

**Proposed Revisions to the LIFT Task Force Recommendations
from the Writing Team
May 10, 2011**

KEY to revisions:

Original CC

Deletions

Additions

LIFT Task Force Recommendation: Congregations

1. Congregations ~~and synods in partnership~~ begin where they are to develop a mission plan that will strengthen the congregation ~~for witness and mission.~~ for witness and mission. ~~We recommend that, in concert with their~~ As congregations work in collaboration with the synod bishop and the director for evangelical mission and in partnership with other congregations, ~~the~~ congregation develop a plan to achieve as many of the following characteristics of vital congregations as are realistic for their life together. ~~These plans will vary from congregation to congregation as leaders take seriously the context in which God has placed them (e.g., rural, urban, suburban) and as congregations discern the leading of the Spirit at various stages in a the congregation's life. Characteristics of vital congregations include:~~ Congregations are asked to discern how the following characteristics are realistic for their life together and part of the vision to which God is leading them:
 - fostering mature faith and discipleship in members.
 - understanding God's grace as the foundation of restored relationships with God, one another and the world.
 - worshipping God in word and sacrament.
 - strengthening evangelical outreach.
 - supporting lay, lay rostered and clergy leaders.
 - serving others in the way the congregation uses its resources.
 - learning about the congregation's surrounding community, including its racial and ethnic diversity and how this context might inform ministries.
 - building and maintaining relationships and partnerships with other ELCA congregations, the synod and the wider church for the sake of God's mission in the world.
 - building and maintaining relationships and partnerships with other religious and non-religious groups in the congregation's area and globally for the sake of God's mission in the world.
 - supporting people in their daily vocations of work, family life and relationships.
 - discerning what should be celebrated, engaged, tweaked or relinquished for the sake of God's mission.
 - sustaining the congregation's mission plan and determining how it will be carried out.

2. ~~Congregation mission plans be completed by December 31, 2012 and become a regular process within each congregation.~~

Following action by the 2011 Churchwide Assembly, Congregations will be are invited into and to be engaged in such planning by December 31, 2012, toward the goal that collaborative mission planning will become a regular process within each congregation.

LIFT Task Force Recommendation: Synods

1. The Conference of Bishops, in consultation with synod leaders and the churchwide organization, prepare a report to the Church Council for recommendations to the 2013 Churchwide Assembly that includes:
 - a description of the current pattern or patterns of synodical life in the ELCA that effectively supports vital congregations, mission growth and outreach.
 - a proposal to establish a pattern or a set of patterns that will allow synods to receive and distribute financial resources to support the whole ministry of this church in all its forms and expressions.
 - strategies for increased mission vitality that may include consideration of redrawing synod boundaries.
 - recommendations for revising and reordering the constitutional responsibilities of bishops and synods to emphasize synods as agents of mission in the changing context and culture. Revising functions previously considered responsibilities of the bishop may involve identifying tasks to let go or do differently (e.g., ~~conflict management in congregations or full involvement in candidacy and placement processes.~~ See ELCA 8.13 and 10.21 and *S6.02 and *S6.03).
2. Synods, through their bishops, assemblies, councils, staffs and committees prioritize the responsibilities in their constitutions to reflect a focus on equipping congregations and leaders. (*S6.03).
3. The synod bishop take steps to ensure that the priority of the synod is building and supporting the ability of congregations to make disciples of Jesus Christ and follow his call to serve others. The steps include:
 - Developing and supporting lay, rostered lay and clergy leadership for serving and witnessing.
 - Advocating for mutual relationships and partnerships with youth and young adults, women and people of color or language other than English ~~and women.~~
 - Calling congregations to discern God's leading in their particular context for the sake of the gospel.
4. Synod leadership, in partnership with the churchwide organization, devote at least one full or part-time staff person, usually the director for evangelical mission, who is dedicated to building and supporting the ability of existing and emerging ministries and congregations within the territory of the synod to do evangelical outreach and serve others.
5. Mutual accountability and joint planning for mission be emphasized as synods, congregations, the churchwide organization and other ministry partners work together.

6. The churchwide organization assist synods in their work to build and support the ability of the congregations in their territory to serve others as a witness to the gospel. The priority includes supporting the positions of directors for evangelical mission and ensuring the availability of consultation and expertise to support the directors and synod leadership in the areas of community organizing, leadership development, multicultural ministry, youth ministry, evangelism and stewardship.

