

**EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
IN AMERICA**

Church Council

MINUTES

August 7, 2016

**Prepared by the
Office of the Secretary**

**EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
CHURCH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES
August 7, 2016
New Orleans, Louisiana**

The eighty-seventh meeting of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) was convened with the Conference of Bishops and synod vice presidents in Grand Ballroom C of the Sheraton New Orleans Hotel, 500 Canal Street, New Orleans, La.

The Executive Committee of the Church Council had met that morning.

Members of the Church Council gathered with synod vice presidents and members of the Conference of Bishops at 1:00 p.m. in the Rhythms Ballroom for worship. The Rev. Elizabeth E. Ekdale presided and the Rev. William O. Gafkjen, bishop of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod and chair of the Conference of Bishops, preached. Mr. Thomas E. Madden, vice president of the Upstate New York Synod, served as assisting minister. Mr. Thomas A. Cunniff, associate general counsel, and Ms. Doris P. Underwood, vice president of the Southeastern Synod, were lecturers. The Rev. Robert A. Rimbo, bishop of the Metropolitan New York Synod, served as musician.

ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING

The following people were present for all or part of the meeting:

Voting members

Officers:

Bp. Elizabeth A. Eaton, presiding bishop
Mr. Carlos E. Peña, vice president
Pr. Wm Chris Boerger, secretary
Pr. Linda O. Norman, treasurer

Chair of the Conference of Bishops:

Bp. William O. Gafkjen, bishop of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod

Church Council:

Mr. Paul G. Archer	Ms. Kayla S. Koterwski
Mr. Hans E. Becklin	Mr. John W. Lohrmann
Mr. Allan J. Bieber	Pr. Loren D. Mellum
Ms. Amanda E. Briggs	Pr. Linda Nou
Mr. Reid A. Christopherson	Mr. John M. Pederson
Ms. Christine P. Connell	Ms. Meri Jo Petrivelli
Pr. Elizabeth E. Ekdale	Ms. Pamela E. Pritt
Ms. Marjorie B. Ellis	Mr. Clarence M. Smith
Pr. William E. Flippin Jr.	Pr. Jonathan Splichal Larson
Mr. Gary D. Gabrielson	Ms. Ingrid S. Stafford
Pr. Vicki T. Garber	Ms. Leslie J. Swenson
Pr. Joyce M. Graue	Mr. Oliver W. Thul (<i>excused</i>)
Ms. Cynthia M. Gustavson	Pr. James H. Utt
Pr. Stephen R. Herr	Mr. Vernon K. Veal
Ms. Maren Hulden	Pr. William O. Voss
Mr. James M. Hushagen	Pr. Michael R. Ward (<i>excused</i>)
Pr. Peder J. Johanson	

Representatives of the Conference of Bishops

Bp. Claire S. Burkat, Region 7	Bp. Stephen S. Talmage, Region 2
Bp. Suzanne D. Dillahunt, Region 6	Bp. B. Kirby Unti, Region 1
Bp. Mary B. Froiland, Region 5	Bp. Herman R. Yoos III, Region 9
Bp. Richard H. Graham, Region 8	Bp. David B. Zellmer, Region 3
Bp. Brian D. Maas, Region 4	

Resource people

Office of the Presiding Bishop:

Pr. M. Wyvetta Bullock, executive for administration
Mr. Kenneth W. Inskeep, executive for research and evaluation
Ms. Kathryn L. Johnson, director for ecumenical and inter-religious relations
Ms. Rhondean Johnson, executive for human resources
Pr. Marcus R. Kunz, assistant to the presiding bishop for theological discernment
Ms. Kathryn M. Lohre, assistant to the presiding bishop for ecumenical and inter-religious relations
Pr. Walter S. May, assistant to the presiding bishop for synodical relations
Ms. Jodi L. Slaterry, assistant to the presiding bishop for governance
Pr. Kevin L. Strickland, assistant to the presiding bishop for worship
Pr. F. Eric Wester, assistant to the presiding bishop for federal chaplaincy ministry

Office of the Secretary:

Mr. Thomas A. Cunniff, associate general counsel
Mr. Phillip H. Harris, general counsel (*excused*)
Mr. Frank F. Imhoff, manager for official documentation
Ms. Sue E. Rothmeyer, executive for Office of the Secretary administration

Unit Staff:

Pr. Stephen P. Bouman, executive director of the Domestic Mission unit
Ms. Victoria Flood, director for Mission Support
Ms. Jocelyn Fuller, director for strategic communications
Pr. Ronald T. Glusenkamp, director for *The Campaign for the ELCA*
Ms. Christina Jackson-Skelton, executive director of the Mission Advancement unit
Pr. Rafael Malpica Padilla, executive director of the Global Mission unit
Pr. Daniel O. Rift, director for the ELCA World Hunger and Disaster Appeal
Ms. Evelyn B. Soto, director for operations and programs of the Domestic Mission unit
Pr. Albert Starr, director for ethnic specific and multicultural ministries
Pr. Jonathan P. Strandjord, director for seminaries
Pr. David C. Wunsch, director for operations of the Global Mission unit

Separately Incorporated Ministries:

Ms. Linda Post Bushkofsky, executive director, Women of the ELCA
Mr. Doug Haugen, executive director, Lutheran Men in Mission
Ms. Beth A. Lewis, president, Publishing House of the ELCA (*excused*)
Ms. Eva M. Roby, president, Mission Investment Fund
Pr. Martin A. Seltz, publisher, worship and music, Augsburg Fortress, Publishers
Pr. Jeffrey D. Thiemann, president, Portico Benefit Services

Press:

Ms. Candice Hill Buchbinder, Mission Advancement

**Sunday, August 7, 2016
Plenary Session I**

CALL TO ORDER AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

(Agenda I.A.)

