



**Legislative Update**  
**Monday, August 8, 2016**

The Credentials Committee reported at 7:32 p.m. that 945 voting members had registered. The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), declared that a quorum was present for the 2016 Churchwide Assembly in Hall C of the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center in New Orleans, La.

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

**Consideration of the Rules of Organization and Procedure**

*Reference: 2016 Pre-Assembly Report, Section I, Rules of Organization and Procedure.*

During its first plenary session the 2016 Churchwide Assembly acted on the proposed Rules of Organization and Procedure.

**ASSEMBLY**

**TWO-THIRDS VOTE REQUIRED**

**ACTION**

**YES-932; NO-4**

**CA16.01.01**

**To adopt the “Rules of Organization and Procedure” for the 2016 Churchwide Assembly (exclusive of quoted and highlighted provisions and bylaws which are already in force).**

In accordance with the adopted rules, Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton declared the committees of the assembly authorized and constituted. Without objection, she appointed an *ad hoc* committee to consider proposed amendments to the proposal to unify the three existing official lay rosters. This committee will bring a report and specific recommendations for the assembly’s consideration.

**Consideration of the Order of Business**

*Reference: Order of Business and 2016 Pre-Assembly Report, Section I, Rules of Organization and Procedure.*

The 2016 Churchwide Assembly acted on the proposed agenda.

**ASSEMBLY**

**ACTION**

**YES-881; NO-3**

**CA16.01.02**

**To approve the Order of Business as the agenda of the 2016 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, in keeping with the provisions of the Rules of Organization and Procedure for the calling of items of business before the assembly.**

**Introduction of the Word and Service Proposal**

*Reference: 2016 Pre-Assembly Report, Section V, Roster of Ministry of Word and Service, and Section VI, Report and Recommendations of the Word and Service Task Force.*

The Rev. William O. Gafkjen, bishop of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod and chair of the Word and Service Task Force, introduced the recommendation of the Church Council regarding a proposal to unify the existing three lay rosters of this church into a roster of Ministry of Word and Service. The assembly will vote on the recommendation during plenary session seven the morning of Friday, August 12.

**Elections: First Ballot for Vice President**

*Reference: 2016 Pre-Assembly Report, Section I, Rules of Organization and Procedure, and Section V, Election of the Vice President.*

Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton lead the assembly in casting the first ballot for vice president. The Credentials Committee reported that 959 voting members had registered to cast ballots.

**Deadlines for Tuesday, August 9, 2016**

- 10:45 a.m.** Separate consideration (removal from *en bloc*) of proposed general amendments to the constitutions, bylaws and continuing resolutions  
Proposed changes to the general amendments to the constitutions, bylaws and continuing resolutions  
Proposed amendments from the floor to the constitutions, bylaws and continuing resolutions  
Nominations from the floor
- 3:00 p.m.** Withdrawal from ballot for vice president
- 

**Hearings for Tuesday, August 9, 2016**

**5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.**

- Roster of Ministry of Word and Service Room 206
- Declaration on the Way Room 207
- ELCA World Hunger Room 208
- Budget Room 209
- Campaign for the ELCA Room 210
- Called Forward Together in Christ Room 214

**7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.**

- Roster of Ministry of Word and Service (*repeat*) Room 206
- Declaration on the Way (*repeat*) Room 207
- Women and Justice social statement Room 208
- AMMPARO Strategy Room 209
- Theological Education Room 210
- Called Forward Together in Christ (*repeat*) Room 214



**Legislative Update**  
**Tuesday, August 9, 2016**

**Elections: Report of the First Ballot for Vice President**

Reference: 2016 Pre-Assembly Report, Section V, The Election of the Vice President, and Section X, Results of the First Ballot for Vice President.

The Elections Committee reported the results of first ballot for vice president. Of the 716 legal ballots cast, none of the nominees received the necessary 541 votes for election. The committee distributed a list of all those who were named on the nominating ballot. Those who received votes were given the opportunity to remove their names from being included on the second ballot for vice president.

**Introduction: Declaration on the Way**

Reference: 2016 Pre-Assembly Report, Section V, Declaration on the Way: Church, Ministry and Eucharist, and Section VI, Declaration on the Way: Church, Ministry and Eucharist.

Presiding Bishop Emeritus Mark S. Hanson and the Most Rev. Denis J. Madden, Roman Catholic auxiliary bishop of Baltimore, co-chaired the Declaration on the Way task force. They introduced the recommendation of the Church Council to receive “Declaration on the Way: Church, Ministry and Eucharist” and its 32 Statements of Agreement garnered from decades of Lutheran-Roman Catholic dialogues. The assembly will vote on the recommendation during plenary session five the afternoon of Wednesday, August 10.

**Introduction: 2017-2019 budget proposal**

Reference: 2016 Pre-Assembly Report, Section V, 2017-2019 Budget Proposal.

The Rev. M. Wyvetta Bullock, executive for administration of the churchwide organization, presented the proposed budget for the next triennium and the Church Council recommendation to adopt the budgets. The assembly will vote on the recommendation during plenary session five the afternoon of Wednesday, August 10.

**Introduction: Word and Service Amendments**

Reference: 2016 Pre-Assembly Report, Section V, Constitutional Amendments Related to a Roster of Word and Service, Section VI, Report and Recommendations of the Word and Service Task Force, and Section VI, Memorandum on Rationale for Constitutional Amendments.

The Rev. Wm Chris Boerger, secretary of the ELCA, outlined the constitutional amendments the Church Council recommended to implement the decision of the Churchwide Assembly whether to unify the existing three lay rosters of this church. The assembly will vote on the recommendations during plenary session seven the morning of Friday, August 12.

**Report of the Memorials Committee**

Reference: 2016 Pre-Assembly Report, Section VII, Report of the Memorials Committee.

Ms. Marjorie B. Ellis and the Rev. Stephen R. Herr, co-chairs of the Memorials Committee, noted that synod assemblies had addressed 111 memorials to the 2016 Churchwide Assembly. The memorials were sorted into 29 categories, and the committee prepared a recommendation for assembly action for each category. The committee moved 20 of the recommended actions *en bloc* and began addressing the remaining nine recommendations separately.

**ASSEMBLY**

**ACTION**

**YES-897; NO-36**

**CA16.02.03**

**To approve *en bloc*, with the exception of those memorials considered separately, the following responses to 2014, 2015 and 2016 synod memorials printed in the Report of the Memorials Committee:**

**Category A1: Life of Faith Initiative**

**Category A2: Worship Resources to Bless Same Gender Couples**

**Category A5: Ministries Among People Experiencing Economic Poverty**

**Category A6: Examining the Opportunities and Implications of Campaign Zero, a policy platform in affirmation of Black Lives Matter**

- Category A7: Observation of National Donor Sabbath in Support of Organ and Tissue Donation
- Category B2: Investing in and Encouraging Use of Clean, Renewable Energy
- Category B4: Eco-Reformation and Renewing Creation Care Efforts
- Category B5: Increase Funding for Suicide Prevention Research
- Category B8: Supporting Mission Phebe Hospital through Photovoltaics
- Category B9: Examining the Implications of Becoming a Sanctuary Denomination
- Category B11: Time of Prayer and Worship Resources on Human Trafficking
- Category B12: Gun Violence Prevention
- Category B13: AMMPARO Strategy
- Category B14: ELCA World Hunger and Child Nutrition
- Category B15: Affirming Global Human Rights and Non-discrimination Based on Sexual Orientation
- Category B16: My Muslim Neighbor
- Category D1: Gender Identity
- Category D2: Voting Ratio
- Category D3: Cultivating and Sustaining Accompaniment in Global Mission
- Category D4: Youth Mission Trips

*Category B7: Repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery*

**ASSEMBLY**

**ACTION**

**YES-912; NO-28**

**CA16.02.04**

To receive with gratitude memorials from the Alaska, Northwest Washington, Montana, Southwest California, Rocky Mountain, Eastern North Dakota, South Dakota, Minneapolis Area, Saint Paul Area, Arkansas-Oklahoma, Northwest Wisconsin, East-Central Wisconsin, Indiana-Kentucky, Upstate New York, Northwestern Pennsylvania, Metropolitan Washington, D.C., North Carolina and Southeastern synods regarding the Repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery;

To repudiate explicitly and clearly the European-derived doctrine of discovery as an example of the “improper mixing of the power of the church and the power of the sword” (Augsburg Confession Article XXVIII, Latin text), and to acknowledge and repent from this church’s complicity in the evils of colonialism in the Americas, which continue to harm tribal governments and individual tribal members;

To offer a statement of repentance and reconciliation to Native nations in this country for damage done in the name of Christianity;

To encourage the Office of the Presiding Bishop to plan an appropriate national ceremony of repentance and reconciliation with tribal leaders, providing appropriate worship resources for similar synodical and congregational observances with local tribal leaders, at such times and places as are appropriate;

To direct the Domestic Mission unit, together with the American Indian and Alaska Native community and ecumenical partners, to develop resources to educate members of the ELCA and the wider community about the doctrine of discovery and its consequences for Native peoples;

To direct the Domestic Mission unit to develop a strategy with the American Indian and Alaska Native community during the next triennium to be referred to the Church Council for action, including a mechanism to grow the Native American Ministry Fund of the ELCA; and

**To affirm that this church will eliminate the doctrine of discovery from its contemporary rhetoric and programs, electing to practice accompaniment with Native peoples instead of a missionary endeavor to them, allowing these partnerships to mutually enrich indigenous communities and the ministries of the ELCA.**

***Category B3: Toward a Responsible Energy Future***

The Memorials Committee made the following motion.

**Moved:**

To receive with gratitude the memorials of the Saint Paul Area, Metropolitan New York, Northeastern Pennsylvania, Upper Susquehanna and Northwestern Pennsylvania synods related to climate change and fossil fuels;

To urge all ELCA members, congregations and synods to inform and educate themselves about the effects of climate change through the lens of the “Caring for Creation: Vision, Hope and Justice” social statement, and to advocate for policies that reduce energy use and our dependence on fossil fuels and encourage development of renewable energy sources as an expression of our commitment to address climate change and caring for God’s creation;

To affirm the action of the 2013 Churchwide Assembly and subsequent action of the Church Council in 2014 related to the development of revised or additional investment screens on fossil fuels, and to support and commend ELCA members, congregations, synods, the churchwide organization, and related institutions and agencies such as ELCA Endowment Fund and Portico Benefit Services for their leadership efforts to invest in companies that are taking steps toward a sustainable environment;

To affirm Portico’s balanced approach to supporting this church’s principles and directives as stated in the social statements — including the commitment to help transition to an economy less dependent on fossil fuels. The approach includes:

1. shareholder advocacy (filing and supporting resolutions on environmental issues, including 150 resolutions in 2015),
2. focused investment screening, which has identified 113 companies screened for environmental reasons, and
3. ramping up positive social investments, such as investments in companies that develop solar, wind and water power generation systems, repurposing waste products and reducing toxic emissions;

To support the ELCA network of affiliated social ministry organizations with programs to address unemployment caused by changing patterns of fossil fuel use, to advocate for retraining workers — especially for renewable energy jobs, to advocate for programs that will support those in transition, and to encourage congregations and ministries to address the resulting unemployment and poverty; and

To urge ELCA members, congregations and synods to set measurable goals to reduce their consumption of fossil fuels and improve their stewardship of energy resources, transition to renewable energy sources and promote care for God’s creation.

Ms. Kim M. Winchell [North/West Lower Michigan Synod] made the following motion to amend.