LIFT Task Force Recommendation: Regions

1. Synods work together in their regional settings, continuing to use regions as laboratories for centers for exploring cooperative mission and ministry. Specific recommendations are included in revisions to constitutional provisions ELCA 10.6.1 and *S.12.01.

LIFT Task Force Recommendation: The Churchwide Organization

1. A primary role for the churchwide organization is to support and build the capacity of synods, which are best positioned to work directly with congregations in planning and carrying out God's mission.
2. The churchwide organization continues the strategic priorities of
 - Accompanying congregations as growing centers for evangelical mission.
 - Building the capacity of this church for evangelical witness and service in the world to alleviate poverty and to work for justice and peace.
3. The churchwide organization maintain its commitment to build and strengthen mutual and interdependent relationships among congregations, synods, the churchwide organization, agencies, institutions, partners and developing networks. These relationships ~~can be seen as~~ are gifts of the triune God given to create the community of this church.
4. The churchwide organization continue to deploy directors for evangelical mission (DEMs) in synods. In this way the churchwide organization will continue to assist synods to accompany congregations and will serve as a catalyst for renewing evangelizing congregations as mission centers. The DEMs will encourage missional plans that focus on starting new evangelizing congregations, renewing evangelizing congregations, mission support and stewardship education and missional strategies that are attentive to the presence of the diverse peoples God has sent to each local community.
5. In many places in this nation, the vision of a multicultural, multi-ethnic church which reflects the reality of the whole people of God will require synodical and local leaders to recognize the power and privilege held by a majority culture and work to dismantle the barriers that continue to divide communities. The ELCA churchwide organization can provide support and resources for this endeavor.
6. The churchwide organization support and strengthen the capacity of this church for global mission. The churchwide organization should provide both for the support of this church's work in other countries and the means through which churches in other

countries engage in God's mission to this church and society. Stronger relationships with congregations working through synods are critical to increasing the global capacity of this church. The global partners of the ELCA depend upon the Global Mission unit to coordinate the work of the whole church. Global partners also depend upon congregations and synods to undertake global relationships in consultation with the Global Mission unit and in keeping with commonly recognized methods of accompaniment.

7. The churchwide organization continue its long term commitment to international development and disaster relief.
8. The responsibility for this church's theological discernment be located in the Office of the Presiding Bishop, which will assist this church in better understanding its identity, recognizing the theological, relational and educational gifts God has given this church and the power of these gifts to provide Christian **faith formation**, leadership and partnership in today's rapidly changing world.

LIFT Task Force Recommendation: Leadership for Mission and Education in the Faith

1. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America strengthen **faith formation** and integrate its network of leadership development and theological education, including seminaries, colleges and universities, campus and outdoor ministries, lifelong learning programs, schools, congregations, synods and the churchwide organization. Each institution in this network can and should seek new ways to contribute to the network's effectiveness.
2. Congregations recommit to identifying people with the potential to lead in the congregations of this church, both as members and/or as staff, and strongly support these leaders in their theological education.
3. The Conference of Bishops include consultations as part of its review of funding for the mission of this whole church to accomplish increased support from congregations for the necessary funding of theological education for leadership. All ministries providing this education can and should renew creative efforts for efficiency and effectiveness, including possible ELCA and ecumenical collaborations.
4. ELCA colleges, universities and seminaries be encouraged to continue their individual and common efforts to collaboratively, faithfully, effectively and efficiently carry out their mission(s) within this church's commitments to a system-wide network of theological education and leadership development, respecting each institution's integrity while honoring the commitments and needs of the ELCA and the larger church.
5. ELCA colleges, universities and seminaries strongly pursue many of the tasks, outcomes and expectations for colleges, universities and seminaries identified in the documents (see Exhibit 1F) with the support of the larger church. The strong alignment of these tasks and outcomes with the values of the ELCA as discovered in the task force's research supports the emerging recommendations for developing evangelical missional congregations led by lay and rostered people of evangelical, missional imagination.
6. ELCA colleges, universities and seminaries collaborate with the ELCA churchwide organization, synods and other theological education providers in the development of lay

mission schools and that programs, courses, workshops and faculty already utilized for equipping missional leaders be drawn upon as synods develop these schools and the teaching and learning developed in the lay mission schools be fed back into the preparation of candidates for ordination (See Exhibit 1F).

