

Revised April 10, 2015

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
CHURCH COUNCIL
April 9-12, 2015
Chicago, Illinois

AGENDA

Participants

Voting Members

Mr. Paul G. Archer	Pr. Carla J. Johnsen
Ms. Marit Bakken	Ms. Kayla S. Koterwski
Mr. Nicholas A. Barber	Mr. John W. Lohrmann
Mr. Hans E. Becklin	Ms. Susan W. McArver
Mr. Allan J. Bieber	Pr. Loren Mellum
Pr. Wm Chris Boerger, Secretary	Mr. Fernando Mercado
Ms. Amanda E. Briggs	Pr. Raymond A. Miller
Mr. Reid A. Christopherson	Pr. Robert G. Moore
Ms. Christine P. Connell	Pr. Linda O. Norman, Treasurer
Bp. Jessica Crist	Pr. Linda Nou (<i>excused</i>)
Pr. Karsten Decker	Mr. John M. Pederson
Bp. Elizabeth A. Eaton, Presiding Bishop	Mr. Carlos E. Peña, Vice President
Pr. Elizabeth E. Ekdale	Ms. Meri Jo Petrivelli
Ms. Marjorie B. Ellis	Ms. Pamela E. Pritt
Pr. William E. Flippin Jr.	Mr. Clarence M. Smith
Mr. Gary D. Gabrielson	Pr. Jonathan Splichal Larson
Pr. Vicki T. Garber	Ms. Ingrid Sponberg Stafford
Pr. Joyce M. Graue	Ms. Leslie J. Swenson
Ms. Cynthia M. Gustavson	Mr. Oliver W. Thul
Ms. Louise A. Hemstead	Pr. Kathryn A. Tiede
Pr. Stephen R. Herr	Pr. James H. Utt
Mr. William B. "Bill" Horne II	Mr. Vernon K. Veal
Ms. Maren Hulden	Pr. William O. Voss
Mr. James M. Hushagen	Pr. Michael R. Ward
Pr. Peder J. Johanson	Ms. Man Hei Yip

Liaison Bishops

Bp. Michael Burk (<i>excused</i>)	Bp. Stephen Talmage
Bp. Claire Burkat (<i>excused</i>)	Bp. Shelley Wickstrom
Bp. Ralph Jones	Bp. Herman Yoos (<i>excused</i>)
Bp. Marcus Lohrmann	Bp. David Zellmer
Bp. Brian Maas	

Resource People

Office of the Presiding Bishop

Pr. M. Wyvetta Bullock, Assistant to the Bishop, Executive for Administration
Mr. Kenneth W. Inskeep, Executive for Research and Evaluation
Ms. Rhondean Johnson, Executive for Human Resources
Pr. Marcus Kunz, Assistant to the Bishop for Theological Discernment

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Ms. Kathryn Lohre, Assistant to the Bishop for Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Relations
Pr. Walter May, Assistant to the Bishop for the Synodical Relations
Pr. Donald J. McCoid, Director, Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Relations
Ms. Jodi Slattery, Assistant to the Bishop for Governance

Office of the Secretary

Mr. Thomas Cunniff, Associate General Counsel
Mr. Phillip H. Harris, General Counsel
Mr. Frank F. Imhoff, Manager, Official Documentation
Ms. Sue Rothmeyer, Assistant to the Secretary

Unit Staff

Pr. Stephen P. Bouman, Executive Director, Congregational and Synodical Mission
Ms. Christina Jackson-Skelton, Executive Director, Mission Advancement
Pr. Rafael Malpica-Padilla, Executive Director, Global Mission
Ms. Evelyn Soto, Director for CSM Operations and Programs, CSM
Pr. Jonathan Strandjord, Program Director, Seminaries, CSM
Pr. Gregory Villalon, Director for Leadership for Mission/Candidacy, CSM
Pr. Cherlyne Beck, Program Director for Support of Rostered Leaders, CSM
Pr. David Wunsch, Director for Unit Operations and Programs, GM
Mr. Forrest Meyer, Director for Strategic Communications, MA
Pr. Margaret Payne, Director for Mission Support, MA

