



Legislative Update Monday, August 12, 2013

The Credentials Committee reported that, as of 2:30 p.m., 912 voting members had registered. The Rev. Mark S. Hanson, presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), declared that a quorum was present for the 2013 Churchwide Assembly in Hall A of the David L. Lawrence Convention Center in Pittsburgh, Pa.

The Roll of Assembly Members was accepted without objection as the organization of the assembly.

Consideration of the Rules of Organization and Procedure

Reference: 2013 Pre-Assembly Report, Section I, Rules of Organization and Procedure

During its first plenary session the 2013 Churchwide Assembly acted on the proposed Rules of Organization and Procedure.

ASSEMBLY

TWO-THIRDS VOTE REQUIRED

ACTION:

YES-864; NO-31

CA13.01.01

To adopt the amended Rules of Organization and Procedure for the 2013 Churchwide Assembly (exclusive of quoted and highlighted provisions and bylaws which are already in force), excluding the material identified in Part Eight, "Substitute Proposal," that was removed for separate consideration.

The assembly amended Part Eight by inserting "and provided the request is supported by 10 other voting members" at the end of the first sentence of the section dealing with a "Substitute Proposal."

ASSEMBLY

TWO-THIRDS VOTE REQUIRED

ACTION:

YES-614; NO-282

CA13.01.02

To adopt the following section of Part Eight of the Rules of Organization and Procedure for the 2013 Churchwide Assembly:

**Part Eight: Memorials from Synodical Assemblies
Substitute Proposal**

With respect to any recommendation made by the Memorials Committee in a report distributed to the assembly members prior to or at the first business session of the assembly, a voting member of the assembly may offer a substitute motion to the committee's recommendation only if such member has given notice electronically or on a paper form by the established deadline and provided the request is supported by 10 other voting members. For such notice, a voting member who desires to offer a substitute to the recommendation of the Memorials Committee must complete the form, Notice Related to Recommendations of the Memorials Committee, and submit it to the secretary of this church or the secretary's deputy prior to the established deadline. (See PART EIGHTEEN: Deadlines below.) In addition, the text of the proposed substitute should be submitted on a Motion Form electronically or on a paper form to the secretary or the secretary's deputy.

Consultation with at least one of the co-chairs of the Memorials Committee is required when a substitute will be moved and is recommended when any other amendment will be proposed to the response recommended by the Memorials Committee.

In accordance with the adopted rules, Presiding Bishop Hanson declared the committees of the assembly authorized and constituted. Without objection, he appointed an *ad hoc* committee to consider proposed amendments to the recommended social statement on criminal justice and its related implementing resolutions. This committee will bring a report and specific recommendations for the assembly's consideration.

Consideration of the Order of Business

Reference: 2013 Pre-Assembly Report, Order of Business and Section I, Rules of Organization and Procedure.

ASSEMBLY

TWO-THIRDS VOTE REQUIRED

ACTION:

YES-909; NO-5

CA13.01.03

To approve the Order of Business as the agenda of the 2013 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, in keeping with the provisions of the Rules of Organization and Procedure for the calling of items of business before the assembly.

Elections: First Ballot for Presiding Bishop

Reference: 2013 Pre-Assembly Report, Section I, Rules of Organization and Procedure, and Section V, Election of Presiding Bishop.

Presiding Bishop Hanson relinquished the chair to Mr. Carlos E. Peña, vice president of the ELCA, to lead the assembly in the first ballot for presiding bishop. The Credentials Committee reported that 935 voting members had registered to cast ballots.

Deadlines for Tuesday, August 13, 2013

8:00 a.m.

Proposed questions for the question-and-answer forum with nominees for presiding bishop

11:00 a.m.

Separate consideration (removal from *en bloc*) of election amendments to the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

Proposed changes to the election amendments to constitutions, bylaws, and continuing resolutions.

Nominations from the floor

Withdrawal from ballot for presiding bishop



Legislative Update Tuesday, August 13, 2013

Elections: Results of First Ballot for Presiding Bishop

Reference: 2013 Pre-Assembly Report, Section V, Election of the Presiding Bishop, and Section X, Report of the Elections Committee.

The Elections Committee reported the results of first ballot for presiding bishop. Of the 877 legal ballots cast, none of the nominees received the necessary 666 votes for election. Those who received votes were given the opportunity to remove their names from being included on the second ballot for presiding bishop.

Consideration: Book of Faith Initiative

Reference: 2013 Pre-Assembly Report, Section V, Book of Faith Initiative, page 4.

ASSEMBLY

ACTION:

YES-876; NO-17

CA13.02.04

To affirm the Book of Faith initiative as a continuing emphasis and priority in this church, and to request that the presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America—who “as its pastor, shall be a teacher of the faith of this church and shall provide leadership for the life and witness of this church” (ELCA constitutional provision 13.21.)—continue to lead this initiative personally and in collaboration with the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit, other appropriate churchwide units, and the Conference of Bishops;

To reaffirm the overall goal of the Book of Faith initiative to help individuals and congregations throughout the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to open Scripture and join the conversation;

To call on congregations, synods, the churchwide organization, and other ministries of this church to continue to promote deep biblical engagement that approaches the Bible as the written Word of God, using “multiple methods” to engage persons individually and in community with others;;

To call upon Augsburg Fortress, Publishers, as the publishing ministry of this church, to consult with all expressions of this church and its related institutions and agencies as appropriate to undergird and support the Book of Faith initiative in order to enhance the biblical literacy of all members of this church as well as those seeking a better understanding of the Gospel of Jesus Christ;

To encourage engagement of the Book of Faith initiative by colleges, universities, and seminaries of this church, recognizing the continuing challenge of assisting pastoral and lay leaders in taking up their roles as teachers of the Bible in ways that engage and inspire the current and future members and seekers in this church;

To encourage the Book of Faith initiative leadership in conversation with its many partners to continue implementation of the initiative so as to respond to such challenges as: biblical illiteracy, Bible and mission outreach, addressing the great variety of cultures that make up this church and world, appealing to the growing number of persons in society claiming to be “spiritual but not religious,” creative use of social media, and the importance of family and home as centers of faith development; and

To give thanks to God for all of the individuals, congregations, synods, and churchwide ministries for their deep and abiding commitment to the centrality of God’s transforming Word in Christ, in proclamation, and in Scripture.

Consideration: Constitutional Amendments Relating to Elections

Reference: 2013 Pre-Assembly Report, Section V, Amendments to the Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions, page 2.

The 2013 Churchwide Assembly acted on proposed amendments to the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* relating to nominations and elections.

ASSEMBLY

TWO-THIRDS VOTE REQUIRED

ACTION:

YES-879; NO-20

CA13.02.05 To adopt *en bloc*, with the exception of proposed amendments to bylaw 19.21.02. to be considered separately, the following amendments to the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* [pages 2 through 6].

The motion to adopt the proposed amendments to bylaw 19.21.02. was divided by a vote of 546 to 341.

The assembly defeated the motion to amend the first portion of the proposal by a vote of 447 to 472:

19.21.02. The Nominating Committee shall nominate ~~two persons at least one person~~ for each council, board, or committee position, according to the process described in continuing resolutions, for which an election will be held by the Churchwide Assembly. . . .

The assembly adopted the second portion of the proposal.

ASSEMBLY

TWO-THIRDS VOTE REQUIRED

ACTION:

YES-653; NO-263

CA13.02.06 To amend bylaw 19.21.02. by insertion:

19.21.02. The Nominating Committee shall nominate two persons for each council, board, or committee position, according to the process described in continuing resolutions, for which an election will be held by the Churchwide Assembly. **In the case of re-election, if authorized, or for nominees from church bodies with which this church is in a relationship of full communion, only one person need be nominated.** Nominations from the floor, where permitted in the nomination process, shall be presented as an alternative to a specific category named by the Nominating Committee and shall therefore meet the same criteria as the persons against whom the nominee is nominated. In the materials provided in advance to each member of the assembly, the Nominating Committee shall set forth the criteria applicable to each category that must be met by persons nominated from the floor.

Elections: Results of the Second Ballot for Presiding Bishop

Reference: 2013 Pre-Assembly Report, Section V, Election of the Presiding Bishop, and Section X, Report of the Elections Committee.

The Elections Committee reported that 943 votes were cast on the second ballot for presiding bishop, requiring 708 votes for election. There was no election on the second ballot. The names of the seven receiving the greatest number of votes were presented.

Mark Hanson, 369 votes.

Jessica Crist, 272 votes.

Elizabeth Eaton, 87 votes.

Peter Marty, 45 votes.

Ann Svennungsen, 36 votes.

David Lose, 33 votes.

Barbara Lundblad, 23 votes.

Biographical information about the nominees will be distributed at the beginning of Plenary Session Four, and the election process will proceed in accordance with Part Sixteen of the Rules of Organization and Procedure.

Deadlines for Wednesday, August 14, 2013

1:00 p.m.

Non-germane resolutions

2:30 p.m.

First common ballot

Amendments to the social statement on criminal justice

Amendments to the social statement's implementing resolutions

6:00 p.m.

Amendments to 2014–2016 budget proposal

Separate consideration (removal from en bloc) of general amendments to constitutions, bylaws, and continuing resolutions

Proposed changes to the general amendments to the constitutions, bylaws, and continuing resolutions



Legislative Update Wednesday, August 14, 2013

Elections: Third Ballot for Presiding Bishop

Reference: 2013 Pre-Assembly Report, Section V, Election of the Presiding Bishop, and Section X, Report of the Elections Committee.

Members of the Executive Committee of the Church Council read notes of gratitude to the Churchwide Assembly from three of the seven nominees for presiding bishops, explaining that they decided not to participate further in the election process. The remaining four nominees responded to questions the Executive Committee formulated from submissions:

- The Rev. Jessica R. Crist
- The Rev. Mark S. Hanson
- The Rev. Ann M. Svennungsen
- The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton

There were 919 votes cast, and two-thirds or 613 votes were needed for election. The Elections Committee reported the results of the third ballot for presiding bishop, taken by electronic voting machines, as follows:

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton	345
The Rev. Mark S. Hanson	271
The Rev. Jessica R. Crist	171
The Rev. Ann M. Svennungsen	130
The Rev. Peter W. Marty	1
The Rev. David J. Lose	0
The Rev. Barbara K. Lundblad	0

Elections: First Common Ballot

Reference: 2013 Pre-Assembly Report, Section VIII, Report of the Nominating Committee.

The Elections Committee provided the voting members with instructions for distributing and casting the first common ballot for elections to the Church Council, Committee on Appeals, Committee on Discipline, Nominating Committee, and the boards of Portico Benefit Services, the Mission Investment Fund, and Augsburg Fortress, Publishers.

Report of the Memorials Committee

Reference: 2013 Pre-Assembly Report, Section VII, Report of the Memorials Committee.

ASSEMBLY

ACTION:

YES-787; NO-41

CA13.03.07

To approve *en bloc*, with the exception of those memorials considered separately, the following responses to 2012 and 2013 synodical memorials printed in the Report of the Memorials Committee (2013 Pre-Assembly Report, Section VII, pages as listed):

- Category A1: Gender Identity Discrimination
- Category A2: Uniting American Families Act
- Category A5: Social Statement on Criminal Justice
- Category A7: Immigration Detention
- Category B1: Hydraulic Fracturing
- Category B2: Fossil Fuels

Category A6: Immigration Reform

ASSEMBLY

ACTION:

YES-828; NO-40

CA13.03.08

To receive with gratitude the memorials of the Northeastern Pennsylvania, Lower Susquehanna, New Jersey, Southwestern Pennsylvania, and Metropolitan Washington, D.C., synods regarding comprehensive immigration reform;

To advocate for the adoption of comprehensive immigration reform legislation, consistent with guidance articulated in the ELCA message entitled “Immigration” and as set forth by Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services:

- Provide an earned pathway to lawful permanent residency and eventual citizenship for undocumented immigrants and their families
- Ensure the humane and just enforcement of U.S. immigration laws, specifically by reducing the use of immigration detention and expanding the use of community support programs for immigrants who do not need to be detained
- Protect families from separation and ensure an adequate supply of visas for families seeking to reunite
- Provide adequate resources and protections to ensure the successful integration of refugees, asylees, survivors of torture and trafficking, unaccompanied minors, and other vulnerable migrants
- Ensure the protection of U.S. citizen and migrant workers;

This legislation should provide a reasonable path to citizenship for undocumented individuals currently living and working in the United States, and set fair immigration quotas that are not discriminatory;

To call on rostered leaders, in their preaching and teaching, to promote an understanding of immigration issues that addresses welcome, promotes concern for the vulnerable, and calls believers to foster the highest possible level of moral discourse in church and society;

To call on congregations to engage in prayerful, reasoned discussion and education on issues related to immigration, availing themselves of resources prepared by the ELCA and Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service;

To call on rostered leaders and congregations of the ELCA to communicate with the President of the United States, Senators, and Members of Congress, to develop and pass such comprehensive immigration reform legislation in the current session; and

To call on the presiding bishop of this church to continue to communicate to members of Congress the ELCA’s position on immigration reform.