Background:

Agenda items had been distributed electronically. Additional items were distributed at the meeting to the members of the Church Council and invited resource people.

Church Council action:

Mr. Carlos E. Peña, vice president of the ELCA and chair of the Church Council, called the meeting to order at 2:29 p.m., welcomed all participants and thanked those involved in leading worship. He presented the Rev. William O. Gafkjen, bishop of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod and chair of the Conference of Bishops, as co-chair of the first plenary session of the meeting.

Bishop Gafkjen led the assembly in prayer.

Vice President Peña introduced the proposed agenda.

The Rev. Wm Chris Boerger, secretary of the ELCA, made the following motion.

Moved;

Seconded: To adopt the agenda and to permit the chair to call for consideration of agenda items in the order the chair deems most appropriate.

There being no discussion, Vice President Peña called for the vote on the motion to adopt the amended agenda.

VOTED:

CC16.08.17 To adopt the agenda and to permit the chair to call for consideration of agenda items in the order the chair deems most appropriate.

Vice President Peña declared the agenda was adopted.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDING BISHOP

(Agenda I.B.1.)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña asked the Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, presiding bishop of the ELCA, for her report.

Presiding Bishop Eaton said: "Good afternoon. Welcome. Here we are. What have you been doing for the past three years? How has it been going for you?"

"I will mention several things that have happened since the last council meeting and some things that I want you to be mindful of as we go through the agenda today and in the week to come.

"We have a Theological Education Advisory Committee. John Lohrmann, a member of the Church Council from the Eastern Washington-Idaho Synod, is the chair of that committee. We already had a meeting, and we are trying very hard to do what the Church Council asked us to do, which is to set some priorities for the massive amount of work that was identified in a very comprehensive report from TEAC [the Theological Education Advisory Council]. There are three proposals, and each of the proposals has many implementing resolutions. John led the first meeting. We are working again with Baker-Tilly. Christine Smith is the consultant. We are very happy to have her work with us because it is a lot to get our arms around.

"I have appointed a task force to begin drafting a statement on interreligious relations. In 1991, you had the statement on ecumenism. This is the sequel to the statement on ecumenism. At this assembly, a representative from the

Islamic Society of North America, Dr. Syeed, will be addressing us; also, from the Anti-Defamation League, Rabbi Sandmel will be here to address us. So, we are keeping up with what we have been doing as a church for these years. I think we would all agree, with the current political climate, for us to show hospitality and respect for minority religions and faiths in this country is extremely important.

“During the assembly, you will have the chance to consider and study, in workshops and hearings, the Declaration on the Way. You heard Bishop Gafkjen so elegantly reference that in his sermon. Fifty years ago, this was not happening, and 500 years ago we were killing each other over some of these issues. Now, this is where Jesus has shown up. We are very excited about that. We will have the Lutheran and Roman Catholic co-chairs — Presiding Bishop Emeritus Mark Hanson and Bishop Denis Madden — addressing us, and they will be leading us in discussion.

“You will also be hearing a lot about AMMPARO [Accompany Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities], which is a marvelous example of us learning to work together not only in the churchwide offices but across the expressions of this church. This is a movement we are starting to address the critical needs of migrant minor children coming across two borders with a hope for a better life.

“Jim Mauney chaired the Ecclesiology of a Global Church [task force]. That work is before us in the *en bloc* amendments to the constitution. We want to confirm to the church that we are more than just three expressions and more than just us. So, we want to take a look at how we participate in the life of the greater church, especially in relationship to The Lutheran World Federation.

“We will also be discussing the recommendation to unify the three lay rosters. That will be before us in the *en bloc* amendments to the constitution as well.

“You have been hearing a little bit, in our joint work together, about what we have been doing on the Called Forward Together in Christ process. Many of us were able to be churchwide representatives to synod assemblies and had a great conversation across this church, in the Conference of Bishops, and with the Church Council. Now we are going to see where we are. That will happen a little later on in this meeting.”

There being no questions or comments, Vice President Peña thanked Presiding Bishop Eaton for her report.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

(Agenda I.B.2.; *Reference*: Mission Support Giving Report *and* Operating Results Summary with the June Financials)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña asked the Rev. Linda O. Norman, treasurer of the ELCA, for an update.