**Moved;**

**Seconded:**

*To amend the fourth paragraph of the motion by insertion and deletion:*

To affirm Portico’s **past** balanced approach to supporting this church’s principles and directives as stated in the social statements — including the commitment to help transition to an economy less dependent on fossil fuels. That approach **includes has included:**

1. shareholder advocacy (filing and supporting resolutions on environmental issues, including 150 resolutions in 2015),
2. focused investment screening, which has identified 113 companies screened for environmental reasons, and

3. ramping up positive social investments, such as investments in companies that develop solar, wind and water power generation systems, repurposing waste products and reducing toxic emissions; and now

To call upon Portico to:

1. offer an optional fossil-free fund for retirement plan participants; and
2. work with the ELCA to heed the call of the Lutheran World Federation Council in 2015 to member churches “not to invest in fossil fuels” to revise the social criteria investment screen with the eventual goal of divesting “Investment Fund A” of the ELCA Endowment pooled trust from the largest fossil fuel companies;

The chair called for the orders of the day. The assembly will give further consideration of the motions on the floor during a later plenary session.

### **Introduction: AMMPARO Strategy**

Reference: 2016 Pre-Assembly Report, Section V, AMMPARO Strategy and Section VI, AMMPARO Strategy.

The Rev. Stephen P. Bouman, executive director of the Domestic Mission unit, and the Rev. Rafael Malpica Padilla, executive director of the Global Mission unit, presented the proposed Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities (AMMPARO) strategy. The Church Council recommended that the Churchwide Assembly approve the strategy as this church’s response to the migration of children and their families. The assembly will vote on the recommendation during plenary session five the afternoon of Wednesday, August 10.

---

### ***Deadlines for Wednesday, August 10, 2016***

#### **10:45 a.m.** Non-germane resolutions

Proposed amendments to the 2017-2019 budget proposal

Proposed amendments to the Word and Service proposal

Separate consideration (removal from *en bloc*) of proposed amendments to the constitutions, bylaws and continuing resolutions related to the Word and Service proposal

Proposed changes to the amendments to the constitutions, bylaws and continuing resolutions related to the Word and Service proposal

#### **2:15 p.m.** First common ballot



Legislative Update — Supplement  
Tuesday, August 9, 2016

ASSEMBLY  
ACTION

YES-897; NO-36

CA16.02.03

To approve *en bloc*, with the exception of those memorials considered separately, the following responses to 2014, 2015 and 2016 synod memorials printed in the Report of the Memorials Committee:

- Category A1: Life of Faith Initiative
- Category A2: Worship Resources to Bless Same Gender Couples
- Category A5: Ministries Among People Experiencing Economic Poverty
- Category A6: Examining the Opportunities and Implications of Campaign Zero, a policy platform in affirmation of Black Lives Matter
- Category A7: Observation of National Donor Sabbath in Support of Organ and Tissue Donation
- Category B2: Investing in and Encouraging Use of Clean, Renewable Energy
- Category B4: Eco-Reformation and Renewing Creation Care Efforts
- Category B5: Increase Funding for Suicide Prevention Research
- Category B8: Supporting Mission Phebe Hospital through Photovoltaics
- Category B9: Examining the Implications of Becoming a Sanctuary Denomination
- Category B11: Time of Prayer and Worship Resources on Human Trafficking
- Category B12: Gun Violence Prevention
- Category B13: AMMPARO Strategy
- Category B14: ELCA World Hunger and Child Nutrition
- Category B15: Affirming Global Human Rights and Non-discrimination Based on Sexual Orientation
- Category B16: My Muslim Neighbor
- Category D1: Gender Identity
- Category D2: Voting Ratio
- Category D3: Cultivating and Sustaining Accompaniment in Global Mission
- Category D4: Youth Mission Trips

---

*Category A1: Life of Faith Initiative*

ASSEMBLY  
ACTION

[EN BLOC]

CA16.02.03a

To receive with gratitude the memorials of the Nebraska, Central States, Arkansas-Oklahoma, Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast, Southeastern Iowa, Western Iowa, Northwest Wisconsin and Northwestern Pennsylvania synods regarding the Life of Faith Initiative;

To reaffirm the universal priesthood of all believers, namely, that all baptized Christians are called to minister in the name of Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit to proclaim the promise of God in the world and in their various callings, to bear God's creative and redeeming word to all the world to meet human needs, and to work for dignity and justice for all people, and peace and reconciliation among the nations; and

To acknowledge the November 2015 Church Council action calling for a future directions discernment process now titled “Called Forward Together in Christ” and to commend the Life of Faith initiative to that process.

---

*Category A2: Worship Resources to Bless Same Gender Couples*

**ASSEMBLY**

**ACTION**

[EN BLOC]

- CA16.02.03b** To receive with gratitude the memorial of the Southeastern Synod concerning worship resources for blessing same-gender couples; and  
To acknowledge the action of the Church Council to implement through the Office of the Presiding Bishop the recommendations regarding supplemental worship resources for same-gender couples provided by the Ministry to and with Same Gender Couples and Their Families Working Group.
- 

*Category A5: Ministries Among People Experiencing Economic Poverty*

**ASSEMBLY**

**ACTION**

[EN BLOC]

- CA16.02.03c** To receive with gratitude the memorials of the Northeastern Pennsylvania and Lower Susquehanna synods regarding ministries among people experiencing economic poverty;  
To acknowledge the need for the ELCA to continue supporting ministry among people living in poverty;  
To acknowledge with thanksgiving this church’s commitment to ministries among people experiencing poverty through churchwide ministries and to ask that the churchwide organization continue to prioritize this witness in our spending commitments;  
To urge the colleges, universities, seminaries and ELCA related educational institutions to continue expanding the development of programs to equip leaders to serve in ministry among people living in poverty;  
To commend the faith formation resources developed by the ELCA Faith Practices team for use across this church; and  
To encourage ELCA members to support those engaged in initiating and leading ministries among people experiencing poverty.
- 

*Category A6: Examining the Opportunities and Implications of Campaign Zero, a policy platform in affirmation of Black Lives Matter*

**ASSEMBLY**

**ACTION**

[EN BLOC]

- CA16.02.03d** To receive with gratitude the memorials of the Greater Milwaukee and Northwest Washington synods in affirmation of Black Lives Matter; and  
To refer to the Domestic Mission unit through the African Descent Ministries Desk, in partnership with the African Descent Lutheran Association, consideration of the request to examine the opportunities and implications of Campaign Zero’s initiatives and actions and request a report and possible recommendations be provided to the Church Council.
-



*Category A7: Observation of National Donor Sabbath in Support of Organ and Tissue Donation*

**ASSEMBLY**

**ACTION**

[EN BLOC]

- CA16.02.03e** To receive with gratitude the memorial of the Northeastern Iowa Synod concerning the observance of National Donor Sabbath;
- To reaffirm this church's recognition of the donation of organs, tissue and whole blood as an act of stewardship and as an appropriate means for contributing to the health and well-being of other persons; and
- To encourage congregations to observe the National Donor Sabbath, which is held two weeks before Thanksgiving every year.
- 

*Category B2: Investing in and Encouraging Use of Clean, Renewable Energy*

**ASSEMBLY**

**ACTION**

[EN BLOC]

- CA16.02.03f** To receive with gratitude the memorial from the Southeastern Synod regarding Transition to Clean, Renewable Energy;
- To affirm the ELCA's Corporate Social Responsibility program and encourage that program to continue its work on developing a sustainable environment through focused attention on shareholder advocacy related to climate change;
- To encourage the Corporate Social Responsibility program to continue identifying potential positive social investments in companies taking steps toward a sustainable environment;
- To affirm the ELCA Foundation's use of guidelines for socially responsible investment of assets within its Endowment Fund Pooled Trust;
- To affirm the shareholder advocacy work of Portico Benefit Services and encourage Portico Benefit Services to support the development of clean, renewable energy sources whenever such support is consistent with its fiduciary responsibilities; and
- To encourage ELCA members, congregations, synods and agencies to examine lifestyles and environmental footprints as they impact climate change, improve their stewardship of energy resources, transition to renewable energy sources and promote care for God's creation.
- 

*Category B4: Eco-Reformation and Renewing Creation Care Efforts*

**ASSEMBLY**

**ACTION**

[EN BLOC]

- CA16.02.03g** To receive with gratitude the memorials of the Northwest Washington, Eastern Washington-Idaho, Southwest California, Northeastern Minnesota, Central States, Northeastern Iowa, Northwest Synod of Wisconsin, New England, Metropolitan New York and Upper Susquehanna synods regarding Eco-Reformation in the Context of Climate Change;
- To reaffirm the commitment of this church to engage in creation care through principles of sufficiency, sustainability, solidarity and participation; and
- To encourage this church's members, congregations, synods and agencies to give renewed attention to the care of creation in their Reformation anniversary planning through education, stewardship and advocacy.
-

*Category B5: Increase Funding for Suicide Prevention Research*

**ASSEMBLY**

**ACTION**

[EN BLOC]

- CA16.02.03h** To receive with gratitude the memorial of the Southeastern Synod regarding increased funding for suicide prevention research;
- To affirm the commitment of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in its social message on “Suicide Prevention” to call upon this church to advocate for efforts to prevent suicide;
- To request that the presiding bishop communicate to the U.S. President and members of Congress the support of the ELCA for doubling, over five years, the federal funding to the National Institutes of Health for suicide prevention research; and
- To encourage ELCA synods, congregations, members and the ELCA Advocacy Office in Washington, D.C., to add their voices in support of such action.
- 

*Category B8: Supporting Mission Phebe Hospital through Photovoltaics*

**ASSEMBLY**

**ACTION**

[EN BLOC]

- CA16.02.03i** To receive with gratitude the memorial of the Northeastern Minnesota Synod related to the “PV for Phebe” project; and
- To reaffirm the commitment of this church to:
1. Continue to advocate for “justice through sustainability” as stated in the “Caring for Creation: Vision, Hope and Justice” social statement;
  2. Continue to seek ways to provide support for the mission of Phebe Hospital;
  3. Encourage the companion synods for the Lutheran Church in Liberia to be involved in this “PV for Phebe” effort; and
  4. Encourage the Global Mission unit, through its relationships of accompaniment, to continue to lift up the use of solar energy in conversation with companion churches around the globe as a means to be good stewards of the environment.
- 

*Category B9: Examining the Implications of Becoming a Sanctuary Denomination*

**ASSEMBLY**

**ACTION**

[EN BLOC]

- CA16.02.03j** To receive with gratitude the memorial of the Oregon Synod regarding the sanctuary movement;
- To reaffirm the ELCA’s partnership with Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service in calling for fair and compassionate immigration policies and practices that keep families together;
- To encourage ELCA synods, congregations and members to advocate for legislation that welcomes the stranger to this country and to their communities;
- To refer the request to the Domestic Mission unit to examine the opportunities and implications of endorsing the practice of congregations offering sanctuary and of the ELCA declaring itself a sanctuary denomination and request a report and recommendations be provided to the Church Council.
-

*Category B11: Time of Prayer and Worship Resources on Human Trafficking*

**ASSEMBLY**

**ACTION**

[EN BLOC]

- CA16.02.03k** To receive with gratitude the memorials of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin, East-Central Synod of Wisconsin and La Crosse Area Synod calling for a dedicated time of prayer to end human trafficking and to create resources to support congregations in this endeavor;
- To encourage congregations to incorporate attention to the issue of human trafficking in their communication and resource development plan, and to foster ecumenical and inter-religious cooperation, including dedicated times of prayer each year, such as January 11, Human Trafficking Awareness Day; and
- To refer to the worship team within the Office of the Presiding Bishop for its deliberation and discretion the creation of worship resources surrounding the issue of human trafficking and the creation of prayers and litanies for the dedication time of prayer.
- 

*Category B12: Gun Violence Prevention*

**ASSEMBLY**

**ACTION**

[EN BLOC]