ASSEMBLY

ACTION:

YES-851; NO-24

CA13.03.09

To receive with gratitude the memorial from the Metropolitan Washington, D.C., Synod related to 75 years of welcoming immigrants and refugees through Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS);

To declare Sunday, June 22, 2014, as Refugee Sunday; and

To request the presiding bishop to:

- invite congregations to tell the stories of their acts of welcome to refugees and immigrants—signs of witness, mercy, and life together;
- utilize ELCA communications mechanisms to share these stories and inspire action throughout 2014; and
- encourage congregations and organizations to engage with and support the LIRS mission of welcoming the stranger through gifts of time, talent, and treasure.

Category D1: Communion Practices

ASSEMBLY

ACTION:

YES-688; NO-193

CA13.03.10

To receive with gratitude the memorial of the Northern Illinois Synod requesting a process to review the ELCA's guiding documents on communion practices;

To invite members, congregations, synods and the churchwide organization into conversation and study regarding the *Use of the Means of Grace*;

To request the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit, in consultation with the Office of the Presiding Bishop and the Conference of Bishops, to establish a process to review current documents concerning administration of the Sacrament of Holy Communion; and

To request the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit to bring a report and possible recommendations to the April 2014 meeting of the ELCA Church Council.

Three Nominees for Presiding Bishop Respond to Questions

Reference: 2013 Pre-Assembly Report, Section V, Election of the Presiding Bishop, and Section X, Report of the Elections Committee.

The three nominees on the fourth ballot for presiding bishop—the Rev. Jessica R. Crist, the Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, and the Rev. Mark S. Hanson—participated in a question-and-answer period.

Elections: Fourth Ballot for Presiding Bishop

Reference: 2013 Pre-Assembly Report, Section V, Election of the Presiding Bishop, and Section X, Report of the Elections Committee.

The voting members cast the fourth ballot for presiding bishop. There were 907 votes cast, and 60 percent or 545 votes were needed for election. The Elections Committee reported the results as follows:

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton	523
The Rev. Mark S. Hanson	300
The Rev. Jessica R. Crist	84

College Corporation Meetings

Reference: 2013 Pre-Assembly Report, Section VI, College Corporation Meetings.

The 2013 Churchwide Assembly recessed and convened sequentially as the college corporations meetings for Dana College, Blair, Neb.; Luther College, Decorah, Iowa; St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minn.; and Wartburg College, Waverly, Iowa.

Elections: Fifth Ballot for Presiding Bishop

Reference: 2013 Pre-Assembly Report, Section V, Election of the Presiding Bishop, and Section X, Report of the Elections Committee.

The 2013 Churchwide Assembly elected a new presiding bishop on the fifth ecclesiastical ballot. The Election Committee reported that 889 votes were cast and 445 were needed for election.

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton	600
The Rev. Mark S. Hanson	287

ASSEMBLY

ACTION:

CA13.03.11

To elect the Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton to a six-year term, commencing November 1, 2013, as presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Report of the Memorials Committee (Continued)

Reference: 2013 Pre-Assembly Report, Section VII, Report of the Memorials Committee.

Category A4: Same-Gender Couples and Their Families

ASSEMBLY

ACTION:

YES-825; NO-68

CA13.03.12

To receive with the gratitude the memorials of the Eastern North Dakota, South-Central Synod of Wisconsin, Saint Paul Area, Sierra Pacific, Northwest Washington, Metropolitan Chicago, Minneapolis Area, Metropolitan New York, Northeastern Pennsylvania, Indiana-Kentucky, Southwestern Minnesota, Southwestern Pennsylvania, and Metropolitan Washington, D.C., synods regarding Conversations about Ministering to Same-Gender Couples and Families;

To affirm the commitment made in the social statement *Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust* for “pastoral responsibility to all children of God,” recognizing “familial relationship as central to nurturing and sustaining trust and security in human relationships and to advocate for public policies that support and protect families” (pp. 19, 24);

To invite and encourage conversations and resource sharing among this church’s congregations, rostered and lay leaders and the Conference of Bishops on changing family configurations and their impact on society and the ministry of this church; and

To request the Church Council, in keeping with the recommendations of the Addressing Social Concerns Review Task Force, to authorize a group to explore this concern and to bring a report and possible recommendations to the fall 2014 meetings of the Conference of Bishops and Church Council regarding appropriate next steps in carrying out these commitments to pastoral care for same-gender couples and their families.

Category A3: Community Violence

The Memorials Committee made the following motion.

Moved;

Seconded:

To receive with gratitude the memorials of the Sierra Pacific and New Jersey synods concerning gun violence and the memorials of the Pacifica, Southwest California, New England and Metropolitan Washington, D.C., synods concerning confronting the culture of violence;

To reaffirm this church’s commitment to addressing issues of violence through worship, education, service, advocacy, ongoing moral deliberation and the work called for in the 1993 Churchwide Assembly resolution, the 1994 social message on Community Violence and the 2013 Conference of Bishops’ Pastoral Letter on Violence;

To educate members of this church that more people die from suicide than from homicide in the United States and to lift up the ELCA social messages on suicide prevention, community violence, mental health, and to call upon congregations and synods to engage their members on ways to prevent suicide;

To refer the matter of evaluating the feasibility and advisability of developing additional investment screens and related recommendations to the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit with the request that it ask the Corporate Social Responsibility Team to provide a report with possible recommendations to the Church Council at its November 2013 meeting; and

To refer requests for education and resource development on issues of violence in society to the ELCA Church Council for appropriate action in keeping with the recommendations of the Addressing Social Concerns Review Task Force.

There was a motion to amend the main motion.

Moved;

Seconded:

To amend the motion by inserting the following paragraph between the second and third paragraphs of the main motion:

To encourage synods and congregations to contact their elected officials and advocate for passage of legislation that promotes universal background checks, prevents gun trafficking, and requires the reporting of lost or stolen guns to law enforcement so that violence in our communities might decrease;

The proposed amendment was amended.

Moved;

Seconded;

Carried:

Yes-728; No-141

To amend the amendment by deletion and insertion:

To encourage ~~synods and congregations~~ members of this church, consistent with their bound consciences, to contact their elected officials and advocate for passage of legislation that promotes universal background checks, prevents gun trafficking, and requires the reporting of lost or stolen guns to law enforcement so that violence in our communities might decrease;

The presiding bishop suspended debate on the motion to amend the main motion to observe the orders of the day.

Elections: First Ballot for Secretary

Reference: 2013 Pre-Assembly Report, Section V, Election of the Secretary, and Section X, Report of the Elections Committee.

Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson led the assembly in casting the first ballot for secretary.

Deadlines for Thursday, August 15, 2013

11:00 a.m. Withdrawal from ballot for secretary

2:30 p.m. Second common ballot



**Supplement to
Legislative Update
Wednesday, August 14, 2013**

Report of the Memorials Committee

Reference: 2013 Pre-Assembly Report, Section VII, Report of the Memorials Committee.

ASSEMBLY

ACTION:

YES-787; NO-41

CA13.03.07

To approve *en bloc*, with the exception of those memorials considered separately, the following responses to 2012 and 2013 synodical memorials:

Category A1: Gender Identity Discrimination

Category A2: Uniting American Families Act

Category A5: Social Statement on Criminal Justice

Category A7: Immigration Detention

Category B1: Hydraulic Fracturing

Category B2: Fossil Fuels

Category A1: Gender Identity Discrimination

ASSEMBLY

ACTION:

EN BLOC

CA13.03.07a

To receive with gratitude the memorials of the Eastern North Dakota, Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana, Eastern Washington-Idaho, South-Central Synod of Wisconsin, Southwestern Texas, Saint Paul Area, Sierra Pacific, Northwest Washington, Greater Milwaukee, Southwest California, Minneapolis Area, Metropolitan New York, Northwestern Minnesota, Upstate New York, Northeastern Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Southwestern Minnesota, Southwestern Pennsylvania, Metropolitan Washington, D.C., and Indiana-Kentucky synods regarding their concern for the important issue of employment non-discrimination and their common cause in memorializing the 2013 Churchwide Assembly;

To acknowledge the continued lack of state and federal anti-discrimination workplace laws addressing the categories of sexual identity and gender identity and the recent and recurring proposals concerning the employment non-discrimination legislation, including a proposal to provide a religious exemption;

To recommit this church to principles of non-discrimination in employment and to call for other employers to engage in similar practices;

To affirm the work by the ELCA advocacy ministries and Corporate Social Responsibility Team in supporting employment non-discrimination legislation and request that they continue to support legislation that opposes workplace discrimination;

To request that the presiding bishop of this church communicate to members of Congress the support of the ELCA for legislation that prohibits employment discrimination on the basis of actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity while providing for religious exemptions; and

To encourage all ELCA synods, congregations, and members to add their voices in support of legislation that prohibits employment discrimination on the basis of actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity.

Category A2: Uniting American Families Act

ASSEMBLY

ACTION:

EN BLOC

CA13.03.07b To receive with gratitude the memorials of the Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana, Eastern Washington-Idaho, South-Central Synod of Wisconsin, Southwestern Texas, Saint Paul Area, Oregon, Florida-Bahamas, Sierra Pacific, Northwest Washington, Southwest California, Minneapolis Area, Central States, Metropolitan New York, Northwestern Minnesota, Upstate New York, Northeastern Pennsylvania, Southwestern Pennsylvania, Metropolitan Washington, D.C., and Indiana-Kentucky synods related to the Uniting American Families Act;

To affirm the Uniting American Families Act or its equivalent in the Congress of the United States;

To request the presiding bishop of this church to communicate to the president and members of Congress the action of the 2013 Churchwide Assembly; and

To encourage rostered leaders and members of congregations in this church, if consistent with their individual bound consciences, to support the Uniting American Families Act, or its equivalent, to their elected representatives and encourage them to co-sponsor and to support a just, comprehensive reform of U. S. immigration law that includes the principles of the Uniting American Families Act.

Category A5: Social Statement on Criminal Justice

ASSEMBLY

ACTION:

EN BLOC

CA13.03.07c To receive with gratitude the memorials of the Pacifica and North/West Lower Michigan synods recommending adoption of the proposed social statement *The Church and Criminal Justice: Hearing the Cries*; and

To acknowledge the action of the 2013 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as the response of the Churchwide Assembly to the memorials from these synods.

Category A7: Immigration Detention

ASSEMBLY

ACTION:

EN BLOC

CA13.03.07d To receive with gratitude the memorial of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod lifting up the needs of immigration detainees for ministry and accompaniment;

To encourage all synods in the ELCA to inform their congregations about the locations of county jails, private for-profit prisons, and other detention facilities in their communities that hold immigration detainees for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, as that information is publicly available;

To encourage all synods to provide congregations with links to Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service resources on ministry to detainees;

To support and encourage synods, congregations and affiliated agencies to develop and/or participate in visitation programs for those in detention and to develop community support programs for those who are granted alternatives to detention; and

To encourage congregations and members to study the recommended social statement, *The Church and Criminal Justice: Hearing the Cries*, as it relates to the detention issue.

Category B1: Hydraulic Fracturing

ASSEMBLY

ACTION:

EN BLOC

CA13.03.07e To receive with gratitude the memorials of the Upper Susquehanna and New England synods regarding hydraulic fracturing;

To thank the Upper Susquehanna and New England synods for raising an important issue and for their continued partnership as advocates for a cleaner energy future for our communities and for God's creation;

To recognize the complexity of issues surrounding hydraulic fracturing and the divergent views of this practice that exist within the ELCA;

To support and lift up the ongoing and evolving work of ELCA advocacy ministries of the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit to monitor and engage issues related to hydraulic fracturing; and

To encourage all ELCA synods, congregations and members to inform and educate themselves through the lens of the social statements *Caring for Creation* (1993), *Sufficient, Sustainable Livelihood for All* (1999), and *Genetics, Faith, and Responsibility* (2011) about the issues pertaining to hydraulic fracturing by engaging in 1) grassroots conversation, 2) the sharing of pertinent stories, and 3) workshops and study groups to discern the theological, moral and ethical facets of this practice.