Treasurer Norman reported on the financial state of the current operating budget and ELCA World Hunger for the first five months of fiscal year 2016, which began on Feb. 1, 2016. Revenue exceeded expenses by \$2.4 million, and the units and offices of the churchwide organization were spending at about 90 percent of authorization. She outlined the sources of income providing a total operating revenue of \$28.4 million — about \$2.2 million more than budgeted. ELCA World Hunger, being this year’s emphasis for *Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA*, received \$8 million toward the goal of \$22 million. The campaign overall was at 46 percent of its five-year goal of \$198 million. The treasurer described how campaign receipts were already benefitting various ministries. She also commented on Mission Support from synods to the churchwide organization and constitutional amendments the 2016 Churchwide Assembly will consider to redefine Mission Support.

Vice President Peña thanked the treasurer for her report.

REPORT FROM THE SECRETARY

(Agenda I.B.3.)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña invited Secretary Wm Chris Boerger to present his report.

Secretary Boerger described preparations for the 2016 Churchwide Assembly, its agenda and key issues the voting members will consider. He mentioned that synod assemblies would need to vote on amendments the Churchwide Assembly adopts to non-required sections of the Constitution for Synods, and congregations would need to vote on all amendments to the Model Constitution for Congregations. He discussed the procedure used for the election of a vice

president by the Churchwide Assembly and how it may inform plans for the election of a secretary at the 2019 Churchwide Assembly.

CALLED FORWARD TOGETHER IN CHRIST

(Agenda II.B.1.; *Reference:* Future Directions Paper Called Forward Together in Christ *and* Leadership Letter on Future Directions)

Background:

In response to the mission funding think tank's final report, the Church Council took a series of actions at its April 2015 meeting, including [CC15.04.10]:

To affirm the intention of Presiding Bishop [Elizabeth A.] Eaton to convene a team to generate recommendations to sharpen the priorities of this church and bring greater clarity about what this church will do and will not do in order to serve God's mission more faithfully and effectively in the years to come ...

At the Executive Committee's meetings in August and September 2015, Presiding Bishop Eaton noted that she had enlisted the help of Ms. Lyla Rogan to fashion that priority-setting process. The presiding bishop gave a synopsis of what the process will deliver.

- A directional statement on the identity of this church and high level priorities that provide a sharpened and common focus for leadership of this church, including a focus on the four emphases: We are Lutheran; We are church; We are church together; and, We are church for the sake of the world
- Ownership of the directions and priorities by church leaders, especially the Conference of Bishops and Church Council
- Motivation and renewed energy across this church to serve God's mission faithfully and more effectively and to work together to build a thriving, connected and sustainable church
- A common strategic framework for other levels of planning, including operational planning by the churchwide organization and by synods

"Future Directions and Priorities of the ELCA" proposed a range of processes and mechanisms to achieve engagement and generate conversations, and a "Future Directions Table" was recommended to have a role in generating and drawing together thinking as the processes move forward. The processes would dovetail with the observance of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation and provide opportunity for all church leaders to communicate a shared vision for the future of this church.

At its November 2015 meeting, the Church Council voted [CC15.11.47]:

To affirm Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton's Future Directions and Priorities of the ELCA process design;

To authorize the Executive Committee to appoint members identified by the presiding bishop to serve on the Future Directions Table; and

To request that the Future Directions Table bring periodic progress reports to the Conference of Bishops and Church Council beginning in spring 2016.

In December 2015, the Executive Committee appointed [EC15.12.24] Bishop Jon V. Anderson [Southwestern Minnesota Synod], Bishop Tracie L. Bartholomew [New Jersey Synod], Mr. Allan J. Bieber, Mr. Matthew Bishop, Ms. Julie Bock, the Rev. Tiffany C. Chaney, Mr. Randall S. Foster, the Rev. Vicki T. Garber, the Rev. Daniel W. Gerriets, Mr. Raphael Graybill, the Rev. Stephen R. Herr, the Rev. Connie A. Miller and Mr. David Trost to serve on the Future Directions Table. In January 2016 the committee also appointed [EC16.01.02] the Rev. Francisco Javier Goitía Padilla.

Church Council discussion:

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton, who presented the background information regarding the Called Forward Together in Christ process.

Ms. Lyla Rogan provided an update on conversations conducted across this church on the priorities and future directions of the ELCA, the information being gathered and plans to continue discussions.

Presiding Bishop Eaton outlined ways the 2016 Churchwide Assembly and Grace Gathering would be engaged in the Called Forward Together in Christ process.

CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY OVERVIEW

(Agenda I.C.)

Background:

The joint session of the Church Council with the Conference of Bishops and synod vice presidents was an opportunity to provide key leaders with an overview of the 2016 Churchwide Assembly.

Discussion:

Vice President Carlos E. Peña asked Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton to highlight elements of the 2016 Churchwide Assembly and Grace Gathering, especially experiential learning events in the communities of New Orleans.

RECESS

The August 2016 meeting of the Church Council recessed at 3:20 p.m.

**Sunday, August 7, 2016
Plenary Session II**

CALL TO ORDER

Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton called the second plenary session to order at 3:45 p.m. in Grand Ballroom B of the Sheraton New Orleans Hotel.

CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY CITATION IN HONOR OF MR. CARLOS E. PEÑA
(II.A.1.)

Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton read a citation to honor Vice President Carlos E. Peña at the 2016 Churchwide Assembly and made the following motion.

Moved;

Seconded: *To approve the following citation:*

Mr. Carlos E. Peña has for 13 years devoted generous amounts of time and offered his gifts of leadership in his calling as vice president of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The vice president serves as chair of the Church Council meetings and the council's Executive Committee. He has done so with conscientious ability and a gracious manner. He has engaged all members of the council in thoughtful decision-making and diligent service as the board of directors of the churchwide organization.

During his tenure, Carlos demonstrated forthright commitment to the faith and genuine compassion for the people in congregations and communities throughout the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. He fulfilled his responsibilities with abundant generosity by:

- Sharing God's love and providing insightful devotions on the church's mission;
- Being inspired and guided by faith to preside with fairness and care for each member of the council;
- Balancing the commitment to listen to all voices with the demands of presiding over tight agendas;
- Seeking to make visible the unity that is ours in Christ amidst the unique gifts of Christian diversity;
- Visiting other countries on behalf of the ELCA and witnessing God at work through the people locally and globally;
- Serving the church at numerous synod assemblies and on the World Council of Churches Central Committee;
- Honoring the past while envisioning the future and trusting God during tumultuous and enormous change; and
- Keeping constant focus on the commitments of this church and providing diligence in service to members of this whole church.

We give thanks to God for the contributions Carlos has made to the life of this church. Although Carlos has chosen to conclude his service as vice president, we remember Ecclesiastes 3: "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven." Carlos will continue his dedication to witness and service in daily life in the variety of other activities that he undertakes. In the passing of his responsibilities as vice president to his successor, may God grant him persistent hope in the Gospel we proclaim and delight in remembering the privilege of serving as the fourth vice president of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Upon action of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the *Servus Dei* Award is conferred upon Mr. Carlos E. Peña, vice president of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, November 1, 2003-October 31, 2016.

Members of the Church Council discussed specific wording in the citation and the manner in which the citation would be presented to the Churchwide Assembly.

There being no further discussion, Presiding Bishop Eaton called for the vote.

VOTED:

CC16.08.18

To approve the following citation:

Mr. Carlos E. Peña has for 13 years devoted generous amounts of time and offered his gifts of leadership in his calling as vice president of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The vice president serves as chair of the Church Council meetings and the council's Executive Committee. He has done so with conscientious ability and a gracious manner. He has engaged all members of the council in thoughtful decision-making and diligent service as the board of directors of the churchwide organization.

During his tenure, Carlos demonstrated forthright commitment to the faith and genuine compassion for the people in congregations and communities throughout the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. He fulfilled his responsibilities with abundant generosity by:

- Sharing God's love and providing insightful devotions on the church's mission;**
- Being inspired and guided by faith to preside with fairness and care for each member of the council;**
- Balancing the commitment to listen to all voices with the demands of presiding over tight agendas;**
- Seeking to make visible the unity that is ours in Christ amidst the unique gifts of Christian diversity;**
- Visiting other countries on behalf of the ELCA and witnessing God at work through the people locally and globally;**
- Serving the church at numerous synod assemblies and on the World Council of Churches Central Committee;**
- Honoring the past while envisioning the future and trusting God during tumultuous and enormous change; and**
- Keeping constant focus on the commitments of this church and providing diligence in service to members of this whole church.**

We give thanks to God for the contributions Carlos has made to the life of this church. Although Carlos has chosen to conclude his service as vice president, we remember Ecclesiastes 3: "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven." Carlos will continue his dedication to witness and service in daily life in the variety of other activities that he undertakes. In the passing of his responsibilities as vice president to his successor, may God grant him persistent hope in the Gospel we proclaim and delight in remembering the privilege of serving as the fourth vice president of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Upon action of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the *Servus Dei* Award is conferred upon Mr. Carlos E. Peña, vice president of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, November 1, 2003-October 31, 2016.

The presiding bishop declared that the motion had been adopted.
Church Council members discussed related activities to honor the vice president.
Presiding Bishop Eaton invited Vice President Peña into the room and relinquished the chair to him.

RULES OF ORGANIZATION AND PROCEDURE

Background:

At its April 2016 meeting, the Church Council voted [CC16.04.16e2]:
To authorize the presiding bishop and secretary of this church to prepare further editing and scheduling revisions that may be found necessary for the Rules prior to their publication in the Pre-Assembly Report; and
To report any changes to the Church Council at its August 2016 meeting.

Church Council discussion:

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on Secretary Wm Chris Boerger, who reported schedule and editorial changes to the Rules of Organization and Procedure that had been made since Church Council adoption.

SYNOD MISSION SUPPORT PLANS

(Agenda II.A.2.; *Reference:* 2016 2017 Mission Support Intent, August 2016 II)

Background:

The Church Council reviews and acts on synod Mission Support plans as an interdependent partner with congregations and synods in implementing and strengthening the financial support for the work of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA provisions 8.15. and 10.71.).

Church Council action:

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on Treasurer Linda O. Norman, who noted that the Budget and Finance Committee usually brings recommendations regarding synod Mission Support plans and any changes to those plans. The committee did not meet immediately before this Church Council meeting, so the recommendations were prepared by the Office of the Presiding Bishop and Office of the Treasurer.