- CA16.02.03l** To receive with gratitude the memorials of the Saint Paul Area and the Upper Susquehanna synods concerning legislation on background checks and gun violence;
- To reaffirm this church's commitment to addressing the broad issues of violence in society through worship, education, service, advocacy and ongoing moral deliberation as called for in the 1994 social message on "Community Violence" and the 2013 Conference of Bishops' Pastoral Letter on Violence;
- To reaffirm that ELCA social policy does not reject gun ownership or the recreational activities associated with guns as morally wrong;
- To encourage bishops, pastors and Lutheran leaders to communicate with members of Congress and state legislators this church's long-standing support for managing gun purchases, such as background checks for all gun sales including private sales;
- To urge bishops, pastors and Lutheran leaders to communicate to members of Congress and state legislators this church's sense of urgency for the renewal or replacement of the Federal Assault Weapons Ban (expired in 2004), including a definition of assault weapons comparable to that in the renewal attempt of the Assault Weapons Ban bill of 2013; and
- To refer to the Church Council, in consultation with staff of the churchwide organization, consideration of the request for establishing an ELCA task force to organize actions consistent with ELCA policy that addresses gun violence prevention.
- 

*Category B13: AMMPARO Strategy*

**ASSEMBLY**

**ACTION**

[EN BLOC]

- CA16.02.03m** To receive, with gratitude, the memorial of the Greater Milwaukee Synod related to Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities (AMMPARO) Strategy;
- To commend the ministry that is being done with children and families from Central America by members, congregations, synods and other entities related to the ELCA; and
- To acknowledge the action of the 2016 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America on the recommendation of the Church Council regarding the AMMPARO Strategy as the response of the Churchwide Assembly to the memorial from this synod.
-

*Category B14: ELCA World Hunger and Child Nutrition*

**ASSEMBLY**

**ACTION**

[EN BLOC]

- CA16.02.03n** To receive with gratitude the memorial of the Southwest California Synod regarding child nutrition programs; and  
To encourage ELCA synods, congregations, members and the churchwide organization to advocate that the U.S. Congress provide robust financial support for child nutrition programs.
- 

*Category B15: Affirming Global Human Rights and Non-discrimination Based on Sexual Orientation*

**ASSEMBLY**

**ACTION**

[EN BLOC]

- CA16.02.03o** To receive with gratitude the memorial from the Florida-Bahamas Synod related to global human rights and non-discrimination based on sexual orientation; and  
To call upon the churchwide organization to continue to speak out publicly against human rights violations globally that criminalize homosexuality and against any teachings which encourage persecution in the name of Christ, and, in doing so, draw attention to this church's stated commitments to social justice and the promotion and protection of internationally recognized human rights.
- 

*Category B16: My Muslim Neighbor*

**ASSEMBLY**

**ACTION**

[EN BLOC]

- CA16.02.03p** To receive with gratitude the memorial of the Northern Illinois Synod on “My Muslim Neighbor”;  
To commend the ELCA educational resources on Christian-Muslim relations for use across this church;  
To encourage ELCA members to commit themselves to opposing, preventing and eliminating Islamophobia; and  
To encourage ELCA leaders to engage in dialogue, friendship and cooperative efforts with Muslim neighbors.
- 

*Category D1: Gender Identity*

**ASSEMBLY**

**ACTION**

[EN BLOC]

- CA16.02.03q** To receive with gratitude the memorial of the Sierra Pacific Synod regarding gender identity;  
To refer this memorial to the Church Council for study of gender identity;  
To ask the Church Council, the Office of the Presiding Bishop and the Office of the Secretary to review existing definitions and policies in light of the council's study; and  
To report to the 2019 Churchwide Assembly of the ELCA actions and proposals for additional actions as may be required.
-

*Category D2: Voting Ratio*

**ASSEMBLY**

**ACTION**

[EN BLOC]

- CA16.02.03r** To receive with gratitude the memorials of the Rocky Mountain and the Metropolitan Washington, D.C., synods regarding the application of the representational principles of this church related to those who are on the rosters of this church;
- To acknowledge that this issue is related to other issues that have been identified related to the formation of a roster of Ministers of Word and Service; and
- To refer these memorials to the Entrance Rite Discernment Working Group with a request that this concern be addressed in the working group's report to the 2019 Churchwide Assembly.
- 

*Category D3: Cultivating and Sustaining Accompaniment in Global Mission*

**ASSEMBLY**

**ACTION**

[EN BLOC]

- CA16.02.03s** To receive with gratitude the memorial of the South Carolina Synod related to a Global Mission Conference; and
- To reaffirm the commitment of this church to:
1. Commend synods, the Global Mission unit, companion churches and The Lutheran World Federation for ongoing commitment to the missiology and methodology of accompaniment, a holistic and contextual praxis,
  2. Deepen the accompaniment of the 94 global companion churches, as companion relationships enlarge our perspective and understanding of the world,
  3. Encourage this church's members, congregations, synods, agencies and institutions to commit to best practices for successful companion synod relationships — relationships held in mutuality, inclusivity, vulnerability, empowerment and sustainability, and
  4. Pray for its companions and the relationships they share.
- 

*Category D4: Youth Mission Trips*

**ASSEMBLY**

**ACTION**

[EN BLOC]

- CA16.02.03†** To receive with gratitude the memorial from the La Crosse Area Synod regarding the creation of an ELCA organization dedicated to organizing mission trips for high school youth; and
- To encourage ELCA members, congregations and synods to engage Lutheran Outdoor Ministries and the ELCA Youth Ministry Network for available mission trip resources.

**This page is intentionally blank.**



Legislative Update  
Wednesday, August 10, 2016

**Elections: Second Ballot for Vice President**

Reference: 2016 Pre-Assembly Report, Section I, Rules of Organization and Procedure, Section V, The Election of the Vice President, and Section X, Report of the Elections Committee.

The Elections Committee presented the names received on the first ballot for vice president that were not withdrawn by the nominee from further consideration for election. The Credentials Committee reported that 971 voting members were registered to cast ballots.

**Elections: First Common Ballot**

The Elections Committee distributed ballots for the 2016 Churchwide Assembly to elect members to the Church Council, boards of three separately incorporated ministries and three churchwide committees.

**Report of the Memorials Committee**

Reference: 2016 Pre-Assembly Report, Section VII, Memorials Committee Report and Supplemental Report of the Memorials Committee.

Ms. Marjorie B. Ellis and the Rev. Stephen R. Herr, co-chairs of the Memorials Committee, continued with the committee's report and recommendations.

**Category B3: Toward a Responsible Energy Future**

Consideration continued from the previous plenary session. The assembly decided to postpone further consideration of this recommendation until plenary session eight.

**Category A3: Deepening Relationships with Historic Black Churches**

**ASSEMBLY**

**ACTION**

YES-929; NO-8

**CA16.03.05**

**To receive with gratitude the memorial of the Southwestern Texas Synod calling for the Deepening of Relationships with the Historic Black Churches;**

**To refer the memorial to the presiding bishop and appropriate churchwide staff to develop a churchwide strategy for deepening relationships with Historic Black Churches in consultation with the African Descent Lutheran Association, Conference of Bishops, Church Council and ecumenical partners;**

**To encourage synod leaders to initiate and/or continue local efforts to strengthen and expand partnerships with Historic Black Churches in consultation with synod bishops, synod leaders of the African Descent Lutheran Association and synod members of the Lutheran Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Representatives Network; and**

**To encourage congregations to initiate and/or continue their efforts to strengthen and expand partnerships with Historic Black Churches.**

**Category C1: Peace with Justice in the Holy Land**

The Memorials Committee made the following motion.

**Moved:**

To receive with gratitude the memorials of the Northwest Washington, Sierra Pacific, Southwest California, Rocky Mountain, Minneapolis Area, Southwestern Texas, Southeastern Iowa, South-Central Wisconsin, Southeast Michigan, Indiana-Kentucky, Metropolitan New York,

Northeastern Pennsylvania, Upper Susquehanna and West Virginia-Western Maryland synods related to Israel and Palestine;

To reaffirm the commitment of this church to:

1. Continue its awareness-building, accompaniment, and advocacy on behalf of a peaceful resolution of the conflict between Israel and Palestine;
2. Take steps to assist the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL) and other Christians in sustaining their endangered presence in the Holy Land;
3. Promote the economic empowerment of Palestinians, including investment in Palestinian projects and businesses;
4. Promote the protection of the human rights of Palestinians and Israelis and oppose all violence and actions which discriminate against or deny any people their basic freedom, dignity or human rights;
5. Embrace the principles of restorative justice as part of the ELCA's advocacy and engagement for the just resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and actively seek ways to support Palestinians and Israelis engaging in restorative justice dialogue and other projects; and
6. Continue to pray for the ELCJHL and the work of The Lutheran World Federation Jerusalem program;

To encourage this church's members, congregations, synods, and agencies as well as the presiding bishop to call on the U.S. President, in coordination with the United Nations Security Council, to offer a new, comprehensive and time-bound agreement to the governments of Israel and Palestine, resulting in a negotiated final status agreement between Israel and Palestine leading to two viable and secure states with a shared Jerusalem;

To urge this church's members, congregations, synods, agencies and presiding bishop to call on their U.S. Representatives, Senators and the Administration to take action requiring that, to continue receiving U.S. financial and military aid, Israel must comply with internationally recognized human rights standards as specified in existing U.S. law, stop settlement building and the expansion of existing settlements in East Jerusalem and the West Bank, end its occupation of Palestinian territory, and enable an independent Palestinian state; and

To encourage this church's members, congregations, synods, and agencies to call on the U.S. President to recognize the State of Palestine and not prevent the application of the State of Palestine for full membership in the United Nations.

The Rev. Robert L. Driesen, bishop of the Upper Susquehanna Synod, made the following motion to amend.

**Moved;**

**Seconded:**

*To substitute the following paragraph for the penultimate paragraph of the motion:*

To urge this church's members, congregations, synods and agencies, as well as the presiding bishop, to urge U.S. Representatives, Senators and the Administration to increase diplomatic efforts to encourage Israel and Palestine to comply with internationally recognized human rights standards, including stopping all settlement building, the occupation of Palestinian territory and indiscriminate violence against civilians, and to work to enable an independent Palestinian state; and

The chair called for the orders of the day. The assembly will give further consideration of the motions on the floor during a later plenary session.

## **Elections: Report of the Second Ballot for Vice President**

Reference: 2016 Pre-Assembly Report, Section V, The Election of the Vice President, and Section X, Results of the Second Ballot for Vice President.

The Elections Committee reported that 924 votes were cast on the second ballot for vice president, requiring 693 votes for election. There was no election on the second ballot. The names of the seven receiving the greatest number of votes were presented:



Mr. William B. Horne	204
Ms. Gwen Arneson	129
Mr. Thomas E. Madden	81
Ms. Becky Blue	54
Ms. Cheryl G. Stuart	46
Ms. Tracy A. Beasley	40
Ms. Nanette C. Dahlke	30

Biographical information about the nominees will be distributed by the beginning of plenary session six the morning of Thursday, August 11. The election process will proceed in accordance with Part Sixteen of the Rules of Organization and Procedure. The nomination of Ms. Mikka McCracken, an employee of the churchwide organization, was ruled out of order.

### College Corporation Meetings

Reference: 2016 Pre-Assembly Report, Other, College Corporation Meetings.

The 2016 Churchwide Assembly recessed and convened sequentially as the college corporation meetings for St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minn.; Wartburg College, Waverly, Iowa; and Luther College, Decorah, Iowa.

### Consideration: Declaration on the Way

Reference: 2016 Pre-Assembly Report, Section V, Declaration on the Way: Church, Ministry and Eucharist, and Section VI, Declaration on the Way: Church, Ministry and Eucharist.

Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton called on Secretary Wm Chris Boerger, who brought the recommendation of the Church Council.

#### ASSEMBLY

#### ACTION

YES-931; NO-9

#### CA16.03.06

To express profound gratitude for “Declaration on the Way: Church, Ministry and Eucharist” as another sign of the ELCA’s commitment to making visible the unity that is God’s gift in Christ (“Ecumenism: The Vision of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America,” 1991);

To receive the thirty-two Statements of Agreement, acknowledging that “receiving these agreements recognizes that there are no longer church dividing issues with respect to these Statements...” (“Declaration on the Way”); and

To commend to the ELCA the “Declaration on the Way,” “From Conflict to Communion” and the “Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification” as resources for the common life of the church as we approach 2017 and beyond.