Category B2: Fossil Fuels

ASSEMBLY

ACTION:

EN BLOC

CA13.03.07f To receive with gratitude the memorials of the Oregon, Northwest Washington and New England synods regarding climate change and fossil fuels;

To reaffirm the commitment of this church to:

1. confess that both our witness to God's goodness in creation and our acceptance of caregiving responsibility have often been weak and uncertain;
2. support and encourage synods, congregations, members, the churchwide organization, and agencies and institutions of this church that are working to reduce their use of fossil fuels and improve their stewardship of energy resources;
3. support and encourage synods, congregations, members, the churchwide organization, and agencies and institutions of this church to adopt and advocate for policies that reduce energy use, and with it our dependence on fossil fuels, as an expression of this church's commitment to address climate change and to care for God's creation;
4. support and encourage synods, congregations, members, the churchwide organization, and agencies and institutions of this church to re-examine lifestyles

and environmental footprints as they relate to the climate crisis and to improve their stewardship of energy resources and promote care for God's creation;

To refer the matter of evaluating the feasibility and advisability of developing revised or additional investment screens and related recommendations to the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit with the request that it ask the Corporate Social Responsibility Team to provide a report with possible recommendations to the November 2014 meeting of the ELCA Church Council; and

To forward any possible revisions of these policies to the separately incorporated ministries, agencies and institutions of this church for implementation as appropriate.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Legislative Update Thursday, August 15, 2013

Always
being made
New.
25 YEARS TOGETHER IN CHRIST

Elections: Results of First Ballot for Secretary

Reference: 2013 Pre-Assembly Report, Section V, Election of the Secretary, and Section X, Report of the Elections Committee.

The Elections Committee presented the results of the first ballot for secretary. Of the 848 legal ballots cast, none of the nominees received the necessary 642 votes for election. Those who received votes were given the opportunity to remove their names from being included on the second ballot for secretary.

Elections: Results of First Common Ballot and Second Ballot

Reference: 2013 Pre-Assembly Report, Section VIII, Report of the Nominating Committee, and Section X, Report of the Elections Committee.

The Elections Committee reported elections on 55 of the 63 tickets of the first common ballot for the Church Council, Committee on Appeals, Committee on Discipline, Nominating Committee, and the boards of Portico Benefit Services, the Mission Investment Fund, and Augsburg Fortress, Publishers. There was no election on eight tickets of the first common ballot, and the assembly used electronic voting machines to conduct the second ballot elections between the two nominees receiving the greatest number of votes

ASSEMBLY

ACTION:

CA13.04.13 To declare elected all those who received a majority of votes cast on the first ballot.

Church Council

Pr. Linda Nou, Olympia, Wash. (1C)
Pr. William O. Voss, Scottsbluff, Neb. (4A)
Pr. Peder J. Johanson, Brodhead, Wis. (5K)
Pr. James H. Utt, Winchester, Va. (9A)
Ms. Leslie J. Swenson, Fairbanks, Alaska (1A)
Ms. Meri Jo Petrivelli, San Diego, Calif. (2C)
Ms. Cynthia M. Gustavson, Tulsa, Okla. (4C)
Mr. John W. Lohmann, Walla Walla, Wash. (1D)
Mr. Reid A. Christopherson, Garretson, S.D. (3C)
Mr. Allan J. Bieber, Rochester, Minn. (3I)
Mr. Michael Mason, Anna, Ill. (5C)
Pr. Michael R. Ward, Arden, N.C. (9B)
Pr. Joyce M. Graue, Raymond, Minn. (3F)
Pr. Jonathan Splichal Larson, Bismarck, N.D. (3A)
Pr. William E. Flippin Jr., Columbus, Ga. (9D)
Ms. Ingrid S. Stafford, Evanston, Ill. (5A)
Ms. Amanda E. Briggs, Oakland, Calif. (2A)
Ms. Kayla S. Koterwski, Sioux Falls, S.D. (3C)
Mr. Clarence M. Smith, Minneapolis, Minn. (3G)

Portico Benefit Services

Pr. Paul W. Stumme-Diers, Bainbridge Island, Wash. (1B)
Ms. Diana G. Haywood, Durham, N.C. (9B)
Mr. Bruce E. Johnson, Roanoke, Va. (9A)
Mr. Peter J. Enko, Kansas City, Mo. (4B)
Mr. Leon J. Schwartz, Winterset, Iowa (5D)
Ms. Pamela S. Moench, St. Louis, Mo. (4B)

Mission Investment Fund

Ms. Kathryn E. Baerwald, Washington, D.C. (8G)
Ms. Susan P. Troutman, Greenville, S.C. (9C)
Mr. Harold C. Mueller, Chesterfield, Mo. (4B)
Mr. Robert J. Chillison II, Los Angeles, Calif. (2B)

Augsburg Fortress, Publishers

Ms. Linda J. Brown, Moorhead, Minn. (3D)
Mr. Robert T. Flynn, North Hollywood, Calif. (2B)
Mr. T. Mark Brokering, Mill Valley, Calif. (Episcopalian)
Bp. Sharon Z. Rader, Chicago, Ill. (Methodist)

Committee on Appeals

Pr. Julie A. Ebbesen, Minneapolis, Minn. (3G)
Pr. Mark R. Ramseth, Bozeman, Mont. (1F)
Ms. Kristina D. Garabedian, Fresno, Calif. (2A)

Committee on Discipline

Pr. Michael A. Dubsky, Baltimore, Md. (8F)
Pr. John D. Kreidler, Liberty, Mo. (4B)
Pr. Rebecca R. Richie, Canfield, Ohio (6E)
Pr. Carlton Monroe, Joshua Tree, Calif. (2C)
Pr. Dinah E. Dutta, Lawrence, Kan. (4B)
Ms. Nancy M. Reed, Luray, Va. (9A)
Sr. Sylvia S. Countess, Knoxville, Tenn. (9D)
Ms. Kathleen V. Elliott Chillison, Los Angeles, Calif. (2B)
Ms. Hannah L. Knauss, Martinsburg, Pa. (8C)
Mr. John Emery, Fond du Lac, Wis. (5I)
Mr. Todd A. Perkins, Detroit, Mich. (6A)

Nominating Committee

Pr. Amy Thompson Sevimli, Alexandria, Va. (8G)
Pr. Ruth E. Hamilton, Atlanta, Ga. (9D)
Pr. Eric Carlson, Clive, Iowa (5D)
Pr. Stephen A. Keiser, Philadelphia, Pa. (7F)
Ms. Emily Isensee, Vancouver, Wash. (1C)
Ms. Stacy D. Kitahata, Seattle, Wash. (1B)
Mr. Tommie L. Robinson Jr., Washington, D.C. (8G)
Mr. Jordan Krey, Quincy, Mass. (7B)

ASSEMBLY

ACTION:

CA13.04.14 To declare elected all those who received a majority of votes cast on the second ballot.

Church Council

Ms. Maren Hulden, Moorhead, Minn. (3D)

Mr. Hans Becklin, Middleton, Wis. (5K)

Mr. James M. Hushagen, Edgewood, Wash. (1C)

Mr. Oliver W. Thul, Tyler, Minn. (3F)

Augsburg Fortress, Publishers

Pr. Pamela I. Smith, Clearwater, Fla. (9E)

Committee on Appeals

Mr. Mark E. Johnson, Seattle, Wash. (1B)

Committee on Discipline

Pr. Duane C. Pederson, Oxford, Conn. (7B)

Mr. Ronald C. Gubrud, Dallas, Texas (4D)

Consideration: 2014–2016 Budget Proposal

Reference: 2013 Pre-Assembly Report, Section V, 2014–2016 Budget Proposal, page 1.

ASSEMBLY

ACTION:

CA13.04.15

YES-884; NO-19

2014 Budget Proposal

To approve a 2014 current fund spending authorization of \$70,541,740;

To approve a 2014 ELCA World Hunger income proposal of \$19,000,000; and

To authorize the Church Council to revise the spending authorization after periodic review of revised income estimates.

2015 Budget Proposal

To approve a 2015 current fund income proposal of \$68,552,280;

To approve a 2015 ELCA World Hunger income proposal of \$19,000,000; and

To authorize the Church Council to establish a spending authorization after periodic review of revised income estimates.

2016 Budget Proposal

To approve a 2016 current fund income proposal of \$67,920,675;

To approve a 2016 ELCA World Hunger income proposal of \$19,000,000; and

To authorize the Church Council to establish a spending authorization after periodic review of revised income estimates.

Report of the Reference and Counsel Committee

Reference: 2013 Pre-Assembly Report, Section IX, Report of the Reference and Counsel Committee.

The 2013 Churchwide Assembly declined to accept a Reference and Counsel Committee recommendation to adopt a motion by the Rev. Glen A. Vanderkloot [Central/Southern Illinois Synod]:

Moved;

Seconded;

Yes-338; No-493

Defeated:

That the Church Council, in consultation with the Conference of Bishops, consider amending the constitution in 2016 to change the method of election of the secretary of the ELCA from an ecclesiastical ballot, and any new process would bring at least two names to the Churchwide Assembly.

The assembly voted, upon recommendation of the Reference and Counsel Committee, to refer a motion by the Rev. Theodore L. Cockley [Upper Susquehanna Synod] to the Office of the Secretary:

To amend ¶S3.01. by striking “state” in the last line and substituting the word “Commonwealth,” and to amend 10.01.11. by striking the word “state” in the fifth line and substituting the word “Commonwealth,” striking the final comma in the same line and substitute the word “and,” and striking the word “state” in the last line and substituting the word “Commonwealth.”

Moved;

Seconded;

Yes-801; No-66

Carried:

To refer this matter to the Office of the Secretary with a requested report to the Church Council by the fall of 2014.

The voting members also accepted a committee recommendation to refer a motion by Mr. C. Matthew Wertman [Virginia Synod] that would amend continuing resolution 19.21.A13.:

The Nominating Committee shall strive to ensure that at least ten percent of the voting membership of the Church Council shall be youth ~~or~~ and young adults. Youth members shall be younger than 18 at the time of their election, and young adults shall be older than 18 and younger than 30 years of age at the time of their election.

Moved;

Seconded;

Yes-829; No-51

Carried:

To refer this matter to the Office of the Secretary.

Elections: Results of the Second Ballot for Secretary

Reference: 2013 Pre-Assembly Report, Section V, Election of the Secretary, and Section X, Report of the Elections Committee.

The Elections Committee reported that 931 votes were cast on the second ballot for secretary, requiring 699 votes for election. There was no election on the second ballot. The names of the seven receiving the greatest number of votes were presented:

Cheryl Stuart, 226 votes.
Wm. Chris Boerger, 205 votes.
Mark Grorud, 80 votes.
Matthew Riegel, 50 votes.
Peter Aldrich, 43 votes.
Michael Cooper-White, 41 votes.
Kathryn Gerking, 31 votes.

Biographical information about the nominees will be distributed at the beginning of Plenary Session Eight, and the election process will proceed in accordance with Part Sixteen of the Rules of Organization and Procedure.



Legislative Update Friday, August 16, 2013

Elections: Question and Answer Forum for Seven Nominees for Secretary

Reference: 2013 Pre-Assembly Report, Section V, Election of the Secretary, and Section X, Report of the Elections Committee.

The seven nominees on the third ballot for secretary responded to questions for the 2013 Churchwide Assembly:

- Mr. Peter C. Aldrich
- Pr. Wm. Chris Boerger
- Pr. Michael L. Cooper-White
- Pr. Kathryn J. Gerking
- Pr. Mark A. Grorud
- Pr. Matthew L. Riegel
- Ms. Cheryl G. Stuart

Consideration: Social Statement on Criminal Justice

Reference: 2013 Pre-Assembly Report, Section V, Social Statement on Criminal Justice. .

The motion was made to adopt the recommended social statement, “The Church and Criminal Justice: Hearing the Cries,” as a social statement of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

The *Ad Hoc* Committee reported on the procedures it used to receive and address 10 amendments that voting members had submitted, and the assembly voted on the committee’s recommendations regarding the proposed amendments to the text of the recommended social statement.