REVISIONS TO 2016 SYNOD MISSION SUPPORT PLANS

(Agenda II.A.2.i.)

Treasurer Linda O. Norman reported that since the April 2016 meeting of the Church Council, four synods had revised their 2016 Mission Support plans. One synod asked to decrease its percentage sharing and decrease the projected amount to be shared. The second synod asked to maintain its percentage sharing and increase the projected dollar amount to be shared. The third synod asked to decrease its percentage sharing and maintain the projected dollar amount to be shared. The fourth synod asked to increase its percentage sharing and maintain the projected dollar amount to be shared.

Treasurer Norman made the following motion.

Moved;

Seconded:

To acknowledge with appreciation the action of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin to maintain the percentage of sharing of 2016 Mission Support contributions by congregations for synod and churchwide ministries but estimating an adjustment in the projected amount to be shared; and

To further affirm that we will steward these gifts to maximize their impact in mission for the sake of God's work. Our hands. in the world.

There being no discussion, the chair called for the vote.

VOTED:

CC16.08.19

To acknowledge with appreciation the action of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin to maintain the percentage of sharing of 2016 Mission Support contributions by congregations for synod and churchwide ministries but estimating an adjustment in the projected amount to be shared; and

To further affirm that we will steward these gifts to maximize their impact in mission for the sake of God's work. Our hands. in the world.

Vice President Peña declared the motion was adopted.

Treasurer Norman made the following motion.

Moved;

Seconded:

To acknowledge with gratitude the action of the Southwestern Minnesota Synod to increase the percentage of sharing of 2016 Mission Support by congregations for synod and churchwide ministries; and

To further affirm that we will steward these gifts to maximize their impact in mission for the sake of God's work. Our hands. in the world.

There being no discussion, the chair called for the vote.

VOTED:

CC16.08.20

To acknowledge with gratitude the action of the Southwestern Minnesota Synod to increase the percentage of sharing of 2016 Mission Support by congregations for synod and churchwide ministries; and

To further affirm that we will steward these gifts to maximize their impact in mission for the sake of God's work. Our hands. in the world.

Vice President Peña declared the motion was adopted.

Treasurer Norman made the following motion.

Moved;

Seconded:

As a grateful church that affirms the partnership of congregation, synod and churchwide expressions, we affirm the percentage of sharing of 2016 Mission Support by congregations for synod and churchwide ministries: Metropolitan Chicago Synod and Rocky Mountain Synod;

As a Church Council, we thank the bishops and synod leaders of every synod as they strive to be faithful to shared commitments within the ELCA and direct synod and churchwide staff, including the directors for evangelical mission, to deepen their partnership in efforts to strengthen financial support for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; and

We will steward these gifts to maximize their impact in mission for the sake of God's work. Our hands. in the world.

There being no discussion, the chair called for the vote.

VOTED:

CC16.08.21

As a grateful church that affirms the partnership of congregation, synod and churchwide expressions, we affirm the percentage of sharing of 2016 Mission Support by congregations for synod and churchwide ministries: Metropolitan Chicago Synod and Rocky Mountain Synod;

As a Church Council, we thank the bishops and synod leaders of every synod as they strive to be faithful to shared commitments within the ELCA and direct synod and churchwide staff, including the directors for evangelical mission, to deepen their partnership in efforts to strengthen financial support for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; and

We will steward these gifts to maximize their impact in mission for the sake of God's work. Our hands. in the world.

Vice President Peña declared the motion was adopted.

REVISIONS TO 2017 SYNOD MISSION SUPPORT PLANS

(Agenda II.A.2.ii.)

Treasurer Linda O. Norman reported that two synods had submitted their 2017 Mission Support plans since the April 2016 meeting of the Church Council. Another two synods revised their 2017 Mission Support plans; one asked to decrease its percentage sharing and increase the projected dollar amount to be shared, and the other asked to maintain its percentage sharing and increase the projected dollar amount to be shared.

Treasurer Norman made the following motion.

Moved;

Seconded:

As a grateful church that affirms the partnership of congregation, synod and churchwide expressions, we acknowledge the actions of the following synods and affirm the percentage of sharing of 2017 Mission Support by congregations for synod and churchwide ministries: Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod and Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod;

As a Church Council, we thank the bishops and synod leaders of every synod as they strive to be faithful to shared commitments within the ELCA and direct synod and churchwide staff, including the directors for evangelical mission, to deepen their partnership in efforts to strengthen financial support for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; and

We further affirm that we will steward these gifts to maximize their impact in mission for the sake of God's work, our hands in the world.

There being no discussion, the chair called for the vote.

VOTED:

CC16.08.22

As a grateful church that affirms the partnership of congregation, synod and churchwide expressions, we acknowledge the actions of the following synods and affirm the percentage of sharing of 2017 Mission Support by congregations for synod

and churchwide ministries: Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod and Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod;

As a Church Council, we thank the bishops and synod leaders of every synod as they strive to be faithful to shared commitments within the ELCA and direct synod and churchwide staff, including the directors for evangelical mission, to deepen their partnership in efforts to strengthen financial support for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; and

We further affirm that we will steward these gifts to maximize their impact in mission for the sake of God's work, our hands in the world.