Separately Incorporated Ministries

Ms. Linda Post Bushkofsky, Executive Director, Women of the ELCA
Mr. Doug Haugen, Executive Director, Lutheran Men in Mission (*excused*)
Ms. Beth A. Lewis, President, Augsburg Fortress, Publishers
Ms. Eva M. Roby, President and CEO, MIF
Pr. Jeffrey D. Thiemann, President and CEO, Portico Benefit Services

Press

Ms. Candice Hill Buchbinder, Mission Advancement
Ms. Melissa Ramirez Cooper, Mission Advancement
Mr. Daniel Lehmann, *The Lutheran* magazine

Ecumenical Guests

Pr. Scott Anderson, Presbyterian Church (USA)
Ms. Liza Anderson, The Episcopal Church
Bp. Sharon Rader, United Methodist Church
Pr. Betsy Miller, Moravian Church in America (*excused*)
Pr. Lisa Vander Wal, The Reformed Church in America
Bp. Susan Johnson, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

Thursday, April 9, 2015

- 12:00 p.m. Lunch available for early arrivals
- 1:30 p.m. Executive Committee, Full Epiphany
- 3:00 p.m. **WORSHIP SERVICE WITH HOLY COMMUNION**, 1st Floor Chapel
 Presider: Bishop Ralph Jones
 Preacher: Pastor Vicki Garber
 Assisting Minister: Mr. Nick Barber
 Lector: Ms. Marjorie Ellis
- 3:45 p.m. Church Council Choir rehearsal, 1st Floor Chapel, 30 minutes

PLENARY SESSION ONE

Council Room
April 9, 2015
4:30 – 6:40 p.m.

I.A Call to Order and Adoption of the Agenda

Agenda items have been distributed electronically and by mail. Additional items will be distributed at the meeting to the members of the Church Council and invited resource people.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

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

I.B Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of the November 7-10, 2014 meeting of the Church Council have been distributed to council members electronically on Net Community. Minutes for meetings held in executive session have been added to the protocol file in the Office of the Secretary.

The minutes of the council's Executive Committee meetings on November 7, 2014, December 8, 2014, and February 25, 2015 have been distributed electronically to members. Minutes for meetings held in executive session have been added to the protocol file in the Office of the Secretary.

Please provide in writing for the Executive for Office of the Secretary Administration any notations or typographical errors in the distributed text of the minutes. Proper corrections will be entered into the protocol copies of the minutes. Such corrections need not be raised in the plenary session in connection with the approval of the minutes.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

**To approve the minutes of November 7-10, 2014 meeting of the Church Council; and
To ratify actions of the council's Executive Committee as indicated in the minutes of the November 7, 2014, December 8, 2014, and February 25, 2015 meetings.**

I.C [Report from the Presiding Bishop](#)

I.D Ecumenical Greetings

At this meeting, we will be welcoming guests from this church's full communion partners. This is an opportunity for Church Council to hear from our ecumenical liaisons. Other ecumenical guests will have an opportunity to bring a greeting later in the meeting.

I.E [Report from the Vice President](#)

I.F [Presentation from the Bishops Think Tank on Mission Funding](#)

The Bishops Think Tank on Mission Funding, appointed by Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, began its work in late 2013 and was charged with addressing in new ways the decline of mission support in this church. At the March 2015 meeting of the

Conference of Bishops, the conference received a report from the Mission Support Think Tank and discussed the experiments outlined in the report.

The final report shares the challenges, opportunities and recommendations being brought to the Church Council. "In light of these challenges and assumptions, the Think Tank believes there is an urgent need for the Church Council to lead this church boldly into a time of rethinking, revising and experimenting with how we as 'church together' fund the mission of our ELCA," stated in the [final report of the Bishops Think Tank on Mission Funding](#) (p. 4). The report also includes appendices of the proposed experiments in more detail.