Moved;

Seconded;

Yes-861; No-11

Carried:

To replace the paragraph beginning at line 126 of the recommended social statement:

~~Confession is one “mark of the church;” Martin Luther included it among seven indicators that illustrate the fundamental character and practices of the church: Confession, the Word of God, Holy Baptism, Holy Communion, Worship, Ministry, and Compassionate Suffering. Some of these “marks of the church” will serve throughout this statement as critical indicators of genuinely Christian response to today’s criminal justice system and to the people involved in it.~~

Martin Luther calls Confession a “mark of the church,” one of seven indicators that illustrate the fundamental character and practices of the church. He also describes Compassionate Suffering as another kind of external mark whereby the Holy Spirit sanctifies the church in relation to the neighbor. These “marks of the church” serve throughout this statement as critical indicators of genuinely Christian response to today’s criminal justice system and to the people involved in it.

Moved;

Seconded;

Yes-343; No-551

Defeated:

To amend the proposed amendment of line 977 of the recommended social statement:

~~Black people African Americans~~ **People of color** have been far more likely than ~~White people~~ Caucasians to be arrested for drug offenses.⁶⁴

Moved;

Seconded;

Yes-172; No-705

Defeated:

To amend the proposed amendment of line 977 of the recommended social statement:

~~Black people African Americans~~ **Persons of African descent** have been far more likely than ~~White people Caucasians~~ to be arrested for drug offenses.⁶⁴

**Moved;
Seconded;
Defeated:**

Yes-155; No-737

To amend line 977 of the recommended social statement:

~~Black people African Americans~~ have been far more likely than ~~White people Caucasians~~ to be arrested for drug offenses.⁶⁴

**Moved;
Seconded;
Carried:**

Yes-830; No-60

To amend the sentence beginning on line 989 of the recommended social statement:

~~Those costs include the resources required to implement the policy as well as the costs to those who are harmed by the policy by being branded criminals and placed under state control simply because they have used an unlawful substance.~~

Elections: Third Ballot for Secretary

Reference: 2013 Pre-Assembly Report, Section V, Election of the Secretary, and Section X, Report of the Elections Committee.

There were 889 votes cast, and two-thirds or 593 votes were needed for election. The Elections Committee reported the results of the third ballot for presiding bishop, taken by electronic voting machines, as follows:

- Ms. Cheryl G. Stuart, 214 votes.
- Pr. Wm. Chris Boerger, 201 votes.
- Pr. Michael L. Cooper-White, 160 votes.
- Pr. Mark A. Grorud, 132 votes.
- Mr. Peter C. Aldrich, 86 votes.
- Pr. Matthew L. Riegel, 57 votes.
- Pr. Kathryn J. Gerking, 39 votes.

Consideration: Social Statement on Criminal Justice (Continued)

Reference: 2013 Pre-Assembly Report, Section V, Social Statement on Criminal Justice, page 1.

ASSEMBLY

TWO-THIRDS VOTE REQUIRED

ACTION:

YES-882; NO-25

CA13.05.16

To adopt the amended text of the proposed social statement, “The Church and Criminal Justice: Hearing the Cries,” as a social statement of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in accordance with the “Policies and Procedures of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for Addressing Social Concerns” (2011).

Elections: Fourth Ballot for Secretary

Reference: 2013 Pre-Assembly Report, Section V, Election of the Secretary, and Section X, Report of the Elections Committee.

Each of the three nominees on the fourth ballot for secretary—the Rev. Wm. Chris Boerger, the Rev. Michael L. Cooper-White, and Ms. Cheryl G. Stuart—was given five minutes to address the Churchwide Assembly.

The voting members used electronic voting machines to cast the fourth ballot for secretary. The Elections Committee reported the results of the fourth ballot. There were 914 votes cast, and 60 percent or 549 votes were needed for election.

- Pr. Wm. Chris Boerger, 388 votes.
- Pr. Michael L. Cooper-White, 282 votes.
- Ms. Cheryl G. Stuart, 242 votes.

Consideration: Social Statement Implementing Resolutions

Reference: 2013 Pre-Assembly Report, Section V, Social Statement on Criminal Justice, page 38.

With the adoption of *The Church and Criminal Justice: Hearing the Cries*, the *Ad Hoc* Committee reported on amendments proposed by voting members to the statement's implementing resolutions. The assembly voted on the committee's recommendations.

Moved;

Seconded;

Yes-706; No-153

Carried:

To amend the proposed amendment to the first resolution by inserting "in Jesus Christ" on line 2:

To call upon members of this church through steadfast prayer, discernment, Christian education, ministry efforts, and public action to share the Gospel of God's love in Jesus Christ as they hear the cries, offer hospitality, accompany, and advocate on behalf of those whose lives are caught up in or committed in service to the criminal justice system;

Moved;

Seconded;

Yes-835; No-33

Carried:

To amend the first resolution beginning on line 1 by insertion:

To call upon members of this church through steadfast prayer, discernment, Christian education, ministry efforts, and public action to share the Gospel of God's love in Jesus Christ as they hear the cries, offer hospitality, accompany, and advocate on behalf of those whose lives are caught up in or committed in service to the criminal justice system;

Moved;

Seconded

Yes-832; No-43

Carried:

To amend the fourth resolution at line 10 by deletion and insertion:

To encourage congregations to ~~consider becoming~~ become intentional sites of ministry and action for the

Moved;

Seconded;

Yes-856; No-26

Carried:

To amend the sixth resolution at lines 17 and 18 by insertion:

conferences, synods, seminaries, social ministry organizations or other appropriate groups in creating and maintaining a resource database, to which members, pastors, seminarians or other professionals can turn for

Moved;

Seconded;

Yes-353; No-551

Defeated:

To amend the second resolution at line 6 by insertion:

. . . and recommendations set forth in this social statement; understanding that in the case of sentencing, for example, incarceration must be only one alternative, not the only alternative

ASSEMBLY

ACTION:

YES-891; NO-22

CA13.05.17

To adopt the following implementing resolutions as amended:

- 1. To call upon members of this church through steadfast prayer, discernment, Christian education, ministry efforts, and public action to share the Gospel of God’s love in Jesus Christ as they hear the cries, offer hospitality, accompany, and advocate on behalf of those whose lives are caught up in or committed in service to the criminal justice system;**
- 2. To call upon members, congregations, synods, social ministry organizations, and churchwide ministries to advocate intentionally and creatively for system reform consistent with the principles and recommendations set forth in this social statement;**
- 3. To encourage ELCA congregations to work with victims, victim advocates, and victim support organizations, to grow in sensitivity and response to the harm caused by crime, and to grow in awareness of restorative justice practices;**
- 4. To encourage ELCA congregations to become intentional sites of ministry and action for the incarcerated and their families, possibly in ecumenical collaboration, and with special attention to re-entry ministries and to preferential hiring for ex-offenders, as appropriate;**
- 5. To hold in prayer the ministry of ELCA chaplains and pastors serving in all correctional facilities, or serving with law enforcement agencies around the country, and to encourage all expressions of the ELCA and its affiliated institutions to provide greater support to prison ministry;**
- 6. To request the ELCA’s Congregational and Synodical Mission unit to enlist the aid of leaders in conferences, synods, seminaries, social ministry organizations or other appropriate groups in creating and maintaining a resource database, to which members, pastors, seminarians or other professionals can turn for information about activities, models, and training modules that support ministry to people and action toward reform of the criminal justice system;**
- 7. To call upon the ELCA’s Worship and Liturgical Resources Team to develop additional liturgical resources for those involved in the criminal justice system, such as services and prayers for victims and their families, for those incarcerated, for those employed in the system, or rites of blessing for those engaging in visitation ministries;**
- 8. To direct the staff of the ELCA’s advocacy ministries to coordinate efforts to develop on behalf of this church a social investment screen on private prison operations, along with developing education materials to use within the ELCA for understanding these actions.**
- 9. To direct the ELCA’s Theological Discernment Team in the fall of 2015 to bring to the Church Council an assessment of the feasibility of developing a social message on U.S. national drug policy, in accordance with “Policies and Procedures**

of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for Addressing Social Concerns”
(Chicago: ELCA, 1997, revised 2006, 2011);

10. To encourage the three expressions of this church to utilize the recommendations of the Addressing Social Concerns Review Task Force in the process of disseminating and implementing this social statement; and
11. To call upon appropriate staff in the ELCA’s Congregational and Synodical Mission unit and the Office of the Presiding Bishop to establish and oversee a process of implementation and accountability for this social statement that provides a report on implementation to the Church Council in the fall of 2017.

Consideration: 25th Anniversary Campaign

Reference: 2013 Pre-Assembly Report, Section V, 25th Anniversary Campaign, page 1.

The action that the Church Council recommended regarding the 25th Anniversary Campaign was moved. The Reference and Counsel committee reported on amendments to the action submitted by voting members and the committee’s recommendations regarding each.

Moved;

Seconded;

Yes-802; No-55

Carried:

To amend the amendment by insertion:

To include among those on that team lay young adult leaders recommended by ELCA congregations, ELCA campus, youth, and outdoor ministers, as well as leaders from ELCA affiliated and/or associated organizations at the discretion of the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit,

Moved;

Seconded;

Yes-741; No-131

Carried:

To amend the motion with the following resolutions as amended:

To insert the following text after the fourth paragraph, which ends “completion of the campaign”:

To instruct the Church Council to add an additional campaign priority of encouraging, recognizing, and forming lay youth and young adult leaders;

To add an additional \$4 million to the campaign goal specifically for the formation, recognition, and encouragement of lay young adult and youth leaders;

And to call on the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit to form an advisory team, funded out of the campaign, to seek out and support the networks and efforts of lay young adult and youth leaders,

To include among those on that team lay young adult leaders recommended by ELCA congregations, ELCA campus, youth, and outdoor ministers, as well as leaders from ELCA affiliated and/or associated organizations at the discretion of the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit,

To charge that same team with searching for new ideas and fresh voices emerging in the church, and

To charge that same team with assisting in the acquisition of and advising on the allocation of funds received as part of the additional \$4 million dollars of the campaign goal seeking to re-imagine the ministries of the ELCA through the eyes of lay young adults and youth leaders in the body of Christ.

**Moved;
Seconded;
Defeated:**

Yes-241; No-596

To insert the following between the first and second paragraphs:

To allocate all undesignated campaign funds, i.e. those funds not specifically designated by the donor for one of the existing campaign categories, so that no more than 20 percent of those received are for global concerns, 30 percent for new and renewing congregations, and 30 percent for leadership development including but not limited to lay and rostered leadership development after graduation from seminary;

**Moved;
Seconded;
Carried:**

Yes-418; No-398

To amend the motion by insertion:

To add a goal of \$4 million for disability ministries, to advocate for inclusion of persons with disabilities in the life of this church, to train leaders both clergy and lay so that they would be equipped to work with persons with disabilities, to work with synods to create local committees for disability ministries, and to equip persons living with disabilities for lives of leadership and service in this church;

**ASSEMBLY
ACTION:
CA13.05.18**

YES-671; NO-242

To approve the 25th Anniversary Campaign for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as a major fundraising effort of this church, its synods and congregations, its affiliated and related ministries, and individual members in order to grow the resources of this church to support congregations, leadership, relief and development, and global mission;

To thank the members of this church for their ongoing stewardship and generosity through regular offerings that support the breadth of ministry across the ELCA and beyond;

To invite every congregation, synod, related ministry, and individual member of this church to make a contribution toward the 25th Anniversary Campaign for the ELCA in order to achieve its goal of \$190 million over the next five years (2014–2018);

To instruct the Church Council to add an additional campaign priority of encouraging, recognizing, and forming lay youth and young adult leaders, and to add an additional \$4 million to the campaign goal specifically for the formation, recognition, and encouragement of lay young adult and youth leaders;

To call on the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit to form an advisory team, funded out of the campaign, to seek out and support the networks and efforts of lay young adult and youth leaders, to include among those on that team lay young adult leaders recommended by ELCA congregations, ELCA campus, youth, and outdoor ministers, as well as leaders from ELCA affiliated and/or associated organizations at the discretion of the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit, to charge that same team with searching for new ideas and fresh voices emerging in the church, and to charge that same team with assisting in the acquisition of and advising on the allocation of funds received as part of the additional \$4 million dollars of the campaign goal seeking to re-imagine the ministries of the ELCA through the eyes of lay young adults and youth leaders in the body of Christ;

To add a goal of \$4 million for disability ministries, to advocate for inclusion of persons with disabilities in the life of this church, to train leaders both clergy and lay so that they would be equipped to work with persons with disabilities, to work with synods to create local committees for disability ministries, and to equip persons living with disabilities for lives of leadership and service in this church;

To encourage conversations among members and in congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization regarding ways that the 25th Anniversary Campaign can be implemented to take advantage of synergies among all expressions of this church;

To request that the Church Council monitor and evaluate the implementation of the 25th Anniversary Campaign for the ELCA on an ongoing basis and that reports be submitted annually to the Church Council and to each Churchwide Assembly through the completion of the campaign; and

To thank God for 25 years of interdependent ministry in the ELCA and to step forward boldly in order to seek to reach more communities with the good news of Jesus Christ, train more leaders who will become missionaries, pastors, and lay leaders, and contribute to the alleviation of hunger and poverty.