7. ELCA colleges and universities continue to promote the Lutheran concept of vocation as the sense of life as “calling” among its faculty, staff and students with the affirmation and support of the whole church.
8. The ELCA churchwide organization convene a group of ELCA colleges and university presidents for the purpose of formulating new models of governance and ways for ELCA colleges and universities to relate to and support congregations, synods and the churchwide organization.
9. Congregations, synods and the churchwide organization, in concert with colleges and universities, develop strategies to share Lutheran youth prospects with Lutheran colleges and universities.
10. Synods, the churchwide organization and the ELCA network of ministry partners stand ready to join the seminaries in the essential equipping of evangelical public leadership for congregations and other faith communities.
11. ELCA seminaries and synods prepare a variety of candidates of missional imagination and ~~become~~ serve as catalysts for opening congregational imaginations to ~~differing types~~ of missional leaders who are expressions examples of differing; ~~traveling differing~~ pathways of preparation; ~~for sustaining differing~~ ministries in ~~greatly differing~~ a variety of contexts, and who have been supported by differing types of financing; and.

LIFT Task Force Recommendation: Global and Ecumenical Partnerships

1. Build and strengthen relationships with this church’s global companions and ecumenical partners, focusing on accompaniment, mutual growth, capacity building and the sustainability of relationships.
2. Celebrate the high regard for the global mission and ecumenical activities of the ELCA within and beyond this church.
3. Affirm the consistent use of plans for ministry in a particular country (i.e., country plans) to help the Global Mission unit and global companion churches prioritize mission activities together.
4. Encourage congregations and synods of this church, in their global mission work, to draw on the resources of the Global Mission unit in keeping with the commonly recognized methods of participation in the style of accompaniment.
5. Continue conversation and reflection about evolving relationships between the expressions of this church and global Christianity, including those with companion synods.
6. Explore stronger relationships with ecumenical partners in every expression of the church, including the sharing of administrative staff and facilities and shared program work.

LIFT Task Force Recommendation: Agencies, Institutions and Other Ministries

1. The vital agencies, institutions and ministries related to the ELCA:
 - seek to sustain mutually beneficial relationships with this church; and
 - continue to give attention to networking as an organizational principle and practice that can enhance our shared mission of service to the world.
2. Congregations, synods and the churchwide organization be attentive to these ministries, seek in diverse ways to be supportive partners and be aware of the complementary nature of mission.

LIFT Task Force Recommendation: Communal Discernment

1. Nurture a culture of faithful discernment in all its expressions, assemblies and councils, the churchwide organization, synods, congregations, institutions and small groups. This culture will contribute to healthier decision-making and stewardship of mission and build relationships, of greater trust and respect for one another.
2. Shape churchwide meetings and gatherings, including churchwide assemblies to include a focus on identity and mission in order that participants gain a deeper understanding of what God is calling this church to be and do.
3. Undertake sustained, ongoing conversations and deliberation regarding this church's identity and its implications for our participation in God's mission. Link mission and identity rather than seeing mission as one more activity of the church.
4. Affirm the **new** responsibility of the presiding bishop (see ELCA 15.12.G10) to be the prime catalyst in this church's conversations and deliberations on identity and mission. This would include working with:
 - The Conference of Bishops, the presidents of the seminaries and the Convocation of Teaching Theologians to fully address this church's discourse on identity and mission.
 - The churchwide organization and synods in developing their ability ~~deeply and expansively~~ to engage congregations and their members deeply and expansively in ongoing critical conversations and deliberations.
5. Bring no social statements to churchwide assemblies until a review process is completed. This review of current procedures for the development and adoption of social statements, established by the Church Council in consultation with the Conference of Bishops, should reflect the spirit and culture of communal discernment.
6. Continue work on current social statements.

LIFT Task Force Recommendation: Structure and Governance

1. The ELCA Churchwide Assembly
 - Move to a triennial cycle for the Churchwide Assembly after 2013.
 - Explore opportunities for synodical, regional and leadership gatherings.