### Consideration of the AMMPARO Strategy

Reference: 2016 Pre-Assembly Report, Section V, AMMPARO Strategy, and Section VI, AMMPARO Strategy.

Secretary Wm Chris Boerger presented the recommendation of the Church Council.

#### ASSEMBLY

#### ACTION

YES-921; NO-11

#### CA16.03.07

To express gratitude to this church’s members, congregations, synods and churchwide organization as well as to our companion churches and partners for the work to accompany migrant children and families fleeing the humanitarian crisis in Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala;

To approve the Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities (AMMPARO) strategy as a whole church response to the migration of children and their families around protection, advocacy, representation and opportunities; and

To encourage this church's members, congregations, synods and churchwide organization to continue their work in advocating for migrant children and their families.

### **Consideration of the 2017-2019 Budget Proposal**

Reference: 2016 Pre-Assembly Report, Section V, 2017-2019 Budget Proposal.

Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton called on the Rev. Vicki T. Garber, Church Council member from Lakeside Park, Ky., who presented the council's recommendation.

#### **ASSEMBLY**

#### **ACTION**

**YES-895; NO-23**

#### **CA16.03.08**

#### **2017 Budget Proposal**

To approve a 2017 current fund spending authorization of \$65,296,005; and

To approve a 2017 ELCA World Hunger spending authorization of \$24,800,000;

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

#### **2018 Budget Proposal**

To approve a 2018 current fund income proposal of \$64,057,220; and

To approve a 2018 ELCA World Hunger income proposal of \$25,000,000; and

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

#### **2019 Budget Proposal**

To approve a 2019 current fund income proposal of \$64,151,175; and

To approve a 2019 ELCA World Hunger income proposal of \$25,000,000; and

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

### **Elections: Report of the First Common Ballot and Second Common Ballot**

Reference: 2016 Pre-Assembly Report, Section I, Rules of Organization and Procedure, and Section X, Report of the Elections Committee.

The Elections Committee reported elections on 59 of the 60 tickets of the first common ballot for the Church Council, Committee on Appeals, Committee on Discipline, Nominating Committee, and the boards of the Board of Pensions, Mission Investment Fund and Publishing House of the ELCA. There was no election on Ticket 51 of the first common ballot, and the assembly used electronic voting machines to conduct the second ballot election between the two nominees on that ticket receiving the greatest number of votes.



**Legislative Update**  
**Thursday, August 11, 2016**

**Question and Answer Forum for Nominees for Vice President**

*Reference: 2016 Pre-Assembly Report, Section I, Rules of Organization and Procedure, Section V, The Election of the Vice President, and Section X, Results of the Third Ballot for Vice President.*

The seven nominees on the third ballot for vice president responded to three questions formulated by the Executive Committee of the Church Council:

- Ms. Gwen Arneson
- Ms. Tracey A. Beasley
- Ms. Becky Blue
- Ms. Nanette C. Dahlke
- Mr. William B. Horne II
- Mr. Thomas E. Madden
- Ms. Cheryl G. Stuart

**Elections: Third Ballot for Vice President**

*Reference: 2016 Pre-Assembly Report, Section I, Rules of Organization and Procedure, Section V, The Election of the Vice President, and Section X, Results of the Third Ballot for Vice President.*

There were 933 votes cast, and two-thirds or 622 votes were needed for election. The Elections Committee reported the results of the third ballot for vice president, taken by electronic voting machines, as follows:

Mr. William B. Horne II	378
Ms. Cheryl G. Stuart	155
Ms. Becky Blue	115
Ms. Gwen Arneson	113
Mr. Thomas E. Madden	91
Ms. Tracey A. Beasley	50
Ms. Nanette C. Dahlke	31

The three people who received the greatest number of votes on the third ballot will address the assembly during plenary session seven the morning of Friday, August 12. Their names will appear on the fourth ballot, which the Churchwide Assembly will cast Friday afternoon during plenary session eight. Sixty percent of the votes cast on the fourth ballot will be necessary for election.

**This page is intentionally blank.**



**Legislative Update**  
**Friday, August 12, 2016**

**Consideration of the Word and Service Proposal**

Reference: 2016 Pre-Assembly Report, Section V, Roster of Ministry of Word and Service, and Section VI, Report and Recommendations of the Word and Service Task Force.

The Rev. William O. Gafkjen, bishop of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod, chair of the Conference of Bishops and member of the Church Council, made the motion on behalf of the council.

**ASSEMBLY**

**TWO-THIRDS VOTE REQUIRED**

**ACTION**

**YES-864; NO-32**

**CA16.05.09**

**To thank the Word and Service Task Force members and all who contributed to its work to develop a proposal to establish a single, unified roster of Word and Service;**

**To unify the three existing Official Rosters of Laypersons (Associates in Ministry, Deaconesses of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and Diaconal Ministers) into a roster of Ministry of Word and Service;**

**To ensure that individuals on the three existing rosters of Associates in Ministry, Deaconesses of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and Diaconal Ministers be automatically transferred to the roster of Ministry of Word and Service, unless a person on an existing roster declines, and that the existing rosters be eliminated with the establishment of the new roster on January 1, 2017;**

**To endorse the other recommendations of the task force regarding this new roster; and**

**To give thanks to God for the ministry of all who have served and are serving on the present lay rosters and to express confidence that God is leading this church into God's future.**

**Consideration of the Word and Service Amendments to Governing Documents**

Reference: 2016 Pre-Assembly Report, Section V, Constitutional Amendments Related to a Roster of Ministry of Word and Service.

Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton called on the *Ad Hoc* Committee to present its report and recommendations.

**Report of the Ad Hoc Committee**

Reference: 2016 Pre-Assembly Report, Other, Report of the Ad Hoc Committee.

Ms. Christine P. Connell, Church Council member from Staten Island, N.Y., and the Rev. Mark E. Narum, bishop of the Western North Dakota Synod, co-chairs of the *Ad Hoc* Committee, presented the report of the committee.

**ASSEMBLY**

**TWO-THIRDS VOTE REQUIRED**

**ACTION**

**YES-889; NO-15**

**CA16.05.10**

**To authorize the secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to strike the words "associate in ministry, diaconal minister and deaconess" and replace with the words "minister/s of Word and Service" in the *Constitutions, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*; and**

**To authorize the secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to make editorial correction that identify the rosters of this church and implement the creation of the ministers of Word and Service roster in the *Constitutions, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*.**

ASSEMBLY

TWO-THIRDS VOTE REQUIRED

ACTION

YES-819; NO-84

CA16.05.11

To authorize the secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to strike the words “ordained minister/s” and replace with the words “minister/s of Word and Sacrament” in the *Constitutions, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*;

To authorize the secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to strike the word “clergy” and replace with the words “minister/s of Word and Sacrament in the *Constitutions, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*; and

To authorize the secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to strike the words “pastor/s” and replace with the words “minister/s of Word and Sacrament where appropriate in the *Constitutions, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* for the purpose of clarity and consistency.

ASSEMBLY

TWO-THIRDS VOTE REQUIRED

ACTION

YES-893; NO-24

CA16.05.12

To adopt, *en bloc*, the remaining amendments to the *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* [pages 1 through 49 of the recommendation].

### Report of the Memorials Committee (continued)

Reference: 2016 Pre-Assembly Report, Section VII, Memorials Committee Report and Supplemental Report of the Memorials Committee.

Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton resumed consideration of a motion to amend the Memorials Committee’s recommendation.

### Category C1: Peace with Justice in the Holy Land

Moved;

Seconded;

Yes-416; No-500

Defeated:

*To substitute the following paragraph for the second to last paragraph of the motion:*

To urge this church’s members, congregations, synods and agencies, as well as the presiding bishop, to urge U.S. Representatives, Senators and the Administration to increase diplomatic efforts to encourage Israel and Palestine to comply with internationally recognized human rights standards, including stopping all settlement building, the occupation of Palestinian territory and indiscriminate violence against civilians, and to work to enable an independent Palestinian state; and

ASSEMBLY

YES-751; NO-162

ACTION

CA16.05.13

To receive with gratitude the memorials of the Northwest Washington, Sierra Pacific, Southwest California, Rocky Mountain, Minneapolis Area, Southwestern Texas, Southeastern Iowa, South-Central Wisconsin, Southeast Michigan, Indiana-Kentucky, Metropolitan New York, Northeastern Pennsylvania, Upper Susquehanna and West Virginia-Western Maryland synods related to Israel and Palestine;

To reaffirm the commitment of this church to:

1. Continue its awareness-building, accompaniment, and advocacy on behalf of a peaceful resolution of the conflict between Israel and Palestine;

2. Take steps to assist the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL) and other Christians in sustaining their endangered presence in the Holy Land;
3. Promote the economic empowerment of Palestinians, including investment in Palestinian projects and businesses;
4. Promote the protection of the human rights of Palestinians and Israelis and oppose all violence and actions which discriminate against or deny any people their basic freedom, dignity or human rights;
5. Embrace the principles of restorative justice as part of the ELCA's advocacy and engagement for the just resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and actively seek ways to support Palestinians and Israelis engaging in restorative justice dialogue and other projects; and
6. Continue to pray for the ELCJHL and the work of The Lutheran World Federation Jerusalem program;

To encourage this church's members, congregations, synods, and agencies as well as the presiding bishop to call on the U.S. President, in coordination with the United Nations Security Council, to offer a new, comprehensive and time-bound agreement to the governments of Israel and Palestine, resulting in a negotiated final status agreement between Israel and Palestine leading to two viable and secure states with a shared Jerusalem;

To urge this church's members, congregations, synods, agencies and presiding bishop to call on their U.S. Representatives, Senators and the Administration to take action requiring that, to continue receiving U.S. financial and military aid, Israel must comply with internationally recognized human rights standards as specified in existing U.S. law, stop settlement building and the expansion of existing settlements in East Jerusalem and the West Bank, end its occupation of Palestinian territory, and enable an independent Palestinian state; and

To encourage this church's members, congregations, synods, and agencies to call on the U.S. President to recognize the State of Palestine and not prevent the application of the State of Palestine for full membership in the United Nations.

**ASSEMBLY**

**TWO-THIRDS VOTE REQUIRED**

**ACTION**

**YES-776; NO-129**

**CA16.05.14**

To suspend the rules and create a new rule that, after four people have spoken on the same side and no others are to speak on the other side, then automatically call the previous question.

**Category A4: African Descent Lutherans**

The Memorials Committee moved its recommendation.

Moved;

Seconded;

**Yes-753; No-142**

Carried:

*To amend the seventh paragraph of the motion by addition:*

To urge the seminaries, colleges, universities and other academic institutions of this church to work with the Conference of International Black Lutherans (CIBL) to recognize and dismantle white hegemony by lifting up, encouraging and incorporating the academic exploration of Black Liberation Theology and Womanist Theologians;

To receive with gratitude the memorials of the Arkansas-Oklahoma, Metropolitan Chicago, Southeast Michigan, New Jersey, Metropolitan New York, Southeastern Pennsylvania, North Carolina and Southeastern synods regarding African Descent Lutheran Lives Matter;

To direct the Office of the Presiding Bishop, the Domestic Mission unit and the Global Mission unit to assist in connecting, supporting and involving ELCA representation (particularly though not exclusively) of the people of African descent with the observance of the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation and the initiatives of the U.N. International Decade for People of African Descent; to be intentional in the inclusion of the contributions of African descent Lutherans as part of these observances;

To confess and repent of the Lutheran church's complicity in 400 years of enslavement, oppression and marginalization of African descent people and other marginalized populations;

To acknowledge with regret that the ELCA as an institution has and continues to contribute to racial harassment and discrimination against people of African descent through corporate action, policy and practices and to request the Office of the Secretary, in consultation with appropriate churchwide organization units, to review and report on current governing documents in light of these concerns;

To encourage synods and ELCA related institutions to do the same in its review and report of current governing documents related to setting policy and procedures on workplace harassment and discrimination, including racial harassment and discrimination;

To request the Domestic Mission unit through its African Descent Ministries desk, in consultation with the African Descent Lutheran Association, to create a "Declaration of the ELCA to the African Descent Community" and to bring this declaration with recommendations of how to include the declaration in this church's governing documents by the April 2018 meeting of the Church Council;

To urge the seminaries, colleges, universities and other academic institutions of this church to work with the Conference of International Black Lutherans (CIBL) to recognize and dismantle white hegemony by lifting up, encouraging and incorporating the academic exploration of Black Liberation Theology and Womanist Theologians;

To urge the seminaries, colleges, universities and other academic institutions of this church to develop anti-racism resources;

To reaffirm the Church Council action to call upon the seminaries, in collaboration with churchwide organization units and partners, to develop networked theological education programs, resources and opportunities for ethnic-specific communities;

To reaffirm the commitment of this church to create, sustain and reinvest in African descent communities, congregations and ministries including an update of the African Descent Ministry Strategy;

To request the Domestic Mission unit, in partnership with the African Descent Lutheran Association, to find ways to increase the number of African descent leaders, congregations and communities served by at least 10 percent; and

To recommit this church to growing its ethnic and racial diversity.