Elections: Fifth Ballots for Secretary

Reference: 2013 Pre-Assembly Report, Section V, Election of the Secretary, and Section X, Report of the Elections Committee.

The 2013 Churchwide Assembly elected a new secretary on the fifth ecclesiastical ballot. The Election Committee reported that 867 votes were cast and 434 were needed for election.

Pr. Wm. Chris Boerger, 489 votes.

Pr. Michael L. Cooper-White, 376 votes.

ASSEMBLY

ACTION:

CA13.05.19 To elect the Rev. Wm. Chris Boerger to a six-year term, commencing November 1, 2013, as secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Consideration: Constitutional Amendments Relating to Matters Other than Elections

Reference: 2013 Pre-Assembly Report, Section V, Amendments to the Constitutions, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions, page 7.

Voting members of the Churchwide Assembly removed several amendments that the Church Council recommended from *en bloc* consideration:

- 1) Recommended amendments to bylaw 9.53.03. [p. 10] and *C17.03. [p. 32]
- 2) Recommended amendments to constitutional provisions 20.40. et seq. [p. 18–22] and *C8.05. [p. 29] and Chapter 15 of the *Model Constitution for Congregations* [pp.30–32]
- 3) Recommended amendments to bylaw 12.41.11. [pp. 15–16]

ASSEMBLY

ACTION:

CA13.05.20 To adopt and ratify *en bloc*, with the exception of such amendments as may be considered separately, the following amendments to the *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* [pages 8 through 34 of the recommendation].

Two-Thirds Vote Required

YES-737; NO-28

ASSEMBLY

ACTION:

CA13.05.21 To adopt the recommended amendments to bylaw 9.53.03. and constitutional provision *C17.03.

TWO-THIRDS VOTE REQUIRED

YES-766; NO-81

9.53.03. Each congregation shall provide a copy of its governing documents to the synod. All proposed changes in the constitution or incorporation documents of a congregation shall be referred to the synod with which the congregation is affiliated. The synod shall approve or disapprove the proposed changes within 120 days of receipt thereof, and shall notify the congregation of its decision to approve or disapprove the proposed changes; in the absence of a decision, the changes shall go into effect upon notification that the synod has approved them.

The synod shall recognize that congregations may organize themselves in a manner which they deem most appropriate.

- *C17.03.** Any amendments to this constitution that result from the processes provided in *C17.01. and *C17.02. shall be sent by the secretary of this congregation to the synod. **The synod shall notify the congregation of its decision to approve or disapprove the proposed changes; the changes shall go into effect upon notification that the synod has approved them. The amendment shall become effective within 120 days from the date of the receipt of the notice by the synod unless the synod informs this congregation that the amendment is in conflict with the constitution and bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America or the constitution of the (insert name of synod) Synod of the ELCA.**



Legislative Update Saturday, August 17, 2013

Consideration: Constitutional Amendments Relating to Matters Other than Elections

Reference: 2013 Pre-Assembly Report, Section V, Amendments to the Constitutions, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions, page 7.

On behalf of the Church Council, its Legal and Constitutional Review Committee presented the remaining recommended amendments to the *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* that the Churchwide Assembly had set aside for separate consideration:

- 1) Recommended amendments to ELCA constitutional provisions 20.40. et seq. [pp. 18–22], *C8.05. [p. 29], and Chapter 15 of the *Model Constitution for Congregations* [pp.30–32] regarding member discipline
- 2) Recommended amendments to bylaw 12.41.11. [pp. 15–16] regarding the composition of the Churchwide Assembly

Moved;

Seconded

Yes-110; No-721

Defeated:

To recommit provisions regarding member discipline to the Church Council

ASSEMBLY

TWO-THIRDS VOTE REQUIRED

ACTION:

YES-784; NO-54

CA13.06.22

*To adopt the recommended amendments to constitutional provision 20.40. and related bylaws and provision *C8.05. and Chapter 15 of the Model Constitution for Congregations.*

20.40. MEMBERS OF CONGREGATIONS

20.41.01. The offenses for which a member of a congregation shall be subject to discipline are:

- a. denial of the Christian faith;
- b. conduct grossly unbecoming a member of the Church of Christ; or
- c. persistent trouble-making within the congregation;

The offenses for which a member or members of a congregation may be disciplined are:

- a. persistent and public denial of the Christian faith;
- b. willful or criminal conduct grossly unbecoming a member of the Church of Christ;
- c. continual and intentional interference with the ministry of the congregation; or
- d. willful and repeated harassment or defamation of member(s) of the congregation.

20.41.02. Discipline shall be administered by the Congregation Council on behalf of the congregation. The procedure which Christ instructed his disciples to follow (Matthew 18:15-17) shall be adhered to in every case, proceeding through these successive steps:

- a. private admonition by the pastor;
- b. admonition by the pastor in the presence of two or three witnesses; and
- c. written citation to appear before the Congregation Council, serving as a discipline hearing committee, having been received by the member at least 10 days prior to the meeting.

If for any reason the pastor is unable to administer the admonitions required by a. and b. hereof, the president (if not the pastor) or vice president shall administer such admonitions.

Discipline for an offense shall be administered consistent with the procedure which Christ instructed his disciples to follow (Matthew 18:15-17), proceeding through these successive steps, as necessary:

- a. seeking repentance and reconciliation through private counsel and admonition by a pastor;
- b. censure and admonition by a pastor in the presence of two or three members of the Congregation Council;

- c. written referral of the matter by the Congregation Council to the vice president of the synod, who will refer it to a consultation panel, pursuant to bylaw 20.41.03;
- d. written referral of the matter pursuant to bylaw 20.41.04, by the consultation panel to the Committee on Discipline of the synod, which shall hold a hearing and render a final decision.

20.41.03.

If discipline against a member proceeds beyond counseling and admonition by the pastor, charges against the accused member(s) that are specific and in writing shall be prepared by member(s) of the congregation who shall sign the charges as the accuser(s). The written charges shall be filed with the pastor, who shall advise the Congregation Council of the need to issue a written citation to the accused and the accusers that specifies the time and place of the hearing before the Congregation Council. The written charges shall accompany the written citation to the accused.

If for any reason a pastor of the congregation is unable to offer the counsel and administer the admonitions required by bylaw 20.41.02., those steps may be performed by another pastor chosen by the Executive Committee of the Congregation Council. No one shall serve as a member of the consultation panel or the discipline hearing panel if such individual (i) is the accused; (ii) is related to an accused; (iii) is a member, an employee, or a former member or employee of the congregation bringing the charges; or if the participation of an individual on either panel could give rise to the appearance of partiality even if the individual would in fact be impartial. For these purposes, a related individual is one who, with respect to the accused, is a spouse, parent, son, daughter, sibling, uncle, aunt, niece, nephew, grandparent, grandchild, including corresponding members of blended families and in-laws (parent, son, daughter, or sibling of a spouse, spouse of a sibling, or the parent or sibling of the spouse of a sibling).

20.41.04.

To assure due process and due protection for the accused as required in 20.11., members of the Congregation Council who participate in the preparation of the written charges or who present evidence or testimony in the hearing before the Congregation Council are disqualified from voting upon the question of the guilt of the accused member. In addition, due process requires the following:

- a. the right to be given a specific written statement of the charges;
- b. the right to a hearing by the Congregation Council;
- c. the right of the accused to testify in person or remain silent;
- d. the right to call witnesses;
- e. the right to introduce documentary evidence;
- f. the right to confront and cross-examine witnesses;
- g. the right to a hearing closed to the public unless both the accuser(s) and the accused agree to a public hearing;
- h. the right to a written decision as required by these bylaws;
- i. the right to be treated with fundamental procedural fairness, which means:
 - 1) avoidance by council members of written communications to or from either accused or accuser(s) without copy to the other;
 - 2) avoidance by council members of other communications with either the accused or the accuser(s) outside of the presence of the other;
 - 3) maintaining proper decorum during the hearing;
 - 4) allowing both the accuser(s) and the accused to present their cases without unnecessary interruptions;
 - 5) keeping a verbatim record of the hearing, made either by a stenographer or court reporter or by audio or video recording; and
 - 6) allowing both the accuser(s) and the accused to be accompanied at the hearing by a representative (who may, but need not, be an attorney) who may also participate in the proceedings;

If the counseling, censure and admonitions pursuant to bylaw 20.41.02.a. and b. do not result in repentance and amendment of life, charges against the accused member(s) that are specific and in writing may be prepared by the Congregation Council, signed, and submitted to the vice president of the synod. The vice president shall select from the synod's Consultation Committee a panel of five members (three lay persons and two clergy). A copy of the written charges shall be provided to consultation panel and the accused member(s). The consultation panel, after requesting a written reply to the charges from the

- accused member(s), shall consider the matter and seek a resolution by means of investigation, consultation, mediation, or whatever other means may seem appropriate.
- 20.41.05.** The accused can be found guilty by the vote of at least two-thirds of the members of the Congregation Council who are not disqualified and who are present and voting. Should renewed admonition prove ineffectual, the council shall impose one of the following disciplinary actions:
- a. ~~censure before the council or the congregation;~~
 - b. ~~suspension from stated privileges of membership for a definite designated period of time; or~~
 - c. ~~termination of membership.~~
- A resolution of the council suspending or terminating the membership of a member of this congregation shall be delivered to the person in writing.
- The goal of the consultation panel is to seek repentance, amendment of life, forgiveness, healing, and reconciliation. The consultation panel's efforts to reach a mutually agreeable resolution shall continue for no more than 45 days after the matter is submitted to it. If the consultation panel fails to resolve the matter, the panel, upon the request of the Congregation Council, shall refer the case in writing, including the written charges and the accused member's reply, to the Committee on Discipline of the synod for a hearing. A copy of the consultation panel's written referral shall be delivered to the vice president of the synod, the Congregation Council, and the accused member(s) at the same time it is sent to the Committee on Discipline of the synod.
- 20.41.06.** Appeal from any disciplinary action imposed by the Congregation Council may be made to the Synod Council, whose decision shall be final.
- The Executive Committee of the Synod Council shall select six members from the Committee on Discipline of the synod to decide the case, and shall appoint a member of the Synod Council to preside as nonvoting chair. Those six members plus the nonvoting chair comprise the discipline hearing panel for deciding the case. The Congregation Council and the accused member(s) are the parties to the case.
- 20.41.07.** Disciplinary actions may be reconsidered and revoked by the Congregation Council upon receipt of:
- a. ~~evidence that injustice has been done; or~~
 - b. ~~evidence of repentance and amendment.~~
- The discipline hearing panel shall, within 30 days after its selection, commence a meeting or series of meetings to receive testimony or other evidence offered by the congregation council and the accused member(s). Written notice of the date, time, and place of the hearing shall be sent by the nonvoting chair to the Congregation Council and the accused member(s) ten days in advance of the meeting. Until that first meeting is convened, the vice president of the synod shall, if necessary, appoint other members of the Committee on Discipline to fill vacancies so that the discipline hearing panel consists of six members plus the nonvoting chair.
- 20.41.08.** No member of a congregation shall be subject to discipline for offenses that the Congregation Council has previously heard and decided, unless so ordered by the Synod Council after an appeal.
- The discipline hearing panel shall decide the time, manner, and procedures for its meetings consistent with the following:
- a. the hearing before the discipline hearing panel is intended to be informal;
 - b. the hearing shall be closed to the public unless the Congregation Council and the accused member(s) agree to a public hearing;
 - c. all Congregation Council members, including any elected after written charges were first submitted, may attend the hearing and be witnesses;
 - d. only one Congregation Council member may participate in the proceedings as the council representative;
 - e. the accused member(s) may choose to testify in person or remain silent;
 - f. the council representative and the accused member(s) will be allowed to present their arguments and evidence without unnecessary interruption;
 - g. the accused member(s) may be accompanied by a spouse and one friend or advisor, but the spouse and friend or advisor may not participate in the proceedings, except as witnesses;
 - h. the panel may conduct some of its sessions outside the presence of the parties to the case;

- i. rules of evidence and similar rules used in secular judicial proceedings shall not apply in these hearings;
- i. the parties to the case cannot be compelled to provide any information or documents to each other or to the panel.