- Reduce the number of advisory members paid by the churchwide organization to attend the Churchwide Assembly and request that other organizations provide expenses for their leaders who attend.
2. The ELCA Church Council
 - Enlarge the Church Council to a range of 33-45 members (plus officers), with the added members nominated by the Nominating Committee based upon demographics, experience, and expertise in Church Council responsibilities.
 - Reduce the number of advisory members paid by the churchwide organization to attend Church Council meetings.
 3. The Conference of Bishops
 - Provide voice and vote on the Church Council to the chair of the Conference of Bishops.
 - Expand the role of the Conference of Bishops in its consultative capacity with the Church Council and strengthen the interdependent relationships in this church.
 4. Program committees
 - Eliminate program committees for churchwide units and develop new strategies for obtaining input from constituencies.
 5. Interrelationships and Networks
 - Develop intra-synodical and inter-synodical networks that organize for unified and specific purposes, have fluid and flexible structures and serve to strengthen relationships among congregations and synods.

LIFT Task Force Recommendation: Mission Support

1. The ELCA as a whole celebrate the financial interdependence of all its ministries, calling each to careful ~~financial~~ stewardship and faithful sharing.
2. In recognition of the interdependence of congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization, the ELCA affirms that all share in the responsibility to develop, implement, and strengthen the financial support ministry of this church.
3. The Conference of Bishops, synod vice presidents, the Church Council and the churchwide organization collaborate to ensure that work on a proposal for renewed, sustainable mission support for this church begin in the fall of 2011 and be brought to the 2013 Churchwide Assembly. ~~In this~~ That work, ~~this church recognizes~~ should acknowledge that:
 - the ELCA as a whole has great capacity and abundant financial resources;
 - the support from congregations has been and is critical to the vitality and interdependence of this church;
 - while the economic health and sustainability of many congregations and synods has changed since the Blue Ribbon Committee recommendations were adopted in 2007, the understanding of mission funding articulated in the report remains foundational for the ELCA;

- the goal of synods sharing 55 percent of the undesignated receipts for churchwide ministries ~~is~~ has been successful in some synods, but not sustainable or workable in some synods and not working in others;
 - synods that maintain or increase their sharing at this time are providing a valuable opportunity for this church to review its plans while sustaining its mission.
4. The churchwide organization, in collaboration with the Conference of Bishops, synod vice presidents and Church Council, lead this church in exploring new opportunities for growing in financial faithfulness, including direct appeals, designated giving, planned giving and endowment management.
 5. The churchwide organization, synods and congregations prioritize their spending to emphasize congregational outreach, leadership development, global mission and new communication strategies, while discerning how to constructively withdraw from other tasks.
 6. Financial self-sufficiency never be the only criterion used to evaluate the work of congregations, synods or ministry partners, but that resources be sought and shared with joy where this is necessary to sustain strategic missional opportunities.

LIFT Task Force Recommendation: Collaboration and Connection

1. The implementation of the recommendations in this report include plans and strategies for all parts of this church to utilize global digital media as new opportunities for the Spirit's work among us. These communications methodologies will be both digital and relational; neither is successful without the other.
2. ~~The Office of the Presiding Bishop~~ churchwide organization
 - initiate ways to encourage congregations, synods and partners to develop flexible networks for varying purposes, recognizing that these networks can increase collaboration and connections across this church and include emerging leaders from all parts of the ecology.
 - encourage congregations, synods, the churchwide organization and institutions and agencies of this church to work together to explore new communication strategies and techniques and share them throughout this church.
3. The Mission Advancement unit of the churchwide organization continue to develop and update a communications plan that offers nimble strategies and practices for new forms of technology and communication.

LIFT Task Force Recommendation: Ongoing Work for Further Study and Future Action

1. The Office of the Presiding Bishop, in consultation with the Conference of Bishops and Church Council, provide for the continuation of the functions assigned to the task force as this church continues to discern what God is calling it to be and to do in order to serve God's mission most faithfully. The task force identified the following items for immediate attention, further study and future action:
 - Review of the constitutional responsibilities of synods.
 - Facilitation by the Church Council of a broad-based process addressing legislative decision-making in this church.
 - Exploration, **including legal implications**, of the use of social media and technology options to allow greater participation of ELCA members in the Churchwide Assembly and in meetings of the Church Council.
 - Collaborative work by congregations, synods, the churchwide organization and others to facilitate diverse non-legislative forums and events that bring together rostered leaders and lay persons to address missional issues, theological study and reflection and foster leadership development and enhanced interdependence in this church. Guidelines and resources for such forums and events should be collaboratively developed and shared widely.
 - Proposals to the Church Council by the units of the churchwide organization to generate and foster broadly participatory conversations and communicate their work. These proposals should include commitments to those engaged in multicultural and ethnic-specific ministries, **ethnic-specific associations**, young adult networks, justice for women, ministry partners, various constituents as well as those outside of this church. They also should include strategies for using emerging forms of communication and social media to obtain grassroots input and to communicate and engage in dialogue about these ministries.
 - Expand the consultative role of the Conference of Bishops by developing practices and procedures that allow the Church Council to refer issues to it and for the Conference of Bishops to make recommendations to the Church Council.