**Category B1: Call to Discernment on U.S. Foreign and Military Policy**

The Memorials Committee moved its recommendation.

**Moved:**

To receive with gratitude the memorial of the Minneapolis Area Synod regarding their call for the ELCA to study, reflect, search and act in light of ongoing and widening war efforts;

To recognize with gratitude the efforts of the current and previous presiding bishops, the Church Council, synod bishops, clergy and the laity to engage as responsible citizens living out the baptismal calling;

To issue a call for congregations to engage in prayer, Scripture-study and communal reading of the teaching resources of this church, particularly "Church in Society: A Lutheran Perspective," "For Peace in God's World" and "Talking Together as Christians about Tough Social Issues";

To invite this church to a particular time of prayer and communal discernment during the election season of 2016 on the moral impact and societal consequences of current U.S. foreign and military policy; and

To direct the presiding bishop to communicate this church's time of prayer and discernment to the U.S. President and members of Congress and to encourage ELCA members in this election season of 2016 to communicate the same to candidates for federal office.

A motion was made to amend the main motion.

**Moved;**

**Seconded:**

*To replace the second to last paragraph of the motion with the following:*

To invite this church to a particular time of prayer and communal discernment" over the next three years to promote robust examination of the of expanded US war efforts since 1990. The Church Council through the Office of the Presiding Bishop will solicit diverse partners, including scholars whose work focuses in these areas, activists, ecumenical partners, seminaries, colleges/universities, synods, VA and other federal chaplains. We especially hope to include those whose lives are most impacted by these developments in the United States and world. This group will form a task force to study this aspect of our reality as Christians and citizens of the United States.

Topics of inquiry could include:

- The impact on well being of some military veterans, contractors, affiliates, and their families:
  - o Chronic disabilities and loss (including chemical dependencies and brain injury)
  - o Collateral involvement with criminal justice system
  - o Diminished lives and early deaths of veterans and their families from toxins, PTSD symptoms, and violence
  - o Moral injury
  - o Character and skill development
- Broader societal impacts, such as:
  - o climate change and global pollution load
  - o changes in policing practices
  - o engagement with and prejudice against neighbor Muslims
  - o policy decisions due to commercial motivations for the proliferation of arms
- Social needs met and unmet due to prioritizing public spending on expanding war efforts; and

**Moved;**

**Seconded;**

**Defeated:**

**Yes-443; No-459**

*To amend the amendment by deletion of all that follows "and other federal chaplains."*

Moved;  
Seconded; *Yes-483; No-411*  
Carried: **To postpone consideration of the amendment until the afternoon session.**

***Category B6: Welcoming Refugees***

The Memorials Committee moved its recommendation.

Moved;  
Seconded; *Yes-603; No-255*  
Carried: ***To amend the second to last paragraph of the motion by addition:***

**To encourage and support all Lutherans in welcoming refugees by building awareness, volunteering, hosting refugees, speaking out against hate, advocating for a more generous U.S. response and observing Refugee Sunday, and to open up congregations, seminaries and all able Lutheran organizations to help house refugees; and**

**ASSEMBLY**

**ACTION**

*YES-842; NO-48*

**CA16.05.16**

**To receive with gratitude the memorials of the Eastern Washington-Idaho, Metropolitan New York, Northwestern Pennsylvania and Southeastern synods regarding refugee resettlement;**

**To reaffirm the work of ELCA leaders and Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service in working to welcome refugees from across the globe;**

**To support bishops, pastors and other Lutheran leaders as they continue to call on members of Congress and state legislators to open their hearts to the suffering of refugees around the world and support legislative actions to welcome these newcomers to new communities;**

**To request that the presiding bishop communicate this church's commitment for the resettlement of refugees in the United States and encourage steadfast support for this program to the U.S. President and members of Congress;**

**To encourage and support all Lutherans in welcoming refugees by building awareness, volunteering, hosting refugees, speaking out against hate, advocating for a more generous U.S. response and observing Refugee Sunday, and to open up congregations, seminaries and all able Lutheran organizations to help house refugees; and**

**To request that units of the churchwide organization, in cooperation with Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, provide easy access to resource materials for congregations to learn about and take part in ministries with refugees.**

**Report of the Reference and Counsel Committee**

*Reference: 2016 Pre-Assembly Report, Section IX, Report of the Reference and Counsel Committee*

Mr. Paul G. Archer and the Rev. Vicki T. Garber, co-chairs of the Reference and Counsel Committee, made the motion to adopt Motion A on behalf of the committee.

**Motion A: Resolution on Racial Justice**

**Submitted by: The Rev. Lee M. Miller II [Upstate New York Synod]**

WHEREAS, systemic and institutionalized racism is an acute illness infecting North American culture; and

WHEREAS, the church is the body of Christ, and when one member of the body hurts, we all hurt; and

WHEREAS, currently rostered leaders are strongly encouraged to receive appropriate training including boundaries training; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the ELCA in assembly strongly encourage all rostered leaders to receive anti-racism training; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the ELCA in assembly strongly encourage every synod to develop or maintain resources for anti-racism training for rostered leaders and congregations.

A voting member made the following motion to amend the main motion.

**Moved;**

**Seconded:** *To amend the second "Resolved" clause by addition:*

RESOLVED, that the ELCA in assembly strongly encourage every synod to develop or maintain resources for anti-racism training for rostered leaders and congregations every two years.

The chair called for the orders of the day. The assembly will give further consideration of the motions on the floor during a later plenary session.

### **Addresses by Nominees for Vice President**

*Reference: 2016 Pre-Assembly Report, Section I, Rules of Organization and Procedure, Section V, The Election of the Vice President, and Section X, Biographical Information on Nominees for Vice President.*

Each of the three nominees on the fourth ballot for vice president — Ms. Cheryl G. Stuart, Ms. Becky Blue and Mr. William B. Horne II — was given five minutes to address the Churchwide Assembly.

### **Fourth Ballot for Vice President**

*Reference: 2016 Pre-Assembly Report, Section I, Rules of Organization and Procedure, Section V, The Election of the Vice President, and Section X, Biographical Information on Nominees for Vice President.*

The voting members used electronic voting machines to cast the fourth ballot for vice president. The Elections Committee reported the results of the fourth ballot. There were 900 votes cast, and 60 percent or 540 votes were needed for election.

Mr. William B. Horne II	565
Ms. Cheryl G. Stuart	175
Ms. Becky Blue	161

### **ASSEMBLY**

#### **ACTION**

**CA16.05.17**                    **To elect Mr. William B. Horne II to a six-year term, commencing November 1, 2016, as vice president of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.**

### **Consideration of Amendments to Certain Continuing Resolutions**

*Reference: 2016 Pre-Assembly Report, Section V, Amendment of Certain Continuing Resolutions.*

Secretary Wm Chris Boerger made the motion recommended by the Church Council.

A voting member made a motion to amend the main motion.

**Moved;**

**Seconded;** **Yes-716; No-216**

**Carried:** *To substitute the following for the proposed continuing resolution 5.01.B16.*

**Each synod shall submit its goal and strategies to the appropriate churchwide unit or office and shall annually submit a report on progress toward its goals to the Church Council.**

### **ASSEMBLY**

#### **ACTION**

**CA16.05.18**                    **To adopt the following amendment to continuing resolution 5.01.A87. in the Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.** **YES-836; NO-91**

- ~~5.01.A87. It shall be a goal of this church that within 10 years of its establishment its membership shall include at least 10 percent people of color and/or primary language other than English.~~
- 5.01.A16. This church commits itself to ethnic and racial diversity. Each expression of this church shall annually assess its ethnic and racial diversity when compared to the demographic data of its community or territory. The churchwide organization will work with synods as they assist congregations to reach out to persons of color or whose primary language is other than English.
- ~~5.01.B87. With regard to the minimum goal that 10 percent of the membership of synod assemblies, councils, committees, boards, and/or other organizational units be persons of color and/or persons whose primary language is other than English, it is understood that initially there may be exceptions to the attainment of this goal based on the makeup of the membership within a particular synod. By the time of its second assembly, each synod shall establish a plan to attain this goal within 10 years.~~
- 5.01.B16. Each synod shall submit its goal and strategies to the appropriate churchwide unit or office and shall annually submit a report on progress toward its goals to the Church Council.
- 5.01.D16. The Churchwide Assembly shall receive reports from the presiding bishop and the secretary that monitor this church's progress toward meeting the commitment expressed in 5.01.A16.

### Consideration of Amendments to Governing Documents

Reference: 2016 Pre-Assembly Report, Section V, General Amendments to the Constitutions of the ELCA.

Secretary Wm Chris Boerger made the motion recommended by the Church Council.

#### ASSEMBLY

TWO-THIRDS VOTE REQUIRED

#### ACTION

YES-841; NO-19

#### CA16.05.19

To adopt, *en bloc*, with the exception of such amendments as may be considered separately, the following amendments to the *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* [pages 1 through 35 of the recommendation].

### Consideration of Proposed Amendments Removed from *En Bloc*

Reference: 2016 Pre-Assembly Report, Section V, General Amendments to the Constitutions of the ELCA.

Secretary Wm Chris Boerger made the motions recommended by the Church Council.

#### ASSEMBLY

TWO-THIRDS VOTE REQUIRED

#### ACTION

YES-802; NO-130

#### CA16.05.20

To amend ELCA bylaw 12.41.11. as follows:

- 12.41.11. Each synod shall elect one voting member of the Churchwide Assembly for every 6,000 baptized members in the synod. In addition, each synod shall elect one voting member for every 50 congregations in the synod. The synodical bishop, who is *ex officio* a member of the Churchwide Assembly, shall be included in the number of voting members so determined. **Unless**

**otherwise determined by the synod, the synodical vice president shall serve as an *ex officio* member of the Churchwide Assembly and be included in the number of the synod's voting members. These voting members elected by each synod shall comply with the principles of organization, commitment to inclusiveness, and interdependence as specified in Chapter 5 of this constitution. In addition, each synod shall elect one additional voting member who is a youth or young adult at the time of the election and one additional voting member who is a person of color or a person whose primary language is other than English. There shall be at least two voting members from each synod.** The Church Council may allocate up to 10 additional voting members among synods, but no single synod may be allocated more than two additional voting members. The secretary shall notify each synod of the number of assembly members it is to elect.

ASSEMBLY  
ACTION  
CA16.05.21

TWO-THIRDS VOTE REQUIRED  
YES-726; NO-143

To make continuing resolution †S6.04.B09. bylaw †S6.04.02. as follows:

†S6.04.B09. [continuing resolution becomes bylaw]

†S6.04.02. It is the goal of this synod that at least 10 percent of the voting members of the Synod Assembly, Synod Council, committees, and organizational units of this synod be youth and young adults. The Synod Council shall establish a plan for implementing this goal. For purposes of the constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions of this synod, the term “youth” means a voting member of a congregation who has not reached the age of 18 at the time of election or appointment for service. The term “young adult” means a voting member of a congregation between the ages of 18 and 30 at the time of election or appointment for service.