This presentation time will be an opportunity for Church Council members to hear more from the liaison bishops about the work of the Think Tank and the recommendations it is proposing. Council members are encouraged to identify questions they may have regarding the report. The Budget and Finance Committee of the Church Council will discuss in more detail the report and proposed recommendations to bring a recommendation for the Church Council's consideration during the committee's report time in plenary session four.

I.G Liaison bishops on [Conference of Bishops Word and Service Recommendation](#)

The Conference of Bishops at its March 2015 meeting heard a report on the work of the Word and Service Task Force and the Entrance Rite Discernment Working Group. The conference engaged in deep conversation about the decisions before the Church Council regarding the unification of the Word and Service roster and the various implications across this church. The conversation included bishops serving on both groups as well as with staff.

Bishop Crist in her [Conference of Bishops report](#) to Church Council shared more about the conversation. From her report, "...the CoB overwhelmingly affirmed the formation of a unified roster for word and service. Less overwhelming, but still a clear majority, was the recommendation that the Church Council postpone decisions on the entrance rite and other related matters. (A significant minority of Bishops favored delaying both the unification of the rosters and the decision on entrance rite and other related matters.)"

In the "[Recommendation of the Conference of Bishops to the ELCA Church Council for an Expanded Conversation Around Leadership within this Church](#)", it states, "The Conference of Bishops supports moving forward the work of unifying the Word and Service rosters at the 2016 churchwide assembly while at the same time asking that a decision on the appropriate entrance rite and related issues be delayed to a future date."

Liaison bishops will provide further insight into the conference's deliberations and recommendations during this presentation time. The Program and Services Committee will discuss further the proposed recommendation as well as the [Word and Service Task Force](#) and [Entrance Rite Discernment Working Group](#) reports and bring a recommendation for the Church Council to consider during the committee's report time in plenary session three.

I.H Hymn and Prayer

6:45 p.m. **Welcome Dinner**, Augsburg Room
Wine and beer available, \$5 suggested donation

Friday, April 10, 2015

6:30 a.m. **Breakfast**, Marriott Hotel (Buffet opens at 6:30 a.m.)

9:00 a.m. Committees meet
Budget and Finance, Epiphany
Legal and Constitutional Review, Advent
Program and Services, Pentecost
Planning and Evaluation, 10th Floor Training Room

11:30 a.m. Break

11:45 a.m. Mid-day Prayer Service, Chapel
Led by Pastor Ray Miller

12:00 p.m. **LUNCH**, Augsburg Room

12:00 p.m. Working Group on Churchwide Officer Elections, Epiphany (working lunch)

1:00 p.m. Committees continue to meet

4:00 p.m. Break

PLENARY SESSION TWO

Augsburg Room
April 10, 2015
4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

II.A Personal Reflections on Faith by Pr. Carla Johnsen

II.B Bible Study, led by Bishop David Zellmer, South Dakota Synod

II.C [Report from Secretary](#)

II.D Update on [Campaign for the ELCA](#)

The Rev. Ron Glusenkamp, ELCA Director for *Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA*, will provide an update on the Campaign for the ELCA. The comprehensive written report can be found in "Reports of Leaders/Other Ministries" in April 2015 Materials.

II.E Presentation on Ecumenical Journey and Declaration on the Way

This past February, Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton led a delegation of synodical bishops, Church Council members and ecumenical and inter-religious staff on an ecumenical journey to London, Geneva and Rome.

In London, the group met with the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Anglican Communion, and the staff of the Anglican Consultative Council. In Geneva, they met with General Secretary Martin Junge and staff of the Lutheran World Federation and World Council of Churches. In Rome, the delegation met with the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, the Congregation for Bishops, the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue, the Vatican Secretary of State, and Pope Francis.