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
CHURCH COUNCIL
May 23, 2011
Exhibit A, Part 1a
Page 10

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**Proposed LIFT Task Force Recommendations
from the Writing Team
May 10, 2011**

LIFT Task Force Recommendation: Congregations

1. Congregations begin where they are to develop a mission plan that will strengthen the congregation for witness and mission. As congregations work in collaboration with the synod bishop and the director for evangelical mission and in partnership with other congregations, plans will vary from congregation to congregation as leaders take seriously the context in which God has placed them (e.g., rural, urban, suburban) and as congregations discern the leading of the Spirit at various stages in the congregation's life. Congregations are asked to discern how the following characteristics are realistic for their life together and part of the vision to which God is leading them:
 - fostering mature faith and discipleship in members.
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 - learning about the congregation's surrounding community, including its racial and ethnic diversity and how this context might inform ministries.
 - building and maintaining relationships and partnerships with other ELCA congregations, the synod and the wider church for the sake of God's mission in the world.
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 - supporting people in their daily vocations of work, family life and relationships.
 - discerning what should be celebrated, engaged, tweaked or relinquished for the sake of God's mission.
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Following action by the 2011 Churchwide Assembly, congregations are invited to be engaged in such planning by December 31, 2012, toward the goal that collaborative mission planning will become a regular process within each congregation.

LIFT Task Force Recommendation: Synods

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 - Advocating for mutual relationships and partnerships with youth and young adults, women and people of color or language other than English.
 - Calling congregations to discern God's leading in their particular context for the sake of the gospel.
4. Synod leadership, in partnership with the churchwide organization, devote at least one full or part-time staff person, usually the director for evangelical mission, who is dedicated to building and supporting the ability of existing and emerging ministries and congregations within the territory of the synod to do evangelical outreach and serve others.
5. Mutual accountability and joint planning for mission be emphasized as synods, congregations, the churchwide organization and other ministry partners work together.
6. The churchwide organization assist synods in their work to build and support the ability of the congregations in their territory to serve others as a witness to the gospel. The priority includes supporting the positions of directors for evangelical mission and ensuring the availability of consultation and expertise to support the directors and synod leadership in the areas of community organizing, leadership development, multicultural ministry, youth ministry, evangelism and stewardship.

LIFT Task Force Recommendation: Regions

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LIFT Task Force Recommendation: The Churchwide Organization

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 - Building the capacity of this church for evangelical witness and service in the world to alleviate poverty and to work for justice and peace.
3. The churchwide organization maintain its commitment to build and strengthen mutual and interdependent relationships among congregations, synods, the churchwide organization, agencies, institutions, partners and developing networks. These relationships are gifts of the triune God given to create the community of this church.
4. The churchwide organization continue to deploy directors for evangelical mission (DEMs) in synods. In this way the churchwide organization will continue to assist synods to accompany congregations and will serve as a catalyst for renewing evangelizing congregations as mission centers. The DEMs will encourage missional plans that focus on starting new evangelizing congregations, renewing evangelizing congregations, mission support and stewardship education and missional strategies that are attentive to the presence of the diverse peoples God has sent to each local community.
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7. The churchwide organization continue its long term commitment to international development and disaster relief.

8. The responsibility for this church's theological discernment be located in the Office of the Presiding Bishop, which will assist this church in better understanding its identity, recognizing the theological, relational and educational gifts God has given this church and the power of these gifts to provide Christian faith formation, leadership and partnership in today's rapidly changing world.