### Report of the Reference and Counsel Committee (continued)

Reference: 2016 Pre-Assembly Report, Section IX, Report of the Reference and Counsel Committee

Mr. Paul G. Archer and the Rev. Vicki T. Garber, co-chairs of the Reference and Counsel Committee, resumed consideration of a proposed amendment to Motion A.

Moved;

Seconded:

To amend the second “Resolved” clause by addition:

RESOLVED, that the ELCA in assembly strongly encourage every synod to develop or maintain resources for anti-racism training for rostered leaders and congregations every two years.

Moved;

Seconded;

Carried:

To amend the proposed amendment to the second “Resolved” clause by addition:

RESOLVED, that the ELCA in assembly strongly encourage every synod to develop or maintain resources for anti-racism training for rostered leaders and congregations at least every two years.

Vote by card

Moved;

Seconded;

Defeated:

To amend the proposed amendment to the second “Resolved” clause by addition:

Vote by card

RESOLVED, that the ELCA in assembly strongly encourage every synod to develop or maintain resources for anti-racism training for rostered leaders and congregations at least every two years at the synod assembly.

Moved;  
Seconded;  
Carried:

*Vote by card*

*To amend the second “Resolved” clause by addition:*

RESOLVED, that the ELCA in assembly strongly encourage every synod to develop or maintain resources for anti-racism training for rostered leaders and congregations at least every two years.

**ASSEMBLY  
ACTION  
CA16.05.22**

*To adopt Motion A as amended.*

**VOTE BY CARD**

**Motion A: Resolution on Racial Justice**

WHEREAS, systemic and institutionalized racism is an acute illness infecting North American culture; and

WHEREAS, the church is the body of Christ, and when one member of the body hurts, we all hurt; and

WHEREAS, currently rostered leaders are strongly encouraged to receive appropriate training including boundaries training; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the ELCA in assembly strongly encourage all rostered leaders to receive anti-racism training; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the ELCA in assembly strongly encourage every synod to develop or maintain resources for anti-racism training for rostered leaders and congregations at least every two years.

**ASSEMBLY  
ACTION  
CA16.05.23**

*To refer Motion B to the Church Council.*

**VOTE BY CARD**

**Motion B: Resolution for a Strategy Toward Authentic Diversity within the ELCA**

WHEREAS, the ELCA Church Council voted [CC15.11.55]: To recognize and affirm the extensive efforts of the presiding bishop to call the entire church to confront racism and to add our voice to that call; and To invite the presiding bishop to include the current efforts in a broader, comprehensive strategy toward becoming a racially and ethnically diverse church committed to dismantling racism; and

WHEREAS, Women of the ELCA has developed a wealth of resources and curriculum for racial justice from a Biblical and historical perspective and the Ethnic Specific Ministry Associations along with the Ethnic Specific, Multicultural and Racial Justice team have developed strategies for engaging and involving people of color in every aspect of the life of our church; and

WHEREAS, our church is blessed with a breadth and depth of people of color and people with a first language other than English whose voices need to be amplified in order to guide this church in moving forward towards becoming a more inclusive and diverse church; and

WHEREAS, even with these resources and supports, synods and congregations have had difficulty achieving this church's commitment to diversity as reflected in the Continuing Resolutions under section 5.01 of the Constitution, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; therefore, let it be

RESOLVED, the Churchwide Assembly direct the ELCA Church Council to form a Task Force for the purpose of developing a comprehensive set of strategies to equip congregations and synods to work towards becoming a more authentically diverse church. The work of the Task Force shall include but is not limited to:

- consulting with WELCA, the Ethnic Specific Ministry Associations, the Multicultural and Racial Justice Team, the Conference of Bishops and ecumenical partners;
- collecting existing resources such as those available from WELCA and the Ethnic Specific Ministry Associations and beyond the ELCA;
- identifying needs for additional resources;
- supporting synods in identifying their specific opportunities for growth;
- assessing the effectiveness of diversity strategies across the three expressions church in order to identify strategies that have yielded authentic diversity; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Task Force be composed of one person from each of the nine regions and one Bishop who will serve as co-chair. The composition of the Task Force shall conform with the representational principles in section 5.01.f of the ELCA Constitution except that persons of Color and/or persons whose Primary Language is other than English shall comprise 100% of the Task Force and the Task Force shall be ethnically diverse. The members of the Task Force shall be appointed by the Church Council in consultation with the ELCA Director of Ethnic Specific and Multicultural Ministries; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Church Council designate funds to support the work of the Task Force as soon as funds become available, no later than April 2017. The work of the Task Force shall begin no later than August 2017 and conclude at the 2019 Churchwide Assembly; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Task Force submit a report and recommendations to the 2019 Churchwide Assembly that includes:

1. a summary of the information gathered by the Task Force and
2. a proposal of recommendations for metrics and supports to provide mutual accountability for our commitment to diversity across the three expressions of the church and a proposal for funding these efforts.

ASSEMBLY  
ACTION  
CA16.05.24

*To adopt Motion C.*

VOTE BY CARD

**Motion C: Resolution Urging Stewardship of the Gift of Water**

WHEREAS, Holy Scripture reminds us that “the Holy Habitation of the Most High” includes “a river whose streams make glad the city of God,” and that “waters of the sea may become fresh, so everything will live where the river goes,” and that “the Holy Spirit descended on [Jesus] in bodily form like a dove” when he was baptized in the River Jordan; and

WHEREAS, a watershed is the ground that water flows within as it moves toward a stream, river or lake, and is a natural boundary within God's creation, unlike arbitrary and haphazard geopolitical boundaries, and all of God's creatures live in a watershed; and

WHEREAS, many of the watersheds in this country are degraded, and this environmental damage leads to water shortages and a crisis that disproportionately affects people of color and people with lower incomes; and

WHEREAS, the ELCA social statement "Caring for Creation: Vision, Hope and Justice" states that "We see the despoiling of the environment as nothing less than the degradation of God's precious gift of creation," and the social statement also reminds us that "congregations have various opportunities during the year to focus on creation... Thanksgiving, harvest festivals, and blessings of field, water, and plants and animals," and encourages us to "observe Earth Day or Soil and Water Stewardship Week," so as to protect and restore "natural and human habitats, including seas, wetlands, forests, wilderness, and urban areas"; and

WHEREAS, "watershed discipleship" requires that Christians acknowledge that water lies both at the center of our Christian rite of baptism and our current ecological and climate crisis, thus deserving deep theological treatment; therefore, let it be

RESOLVED, that the ELCA, in Assembly, requests the Church Council to direct the appropriate churchwide unit to provide every active rostered leader with resources to locate each congregation within its watershed district, so that waters may be named and known in worship and intercessory prayers, and that theological and biblical themes may build awareness, care and thanksgiving for the gift of these waters; and let it be further

RESOLVED, that the ELCA, in Assembly, requests the Church Council to direct the appropriate churchwide unit to provide resources to congregations and individual members to encourage and support conservation and prayerful stewardship of water resources; and let it be further

RESOLVED, that the ELCA, in Assembly, requests the Church Council to direct the appropriate churchwide unit to continue to develop strategies and provide resources to support areas struggling with natural or human-caused disasters that impact access to clean water, such as water contamination, drought and floods, with an awareness that the impact of our environmental actions have disproportionate implication for communities of color with lower incomes; and let it be further

RESOLVED, that the ELCA, in Assembly, encourages congregations to plan events outside their doors and within their watersheds, utilizing the many biblical themes of renewal and liberation that water affords.

**ASSEMBLY  
ACTION  
CA16.05.25**

*VOTE BY CARD*

To refer Motion D: Resolution on Gender Identity to the Church Council and that the Church Council use the resolution to help inform the study of gender identity and the review of existing ELCA definitions and policies regarding gender identity as referenced in the above approved Memorial, and urge all three expressions of our church, whenever possible, and when not otherwise guided by current constitution and/or policy, consider using event registration and other forms that:



- 1) **Include additional options for gender, for transgender, non-binary and/or gender non-conforming people; and**
- 2) **When asking for a person’s personal information, include asking for the person’s pronouns; and**
- 3) **When asking for a person’s honorific or title, include a gender neutral option.**

**Report of the Memorials Committee (continued)**

*Reference: 2016 Pre-Assembly Report, Section VII, Memorials Committee Report and Supplemental Report of the Memorials Committee.*

Ms. Marjorie B. Ellis and the Rev. Stephen R. Herr, co-chairs of the Memorials Committee, continued with the committee’s report and recommendations.

**Category B3: Toward a Responsible Energy Future**

The Memorials Committee had made the following motion.

**Moved:**

To receive with gratitude the memorials of the Saint Paul Area, Metropolitan New York, Northeastern Pennsylvania, Upper Susquehanna and Northwestern Pennsylvania synods related to climate change and fossil fuels;

To urge all ELCA members, congregations and synods to inform and educate themselves about the effects of climate change through the lens of the “Caring for Creation: Vision, Hope and Justice” social statement, and to advocate for policies that reduce energy use and our dependence on fossil fuels and encourage development of renewable energy sources as an expression of our commitment to address climate change and caring for God’s creation;

To affirm the action of the 2013 Churchwide Assembly and subsequent action of the Church Council in 2014 related to the development of revised or additional investment screens on fossil fuels, and to support and commend ELCA members, congregations, synods, the churchwide organization, and related institutions and agencies such as ELCA Endowment Fund and Portico Benefit Services for their leadership efforts to invest in companies that are taking steps toward a sustainable environment;

To affirm Portico’s balanced approach to supporting this church’s principles and directives as stated in the social statements — including the commitment to help transition to an economy less dependent on fossil fuels. The approach includes:

1. shareholder advocacy (filing and supporting resolutions on environmental issues, including 150 resolutions in 2015),
2. focused investment screening, which has identified 113 companies screened for environmental reasons, and
3. ramping up positive social investments, such as investments in companies that develop solar, wind and water power generation systems, repurposing waste products and reducing toxic emissions;

To support the ELCA network of affiliated social ministry organizations with programs to address unemployment caused by changing patterns of fossil fuel use, to advocate for retraining workers — especially for renewable energy jobs, to advocate for programs that will support those in transition, and to encourage congregations and ministries to address the resulting unemployment and poverty; and

To urge ELCA members, congregations and synods to set measurable goals to reduce their consumption of fossil fuels and improve their stewardship of energy resources, transition to renewable energy sources and promote care for God’s creation.

Ms. Kim M. Winchell [North/West Lower Michigan Synod] presented the following motion to amend.

Moved;  
Seconded;  
Carried:

Yes-495; No-411

*To amend the fourth paragraph of the motion by insertion and deletion:*

To affirm Portico's balanced approach to supporting this church's principles and directives as stated in the social statements — including the commitment to help transition to an economy less dependent on fossil fuels. That approach **includes has included:**

1. shareholder advocacy (filing and supporting resolutions on environmental issues, including 150 resolutions in 2015),
2. focused investment screening, which has identified 113 companies screened for environmental reasons, and
3. ramping up positive social investments, such as investments in companies that develop solar, wind and water power generation systems, repurposing waste products and reducing toxic emissions; and now

**To call upon Portico to evaluate the viability of an optional fossil -free fund for retirement plan participants; and**

**To call upon the ELCA to heed the call of the Lutheran World Federation Council in 2015 to member churches “not to invest in fossil fuels and to support energy efficiency and renewable energy companies, and to encourage their institutions and individual members to do likewise”; and**

**As part of this church's response to the Lutheran World Federation's call, to request that the ELCA churchwide organization review the ELCA's applicable social teachings and Corporate Social Responsibility policies and procedures, with the goal of not investing in, and removing the largest fossil fuel companies as identified by Carbon Tracker, and investing in corporations which are taking positive steps toward a sustainable environment;**

A voting member made the following motion.