The Rev. Elizabeth Ekdale and the Rev. William Flippin, participants in the delegation, as well as Bishop Eaton will give an overview of the pilgrimage. The Rev. Donald McCoid, ELCA Director for Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Relations, will also provide a brief overview of the proposed "Declaration on the Way" document that was discussed with ecumenical partners in Geneva and Rome. The presentation was coordinated by Ms. Kathryn Lohre, ELCA Executive for Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Relations. Executive Committee of the Church Council will bring a recommendation on the ecumenical document for Church Council consideration in plenary session five.

II.F Process Observation

II.G Hymn and Closing Prayer

Dinner, on your own

Church Council Class of 2015 dinner, hosted by Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton

Saturday, April 11, 2015

- 6:30 a.m. **Breakfast**, Marriott Hotel (Buffet opens at 6:30 a.m.)
- 7:00 a.m. Board Development Committee, Epiphany (working breakfast)
- 8:30 a.m. **GENDER JUSTICE TRAINING**, Augsburg Room
Led by Mary Streufert, Director, Justice for Women
- 11:30 a.m. Mid-day Prayer Service, Chapel,
Led by Ms. Christine Connell
- 12:00 p.m. **SEPARATELY INCORPORATED MINISTRIES (SIM) LUNCH**
Augsburg Fortress, Pentecost
Lutheran Men in Mission, Epiphany I
Mission Investment Fund, Advent
Portico Benefit Services, Epiphany II
Women of the ELCA, 10th Floor Training Room
- 1:15 p.m. Health and Wellness Break, outside Council Room

PLENARY SESSION THREE

Council Room
April 11, 2015
2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

III.A Report from Conference of Bishops

III.B Update from Portico Benefit Services

Continuing challenges in health care coverage compel benefit providers like Portico Benefit Services to constantly seek the best options for employers and members alike. Two years ago, when Portico's new health plans were rolled out, the ELCA Church Council encouraged use of the Gold+ plan. Experience over these years has shown that in some instances, the Silver+ plan may be a cheaper and more valuable option for some employers and members. Portico would like to hear your thoughts on this suggestion, as well as other ideas for reducing costs while maintaining excellent coverage.

III.C Report of Program and Services

The following report is provided by the Program and Services Committee. Additional items or revised actions may be distributed following the committee's meeting.

III.C.1 Social Message on Gender-Based Violence

Possible next steps were outlined in the 'Gender-based violence message documents and discussion' memo. In the Program and Services Committee meeting, members will be in conversation with liaison bishops and churchwide staff about the feedback and determine a recommendation for Church Council consideration.

During this report, there will be an opportunity for Church Council members to provide comments on the message.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To acknowledge the complexities of responding comprehensively to the social issue of gender-based violence and to thank the Theological Discernment Team for their diligent work on the issue; and

To extend the time for the development of the social message on gender-based violence until the November 2015 Church Council meeting.

III.C.2 Word and Service Task Force

Earlier in this meeting, liaison bishops spoke on the recommendation from the Conference of Bishops regarding a delay in the action on the entrance rite of the Word and Service roster and related issues. Program and Services and Legal and Constitutional Review will be meeting together for a full report from the Word and Service Task Force and the Entrance Rite Discernment Working Group. A recommended response to the Conference of Bishops will be considered.

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CC ACTION

Recommended:

To receive with gratitude the recommendation from the ELCA Conference of Bishops regarding the word and service roster;

To recommend continuing the work of developing a proposal to unify the three existing lay rosters into one Word and Service roster and to bring this proposal to the 2016 Churchwide Assembly;

To affirm the recommendation to delay a proposal on the appropriate entrance rite and related issues until the November 2018 meeting of the Church Council;

To ask the Entrance Rite Discernment Working Group to continue its work and to develop a process for use beginning at the 2016 Churchwide Assembly to engage conversation around the appropriate entrance rite for the unified word and service roster and to address the related issues;

To work together as a church to define issues of leadership and refine recommendations about rosters and entrance rites through a process of intentional, open conversation seeking God's guidance for the sake of the world; and

To continue to seek ways to facilitate broad-based discussion and discernment around leadership within this church.