20.41.09. Upon conclusion of the hearing, one of the following disciplinary sanctions can be imposed by the vote of at least two-thirds of the members of the discipline hearing panel who are present and voting:

- a. suspension from the privileges of congregation membership for a designated period of time;
- b. suspension from the privileges of congregation membership until the pastor and Congregation Council receive evidence, satisfactory to them, of repentance and amendment of life;
- c. termination of membership in the congregation; or
- d. termination of membership in the congregation and exclusion from the church property and from all congregation activities.

20.41.10. The written decision of the discipline hearing panel shall be sent to the vice president of the synod, the accused member(s), and the Congregation Council in writing within 45 days of the convening of the first hearing for which written notice was given pursuant to 20.41.06. The decision of the discipline hearing panel shall be implemented by the Congregation Council and recorded in the minutes of the next council meeting.

20.41.11. No member of a congregation shall be subject to discipline a second time for an offense that a discipline hearing panel has heard previously and decided pursuant to these bylaws.

20.41.A09. *Rules for Appeals to a Synod Council*

- a. *Any appeal to the Synod Council must be made by written notice within 30 days after the decision of the Congregation Council has been delivered to the accused member(s). The written notice of the intent to appeal must be given by certified or registered mail to the Synod Council (in care of the vice president of the synod), with a copy to the chair of the Congregation Council and the congregation's pastor.*
- b. *Any party who has appealed to the Synod Council for review of a decision of a Congregation Council may request a stay in the effective date or other provision contained in the decision pending the appeal. The request must be in writing and shall set forth the reasons why the requested stay is advisable. The request shall be forwarded to the Synod Council (in care of the vice president of the synod) with copy to the other party. The Synod Council may grant the other party an opportunity to respond in writing. The Synod Council may grant a stay for the period, and may renew the stay for further periods, as it determines to be appropriate. The Synod Council may make the grant of a stay subject to such conditions as it determines to be appropriate.*
- c. *The chair of the Congregation Council must furnish the record on appeal to the Synod Council (in care of the vice president of the synod), certifying to the completeness and accuracy of the record on appeal, within 30 days of the receipt of the written notice, unless the vice president allows additional time for compelling reasons. The record on appeal will consist of the following:*
 - 1) *the citation and specific written charges as served upon the accused member(s) prior to the hearing before the Congregation Council;*
 - 2) *the congregation's constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions and a copy of any rules governing the hearing before the Congregation Council;*
 - 3) *identities of the person(s) who prepared the written charges and of the members of the Congregation Council who heard the case;*
 - 4) *the verbatim record made by the stenographer or court reporter or the audio or video recording of the hearing before the Congregation Council;*
 - 5) *all documents or physical evidence presented at the hearing before the Congregation Council;*
 - 6) *the written decision of the Congregation Council;*
 - 7) *proof that the written decision was delivered to the accused member(s); and*

- 8) certification that the successive steps required by Matthew 18:15-17 were followed, as specified in bylaw 20.41.02, in the Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- d. If the Synod Council has reason to believe or doubt that a required action was taken by the Congregation Council, but the action is not revealed in the record on appeal, the Synod Council may solicit, by written request to the chair of the Congregation Council with copies to the accused member(s), written confirmation of the action. Copies of the confirmation shall be supplied to the accused member(s).
- e. The party making an appeal must present a written statement of reasons why the decision of the Congregation Council should be reversed or set aside. The Congregation Council will then submit a written response to the Synod Council. The party making an appeal may present a brief written rebuttal. Appropriate page limitations and due dates for these statements will be established by the vice president of the synod. Parties shall promptly give each other copies of any written statements filed with the Synod Council.
- f. Members of the Congregation Council and the accused members shall refrain from discussing appeals made to the Synod Council, except as required to discharge their duties under these rules. Members of the Synod Council shall refrain from discussing appeals, except as required to discharge their duty to decide the appeal. Members of the Congregation Council and the accused member(s) will not communicate with Synod Council members concerning the appeal unless all parties are included in the communication.
- g. No member of the Synod Council may participate in any appeal if such a member is related to the accused member(s), to any witness who testified before the Congregation Council, or to a member of the Congregation Council, or where such Synod Council member is a current or recent member of the congregation. For good cause, a member of the Synod Council may voluntarily disqualify himself or herself from participation.
- h. The Synod Council will meet in executive session and consider the appeal solely on the basis of the record and written statements. Normally, the Synod Council will meet and render its written decision within 60 days from the due date for the last written statement to be submitted by the parties.
- i. The Synod Council will affirm the decision of the Congregation Council unless it finds that:
 - 1) the requirements of due process or fundamental procedural fairness were not met;
 - 2) the Congregation Council's decision was not supported by any evidence in the record; or
 - 3) the record on appeal is insufficient to make a determination.
- j. Final decisions of the Synod Council require an affirmative vote by at least two-thirds of those present and voting. The decision of the Synod Council shall be delivered in writing to the accused member(s), the chair of the Congregation Council, the congregation's pastor, the synodical bishop, and the secretary of this church.

*C8.05. Membership in this congregation shall be terminated by any of the following:

- d. disciplinary action in accordance with provision 20.40. and the accompanying bylaws by the Congregation Council;

Chapter 15. DISCIPLINE OF MEMBERS AND ADJUDICATION

*C15.01. Denial of the Christian faith as described in this constitution, conduct grossly unbecoming a member of the Church of Christ, or persistent trouble-making in this congregation are sufficient cause for discipline of a member. Prior to disciplinary action, reconciliation will be attempted following Matthew 18:15-17, proceeding through these successive steps: a) private admonition by the pastor, b) admonition by the pastor in the presence of two or three witnesses, and c) citation to appear before the Congregation Council. If, for any reason, the pastor is unable to administer the admonitions required by a. and b. hereof, the president (if not the pastor) or vice president shall administer such admonitions.

Persistent and public denial of the Christian faith, willful or criminal conduct grossly unbecoming a member of the Church of Christ, continual and intentional interference with the ministry of the congregation, or willful and repeated harassment or defamation of member(s) of the congregation is sufficient cause for discipline of a member. Prior to disciplinary action, reconciliation and repentance will be attempted following Matthew 18:15-17, proceeding through these successive steps, as necessary: a) private counsel and admonition by the pastor, b) censure and admonition by the pastor in the presence of two or three witnesses, c) written referral of the matter by the Congregation Council to the vice president of the synod, who will refer it to a consultation panel drawn from the Consultation Committee of the synod, and d) written referral of the matter by the consultation panel to the Committee on Discipline of the synod. If, for any reason, the pastor is unable to administer the admonitions required by paragraphs a. and b. hereof, those steps may be performed by another pastor chosen by the Executive Committee of the Congregation Council.

***C15.02.** The process for discipline of a member of the congregation shall be governed as prescribed by the chapter on discipline in the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*. If discipline against a member proceeds beyond counseling and admonition by the pastor, charges against the accused member(s) that are specific and in writing shall be prepared by member(s) of the congregation who shall sign the charges as the accuser(s). The written charges shall be filed with the pastor, who shall advise the Congregation Council of the need to issue a written citation to the accused and the accusers that specifies the time and place of the hearing before the Congregation Council. The written charges shall accompany the written citation to the accused. The written citation that specifies the time and place of the hearing before the Congregation Council and requests the presence of a member charged with the offense shall be sent at least ten days prior to the meeting. If the member charged with the offense fails to appear at the scheduled hearing, the Congregation Council may proceed with the hearing and may pass judgment in the member's absence.

The process for discipline of a member of the congregation shall be governed as prescribed by the chapter on discipline in the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*. If the counseling, censure, and admonitions pursuant to C15.01 do not result in repentance and amendment of life, charges against the accused member(s) that are specific and in writing may be prepared by the Congregation Council, signed, and submitted to the vice president of the synod. The vice president shall select from the synod's Consultation Committee a panel of five members (three lay persons and two clergy). A copy of the written charges shall be provided to the consultation panel and the accused member(s). The consultation panel, after requesting a written reply to the charges from the accused member(s), shall consider the matter and seek a resolution by means of investigation, consultation, mediation, or whatever other means may seem appropriate. The panel's efforts to reach a mutually agreeable resolution shall continue for no more than 45 days after the matter is submitted to it.

***C15.03.** Members of the Congregation Council who participate in the preparation of the written charges or who present evidence or testimony in the hearing before the Congregation Council are disqualified from voting upon the question of the guilt of the accused member. Should the allegations be sustained by a two-thirds majority vote of the members of the Congregation Council who are not disqualified but who are present and voting, and renewed admonition prove ineffectual, the council shall impose one of the following disciplinary actions:

- a. censure before the council or congregation;
- b. suspension from membership for a definite period of time; or
- c. exclusion from membership in this congregation.

Disciplinary actions b. and c. shall be delivered to the member in writing.

If the consultation panel fails to resolve the matter, that panel shall refer the case in writing, including the written charges and the accused member's reply, to the Committee on Discipline of the synod for a hearing. A copy of the panel's written referral shall be delivered to the vice president of the synod, the Congregation Council, and the accused member(s) at the same time it is sent to the Committee on Discipline of the synod. The Executive Committee of the Synod Council shall then select six members

from the Committee on Discipline to decide the case, and shall appoint a member of the Synod Council to preside as nonvoting chair. Those six members plus the nonvoting chair comprise the discipline hearing panel for deciding the case. The Congregation Council and the accused member(s) are the parties to the case.

*C15.04. The member against whom disciplinary action has been taken by the Congregation Council shall have the right to appeal the decision to the Synod Council. Such right may not be abridged and the decision of the Synod Council shall be final.
The discipline hearing panel shall commence and conduct the disciplinary hearing in accordance with the provisions governing discipline of congregation members prescribed in the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*.

*C15.05. Disciplinary actions may be reconsidered and revoked by the Congregation Council upon receipt of a) evidence that injustice has been done or b) evidence of repentance and amendment;
By the vote of at least two-thirds of the members of the discipline hearing panel who are present and voting, one of the following disciplinary sanctions can be imposed:
a. suspension from the privileges of congregation membership for a designated period of time;
b. suspension from the privileges of congregation membership until the pastor and Congregation Council receive evidence, satisfactory to them, of repentance and amendment of life;
c. termination of membership in the congregation; or
d. termination of membership in the congregation and exclusion from the church property and from all congregation activities.

*C15.06. For disciplinary actions in this congregation, “due process” shall be observed as specified in 20.41.04. in the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*. The written decision of the discipline hearing panel shall be sent to the vice president of the synod, the accused member(s), and the Congregation Council as required by the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*. The decision of the discipline hearing panel shall be implemented by the Congregation Council and recorded in the minutes of the next council meeting.

*C15.07. No member of a congregation shall be subject to discipline for offenses that the Congregation Council has previously heard and decided, unless so ordered by the Synod Council after an appeal.
No member of the congregation shall be subject to discipline a second time for offenses that a discipline hearing panel has heard previously and decided pursuant to this chapter.

ASSEMBLY

TWO-THIRDS VOTE REQUIRED

ACTION:

YES-759; NO-88

CA13.06.23

To adopt the recommended amendments to bylaw 12.41.11.

12.41.11. Each synod shall elect one voting member of the Churchwide Assembly for every ~~5,800~~ 6,000 baptized members in the synod. In addition, each synod shall elect one voting member for every 50 congregations in the synod. The synodical bishop, who is *ex officio* a member of the Churchwide Assembly, shall be included in the number of voting members so determined. These voting members elected by each synod shall comply with the principles of organization, commitment to inclusiveness, and interdependence as specified in Chapter 5 of this Constitution. In addition, each synod shall elect one additional voting member who is a youth or young adult at the time of the election and one additional voting member who is a person of color or a person whose primary language is other than English. There shall be at least ~~two~~ four voting members from each synod. The Church Council may allocate up to ten additional voting members among synods in order to further the principles of organization, commitment to inclusiveness, and interdependence as specified in Chapter 5 of this constitution, but no single synod may be allocated

more than two additional voting members. The secretary shall notify each synod of the number of assembly members it is to elect.

Report of the Memorials Committee

Reference: 2013 Pre-Assembly Report, Section VII, Report of the Memorials Committee.

Category A3: Community Violence

Discussion resumed on the Memorial Committee's proposed amendment to its original recommendation, as amended in Plenary Session Five, relating to community violence. [See the Legislative Update for Wednesday, August 14, 2013.]