LIFT Task Force Recommendation: Leadership for Mission and Education in the Faith

1. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America strengthen faith formation and integrate its network of leadership development and theological education, including seminaries, colleges and universities, campus and outdoor ministries, lifelong learning programs, schools, congregations, synods and the churchwide organization. Each institution in this network can and should seek new ways to contribute to the network's effectiveness.
2. Congregations recommit to identifying people with the potential to lead in the congregations of this church, both as members and/or as staff, and strongly support these leaders in their theological education.
3. The Conference of Bishops include consultations as part of its review of funding for the mission of this whole church to accomplish increased support from congregations for the necessary funding of theological education for leadership. All ministries providing this education can and should renew creative efforts for efficiency and effectiveness, including possible ELCA and ecumenical collaborations.
4. ELCA colleges, universities and seminaries be encouraged to continue their individual and common efforts to collaboratively, faithfully, effectively and efficiently carry out their mission(s) within this church's commitments to a system-wide network of theological education and leadership development, respecting each institution's integrity while honoring the commitments and needs of the ELCA and the larger church.
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LIFT Task Force Recommendation: Communal Discernment

1. Nurture a culture of faithful discernment in all its expressions, assemblies and councils, the churchwide organization, synods, congregations, institutions and small groups. This culture will contribute to healthier decision-making and stewardship of mission and build relationships of greater trust and respect for one another.
2. Shape churchwide meetings and gatherings, including churchwide assemblies to include a focus on identity and mission in order that participants gain a deeper understanding of what God is calling this church to be and do.
3. Undertake sustained, ongoing conversations and deliberation regarding this church's identity and its implications for our participation in God's mission. Link mission and identity rather than seeing mission as one more activity of the church.
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LIFT Task Force Recommendation: Mission Support

1. The ELCA as a whole celebrate the financial interdependence of all its ministries, calling each to careful stewardship and faithful sharing.
2. In recognition of the interdependence of congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization, the ELCA affirms that all share in the responsibility to develop, implement, and strengthen the financial support ministry of this church.
3. The Conference of Bishops, synod vice presidents, the Church Council and the churchwide organization collaborate to ensure that work on a proposal for renewed, sustainable mission support for this church begin in the fall of 2011 and be brought to the 2013 Churchwide Assembly. That work, should acknowledge that:
 - the ELCA as a whole has great capacity and abundant financial resources;
 - the support from congregations has been and is critical to the vitality and interdependence of this church;
 - while the economic health and sustainability of many congregations and synods has changed since the Blue Ribbon Committee recommendations were adopted in 2007, the understanding of mission funding articulated in the report remains foundational for the ELCA;
 - the goal of synods sharing 55 percent of the undesignated receipts for churchwide ministries has been successful in some synods, but not sustainable or workable in others;
 - synods that maintain or increase their sharing at this time are providing a valuable opportunity for this church to review its plans while sustaining its mission.
4. The churchwide organization, in collaboration with the Conference of Bishops, synod vice presidents and Church Council, lead this church in exploring new opportunities for growing in financial faithfulness, including direct appeals, designated giving, planned giving and endowment management.

5. The churchwide organization, synods and congregations prioritize their spending to emphasize congregational outreach, leadership development, global mission and new communication strategies, while discerning how to constructively withdraw from other tasks.
6. Financial self-sufficiency never be the only criterion used to evaluate the work of congregations, synods or ministry partners, but that resources be sought and shared with joy where this is necessary to sustain strategic missional opportunities.

LIFT Task Force Recommendation: Collaboration and Connection

1. The implementation of the recommendations in this report include plans and strategies for all parts of this church to utilize global digital media as new opportunities for the Spirit's work among us. These communications methodologies will be both digital and relational; neither is successful without the other.
2. The churchwide organization
 - initiate ways to encourage congregations, synods and partners to develop flexible networks for varying purposes, recognizing that these networks can increase collaboration and connections across this church and include emerging leaders from all parts of the ecology.
 - encourage congregations, synods, the churchwide organization and institutions and agencies of this church to work together to explore new communication strategies and techniques and share them throughout this church.
3. The Mission Advancement unit of the churchwide organization continue to develop and update a communications plan that offers nimble strategies and practices for new forms of technology and communication.