3:30 p.m.

Break

3:30 p.m.

Deadline for Removal of Items from [En Bloc](#)

Deadline for New Business

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PLENARY SESSION FOUR

Council Room
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4:00 – 6:15 p.m.

IV.A Primer on Women of the ELCA

From time to time, the Church Council receives periodic updates from the Separately Incorporated Ministries of this church. At this meeting, Ms. Linda Post Bushkofsky, Executive Director of Women of the ELCA, will provide a report on the ministry's work.

IV.B Report from Treasurer

IV.C Report of the Budget and Finance Committee

The following report is provided by the Budget and Finance Committee. Additional items or revised actions may be distributed following the committee's meeting. En Bloc items will be acted upon later in the meeting.

IV.C.1 Revisions to 2015 Synod Mission Support Plans

The ELCA Church Council has a fiduciary responsibility for reviewing and taking action on synod mission support plans as an interdependent partner with congregations and synods in implementing and strengthening the financial support for the work of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA Constitution, 8.15 and 10.71). Since the November 2014 meeting, we have received revisions from synods for 2015 mission support plans.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To acknowledge **with appreciation the action** of the following synod(s) to maintain the percentage of sharing of 2015 mission support contributions by congregations for synodical and churchwide ministries but estimating an adjustment in the projected amount to be shared; and

To further affirm that we will steward these gifts to maximize their impact in mission for the sake of God's Work, Our Hands in the world: Northeastern Minnesota, Indiana-Kentucky, Upstate New York.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To acknowledge **with gratitude the action of the Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod** to increase the percentage of sharing of 2015 mission support by congregations for synodical and churchwide ministries; and

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

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IV.C.2 2016 Synod Mission Support Plans

Many synods are still in the process of preparing their 2016 mission support plans for presentation to their synod assemblies this spring and summer. However, the Office of the Treasurer has received a number of plans.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

As a grateful church that affirms the partnership of congregation, synod and churchwide expressions, we acknowledge with gratitude the actions of the following synod(s) and to affirm the percentage of sharing of 2016 mission support by congregations for synodical and churchwide ministries: Alaska, Arkansas-Oklahoma, Central/Southern Illinois, Central States, East-Central Wisconsin, Eastern Washington-Idaho, Florida-Bahamas, Grand Canyon, Greater Milwaukee, La Crosse Area, Montana, Northeastern Minnesota, Northeastern Iowa, Northeastern Pennsylvania, Northern Great Lakes, Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana, North/West Lower Michigan, Northwest Minnesota, Northwest Washington, Northwestern Ohio, Northwestern Pennsylvania, Oregon, South-Central Wisconsin, South Dakota, Southeast Michigan, Southeastern, Southeastern Iowa, Southeastern Minnesota, Southeastern Pennsylvania, Southern Ohio, Southwestern Minnesota, Southwestern Pennsylvania, Southwest Washington, Southwestern Texas, Upstate New York, Western Iowa, Western North Dakota;

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

We further affirm that we will steward these gifts to maximize their impact in mission for the sake of God's Work, Our Hands in the world; and

To request that all synods submit their 2016 mission support plans prior to their 2015 synod assemblies.

IV.C.3 Bishops Think Tank on Mission Funding

Liaison bishops provided a presentation in plenary session one about the final report of the Bishops Think Tank on Mission Funding. Budget and Finance Committee members will be meeting for further conversation and bringing a proposed recommendation for Church Council's consideration.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To thank Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton for initiating the Bishops' Think Tank on Mission Funding;

To receive with gratitude the Bishops' Think Tank on Mission Funding report and recommendations and thank the Think Tank for their work;

To affirm the intention of Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton to convene a team to generate recommendations to sharpen our priorities as a church and

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bring greater clarity about what this church will do and will not do in order to serve God's mission more faithfully and effectively in the years to come; and