Moved;

Seconded;

Carried:

Yes-758; No-112

To amend the recommendation of the Memorials Committee by inserting the following amended paragraph between the second and third paragraphs of the main motion:

To encourage members of this church, consistent with their bound consciences, to contact their elected officials and advocate for passage of legislation that promotes universal background checks, prevents gun trafficking, and requires the reporting of lost or stolen guns to law enforcement so that violence in our communities might decrease;

ASSEMBLY

ACTION:

CA13.06.24

YES-834; NO-41

To receive with gratitude the memorials of the Sierra Pacific and New Jersey synods concerning gun violence and the memorials of the Pacifica, Southwest California, New England and Metropolitan Washington, D.C., synods concerning confronting the culture of violence;

To reaffirm this church's commitment to addressing issues of violence through worship, education, service, advocacy, ongoing moral deliberation and the work called for in the 1993 Churchwide Assembly resolution, the 1994 social message on Community Violence and the 2013 Conference of Bishops' Pastoral Letter on Violence;

To encourage members of this church, consistent with their bound consciences, to contact their elected officials and advocate for passage of legislation that promotes universal background checks, prevents gun trafficking, and requires the reporting of lost or stolen guns to law enforcement so that violence in our communities might decrease;

To educate members of this church that more people die from suicide than from homicide in the United States and to lift up the ELCA social messages on suicide prevention, community violence, mental health, and to call upon congregations and synods to engage their members on ways to prevent suicide;

To refer the matter of evaluating the feasibility and advisability of developing additional investment screens and related recommendations to the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit with the request that it ask the Corporate Social Responsibility Team to provide a report with possible recommendations to the Church Council at its November 2013 meeting; and

To refer requests for education and resource development on issues of violence in society to the ELCA Church Council for appropriate action in keeping with the recommendations of the Addressing Social Concerns Review Task Force.

Category C1: Israel and Palestine

The Memorials Committee reported that it had received nine proposed amendments from voting members of the Churchwide Assembly regarding its original recommendation. It moved a revised recommendation to incorporate those amendments.

**Moved;
Seconded;
Carried:**

Yes-812; No-26

To amend the last paragraph of the main motion by insertion:

To refer to the Global Mission unit, the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit, the Mission Advancement unit, the Office of the Secretary, the Office of the Treasurer, and Portico Benefit Services the matter of evaluating possibilities for investing in specific Palestinian economic endeavors and other projects that would promote peace and cooperation between Israelis and Palestinians; and to provide a report with recommendations to the April 2014 meeting of the Church Council.

**Moved;
Seconded;
Defeated:**

Yes-244; No-591

To amend the last paragraph of the main motion by insertion:

To refer to the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit, the Mission Advancement unit, the Office of the Secretary, the Office of the Treasurer, and Portico Benefit Services the matter of evaluating possibilities for developing additional investment screens, as well as investing in specific Palestinian economic endeavors and other projects that would promote peace and cooperation between Israelis and Palestinians; and to provide a report with recommendations to the April 2014 meeting of the Church Council.

**Moved;
Seconded;
Carried:**

Yes-722; No-79

To amend point number seven by insertion:

- 7. Continue to pray for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land and our brothers and sisters in the Middle East;

ASSEMBLY

ACTION:

YES-812; NO-45

CA13.06.25

To receive with gratitude the memorials of the Southwestern Texas, Saint Paul Area, Rocky Mountain, Southeast Michigan, Oregon, Sierra Pacific, Northwest Washington, Greater Milwaukee, Southwest California, Southeastern Iowa, Northeastern Pennsylvania, Indiana/Kentucky, New England, Lower Susquehanna, Upper Susquehanna, Metropolitan Washington, D.C., and Minneapolis Area synods related to Peacemaking with Justice in Israel and Palestine;

To reaffirm the commitment of this church to:

- 1. Continue its awareness-building, accompaniment, and advocacy on behalf of a peaceful resolution of the conflict between Israel and Palestine;
- 2. Learn more about the experiences of both Israelis and Palestinians and their mutual fears, aspirations, and hopes;
- 3. Work to convey the concerns and perspectives of Palestinians and Israelis that dispel stereotypes and caricatures and promote better understanding;

4. **Lift up the voices within both communities, especially those of victims of violence, that seek peace with justice through nonviolent responses to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict;**
5. **Continue to help alleviate the humanitarian needs of all of those affected by the conflict;**
6. **Support U.S. funding that promotes peace and cooperation for all parties to the conflict; and**
7. **Continue to pray for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land and our brothers and sisters in the Middle East;**

To reaffirm the 2011 Churchwide Assembly action [CA11.04.27] to receive, read, and discuss the Kairos Palestine document as an “authentic word from our brothers and sisters in the Palestinian Christian community” that “warrants our respect and attentiveness;”

To reaffirm the 2011 Churchwide Assembly action [CA 11.04.27] “to commend the policy, ‘ELCA Economic Social Criteria Investment Screens,’ to the members, congregations, synods, and agencies of this church; and to decline to undertake a review of the investment of funds managed within the ELCA but to commend these recommendations to the Office of the Treasurer, the Office of the Secretary, the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit, the Mission Advancement unit, and the ELCA Board of Pensions for consideration;”

To encourage this church’s members, congregations, synods, and agencies to call on the President of the United States and their representatives in Congress to commit to a goal of facilitating a just and peaceful resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict; and

To refer to the Global Mission unit, the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit, the Mission Advancement unit, the Office of the Secretary, the Office of the Treasurer, and Portico Benefit Services the matter of evaluating possibilities for investing in specific Palestinian economic endeavors and other projects that would promote peace and cooperation between Israelis and Palestinians; and to provide a report with recommendations to the April 2014 meeting of the Church Council.

Report of the Reference and Counsel Committee

Reference: 2013 Pre-Assembly Report, Section IX, Report of the Reference and Counsel Committee.

Motion F: Rediscovering Our Roots

WHEREAS, the year 2017 marks the 500th anniversary of the evangelical Lutheran Reformation; and

WHEREAS, many members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America may not be familiar with the history or significance of their Lutheran roots and the Reformation; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America be encouraged to read, discuss and engage the writings of Martin Luther and other evangelical reformers, such as the 95 Theses, Luther’s Large and Small Catechisms, and the Augsburg Confession, in order to deepen our understanding of and fluency in evangelical Lutheran witness in the world; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this encouragement be referred to the Church Council for additional action as part of the ELCA’s observance of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation.

ASSEMBLY

ACTION:

CA13.06.26

To adopt Motion F

YES-770; NO-35

Motion H: A Social Policy Resolution Concerning the Guarantee of Voting Rights to All Citizens

WHEREAS, the guarantee that all citizens may exercise the right to vote on an equal basis is a fundamental requirement for a just society; and

WHEREAS, the laws and practices that, in effect, exclude whole groups of citizens from fully and equally exercising this right; and

WHEREAS, the Voting Rights Act of 1965 was passed and subsequently reauthorized by the United States Congress to remedy or prevent patterns of discrimination that preclude racial-minority groups from fully and equally exercising the right to vote; and

WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court has recently held Section 4(b) of the Voting Rights Act unconstitutional, a holding that four of the Court’s nine justices believe “terminates the remedy that proved to be best suited to block that discrimination” (US Supreme Court, *Shelby County v. Holder*, 570 US_ (2013), dissenting opinion by Justice Ginsburg); and

WHEREAS, this church has recognized that “many find it difficult to participate in public life because of racial or ethnic barriers...”, and it has committed to “actively promote a public life worthy of the name. We encourage public witness by members, and stand publicly as a church against injustice.” (ELCA Social Statement on Race, Ethnicity, and Culture, p. 6); and

WHEREAS, this church has established, as a matter of social policy, that it “will support legislation, ordinances, and resolutions that guarantee ... to all citizens, the right to vote” (ELCA Social Statement on Race, Ethnicity, and Culture, p. 7); and

WHEREAS, this church continues to “encourage members, congregations, synods, and agencies and institutions to join the churchwide organization in its commitment ... to confront the scandalous realities of racial, ethnic, cultural ... barriers that often manifest themselves in exclusion, poverty, hunger, and violence; and pursue ardently the ELCA’s commitment to becoming more diverse, multicultural, and multigenerational in an ever-changing and increasingly pluralistic context” (ELCA Churchwide Assembly Action CA03.06.22, “Working Against Racism”); therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America call upon local, state, and federal governments to guarantee the right to vote to all citizens and to discourage or eliminate all laws, ordinances or regulations that would have the effect of racial and ethnic discrimination in the exercise of that right; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Presiding Bishop and synodical bishops of this church be urged to support publically and stand as an advocate to proposed local, state, or federal legislation and regulations that, consistent with this church’s social teaching, seek to guarantee to all citizens the right to vote; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Conference of Bishops be requested to include, as part of one of its 2014 meetings, an educational session on voting rights; and be it further

RESOLVED, that members, congregations, and synods of this church be encouraged to “promote public life worthy of the name” by speaking out as an advocate and engaging in local efforts such as voter registration and supporting legislation to guarantee the right to vote to all citizens; and be it further

RESOLVED, that appropriate churchwide staff be requested to identify and publicize resources for members, congregations, and synods of this church to advocate for voting rights for all citizens.

ASSEMBLY

ACTION:

CA13.06.27 To adopt Motion H

Yes-811; No-39

Motion I: Term Limits

To amend the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* by inserting the following provisions:

- 13.23. No person shall be eligible to be elected to a third consecutive six-year executive term to the office of presiding bishop.**
- 13.33. No person shall be eligible to be elected to a third consecutive six-year term to the position of vice president.**
- 13.43. No person shall be eligible to be elected to a third consecutive six-year term to the office of secretary.**

ASSEMBLY

ACTION:

YES-635; NO-214

CA13.06.28

To refer Motion I to the Church Council and Conference of Bishops for broad-based conversation (e.g. inviting the input of synodical vice presidents) beginning in Spring 2014 with a possible report to the Church Council at its November 2015 meeting and recommendations to the 2016 Churchwide Assembly.

The items for attention include identifying the needs of the churchwide organization for each office that are deeper than the constitutional descriptions, identifying leaders to potentially serve, and discussing the possible limitation of duration in terms.

Motion N: American Indian and Alaska Native Peoples

WHEREAS, the ELCA has proclaimed its welcoming of all people with special emphasis on immigrants from all parts of the world; and

WHEREAS, the ELCA, as do so many institutions and people, often forgets the people who were and are native to these lands before and while immigrants arrived to these lands; and

WHEREAS, most of the population of the United States of America and most of the membership of our church are uneducated about American Indian and Alaska Native People and their history, culture, and oppression and atrocities suffered, and

WHEREAS, Lutheran church bodies were once the leaders of advocacy for American Indian and Alaska Native legal rights, most directly when partnered with and supporting the American Indian Movement during the 1960s and 1970s, and the development of the National Indian Lutheran Board; and

WHEREAS, all treaties made by the United States of America with tribal nations and governments have been broken, and promises made 25 years ago by this church to American Indian and Alaska Native leaders and the National Indian Lutheran Board, when it was encouraged to dissolve, have not been kept; and

WHEREAS, American Indian and Alaska Native Peoples have suffered tremendously for too many years, and continue to suffer rates of poverty, homelessness, disease, addiction, violence against women, among a list that is too long to list here, is much higher than the national average; our faith tells us that when one suffers, we all suffer; and

WHEREAS, culture and language is important to our American Indian and Alaska Native sisters and brothers, and supporting their needs and rights to preserve and live out and share their culture in all regards should also be important, even within the church; and

WHEREAS, there has been a decline in some congregations of participation by American Indian and Alaska Native Peoples, leadership in the ELCA among American Indian and Alaska Native Peoples has declined; presently there are only three students who are members or citizens of a federally recognized tribe who are seeking ordination in the ELCA through the Theological Education for Emerging Ministries program, and presently there are zero full or part-time Master of Divinity students and one part-time Master of Theology student attending our eight seminaries; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that this assembly commits this church, the ELCA, to go beyond apologies and begin working on renewed, healthy and responsible relationships with American Indian and Alaska Native Peoples; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the ELCA commits to becoming the leader among churches in the area of advocacy and active support of justice, self-determination, sovereignty, and advancement of American Indian and Alaska Native Peoples and their nations and governments; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the ELCA endorses the U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples adopted by the U.N. General Assembly on September 13, 2007, adopts the declaration as the standard for our own practices, and commits to implementing the values and principles of the declaration within the work and structure of this church; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this assembly asks the presiding bishop to write to the president of the United States of America, encouraging the president to continue building strong government-to-government relationships with all of the federally

recognized tribes, as well as to work collaboratively with tribes and the National Congress of American Indian on discerning how to best fully and effectively implement the U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples for the sake of justice in the lives and communities of American Indian and Alaska Native Peoples; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the ELCA actively supports the work and goals of the ELCA's director of American Indian and Alaska Native Ministries, the American Indian and Alaska Native Advisory Team, and the American Indian and Alaska Native Lutheran Association and, further, that this church will actively seek their counsel, in order to deepen our understanding of the oppression and colonized histories lived and remembered by American Indian and Alaska Native Peoples, as well as to gain insight on the present situations of injustices experienced by and opportunities that lie before American Indian and Alaska Native Peoples; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the ELCA encourage its membership, and especially its leadership, to educate themselves about American Indian and Alaska Native Peoples; starting with the tribes and Peoples whose reservations and/or nations are nearest us, then the tribes and Peoples who first inhabited the lands whereupon church buildings now sit; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the ELCA actively explore funding opportunities to better serve American Indian and Alaska Native Peoples and social services organizations that provide direct services such as the Oaks Indian Mission, Lakota Lutheran Center, Navajo Lutheran Mission and others, so that they may have sufficient resources to feed and house children and families in serious poverty; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the ELCA periodically encourage synods and congregations to go beyond mission trips to American Indian and Alaska Native communities and become active advocates for and supporters of them; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the ELCA commits to being a part of dreaming, praying and working together with American Indian and Alaska Native Peoples for a reconciled and hopeful future, recognizing that immediate action and long-term commitment are required for renewed, healthy and responsible relationships to be built.