LIFT Task Force Recommendation: Ongoing Work for Further Study and Future Action

1. The Office of the Presiding Bishop, in consultation with the Conference of Bishops and Church Council, provide for the continuation of the functions assigned to the task force as this church continues to discern what God is calling it to be and to do in order to serve God's mission most faithfully. The task force identified the following items for immediate attention, further study and future action:
 - Review of the constitutional responsibilities of synods.
 - Facilitation by the Church Council of a broad-based process addressing legislative decision-making in this church.
 - Exploration, including legal implications, of the use of social media and technology options to allow greater participation of ELCA members in the Churchwide Assembly and in meetings of the Church Council.
 - Collaborative work by congregations, synods, the churchwide organization and others to facilitate diverse non-legislative forums and events that bring together rostered leaders and lay persons to address missional issues, theological study and reflection and foster leadership development and enhanced interdependence in this church. Guidelines and resources for such forums and events should be collaboratively developed and shared widely.
 - Proposals to the Church Council by the units of the churchwide organization to generate and foster broadly participatory conversations and communicate their work. These proposals should include commitments to those engaged in multicultural and ethnic-specific ministries, ethnic-specific associations, young adult networks, justice for women, ministry partners, various constituents as well as those outside of this church. They also should include strategies for using emerging forms of communication and social media to obtain grassroots input and to communicate and engage in dialogue about these ministries.
 - Expand the consultative role of the Conference of Bishops by developing practices and procedures that allow the Church Council to refer issues to it and for the Conference of Bishops to make recommendations to the Church Council.

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
CHURCH COUNCIL
May 23, 2011
Exhibit A, Part 1b
Page 10

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LIFT Implementing Resolutions
From the Writing Team
May 10, 2011

To recommend the following for adoption by the 2011 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:

To commend with joy and gratitude the report of the task force on Living into the Future Together: Renewing the Ecology of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (LIFT) for study and action;

To thank the task force and all who contributed to its work for a vision of where God is leading this church;

To endorse the recommendations of the task force, as amended by the Church Council;

To express confidence that God is leading this church into God's future; and

To invite members, congregations, synods, regions, the churchwide organization, colleges and universities, institutions and agencies, networks, and global, ecumenical, and other partners into deep conversation, prayer, and discernment, as, together, this church commits itself to the following actions to implement the report and recommendations:

1. To make support for the work of congregations one of the highest priorities of this church.
To request congregations, in collaboration with synods, to begin, develop, review or redefine their unique mission plans by the end of 2012, so that each congregation strengthens its capabilities and resources for witness and mission;
2. To support and strengthen synods so that they become catalysts for mission planning;
3. To request the Conference of Bishops, in consultation with synod leaders and the churchwide organization, to prepare a report and recommendations for the ~~April 2013~~ November 2012 meeting of the Church Council for consideration by the 2013 Churchwide Assembly that:
 - describes patterns of synodical life in the ELCA that effectively support vital congregations, mission growth and outreach;
 - proposes a pattern or a set of patterns that will allow synods to receive and distribute financial resources to support the whole ministry of this church;
 - builds on the Blue Ribbon Committee report of 2007 and includes recommendations for renewed, sustainable financial support for the mission and ministries of this church, including funding for theological education;
 - includes strategies for increased mission vitality that may include consideration of redrawing synod boundaries; and
 - recommends revision of the constitutional responsibilities of bishops and synods to emphasize synods as catalysts for mission in the changing context and culture.
4. To urge regions to expand their roles as centers for exploring the possibilities of cooperative mission and ministry;
5. To affirm the role of the churchwide organization to:
 - accompany congregations and synods;
 - build the capacity of this church for evangelical witness and service;
 - continue to build and strengthen mutual and interdependent relationships;
 - model and promote the vision of a multicultural, multi-ethnic church;
 - coordinate this church's global mission and its international development and relief work;
 - lead its theological reflection and deliberations on identity and mission;

- lead, in collaboration with the Conference of Bishops, synod leaders, and the Church Council, in exploring opportunities to grow current support, including direct appeals, planned giving, and endowment management.
- 6. To encourage the development of leaders for this church through increased innovation and collaboration in leadership development, faith formation, and theological education;
- 7. To build and strengthen relationships with this church's global companions and ecumenical partners, focusing on accompaniment, mutual growth, capacity-building, and sustainability of relationships;
- 8. To support and utilize networking as an organizational principle and practice that embodies interdependence and enhances increased collaboration and connections across this church;
- 9. To nurture a culture of faithful discernment that contributes to mutual respect and healthy decision-making in all assemblies, councils, committees, small groups, and meetings in congregations, synods, the churchwide expression, institutions, and agencies;
- 10. To bring, with the exception of the social statement *Genetics, Faith and Responsibility*, no social statements to Churchwide Assemblies until a review of the process for addressing social concerns based on a spirit of communal discernment is completed;
- 11. To adopt the proposed amendments to the *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions* concerning the Churchwide Assembly, Church Council, Conference of Bishops, program committees, and interrelationships and networks.