Vice President Peña declared the motion was adopted.

Treasurer Norman made the following motion.

Moved;

Seconded:

To acknowledge with appreciation the action of the Southwestern Minnesota Synod to maintain the percentage of sharing of 2017 Mission Support contributions by congregations for synod and churchwide ministries but estimating an adjustment in the projected amount to be shared; and

To further affirm that we will steward these gifts to maximize their impact in mission for the sake of God's work. Our hands. in the world.

There being no discussion, the chair called for the vote.

VOTED:

CC16.08.23

To acknowledge with appreciation the action of the Southwestern Minnesota Synod to maintain the percentage of sharing of 2017 Mission Support contributions by congregations for synod and churchwide ministries but estimating an adjustment in the projected amount to be shared; and

To further affirm that we will steward these gifts to maximize their impact in mission for the sake of God's work. Our hands. in the world.

Vice President Peña declared the motion was adopted.

Treasurer Norman made the following motion.

Moved;

Seconded:

As a grateful church that affirms the partnership of congregation, synod and churchwide expressions, we affirm the percentage of sharing of 2017 Mission Support by congregations for synod and churchwide ministries by the Metropolitan Chicago Synod;

As a Church Council, we thank the bishops and synod leaders of every synod as they strive to be faithful to shared commitments within the ELCA and direct synod and churchwide staff, including the directors for evangelical mission, to deepen their partnership in efforts to strengthen financial support for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; and

We will steward these gifts to maximize their impact in mission for the sake of God's work. Our hands. in the world.

There being no discussion, the chair called for the vote.

VOTED:

CC16.08.24

As a grateful church that affirms the partnership of congregation, synod and churchwide expressions, we affirm the percentage of sharing of 2017 Mission Support by congregations for synod and churchwide ministries by the Metropolitan Chicago Synod;

As a Church Council, we thank the bishops and synod leaders of every synod as they strive to be faithful to shared commitments within the ELCA and direct synod and churchwide staff, including the directors for evangelical mission, to deepen their partnership in efforts to strengthen financial support for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; and

We will steward these gifts to maximize their impact in mission for the sake of God's work. Our hands. in the world.

Vice President Peña declared the motion was adopted.

EN BLOC APPROVAL OF CERTAIN ITEMS

(Agenda II.B.1.; *Reference:* Church Council En Bloc Items for Action)

Background:

An *en bloc* resolution or consent calendar was presented to the Church Council of routine or noncontroversial actions prepared by staff of the Office of the Presiding Bishop. Opportunity was provided to members of the Church Council to remove items from *en bloc* for separate consideration by the council. A single vote on those items remaining *en bloc* is taken without debate or amendment.

Church Council action:

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on Secretary Wm Chris Boerger, who made the following motion.

Moved;

Seconded: To take action *en bloc* on the items listed in "Church Council En Bloc Items" document.

There being no discussion, the chair called for the vote.

VOTED:

CC16.08.25

To take action *en bloc* on the following items.

A. RATIFICATION OF CHURCH COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Background:

Continuing members of the Church Council were asked for their committee assignment preferences. The council ratifies provisional assignments to the Budget and Finance Committee, Legal and Constitutional Review Committee, Planning and Evaluation Committee and Program and Services Committee. Church Council members elected by the 2016 Churchwide Assembly will be asked for their preferences, and the council will make its final assignments at its November 2016 meeting.

The Executive Committee will appoint members of the Board Development Committee.

VOTED:

- CC16.08.25a** To ratify the following appointments of continuing members of the Church Council to Church Council committees for the 2016-2019 triennium:
- Budget and Finance Committee:* Mr. Hans E. Becklin, Pr. Elizabeth E. Ekdale, Mr. Gary D. Gabrielson, Pr. Vicki T. Garber, Ms. Meri Jo Petrivelli, Mr. Clarence M. Smith, Ms. Ingrid S. Stafford, Pr. William O. Voss and Pr. Michael R. Ward
- Legal and Constitutional Review Committee:* Ms. Amanda E. Briggs, Ms. Marjorie B. Ellis, Pr. Stephen R. Herr, Ms. Maren Hulden, Mr. James M. Hushagen, Mr. John W. Lohrmann and Mr. Vernon K. Veal
- Planning and Evaluation Committee:* Mr. Allan J. Bieber, Mr. Reid A. Christopherson, Ms. Christine P. Connell, Pr. William E. Flippin Jr., Pr. Joyce M. Graue, Pr. Linda Nou, Mr. John M. Pederson, Pr. Jonathan Splichal Larson and Pr. James H. Utt
- Program and Services Committee:* Mr. Paul G. Archer, Bp. William O. Gafkjen, Ms. Cynthia M. Gustavson, Pr. Peder J. Johanson, Pr. Loren D. Mellum, Ms. Pamela E. Pritt and Ms. Leslie J. Swenson

B. AUTHORIZATION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Background:

Authorization is needed for the Executive Committee to function between the Churchwide Assembly in August 2016 and the first regular meeting of the newly constituted Church Council in November 2016.