To affirm the need for and encourage ongoing leadership, discussion and analysis among congregations, synods, institutions and agencies of the church, the churchwide organization and the Church Council on the urgency of the need to explore new methods of mission support for the benefit of the whole church.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To replace the present reporting form of synodical Mission Support with a format that expresses thanksgiving for all gifts when reporting to the Church Council;

To acknowledge that the current 55/45 percentage guideline for Mission Support is not sustainable and is no longer an appropriate guide for establishing Mission Support;

To approve the development, in consultation with the Conference of Bishops and the Office of the Presiding Bishop, of a contextually sensitive, substantive and collaborative process which will result in synod-specific percentage goals for each of the 65 synods by no later than the April 2018 meeting of the Church Council;

To request that the Budget and Finance Committee monitor the consultation process with a goal of recommending benchmarks and guidelines to be used in establishing the synod-specific goals no later than the April 2018 meeting of the Church Council;

To recommend the hiring of the equivalent of a full time Director for Mission Support to construct and oversee this process in collaboration with the Conference of Bishops, the Mission Advancement Unit, and the Office of the Presiding Bishop, and

To request the Office of the Presiding Bishop to provide more information about staffing needs and budget impact to support that position with the necessary funding and staffing to accomplish its goals to the November 2015 meeting of the Church Council.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To endorse the principle that appropriate multiple streams of income may be used to provide funding for the mission of any expression of this church;

To instruct the Mission Advancement Unit, in consultation with the Office of the Secretary, to draft a revised bylaw change to expand the definition of synodical mission support to reflect the use of multiple sources of income to fulfill the stated dollar amount of a synod's mission support commitment; and

To request the Office of the Secretary consider this bylaw amendment as it reviews possible amendments to the *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* for the 2016 Churchwide Assembly.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To instruct the Director for Mission Support, in collaboration with synodical bishops and relevant churchwide units, to take necessary steps to:

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- Assess current and prospective resources to assist congregations and synods to assist them in the development of multiple streams of income;
- Develop a plan to equip rostered leaders to advocate for a renewed commitment to mission support;
- Assess current and prospective resources for synod and congregational consultation process and materials; and

To request that the Director for Mission Support provide at least an annual progress report to the Budget and Finance Committee.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To affirm a three-year experiment, beginning in 2016 and involving five synods (New England Synod, Nebraska Synod, Metropolitan Washington D.C. Synod, Lower Susquehanna Synod, Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod) to form a “learning community” to explore whether retaining the new and renewing ELCA grants for ministries and the total compensation for the Director for Evangelical Mission will produce an increase in mission support and more effective management and oversight for the sake of mission;

To request the five synods in the experiment continue to remit the balance of their mission support percentage goal to the churchwide organization during the duration of the experiment;

To request the Director for Mission Support to consult with the five synods and to provide updates to the Church Council throughout the duration of the experiment;

To request the Office of the Treasurer to provide financial analysis related to the experiment to the November 2015 meeting of the Church Council; and

To request the five synods in the experiment to provide additional details regarding the structure of the synod experiments to the November 2015 meeting of the Church Council.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To affirm the pilot project being explored by the ELCA Mission Investment Fund to establish a Financial Services Organization.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To affirm and acknowledge the efforts of various synods in deepening and strengthening relationships among the expressions of this church;

To encourage every synodical bishop and synod council to seek regular opportunities to build relationships and engage in discussions with congregations about the financial implications of how we are church together; and

To invite the Conference of Bishops, the Budget and Finance Committee and the Church Council to continued consideration of mission support experiments, especially those that are intentionally geared to supporting synods that are the most financially vulnerable.

IV.C.4 2015 Income Estimates and Spending Authorizations

As part of its ongoing fiduciary responsibility, the Budget and Finance Committee of the Church Council reviews the income estimates and the spending authorizations that may have been revised for current fund and World Hunger.

Revised spending authorization of \$69.3 million for current fund operations and \$20.6 million for World Hunger are being proposed for the current fiscal year. As compared to the previously approved spending authorizations, this is a \$327,000 decrease in the current final budget and an increase of \$600,000 in the World Hunger budget.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To approve a revised 2015 fiscal year current fund spending authorization of \$69,323,020; and

To approve a revised 2015 fiscal year World Hunger spending authorization of \$20,600,000.

