charter

University chapters	At least 2 students, plus a Faculty Liaison who is an NACSW member, and university approval. No member faculty yet? NACSW can help identify one.
Regional and state chapters	A volunteer coordinator who is an NACSW member, and at least 5 to 10 individual members.
Church chapters	A congregational membership and a designated church liaison.
Every chapter	Alignment with NACSW's mission and values, and a plan for regular meetings, activities, and connection to the wider network.

How to charter, step by step

1

Apply

Complete the 2026 New Chapter Application (fillable PDF or online form)

2

Confirm

University chapters: include the Faculty Liaison's and university's approval

3

Submit

Send the application to info@nacsw.org

4

Review

The national office reviews and approves your application

5

Celebrate

Receive your charter and hold a charter / induction service

Use the 2026 application only. Earlier chapter application forms are no longer in use.

Running a healthy chapter

What thriving chapters have in common

Meet regularly

A steady rhythm (monthly works well) builds community and momentum

Mix it up

Education, service projects, faith gatherings, and professional development

Connect outward

Join other chapters, conventions, and NACSW virtual gatherings

Communicate

A simple way to reach members, welcome newcomers, and keep a current roster

Each year

- Year-End Report
- Renew your charter with the report and any dues
- Keep officers and roster current

Your next steps

1. Choose your chapter type
2. Gather your founding group and liaison
3. Read the Chapter Operations Manual
4. Submit the 2026 New Chapter Application

Contact the national office

info@nacsw.org

888.426.4712

nacsw.org

Questions?