Moved;  
Seconded:

*Two-Thirds Vote*

To suspend the rules and limit speeches to one minute.

The chair called the orders of the day, and all pending matters will be considered during the next plenary session.



Legislative Update  
Saturday, August 13, 2016

**Motion to Suspend the Rules**

At the end of the previous plenary session, the following motion was on the floor when orders of the day were called.

Moved;

*Two-Thirds Vote*

Seconded: To suspend the rules and limit speeches to one minute.

**ASSEMBLY**

**TWO-THIRDS VOTE**

**ACTION**

**VOTE BY CARD**

**CA16.06.26 To suspend the rules and limit speeches to one minute.**

**Quasi Committee of the Whole: Called Forward Together in Christ Conversation**

Reference: 2016 Pre-Assembly Report, Section VI, *Called Forward Together in Christ for the Sake of the World: A Consultation Paper on Future Directions of the ELCA, and Other, Leadership Letter on Future Directions.*

**ASSEMBLY**

**VOTE BY CARD**

**ACTION**

**CA16.06.27 To go into a Quasi Committee of the Whole for a period of 45 minutes to discuss the Called Forward Together in Christ process of this church.**

**Report of the Memorials Committee (continued)**

Reference: 2016 Pre-Assembly Report, Section VII, *Memorials Committee Report and Supplemental Report of the Memorials Committee.*

Ms. Marjorie B. Ellis and the Rev. Stephen R. Herr, co-chairs of the Memorials Committee, continued with the committee's report and recommendations.

**Category B3: Toward a Responsible Energy Future**

**ASSEMBLY**

**VOTE BY CARD**

**ACTION**

**CA16.06.28 To receive with gratitude the memorials of the Saint Paul Area, Metropolitan New York, Northeastern Pennsylvania, Upper Susquehanna and Northwestern Pennsylvania synods related to climate change and fossil fuels;**

To urge all ELCA members, congregations and synods to inform and educate themselves about the effects of climate change through the lens of the "Caring for Creation: Vision, Hope and Justice" social statement, and to advocate for policies that reduce energy use and our dependence on fossil fuels and encourage development of renewable energy sources as an expression of our commitment to address climate change and caring for God's creation;

To affirm the action of the 2013 Churchwide Assembly and subsequent action of the Church Council in 2014 related to the development of revised or additional investment screens on fossil fuels, and to support and commend ELCA members, congregations, synods, the churchwide organization, and related institutions and agencies such as ELCA Endowment Fund and Portico Benefit Services for their leadership efforts to invest in companies that are taking steps toward a sustainable environment;

To affirm Portico’s balanced approach to supporting this church’s principles and directives as stated in the social statements — including the commitment to help transition to an economy less dependent on fossil fuels. That approach has included:

1. shareholder advocacy (filing and supporting resolutions on environmental issues, including 150 resolutions in 2015),
2. focused investment screening, which has identified 113 companies screened for environmental reasons, and
3. ramping up positive social investments, such as investments in companies that develop solar, wind and water power generation systems, repurposing waste products and reducing toxic emissions; and now

To call upon Portico to evaluate the viability of an optional fossil -free fund for retirement plan participants;

To call upon the ELCA to heed the call of the Lutheran World Federation Council in 2015 to member churches “not to invest in fossil fuels and to support energy efficiency and renewable energy companies, and to encourage their institutions and individual members to do likewise”;

As part of this church’s response to the Lutheran World Federation’s call, to request that the ELCA churchwide organization review the ELCA’s applicable social teachings and Corporate Social Responsibility policies and procedures, with the goal of not investing in, and removing the largest fossil fuel companies as identified by Carbon Tracker, and investing in corporations which are taking positive steps toward a sustainable environment;

To support the ELCA network of affiliated social ministry organizations with programs to address unemployment caused by changing patterns of fossil fuel use, to advocate for retraining workers — especially for renewable energy jobs, to advocate for programs that will support those in transition, and to encourage congregations and ministries to address the resulting unemployment and poverty; and

To urge ELCA members, congregations and synods to set measurable goals to reduce their consumption of fossil fuels and improve their stewardship of energy resources, transition to renewable energy sources and promote care for God’s creation.

*Category C2: Justice for the Holy Land through Responsible Investment*

**ASSEMBLY**

**ACTION**

**CA16.06.29**

**VOTE BY CARD**

To receive with gratitude the memorials from the Sierra Pacific, Southwest California, Metropolitan New York and the Delaware-Maryland synods regarding Justice for the Holy Land through Responsible Investment;

To reaffirm the actions of the 2005, 2007, 2011 and 2013 Churchwide Assemblies regarding responsible investment in Israel-Palestine;

To direct the ELCA’s Corporate Social Responsibility review team to develop a human rights social criteria investment screen based on the social teachings of this church and, in the case of Israel and Palestine, specifically based on the concerns raised in the ELCA Middle East Strategy;

To encourage ELCA members, congregations, synods, agencies and institutions to increase positive investment in Palestine and other under-resourced areas where human rights abuses materially impact the well-being of all people; and

**To encourage ELCA members, congregations, synods, agencies and institutions to engage in shareholder advocacy in support of human rights, exercising the right of a shareholder to submit resolutions at a corporation's annual meeting.**

***Category B1: Call to Discernment on U.S. Foreign and Military Policy***

Consideration of the Memorials Committee recommendation resumed.

**Moved:**

To receive with gratitude the memorial of the Minneapolis Area Synod regarding their call for the ELCA to study, reflect, search and act in light of ongoing and widening war efforts;

To recognize with gratitude the efforts of the current and previous presiding bishops, the Church Council, synod bishops, clergy and the laity to engage as responsible citizens living out the baptismal calling;

To issue a call for congregations to engage in prayer, Scripture-study and communal reading of the teaching resources of this church, particularly "Church in Society: A Lutheran Perspective," "For Peace in God's World" and "Talking Together as Christians about Tough Social Issues";

To invite this church to a particular time of prayer and communal discernment during the election season of 2016 on the moral impact and societal consequences of current U.S. foreign and military policy; and

To direct the presiding bishop to communicate this church's time of prayer and discernment to the U.S. President and members of Congress and to encourage ELCA members in this election season of 2016 to communicate the same to candidates for federal office.

A motion had been made to amend the main motion.

**Moved;**

**Seconded:**

*To replace the second to last paragraph of the motion with the following:*

To invite this church to a particular time of prayer and communal discernment" over the next three years to promote robust examination of the consequences of expanded US war efforts since 1990. The Church Council through the Office of the Presiding Bishop will solicit diverse partners, including scholars whose work focuses in these areas, activists, ecumenical partners, seminaries, colleges/universities, synods, VA and other federal chaplains. We especially hope to include those whose lives are most impacted by these developments in the United States and world. This group will form a task force to study this aspect of our reality as Christians and citizens of the United States.

Topics of inquiry could include:

- The impact on well being of some military veterans, contractors, affiliates, and their families:
  - o Chronic disabilities and loss (including chemical dependencies and brain injury)
  - o Collateral involvement with criminal justice system
  - o Diminished lives and early deaths of veterans and their families from toxins, PTSD symptoms, and violence
  - o Moral injury
  - o Character and skill development
- Broader societal impacts, such as:
  - o climate change and global pollution load
  - o changes in policing practices
  - o engagement with and prejudice against neighbor Muslims
  - o policy decisions due to commercial motivations for the proliferation of arms
- Social needs met and unmet due to prioritizing public spending on expanding war efforts; and

Moved;  
Seconded;  
Carried:

*Vote by Card*

*To amend the following text of the proposed amendment by deletion and insertion:*

Topics of inquiry could include:

- The impact on well-being of **some-all** military **personnel and** veterans, **active, reserve and retired,** contractors, affiliates, and their families:

Moved;  
Seconded;  
Carried:

*by Consensus*

*To substitute the following for the proposed amendment as amended:*

To invite this church to a particular time of prayer and communal discernment over the next three years to promote robust examination of the consequences of expanded US war efforts since 1990. To refer to the Church Council to formulate the next steps, including any budgetary implications. To encourage the Office of the Presiding Bishop to consider dialogue with Called Forward Together in Christ, Declaration on the Way and other ecumenical partners in planning this initiative, including inviting, scholars whose work focuses in these areas, activists, seminaries, colleges/universities, synods, VA and other federal chaplains. We especially hope to include those whose lives are most impacted by these developments in the United States and world.

Topics of inquiry could include:

The impact on well-being of **some** military veterans, contractors, affiliates, and their families:

- Chronic disabilities and loss (including chemical dependencies and brain injury),
- Collateral involvement with criminal justice system,
- Diminished lives and early deaths of veterans and their families from toxins, PTSD symptoms, and violence,
- Moral injury,
- Character and skill development, and

Broader societal impacts, such as:

- Climate change and global pollution load,
- Changes in policing practices,
- Engagement with and prejudice against neighbor Muslims,
- Policy decisions due to commercial motivations for the proliferation of arms,
- Social needs met and unmet due to prioritizing public spending on expanding war efforts;

with Church Council to recommend next steps by April 2017; and

Moved;  
Seconded;  
Carried:

*Vote by Card*

*To amend the following text of the substitute amendment by deletion and insertion:*

Topics of inquiry could include:

- The impact on well-being of **some-all** military **personnel and** veterans, **active, reserve and retired,** contractors, affiliates, and their families:

**ASSEMBLY**  
**ACTION**  
**CA16.06.30**

**VOTE BY CARD**

To receive with gratitude the memorial of the Minneapolis Area Synod regarding its call for the ELCA to study, reflect, search and act in light of ongoing and widening war efforts;

To recognize with gratitude the efforts of the current and previous presiding bishops, the Church Council, synod bishops, clergy and the laity to engage as responsible citizens living out the baptismal calling;

To issue a call for congregations to engage in prayer, Scripture-study and communal reading of the teaching resources of this church, particularly “Church in Society: A Lutheran Perspective,” “For Peace in God’s World” and “Talking Together as Christians about Tough Social Issues”;

To invite this church to a particular time of prayer and communal discernment over the next three years to promote robust examination of the consequences of expanded US war efforts since 1990. To refer to the Church Council to formulate the next steps, including any budgetary implications. To encourage the Office of the Presiding Bishop to consider dialogue with Called Forward Together in Christ, Declaration on the Way and other ecumenical partners in planning this initiative, including inviting, scholars whose work focuses in these areas, activists, seminaries, colleges/universities, synods, VA and other federal chaplains. We especially hope to include those whose lives are most impacted by these developments in the United States and world.

Topics of inquiry could include:

The impact on well-being of all military personnel and veterans: active, reserve, retired, and national guard, contractors, affiliates, and their families:

- Chronic disabilities and loss (including chemical dependencies and brain injury),
- Collateral involvement with criminal justice system,
- Diminished lives and early deaths of veterans and their families from toxins, PTSD symptoms, and violence,
- Moral injury,
- Character and skill development, and

Broader societal impacts, such as:

- Climate change and global pollution load,
- Changes in policing practices,
- Engagement with and prejudice against neighbor Muslims,
- Policy decisions due to commercial motivations for the proliferation of arms,
- Social needs met and unmet due to prioritizing public spending on expanding war efforts;

with Church Council to recommend next steps by April 2017; and

To direct the presiding bishop to communicate this church’s time of prayer and discernment to the U.S. President and members of Congress and to encourage ELCA members in this election season of 2016 to communicate the same to candidates for federal office.