IV.D Honoring the Church Council Class of 2015

On behalf of a grateful church, we are blessed to have this opportunity to honor and thank the Church Council Class of 2015. They have served thoughtfully and diligently as this church's board of directors.

Members of the Class of 2015 are: Marit Bakken, Nick Barber, Karsten Decker, Louise Hemstead, Bill Horne, Carla Johnsen, Susan McArver, Fernando Mercado, Ray Miller, Kathryn Tiede, and Man Hei Yip.

IV.E Process Observations

IV.F Church Council Joys and Concerns

IV.G Hymn and Closing Prayer

6:15 p.m. **DINNER**, Augsburg Room
Program (and party) honoring Church Council Class of 2015

Sunday, April 12, 2015

6:30 a.m. **Breakfast**, Marriott Hotel (Buffet opens at 6:30 a.m.)

9:00 a.m. **WORSHIP SERVICE WITH HOLY COMMUNION**, 1st Floor Chapel
Offering: Campaign for the ELCA – Congregations priority
Presider: Pastor Jonathan Splichal Larson
Preacher: Rev Lisa Vander Wal, Reformed Church in America ecumenical liaison
Assisting Minister: Mr. Reid Christopherson
Lector: Ms. Amanda Briggs

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PLENARY SESSION FIVE

Council Room
April 12, 2015
10:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

V.A Personal Reflections on Faith by Pr. Kathryn Tiede

V.B Report from the Executive for Administration

V.C Report of the Planning and Evaluation Committee

The following report is provided by the Planning and Evaluation Committee. Additional items may be distributed following the committee's meeting.

V.C.1 2014 ELCA Churchwide Organization Operational Plan Report

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To receive the ELCA Churchwide Organization Operational Plan Report for 2014; and To thank the staff of the churchwide organization for their ongoing work.

V.D Update from the [Ecclesiology of a Global Church Task Force](#)

The final report of the task force is in the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee section. Pr. Jonathan Splichal Larson is invited to share an overview of this work. Pr. Splichal Larson served on the task force as a Church Council liaison.

V.E Report of the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee

The following report is provided by the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee. Additional items or revised actions may be distributed following the committee's meeting. *En Bloc* items will be acted upon later in the meeting.

V.E.1 Amendment to ELCA continuing resolution

CC ACTION (Two-thirds approval required)

Recommended:

To amend ELCA continuing resolution 17.30.A11 (which will be redesignated as 17.30.A15) by adding paragraph h.

h. offer financial management and consulting services to synods including, for example, banking and treasury management services, accounting services, payroll management services, audit coordination, financial reporting services, and budgeting services.

V.E.2 Trinity Lutheran Seminary Bylaws

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To approve the amended bylaws of Trinity Lutheran Seminary, Columbus, Ohio.

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V.E.3 Synod Pairings

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To approve the synod pairings for election of Church Council members at the 2016 Churchwide Assembly as proposed by the Office of the Secretary and to advise the identified synods of the need to nominate candidates for these positions.

V.F Report of the Executive Committee

V.F.1 Church Council Nomination and Election

In 2013, transition provisions were made for separately incorporated ministries (SIM). At the expiration of the terms of trustees whose terms expire in 2015, vacancies will be created. The separately incorporated ministries may request the Church Council to fill these vacancies for one year, until elections can be held at the 2016 Churchwide Assembly. Trustees whose terms expire in 2015 may be eligible for election by the Church Council to these one-year terms. (Such elections are already in the [En Bloc](#) Items document.) Alternatively, the Church Council, at the request of the SIM board, could elect someone else to serve for that year.

Portico Benefit Services has nominated two individuals for one open position to complete the Slate of Nominees to serve a one-year term on its Board of Trustees. The two nominees are Mr. John Robert Hoffman and Mr. Michael R. Weir, Jr.