Moved;

Seconded;

Yes-555; No-234

Carried:

To amend the Reference and Counsel Committee's recommendation for Motion N by insertion:

To refer Motion N to the Congregational and Synodical Mission and the Global Mission units

ASSEMBLY

ACTION:

YES-509; NO-336

CA13.06.29

To refer Motion N to the Congregational and Synodical Mission and the Global Mission units

Motion O: Confirmation

WHEREAS, the word "confirmation" does not appear in Scripture or in the Confessions; and

WHEREAS, the ritual and tradition of "confirmation" no longer confers real responsibility for discipleship, leadership, or vocation from congregational leaders to youth emerging from "childish ways", and only really frees most youth from needing to continue to attend to study, worship, service, and receiving the Sacraments with this church once the requisite number of recorded instances of study, worship, service, and receiving the sacraments needed to achieve "confirmation" have been achieved; and

WHEREAS, the youth are not the future of the Church, but the once and immediate Church; and

WHEREAS, the congregations of this church who grow spiritually also study, worship, serve, and pray intergenerationally; and

WHEREAS, various (though few) congregations of this church have discovered avenues toward lifelong intergenerational discipleship among their members either by delaying such rituals of passage known as "confirmation", or by replacing a "confirmation" tradition with an intergenerational model of faith formation and discipleship training; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the ELCA discontinue published use of the term "confirmation" as it relates to the education tradition of the ELCA from all future publications (curricula, model constitutions, hymnals, etc.); and be it further

RESOLVED, that the congregations of the ELCA discontinue practice of "confirmation" as it relates to the ritual of passage for youth or young adults into voting membership in congregations; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the ELCA fully implement Luther's doctrine of vocation as the rationale and basis for preparation for lifelong discipleship; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the ELCA encourage congregations to develop and establish rituals of passage into adult discipleship and ministry, such that those congregations' baptized members who recognize and who are able to articulate God's call to practice their various vocations and Spiritual gifts as disciples of Christ in the world also receive the public recognition and affirmation of those gifts and vocations by the congregations into which and among whom those individuals live out their vocations and Spiritual gifts; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the congregations of the ELCA become centers of lifelong and intergenerational study of Scripture and catechesis, worship and service, prayer and giving; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the congregations of the ELCA end "confirmation" as ritualized right of youth who have completed required steps and requirements.

ASSEMBLY

ACTION:

YES-704; NO-66

CA13.06.30 To refer Motion O to the Church Council in consultation with the Conference of Bishops

En Bloc Consideration of Appreciation Motions

ASSEMBLY

ACTION:

APPROVED BY OVATION

CA13.06.31 To accept *en bloc* the Reference and Counsel Committee's recommendations on Motions Q through W

Motion Q: Appreciation for Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson

We, the members of the 2013 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, offer our profound thanksgiving to God for blessing us with the servant leadership of our Presiding Bishop, Mark S. Hanson.

We celebrate the Spirit's power that led our brother, Mark, to answer the call to serve as the chief pastor of this church, which serves more than 4 million people as we strive to live out our baptismal call to love God and to serve our neighbors. Propelled by the assurance of the power of grace, Bishop Hanson has moved throughout this church as both leader and companion, walking alongside synodical bishops, churchwide staff, directors for evangelical mission, and those involved in regional and local efforts to extend true hospitality to the those whom we see as family and to the strangers who live and work among us, aiding us to see Christ in every face we see.

We celebrate the Spirit's leading that has enabled him to work tirelessly to enhance dialog among people of faith, with our ecumenical partners and global partners, and with those who long for true peace among the peoples and nations of this world. We give thanks for his formal leadership role as president of The Lutheran World Federation and for his role as companion and friend as he prays for us and for this church.

We celebrate the humble way in which our brother, Mark, has embraced the holy privilege of leadership of this church and the way in which he has courageously dared each of us to rekindle the spirit's power, to build upon the strong foundations of our roots, to rattle the dry bones, to ask what will matter, to risk new things being born, to increase our Gospel fluency, to embrace liturgical renewal, to set a table full of welcome for people of every race, tribe, creed, age, gender, ability, and orientation, and to grow in grace and mercy. We have been blessed by our bishop's leading as we reclaim our role as a public and prophetic church—a strong voice for Jesus Christ in the places where people cry out for justice.

We give thanks to God for Bishop Hanson's life, which continues to be filled with passion for the Gospel and which generously enables others to find their vocational callings and to honor our Lord Jesus Christ.

With evangelical missional imagination and thanks to God as we celebrate 25 years together and write the next chapter of Acts for the ELCA, we have for you these 25 words:

Deeply rooted, Always new,
Word, Witness, Gospel true.
Vision, Mission, Creation care,
Prayers, Praise, Grace shared.
Confident hope, Spirit-renewed.
Work. Hands. God in you.

ASSEMBLY

ACTION:

CA13.06.32 To adopt Motion Q

Motion R: Appreciation for Ione Hanson and Family

On behalf of all of the members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, we—the members of the 2013 Churchwide Assembly—sincerely thank you for sharing Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson, with us during the past 12 years.

You have had to endure long hours without him.

You have had to participate in family events without him.

You have had to worry about his health, his safety, and his attention to self-care.

For all this and more, we sincerely thank you.

Therefore, be it resolved that...

It is in Christian love, with much gratitude and many warm wishes, that we thank you for lending to us your husband, father, and grandfather for exceptional service in this church and to our Lord.

Furthermore, we want to thank you, Ione, for all you have done to support Mark, your witness, and all you have done to build up this church.

ASSEMBLY

ACTION:

CA13.06.33 To adopt Motion R

Motion S: Appreciation for Vice President Carlos Peña

Whereas;

We, the 2013 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, accept the report of Vice President Carlos E. Peña and thank him for his devoted leadership in this church and for the many and varied ways he supports and represents the ELCA. Although he has served this church as the Vice President for 10 years and in other leadership roles for many more, it is readily evident in his words and deeds that he is always being made new, in his personal life and in his service to our Lord.

As the most visible volunteer officer or leader in the ELCA, Carlos continues to be an example of discipleship and service. In his role as chair of the meetings of the Church Council and the Council's Executive Committee, he spends a great deal of time preparing for meetings and raising his level of expertise on the issues the council addresses. Additionally, he travels extensively on behalf of this church, representing the churchwide expression of the ELCA at countless Synod Assemblies, on several international trips, and as a delegate to the assembly of the World Council of Churches.

At a time in his life when he continues to run a business and when his children are living through the great and joyous changes of graduation, marriage, and childbirth, we share in the joy Carlos and his wife, Diane, experience, and we marvel at the healthy balance he has struck among the family, work, and church aspects of his life.

Be it resolved that;

It is with deep appreciation and great admiration that we thank Carlos Peña for his service to this church and to our Lord, Jesus Christ.

ASSEMBLY

ACTION:

CA13.06.34 To adopt Motion S

Motion T: Appreciation for Secretary David D. Swartling

Whereas;

We, the 2013 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, accept the report of Secretary David Swartling and thank him for his faithful and tireless work on behalf of this church and of the Lord. David's six years as Secretary have proven him to be a devoted disciple of Christ and a true Lutheran Missionary. In fact, it could be said that he is (with apologies to Gilbert and Sullivan) The Very Model of a Modern ELCA Secretary.

He loves all things constitutional and easily translates them to be institutional.

His ideas are truly visional, while also always being missional.

When our church needs guidance in areas fiduciary, his ideas and gifts are revolutionary.

His methods are always contemplative, even on issues legislative.

In dealing with the church's governance, he never leaves anything to happenstance.

In areas of this church considered operational, his efforts border on computational.

He can wax poetic on issues political, without ever sounding homiletical.

His work ethic is purely methodical, especially on relationships synodical.

When topics turn governmental, he is anything but ornamental.

When he needed to deal with disaffiliation, he did it without a hint of miscommunication.

He has safely guided our church from a cycle biennial to a new idea – a cycle triennial.

His work among us uneraseable, in fact, he may be nearly irreplaceable.

We laud his fleet-footedness, and we praise God for his deep-rootedness.

Though we bid him farewell bluely, we rejoice in knowing he is always being made new-ly.

He is the very model of a modern ELCA Secretary.

Therefore, be it resolved that;

It is with fondness, gratitude, and warm wishes for a smooth transition to the next phase of his life, that we thank David Swartling for his service to this church and to our Lord, Jesus Christ.

ASSEMBLY

ACTION:

CA13.06.35 To adopt Motion T

Motion U: Resolution of Appreciation for Treasurer Linda Norman

We, the members of the 2013 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, thank Pastor Linda Norman, for her extraordinary leadership as the treasurer of the ELCA. We give thanks for her deep roots in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, for her careful management of the financial systems that safeguard and steward the financial, property, and individual resources that have been shared across this church for the sake of our mutual goals. We give thanks for her leadership as she assists this church in the transition in systems of gift management, information and security management, and in systems automation. We give thanks for her vision as she helps this church in reaching out in new ways, especially as we grow our social and electronic ministry presence among God's people. For Pastor Norman's special gifts and talents, for her dedication to excellence, and for her work in mentoring others as they grow in their vocational calls, we say, "Thanks be to God!"

ASSEMBLY

ACTION:

CA13.06.36 To adopt Motion U

Motion V: Resolution of Appreciation and Thanksgiving for the Churchwide Staff

Be it resolved:

We, the members of the 2013 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, express gratitude for the churchwide staff, who work year-round to support the growth and mission of this church. We are thankful for the many hours of preparation that have allowed us to be "Paperless in Pittsburgh."

Striving to grow and challenge this church, we thank the work of the staff on all the special projects. We also express thanks to the members of the staff who have and will continue to help this church through their work in Mission Advancement, Congregational and Synodical Mission, Global Mission, Research and Evaluation, Federal Chaplaincy, and Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Relations.

We further thank the work of the staff in the Office of the Presiding Bishop, the Office of the Secretary, and the Office of the Treasurer. We continue to keep the staff and their work in our prayers.

ASSEMBLY

ACTION:

CA13.06.37 To adopt Motion V

Motion W: Resolution of Appreciation and Thanksgiving for Hospitality

Be it resolved:

We, the members of the 2013 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, deeply thank Pittsburgh and the Bishop's staff and congregations of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod for hosting this assembly. For the daily supply of 450 dozen homemade cookies, the loving hands that bakes them and the red-vested, well-informed volunteers, we give thanks. The hospitality displayed can simply be described as radical.

We express great thanks for the local and diverse selection of music that filled our worship services throughout the week. The talented worship leaders and musicians reminded us that music is constantly making us anew.

The city of Pittsburgh has only further encouraged this church's path toward an environmentally conscious and friendly being. The David L. Lawrence Convention Center has shown us the many ways we can conserve the resources of God's creation.

ASSEMBLY

ACTION:

CA13.06.38 To adopt Motion W

Announcement of 2016 ELCA Churchwide Assembly

Secretary David D. Swartling reported that the 2016 Churchwide Assembly will be held August 8–14, 2016, in New Orleans, La.