*Category B10: Supporting Military Personnel, Veterans and their Families*

**ASSEMBLY**

**ACTION**

**CA16.06.31**

*VOTE BY CARD*

To receive with gratitude, the memorials of Eastern Washington-Idaho, Pacifica, Southeastern Minnesota, Southwestern Texas, East-Central Wisconsin, Southern Ohio, Northwestern Pennsylvania, Allegheny, Metropolitan Washington, D.C., West

Virginia-Western Maryland and Southeastern synods regarding their interest and vision for ministry affirming those called to military service, veterans, their families and this church's support for chaplaincy ministries;

To recognize with gratitude ELCA members, congregations, agencies and institutions which have initiated creative ministry and mission engaging members of the military, veterans, ELCA chaplains and their families;

To encourage congregations, agencies, families and individuals to assist those considering military service and those continuing in service through moral discernment and vocational guidance concerning the life-changing decisions they must make involving justice, service and the ethical application of force;

To direct the Office of the Presiding Bishop to establish a Sunday of prayer and action near Veterans Day each year to unite this church in prayer and encourage assistance for military members, veterans, ELCA chaplains and families;

To encourage ELCA members, congregations and synods to offer care and support for returning veterans;

To encourage congregations to seek out incarcerated veterans to thank them for their service and to help them access veterans' benefits so that they might have a more successful transition upon release;

To affirm the publication of the Prayer Book for the Armed Services and to encourage congregations to present gift copies to veterans, military personnel and chaplains;

To encourage synod bishops, candidacy committees, congregations and seminaries to make known the need for ordained pastors to serve as chaplains in the military, Veterans Affairs hospitals, federal corrections and other chaplaincies;

To urge ELCA members and congregations to contribute to the ELCA Federal Chaplaincy Ministries Fund for Leaders Scholarship to attract the next generation of chaplains; and

To encourage ELCA seminaries, colleges and universities to integrate practicing chaplains to teach about specialized ministries, preach in chapel, and foster awareness and consideration of a call to chaplaincy ministry.

### **Report of the Reference and Counsel Committee (continued)**

*Reference: 2016 Pre-Assembly Report, Section IX, Report of the Reference and Counsel Committee, Revised: Report of the Reference and Counsel Committee, and Report of the Reference and Counsel Committee 081216.*

Mr. Paul G. Archer and the Rev. Vicki T. Garber, co-chairs of the Reference and Counsel Committee, continued presenting the committee's report and recommendations.

#### **ASSEMBLY**

#### **ACTION**

**CA16.06.32**

**To adopt Motion E.**

**VOTE BY CARD**

#### **Motion E: Resolution on Compensation for the Council Vice President**

WHEREAS, bylaw 13.32.02. of the ELCA Constitution states, "The vice president shall serve without salary"; and

WHEREAS, provision 13.31. of the ELCA Constitution states, "The vice president shall be a lay person"; and

WHEREAS, the level of commitment without any stipend, salary or compensation creates economic barriers to service for people living in situations of economic poverty, people



dependent on full-time income or work, people working jobs without paid vacation, and people who are sole caregivers to children or elders; and

WHEREAS, the ELCA's social statement, "Sufficient, Sustainable Livelihood for All," calls us as a denomination to access economic activities in terms of how they affect all especially people living in poverty (p. 4), calls us to support and encourage one another as we live out our vocation in ways that serve the neighbor and contribute to family and community vitality (p. 8) and commits us to develop mutual face-to-face, empowering relationships between people who have enough and people living in poverty, especially through congregational and synodical partnerships (p. 12); therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Churchwide Assembly requests the Church Council study the removal of constitutional bylaw 13.32.02., which prohibits compensation for the vice president except for reimbursements; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Churchwide Assembly requests the Church Council study compensation or reimbursement for child or elder care and salary or stipend for service related to the duties of the vice president; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Church Council bring a report and recommendation to the 2019 Churchwide Assembly.

Moved;  
Seconded;  
Defeated:

*Vote by Card*

To reconsider assembly action CA16.05.22, which was to adopt Motion A as amended.

**ASSEMBLY  
ACTION  
CA16.06.33**

*VOTE BY CARD*

To adopt Motion F.

#### **Motion F: Resolution on Call Process**

WHEREAS, an effective call process requires many stakeholders working together to accomplish an effective and healthy transition;

WHEREAS, synods and congregations constantly evaluate and learn from each call process to increase the odds of a successful call process and congregational partnership; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the assembly asks the ELCA Church Council, in consultation with the Conference of Bishops, to initiate a conversation including synod leadership regarding rostered leader vacancies throughout this church; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the assembly encourages the Conference of Bishops to continue their work of facilitating and always reforming the call process for congregations and institutions in our changing contexts; and be it further

RESOLVED, that regions, institutions, synods, and congregations be encouraged to raise up leaders in this church for rostered leadership with the encouragement and oversight of the Theological Education Advisory Committee of the Church Council; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Conference of Bishops communicate with the ELCA Church Council and mutually review the status of this work every year and a half for three years.

**ASSEMBLY  
ACTION  
CA16.06.34**

**VOTE BY ACCLAMATION**

*To adopt the following resolution:*

**Resolution of Appreciation for Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton**

We, the members of the 2016 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, give thanks to God for the leadership of our Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton.

We celebrate her dedication to inclusivity, inter-faith relationships, ecumenism, and anti-racism. Her witness of loving our neighbors inspires us to live the gospel in the same way.

We give thanks for her courage in leading us into opposition as we continue to work against racism, from the repudiation of the doctrine of discovery to black lives matter. She, furthermore, led the vote adopting AMMPARO to further accompaniment with children and families in Central America, inspired by her conviction that we are all God's children.

We rejoice, especially as we look to the upcoming 500th anniversary of the Reformation, that our presiding bishop is distinctly Lutheran and reminds us that the Lutheran perspective is one the world needs. At the same time, she showed us the need for humility as she led the church in passing the Declaration on the Way. With her, we commit to the study of Luther's Small Catechism; we look forward to being quizzed and to the opportunity to quiz her!

We congratulate her for expertly presiding over this, her first Churchwide Assembly, and for her eloquent and inspiring report to the Assembly and for sharing with us her intellect, wit, faith, prophetic voice, and love of a certain camp song.

**ASSEMBLY  
ACTION  
CA16.06.35**

**VOTE BY ACCLAMATION**

*To adopt the following resolution:*

**Resolution of Appreciation for Vice President Carlos E. Peña**

The voting members of the 2016 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America wish to conjoin their voices of gratitude and appreciation with those of subsequent assemblies, Churchwide Councils and executive staff as well as the countless thousands who, to the person serve as the embodiment of the ELCA as we extend our thanks to you, Vice President Carlos Peña.

We are church, we are church together! And through your tireless example of unwavering fortitude as a servant-leader, together we have and are becoming better equipped and positioned to effectuate change for the sake of the world. We do so in our efforts as being judicious stewards, as advocates for social justice, in our care and protection of God's creation. As we stand in solidarity with and respond to those in need, and most importantly, as we proclaim and share the Gospel that is ours in Jesus Christ.

We profess that a good steward is one who gives of his/her time, talent and treasures. To do so with humility, determination and prayer-inspired guidance is indicative of what we have come to know and appreciate in you.

Thank you, Carlos; for you are indeed a "good and faithful servant."

**ASSEMBLY  
ACTION  
CA16.06.36**

**VOTE BY ACCLAMATION**

*To adopt the following resolution:*

**Resolution of Appreciation for Secretary Wm Chris Boerger**

We, the 2016 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, accept the report of Secretary Chris Boerger, thanking him for the splendor and orchestration extended by he and his office in the pre-planning and facilitation of this year's assembly.

We thank him for his faithful work on behalf of our church and the church worldwide, united in the mission of Christ. His keen knowledge and love of the constitution and his ability to translate it for us are a tremendous asset to our church. His attention to detail and efforts to digitize the records are commendable. Through it all, he manifests his love for Christ's church. A consummate churchman, Secretary Boerger inspires us all to BE THE ELCA.

We extend our gratitude to you for the seamless nature of our daily logistics, the movement of over 1,000 participants to and from the assembly gathering. We are particularly mindful of the triangulation you created between the sites of our hotel lodging and the center of our deliberation at the convention. The simplicity of this triangle is a symbolic reminder of the Trinity in God that sustains and keep us steadfast.

We are indebted to you and those whom you represent for the diligence and resourcefulness you employed in not only attending to the details of constitutional and bylaw revisions but the thoughtfulness that was required in recasting our governing principles with great care and responsiveness to the current and projected needs of the church.

We thank you immensely for the uniformity of these tasks you undertook and the faithfulness in which you dutifully addressed it.

**ASSEMBLY  
ACTION  
CA16.06.37**

**VOTE BY ACCLAMATION**

*To adopt the following resolution:*

**Resolution of Appreciation for Treasurer Linda O. Norman**

We, the 2016 Churchwide Assembly of the ELCA, accept the report of Treasurer Linda Norman and give thanks to God for her leadership in this church. We have received and approved the 2017-19 budget and affirm the care and stewardship employed by the Treasurer, the Office of the Treasurer, and other Churchwide staff in the financial reflection of and planning for our program services and ministries. The ELCA endeavors to do the work of God in all of the places for which the Holy Spirit directs. Our approval of the 2017-19 budget attests to this conviction and we are resolved to be faithful stewards of the many gifts of this church. We give thanks for Treasurer Norman's careful attention to detail and diligent oversight of the rich blessings God has bestowed upon us.

**ASSEMBLY  
ACTION  
CA16.06.38**

**VOTE BY ACCLAMATION**

*To adopt the following resolution:*

**Resolution of Appreciation for Churchwide Staff**

We, the members of the 2016 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, give thanks to God for the Churchwide staff. We wish to thank the staff and offices for making this assembly possible and for their day to day work on behalf of this church.

We thank each of the offices and units of the churchwide organization:

- Office of the Presiding Bishop
- Office of the Secretary
- Office of the Treasurer
- Mission Advancement
- Domestic Mission
- Global Mission

We appreciate their tireless work of renewing and growing the church's mission. We continue to keep them and their work, which is our work, in prayer.

**ASSEMBLY  
ACTION  
CA16.06.39**

**VOTE BY ACCLAMATION**

*To adopt the following resolution:*

**Resolution of Appreciation and Thanksgiving for Hospitality**

Be it resolved:

The members of the 2016 Churchwide Assembly and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America deeply thank New Orleans and the Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod for hosting this assembly. As we started this assembly we were introduced to the original ancestors of this land, the Houma Nation, and in doing so we were made aware not only of these brothers and sisters but of all our siblings in Christ who make New Orleans a diverse setting of hospitality.

The Ernest N. Morial Convention Center hosted us generously with their accommodations and empowered us to worship boldly, assemble earnestly, and give us shelter and safe keeping through the week.

The Sheraton and Marriott Hotel gave us respite and recovery for our long days and presented opportunity for fun and fellowship unique to New Orleans right outside their doors.

The unique hospitality of the week, can only be found in New Orleans and has redefined "service with a smile." The city of New Orleans has made it possible for each member of this assembly to reimagine hospitality in their own context and given new life for practices of accompaniment and servant leadership, as we strive to be "Church for the Sake of the World."

We express great thanks for the long and diverse history of New Orleans, the contributions to the arts, cooking, leisure, and home-grown quality of life found on every street corner. We also give thanks for the witness to the resurrection in how New Orleans rose after Hurricane Katrina and the breaking of the levees. We strive to

**never forget your hard work and how far you have come and what a people can do when they keep their eye on the prize.**

**We recognize the local and diverse selections of music that filled our worship services. The talented performers made us grateful for New Orleans' creativity and character, and brought our worship to life in new and unique ways. The Mississippi gave us a perpetual remembrance of our baptism in Christ, but also reminded us of the environmental gifts and ecology which make up New Orleans.**

**A special thank you for all our volunteers who made this event possible, who came from all over to New Orleans to giving their time and working both seen and unseen, making this assembly a success.**

**From "second lines" to singing bus drivers, New Orleans created space for the 2016 ELCA Churchwide Assembly and gave of themselves and shaped our time together with their talents and treasures.**

**In doing so, they have only further endowed the church with experience to, "act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with our God."**

The voting members demonstrated their appreciation by acclamation for the parliamentarian, Mr. John W. Sleasman. The fourteenth Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America was adjourned at 12:33 p.m. in Hall C of the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center in New Orleans, La.

**This page is intentionally blank.**