VOTED:

- CC16.08.25b** To authorize the continuing members of the Executive Committee to serve as the Executive Committee of the Church Council between the close of the Churchwide Assembly on August 13, 2016, and the November 2016 meeting of the Church Council.

C. NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Background:

In preparation for each Churchwide Assembly, the Church Council places in nomination the names of two people for each position on the Nominating Committee to be elected by the Churchwide Assembly. Biographical information on the nominees was included in the Report of the Nominating Committee to the 2016 Churchwide Assembly.

VOTED:

- CC16.08.25c** To receive the written report of the Office of the Secretary on nominees for the Churchwide Nominating Committee;
- To note that bylaw 19.21.01 states in regard to the Nominating Committee: "The Church Council shall place in nomination the names of two persons for each position. The committee shall consist of at least one member but no more than three members from any region. Nominations from the floor shall also be permitted, but each floor nomination shall be presented as an alternative to a specific category named by the Church Council 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 Church Council shall set forth the criteria applicable to each category that must be met by persons nominated from the floor”;

To request, therefore, that the Church Council restrict the tickets to the following: ordained minister (PC/L); ordained minister; lay female (Region 7); lay male (Region 2); lay male (Region 3); lay male (Region 6); lay male (Y/YA); and

To request that the Church Council transmit the following slate of nominees to the 2016 Churchwide Assembly:

CHURCHWIDE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Ordained Minister (PC/L)

- A. Pr. Manuel Retamoza, San Diego, Calif. (2C)
- B. Pr. Nathan V.A. Luong, Saint Peter, Minn. (3F)

Ordained Minister

- A. Pr. Brandi Jo Hacker, Madison, Ohio (6E)
- B. Pr. Kathryn A. Tiede, Lino Lakes, Minn. (3H)

Lay Female (Region 7)

- A. Ms. Joyce D. Adams, East Lansdowne, Pa. (7F)
- B. Ms. Julie P. Grindle, Baldwinsville, N.Y. (7D)

Lay Male (Region 2)

- A. Mr. Robert T. Flynn, Woodland Hills, Calif. (2B)
- B. Mr. Louis Moehlman, Garden Grove, Calif. (2C)

Lay Male (Region 3)

- A. Mr. Zachary C. Baker, Minneapolis, Minn. (3G)
- B. Mr. Raul Garcia III, Brooklyn Park, Minn. (3G)

Lay Male (Region 6)

- A. Mr. Roy E. Hart, Lancaster, Ohio (6F)
- B. Mr. Bryan L. Penvose, Valley City, Ohio (6E)

Lay Male (Y/YA)

- A. Mr. Samuel F. Schlouch, Rock Island, Ill. (5B)
- B. Mr. Samuel P. Swenson-Reinhold, Fairfax, Va. (8G)

D. SYNOD RESOLUTION FOR REFERRAL

Background:

The Executive Committee refers resolutions sent to the Church Council to appropriate churchwide organization units and offices. The office or unit will then respond by providing either a report or a timeline on when a particular resolution will receive further attention for council's consideration. The following resolution will be addressed by the 2016 Churchwide Assembly as part of the Report of the Memorials Committee.

**Justice for the Holy Land through Responsible Investment
Greater Milwaukee Synod (5J) [2016]**

WHEREAS, the Israeli-Palestinian conflicts and tensions over the past 65 years have deeply impacted the lives of millions of people, including Jews, Muslims and Christians in the Mideast and throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), since its inception in 1988, has taken public stands and passed various resolutions in churchwide assemblies and in Church Council meetings, in an effort to work for justice and peace in Palestine-Israel relationships; and

WHEREAS, the 2005 Churchwide Assembly of the ELCA adopted “Peace Not Walls: Stand for Justice in the Holy Land” as this church’s strategy of engagement in the Holy Land, a strategy that advocates for equal human dignity and rights for all people in the Holy Land, an end to Israeli settlement building and the occupation of Palestinian land, and a two-state solution, with two viable, secure states living side-by-side; and

WHEREAS, Palestinian Christians, in the 2009 Statement “Kairos Palestine,” written and supported by leaders and heads of 13 churches in the Holy Land, including Catholic, Orthodox and Lutheran — Bishop Munib Younan and Pastor Mitri Raheb of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land both helped author the statement — called on churches of the world to “stand alongside the oppressed” and work to end “the sin of occupation imposed upon us”; and

WHEREAS, the continued occupation of the Palestinian Territories by the State of Israel, the ongoing building of Israeli settlements in the Palestinian Territories, and other activities associated with this occupation and settlement, including but not limited to: expulsion of Palestinians from their legally held lands; demolition of their homes; prolonged detention with torture and without due process; arrest, mistreatment and detention of children; separate and unequal systems of law for Israeli settlers and Palestinians; severe restrictions on movement and travel through arbitrary permit systems, checkpoints and the separation wall; and segregated roads and buses; deny the fundamental human rights of Palestinians, hamper efforts to create a just and lasting peace, and violate international law as set forth in the United Nations Charter, the Fourth Geneva Convention and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR); and