To recommend the following for adoption by the 2011 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:

To provide a means to continue the work assigned to the task force on Living into the Future Together: Renewing the Ecology of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (LIFT), the 2011 Churchwide Assembly directs that the Office of the Presiding Bishop, in collaboration with the Church Council and the Conference of Bishops, do the following:

1. To facilitate review of the constitutional responsibilities of synods in order that synods continue and increase their roles as catalysts for missional planning;
2. To facilitate a broad-based process addressing legislative decision-making in this church;
3. To initiate a process to expand the consultative role of the Conference of Bishops that allows the Church Council to refer issues to it and the Conference of Bishops to make recommendations to the Church Council;
4. To explore the use of social media and technology in order to allow greater participation of ELCA members in meetings of the Church Council and the Churchwide Assembly;
5. To initiate collaborative work by congregations, synods, the churchwide organization, and others to create and support diverse non-legislative forums and events that bring together leaders of this church to address missional issues, participate in theological study and reflection, foster leadership development, and enhance the interdependence of this church;
6. To request units of the churchwide organization to propose to the Church Council ways of receiving grassroots input on and disseminating information about their work through the use of emerging forms of communication, taking care to include those engaged in multicultural, ethnic-specific, justice for women ministries, youth and young adult networks, and various ministry partners; and
7. To request that annual reports related to this work be presented to the Church Council through 2013.

Churchwide Nominating Committee Vacancies [7]

Clergy

A. The Rev. Cherlyne V. Beck (6A)

B. The Rev. Joy Mortensen-Wiebe (5J)

Clergy

A. The Rev. Robert W. Chell (3C)

B. The Rev. Ronald Theodore Glusenkamp (2E)

Lay Female

A. Ms. Beth Marie Nelson Chase (5B)

B. Sr. Noreen H. Stevens (3H)

Lay Female

A. Ms. Susan Marie Berg (1B)

B. Ms. Lori J. Splinter (2B)

Lay Female (Y/YA)

A. Ms. Maren Hulden (3D)

B. Ms. Emily Isensee (1C)

Lay Male

A. Mr. Baron Blanchard (3A)

B. Mr. Ronald C. Tvedt (3A)

Lay Young Adult [two-year term]

A. Mr. Joe Beasley (9A)

B. Ms. Arielle R. Mastellar (3F)

Terms Expiring

Clergy

Pr. Kathryn "Kathy" J. Gerking, Iowa City, Iowa (5D) [2011]

Pr. Thomas E. McKee, Harrisburg, Pa. (8D) [2011]

Lay Female

Ms. Judith M. Bailey, Ocean City, N.J. (7A) [2011]

Ms. Jeannine G. Grimm, Bowling Green, Ohio (6D) [2011]

Lay Male

Mr. Larry D. Iverson, Rochester, Minn. (3I) [2011]

Mr. Daniel F. Wilson, Miami, Fla. (9E) [2011]

Unexpired Term

Ms. Linda N. Lovell, Ellicott City, Md. (8F) [2013]

Continuing Members

Clergy

Pr. Herbert E. Anderson, Berkeley, Calif. (2A) [2015]

Pr. Jonathan L. Eilert, Loveland, Ohio (6F) [2013]

Pr. Loren D. Mai, Lindsborg, Kan. (4B) [2013]

Pr. Kathie Bender Schwich, Park Ridge, Ill. (5A) [2015]

Lay Female

Ms. Gwen E. Arneson, Cottonwood, Minn. (3F) [2013]

Ms. Kathy J. Magnus, Edina, Minn. (3G) [2015]

Lay Female (PC/L)

Ms. Judith A. Tutt-Starr, Los Angeles, Calif. (2B) [2015]

Lay Male

Mr. Ken F. Aicher, Tampa, Fla. (9E) [2015]

Mr. James M. Hushagen, Edgewood, Wash. (1C) [2013]

Lay Male (PC/L) (Y/YA)

Mr. Jeremy D. Posadas, New York, N.Y. (7C) [2013]

Lay Male (Y/YA)

Mr. Brandon W. Huston, Hamilton, Ohio (6F) [2015]

**This Exhibit included
personal information
provided solely to the
Church Council for its
deliberations.**