

**EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
CHURCH COUNCIL
August 7, 2016
New Orleans, Louisiana
Sheraton Hotel**

Participants

Voting Members

Mr. Paul G. Archer	Pr. Peder J. Johanson
Mr. Hans E. Becklin	Ms. Kayla S. Koterwski
Mr. Allan J. Bieber	Mr. John W. Lohrmann
Pr. Wm Chris Boerger, Secretary	Pr. Loren Mellum
Ms. Amanda E. Briggs	Pr. Linda O. Norman, Treasurer
Mr. Reid A. Christopherson	Pr. Linda Nou
Ms. Christine P. Connell	Mr. John M. Pederson
Bp. Elizabeth A. Eaton, Presiding Bishop	Mr. Carlos E. Peña, Vice President
Pr. Elizabeth 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
Bp. William Gafkjen	Ms. Ingrid Sponberg Stafford
Pr. Vicki T. Garber	Ms. Leslie J. Swenson
Pr. Joyce M. Graue	Mr. Oliver W. Thul (<i>excused</i>)
Ms. Cynthia M. Gustavson	Pr. James H. Utt
Pr. Stephen R. Herr	Mr. Vernon K. Veal
Ms. Maren Hulden	Pr. William O. Voss
Mr. James M. Hushagen	Pr. Michael R. Ward (<i>excused</i>)

Liaison Bishops

Bp. Claire Burkat	Bp. Stephen Talmage
Bp. Suzanne Dillahunt	Bp. Kirby Unti
Bp. Mary Froiland	Bp. Herman Yoos
Bp. Richard Graham	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
Ms. Kathryn Lohre, Assistant to the Bishop for Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Relations
Pr. Walter May, Assistant to the Bishop for the Synodical Relations
Ms. Kathryn Johnson, Director, Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Relations
Ms. Jodi Slattery, Assistant to the Bishop for Governance
Pr. Kevin Strickland, Assistant to the Bishop for Worship

Office of the Secretary

Mr. Thomas Cunniff, Associate General Counsel
Mr. Phillip H. Harris, General Counsel (*excused*)
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 (DM)
Ms. Christina Jackson-Skelton, Executive Director, Mission Advancement (MA)
Pr. Rafael Malpica-Padilla, Executive Director, Global Mission (GM)
Ms. Evelyn Soto, Director for CSM Operations and Programs, DM
Pr. David Wunsch, Director for Unit Operations and Programs, GM
Pr. Ronald Glusenkamp, Director for *The Campaign for the ELCA*, MA
Ms. Victoria Flood, Director for Mission Support, MA
Ms. Jocelyn Fuller, Director for Strategic Communications, MA

Separately Incorporated Ministries

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

Press

Ms. Candice Hill Buchbinder, Mission Advancement

Sunday, August 7, 2016

- 9:30 a.m. Registration opens (Outside Grand Ballroom – 5th Floor, Sheraton Hotel)
- 10:00 a.m. Executive Committee meeting (Waterbury Ballroom – 2nd Floor, Sheraton Hotel)
- 12:00 p.m. Executive Committee lunch (Waterbury Ballroom)
- 1:00 p.m. Worship with Church Council, Conference of Bishops, Synod Vice Presidents (Rhythms Ballroom – 2nd Floor, Sheraton Hotel)
- Presider:* The Rev. Elizabeth Ekdale, Church Council
Preacher: Bishop Bill Gafkjen, Conference of Bishops
Assisting Minister: Mr. Thomas Madden, Synod Vice President
Lectors: Mr. Tom Cunniff, Churchwide Staff
Ms. Doris Underwood, Synod Vice President
- 2:00 p.m. Church Council photo (location TBD, Sheraton Hotel)

PLENARY SESSION ONE

Joint Session with the Conference of Bishops and Synod Vice Presidents
Grand Ballroom C (5th Floor)
Sheraton Hotel
2:30 – 3:30 p.m.

I.A Call to Order and Adoption of the Agenda

Agenda items have been distributed electronically.

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 Reports of the Officers

I.B.1 Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton

I.B.2 Treasurer Linda Norman

I.B.3 Secretary Chris Boerger

I.C Churchwide Assembly Overview

The Conference of Bishops and synodical vice presidents will join the Church Council for an overview of Churchwide Assembly business and procedures presented by Bishop Eaton and Secretary Boerger. This time will focus particularly on the Called Forward Together in Christ process that has produced a [consultation paper](#). The paper shares the key messages harvested through conversations across the ELCA. Lyla Rogan, consultant to the process, will be present as a resource person.