Mission Investment Fund has also nominated individuals to fill vacancies on their Board of Trustees. Three positions are being filled: Male Clergy, Lay Female, Lay Male. Biographical information is provided in the [Biographies](#) document.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To elect [to be determined] to the Board of Pensions (Portico Benefit Services) Board of Trustees to a one-year term expiring in 2016.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To elect [to be determined] to the Mission Investment Fund Board of Trustees to a one-year term expiring in 2016.

V.F.2 Election of Executive Committee

The following recommendation is being proposed to provide more continuity over time and in order for the functions of the Executive Committee to be carried out between the churchwide assemblies.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To declare that the newly elected chairs of the Budget and Finance Committee, the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee, the Planning and Evaluation Committee,

and the Program and Services Committee shall be members of the Executive Committee of the Church Council for a two-year term beginning on September 1, 2015.

V.F.3 Declaration on the Way

In plenary session two, the Rev. Donald McCoid provided an overview on the work of an ecumenical document titled, "Declaration on the Way". He has been part of a team determined by the Bishops Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and the Presiding Bishop of the ELCA. Progress reports have been shared with the Conference of Bishops of the ELCA. Executive Committee also heard a report at its meeting on April 9, 2015. The Conference of Bishops voted to encourage continued work on the ecumenical document at its March 2015 meeting.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To affirm the continued work on the ecumenical document, "Declaration (In Via) On The Way."

V.F.4 Executive Session

We will be in Executive Session to consider personnel matters.

V. G Executive Session – Legal briefing, Mr. Phil Harris

V.H Hymn and Prayer

12:00 p.m. **LUNCH**, Augsburg Room

Executive Committee meets with Officers

Bishop Eaton, 11A Conference Room

Secretary Boerger, Office of the Secretary Conference Room

Treasurer Norman, Luther Room

PLENARY SESSION SIX

Council Room

April 12, 2015

1:15 – 3:00 p.m.

VI.A Ecumenical Greetings

This is an opportunity to welcome guests from this church's full communion partners.

VI.B Primer on Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions

Secretary Chris Boerger will present a primer on the *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*.

VI.C Report of the Board Development Committee

The following report is provided by the Board Development Committee. Additional items or revised actions may be distributed following the committee's meeting.

VI.C.1 Feedback from the Church Council Class of 2015

At the end of a term, the Church Council invites the retiring members to reflect on their experience as members of the ELCA Church Council. A [report](#) on their responses to a series of questions is located in the Board Development Committee section.

VI.D Consideration of Items Removed from [En Bloc](#)

VI.E *En Bloc* Approval of Certain Items

The following en bloc resolution includes agenda items that will be considered on the last day of the Church Council meeting. Inclusion of these items in the en bloc action reflects a judgment that these items are relatively non-controversial in nature and may not require plenary discussion and a separate vote.

Each of the items is noted as [*En Bloc*] in En Bloc Items, [Responses to Synodical Resolutions](#), and [Responses to Churchwide Assembly Actions](#). On the first day of the Council meeting, the chair will provide an opportunity for members to indicate whether they wish to discuss separately any of the items listed in the en bloc resolution; any such item will be removed from the en bloc resolution and discussed at the appropriate point in the agenda.

The chair will not call for a discussion or separate vote on those items that are not removed from the en bloc resolution by the end of plenary session three. The items remaining in the en bloc resolution normally will be considered as the last item of council business.

CC ACTION (Two-thirds approval required)

Recommended:

To approve the *En Bloc* continuing resolution amendments to the *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* as listed in En Bloc Items.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To take action *En Bloc* on the remaining items listed in En Bloc Items, Responses to Synodical Resolutions, and Responses to Churchwide Assembly Actions.

VI.F New Business

VI.G Church Council Joys and Concerns

VI.H Evaluation and Debriefing

VI.I Process Observation

VI.J Hymn and Prayer

VI.K Adjournment