WHEREAS, several multinational corporations, including Caterpillar, HP Inc., Hewlett Packard Enterprise, Motorola Solutions and G4S are complicit in the occupation and its associated human rights abuses — Caterpillar provides specialized bulldozers, including unmanned bulldozers, to demolish Palestinian civilian homes and property; HP Inc. and Hewlett Packard Enterprise provide IT services and systems so that the State of Israel can collect finger print and facial recognition data on every Palestinian over the age of 16 to track and control their movements; Motorola Solutions provides invisible radar fences, surveillance, and communication equipment used in the occupied territories; G4S provides security systems for Israel’s prisons and detention centers, West Bank settlements and military checkpoints; and

WHEREAS, congregations in various synods of the ELCA are sending resolutions to the 2016 Churchwide Assembly, asking the ELCA to divest ELCA Board of Pension funds from these four companies; and

WHEREAS, three of the ELCA’s full communion partners — the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), the United Church of Christ and The United Methodist Church — have each voted within the past two years to similarly divest funds from these and other companies and banks that profit from or are complicit in human rights violations arising from the occupation; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Greater Milwaukee Synod Assembly request that the Domestic Mission unit of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) direct the Corporate Social Responsibility team to develop guidelines that will screen out investments in companies profiting from, or complicit in, human rights violations arising from the occupation, including Caterpillar, HP Inc., Hewlett Packard Enterprise, Motorola Solutions and G4S, and to provide a report with possible recommendations to the November 2016 meeting of the Church Council, and to forward the guidelines to the separately incorporated ministries and agencies, including the ELCA Board of Pension and other institutions of this church, for implementation of divestment as appropriate; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Greater Milwaukee Synod urge every congregation to provide opportunities for their members to engage in interfaith dialog with Palestinians — Muslim and Christian — and with American Jews and Israelis, to gain an understanding of the complex issues that plague the people of Palestine and Israel; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Greater Milwaukee Synod Assembly direct the Synod Council to divest of direct or substantive indirect holdings in companies profiting from, or complicit in, human rights violations arising from the occupation, including Caterpillar, HP Inc., Hewlett Packard Enterprise, Motorola Solutions and G4S, until such time as those companies no longer profit from the occupation or cease operations in the illegal settlements; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Greater Milwaukee Synod Assembly encourage its members and congregations to divest of direct or substantive indirect holdings in companies profiting from, or complicit in, human rights violations arising from the occupation, including Caterpillar, HP Inc., Hewlett Packard Enterprise, Motorola Solutions and G4S, until such time as those companies no longer profit from the occupation or cease operations in the illegal settlements; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Greater Milwaukee Synod Assembly encourage its members and congregations to pray and work for a just peace in Palestine and Israel.

VOTED:

CC16.08.25d **To receive, with gratitude, the resolution of the Greater Milwaukee Synod related to Justice for the Holy Land through Responsible Investment; and**
 To acknowledge the action of the 2016 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as the response of the Church Council to the resolution from this synod.

The chair declared that the motion had been adopted.

CALLED FORWARD TOGETHER IN CHRIST (CONTINUED)

(Agenda II.B.1.; *Reference:* Future Directions Paper Called Forward Together in Christ *and* Leadership Letter on Future Directions)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on Mr. Kenneth W. Inskip, executive for research and evaluation, who led the Church Council in a discussion of the Future Directions Paper regarding the Called Forward Together in Christ process and the priorities and future directions of the ELCA.

Participants talked about what is meant by “growth” and “growing” as a priority, how proposed priorities may be implemented and evaluated, how the paper may be presented in other settings, the priority of engaging youth and young adults, how congregations may adopt similar priorities, where responsibility lies for implementing priorities, and how to provide further feedback on the paper.

FEEDBACK FROM THE CLASS OF 2016

(Agenda II.B.2.)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña noted that this would be the last meeting for Ms. Kayla S. Koterwski and Mr. Oliver W. Thul as youth members of Church Council.

Ms. Koterwski reflected on her three years of experience as a council member.

Mr. Thul was excused from the meeting but would attend the 2016 Churchwide Assembly and be honored there for his service.

INFORMATION ABOUT THE NOVEMBER 2016 CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

(Agenda II.B.3.)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on Ms. Jodi L. Slattery, assistant to the presiding bishop for governance, who talked about the schedule for the Nov. 10-13, 2016, meeting of the Church Council.

Ms. Slattery discussed plans for the orientation of council members elected by the 2016 Churchwide Assembly on Sept. 23, 2016, and the work of continuing council members as mentors.

Ms. Slattery also answered questions from Church Council members about details of the Churchwide Assembly.

POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

The Rev. Stephen R. Herr and Ms. Maren Hulden were granted a point of personal privilege. On behalf of the Church Council they presented Vice President Carlos E. Peña with gifts and informed him of a donation in his name to ELCA World Hunger. The assembly responded with applause.

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Vice President Peña expressed gratitude for the work and commitment of council members and for his experiences as vice president of this church.

ADJOURNMENT

(Agenda II.C.)

The eighty-seventh meeting of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America adjourned Sunday, August 7, 2016, at 4:47 p.m.