In addition, [a letter](#) was shared with the three leadership groups – Church Council, Conference of Bishops and Synod Vice Presidents – to express a shared commitment among the groups to lift up the Called Forward Together in Christ process. Bishop Eaton hopes to share the letter with the Churchwide Assembly voting members.

DISCUSSION

3:30 p.m. Break

PLENARY SESSION TWO

Grand Ballroom B (5th Floor)

Sheraton Hotel

3:45 – 5:00 p.m.

II.A Items for Action

II.A.1 Churchwide Assembly Citation in Honor of Carlos Peña

Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton has requested that the Church Council consider and approve a citation to honor ELCA Vice President Carlos Peña at the Churchwide Assembly.

CC ACTION

Recommended: *To approve the following citation:*

[To be provided]

II.A.2 Synod Mission Support Plans

The ELCA Church Council has 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 Budget and Finance Committee is not meeting prior to this Church Council meeting where the recommendations to the Church Council usually are made, the Office of the Presiding Bishop and the Office of the Treasurer are recommending the following actions:

II.A.2.i Revisions to 2016 Synod Mission Support Plans

Since the April 2016 Church Council meeting, four revisions to 2016 Mission Support plans have been received. One synod has requested to decrease their percentage sharing and decrease the projected amount to be shared. One synod has requested to hold their percentage sharing and increase the projected dollar amount to be shared. One synod has requested to decrease their percentage sharing and hold the projected dollar amount to be shared. One synod has requested to increase their percentage sharing and hold the projected dollar amount to be shared.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To acknowledge with appreciation the action of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin to maintain the percentage of sharing of 2016 Mission Support contributions by congregations for 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.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To acknowledge with gratitude the action of the Southwestern Minnesota Synod to increase the percentage of sharing of 2016 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.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

As a grateful church that affirms the partnership of congregation, synod and churchwide expressions, we affirm the percentage of sharing of 2016 Mission Support by congregations for synodical and churchwide ministries:

Metropolitan Chicago Synod, Rocky Mountain Synod

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

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

II.A.2.ii Revisions to 2017 Synod Mission Support Plans

Since the April 2016 Church Council meeting, two 2017 Mission Support plans have been received. Additionally, two 2017 Mission Support plan revisions were received. One synod has requested to decrease their percentage sharing and increase the projected dollar amount to be shared. One synod has requested to hold their percentage sharing and increase the projected dollar amount to be shared.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

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

Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod, Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod

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

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

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To acknowledge with appreciation the action of the Southwestern Minnesota Synod to maintain the percentage of sharing of 2017 Mission Support contributions by congregations for 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.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

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

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

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

II.A.3 *En Bloc* Approval of Certain Items

The following en bloc resolution includes agenda items that reflect 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 the [Church Council En Bloc Items](#) document.

Prior to the beginning of plenary session two, council members may request to remove items from en bloc consideration in order 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.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

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

II.A.4 Consideration of Resolutions Removed from *En Bloc*

II.B Items for Information and Discussion

II.B.1 Called Forward Together in Christ

Additional time is provided during this plenary session to address any remaining questions or concerns regarding the Called Forward Together in Christ process. Lyla Rogan will be present as a resource person.

CC DISCUSSION

II.B.2 Feedback from the Class of 2016

At its final meeting of the triennium, the Church Council invites the retiring members to reflect on their experience as members of the Church Council. The Church Council Class of

2016 is: Kayla Koterwski and Oliver Thul. The class will be honored during the final plenary session of the 2016 ELCA Churchwide Assembly.

CC DISCUSSION

II.B.3 Information about the November 2016 Church Council Meeting

The November 2016 meeting of the Church Council will be held November 10-13, 2016 at the Lutheran Center in Chicago, Illinois. Orientation for newly elected members of the Church Council will be Friday, September 23, 2016 at the Lutheran Center. Mentors have been identified for the incoming class of 2022.

CC INFORMATION

II.C Adjournment

- 4:45 p.m. Reception with cash bar, Armstrong Ballroom (8th Floor), Sheraton Hotel
- 5:30 p.m. Banquet honoring Vice President Carlos Peña, Armstrong Ballroom
- 7:30 p.m. Bus departs for Christ Church Cathedral
- 8:00 p.m. [National Lutheran Choir Hymn Festival](#), Christ Church Cathedral
- 9:30 p.m. Bus returns to Sheraton Hotel

Monday, August 8, 2016

- 9:30 a.m. Orientation for Church Council on Churchwide Assembly, Ernst N. Morial Convention Center, Hall C
- 11:00 a.m. ELCA Guidebook Training, Convention Center Hall B
- Lunch on your own.

The Churchwide Assembly Agenda is located on [ELCA Guidebook](#) under Schedule and Events.