

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
CHURCH COUNCIL
November 10-13, 2016
Chicago, Illinois

AGENDA

Participants

Voting Members

Mr. Paul G. Archer	Pr. Peder J. Johanson
Mr. Hans E. Becklin	Ms. Emilee Le Blanc
Mr. Allan J. Bieber	Pr. Karin Liebster
Pr. Wm Chris Boerger, Secretary	Mr. John W. Lohrmann
Ms. Amanda E. Briggs	Pr. Loren Mellum
Ms. Cheryl Chatman	Ms. Andrea Micovsky
Mr. Reid A. Christopherson (<i>excused</i>)	Mr. Joseph Nolte
Ms. Christine P. Connell	Pr. Linda O. Norman, Treasurer
Bp. Elizabeth A. Eaton, Presiding Bishop	Pr. Linda Nou
Pr. Elizabeth Ekdale	Mr. Gary Pederson
Ms. Marjorie B. Ellis	Mr. John M. Pederson
Pr. William E. Flippin Jr.	Ms. Meri Jo Petrivelli
Pr. Dena Gable	Ms. Pamela E. Pritt
Mr. Gary D. Gabrielson	Mr. Clarence M. Smith
Bp. William Gafkjen	Mr. Ervin Sparapani (<i>excused</i>)
Pr. Vicki T. Garber	Pr. Jonathan Splichal Larson
Pr. Joyce M. Graue	Ms. Ingrid Sponberg Stafford
Ms. Cynthia M. Gustavson	Ms. Leslie J. Swenson
Pr. Stephen R. Herr	Pr. Lorie B. Tatum
Mr. William Horne, Vice President	Pr. James H. Utt
Pr. Chad Huebner	Mr. Vernon K. Veal
Ms. Maren Hulden (<i>excused</i>)	Pr. William O. Voss
Mr. James M. Hushagen	Ms. Emma Wagner (<i>excused</i>)
Mr. James J.F. Jennings	Pr. Michael R. Ward
Ms. Carolyn Jewett	Mr. Seth Zimmann

Liaison Bishops

Bp. Suzanne Dillahunt (<i>excused</i>)	Bp. Stephen Talmage
Bp. Mary Froiland	Bp. Kirby Unti
Bp. Richard Graham	Bp. Herman Yoos
Bp. Brian Maas	Bp. Larry Wohlrabe (<i>on behalf of Bp. Zellmer</i>)
Bp. John Macholz	

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
Mr. Frank F. Imhoff, Manager, Official Documentation
Ms. Sue Rothmeyer, Assistant to the Secretary

Unit Staff

Pr. Stephen P. Bouman, Executive Director, Domestic 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 DM 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
Pr. Albert Starr, Director for Ethnic Specific and Multicultural Ministries, DM

Separately Incorporated Ministries

Ms. Linda Post Bushkofsky, Executive Director, Women of the ELCA (*excused*)
Ms. Beth A. Lewis, President, 1517 Media, Publishers
Ms. Eva M. Roby, President and CEO, Mission Investment Fund (*excused*)
Pr. Jeffrey D. Thiemann, President and CEO, Portico Benefit Services

Press

Ms. Candice Hill Buchbinder, Mission Advancement

Ecumenical Guests

Pr. Scott Anderson, Presbyterian Church (USA)
Pr. Betsy Miller, Moravian Church in North America
Dr. Steven Nishibayashi, The Episcopal Church
Pr. Amy Valdez-Barker, United Methodist Church
Steve Pierce, The Reformed Church in America (*excused*)

Ethnic Association Guests

Mr. Fuad Bassim Nijim, Association of Lutherans of Arab and Middle Eastern Heritage, president
Pr. Joan Conroy, American Indian Alaskan Native Lutheran Association, president
Pr. Maria Gracia Sijera-Grant, Asian and Pacific Islander Association, president
Pr. Martín López Vega, Asociación Luterana de Ministerios Latinos, president
Pr. Russell Meyer, European Descent Lutheran Association for Racial Justice, president
Ms. Tracey Beasley, African Descent Lutheran Association, representative

Wednesday, November 9, 2016

3:00 p.m. Audit Committee, 6th Floor Conference Room

Thursday, November 10, 2016

10:00 a.m. Executive Committee, Full Epiphany

12:00 p.m. Lunch for Executive Committee, outside Full Epiphany

1:30 p.m. **WORSHIP SERVICE WITH HOLY COMMUNION**, 1st Floor Chapel
Presider: Pr. William Flippin
Preacher: Pr. Elizabeth Ekdale
Assisting Minister: Ms. Christine Connell
Lector: Dr. Steven Nishibayashi, The Episcopal Church ecumenical liaison

2:15 p.m. Church Council Choir Rehearsal following worship, 1st Floor Chapel

2:30 p.m. Reception for Church Council with Churchwide Staff, **6th Floor Lunch Room**
Opportunity to visit ELCA Federal Credit Union, 6th Floor (*preferably
visiting credit union in groups of 10-15 people*)

PLENARY SESSION ONE

Council Room
November 10, 2016
3:30 – 6:30 p.m.

I.A Call to Order and Adoption of the Agenda

Agenda items have been distributed electronically. 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 [April 7-10, 2016](#) and [August 7, 2016](#) meeting of the Church Council have been provided to council members electronically on My.ELCA.org. Minutes for meetings held in executive session were added to the protocol file in the Office of the Secretary.

The minutes of the council's Executive Committee meetings on [April 7, 2016](#); [May 17, 2016](#); [June 7, 2016](#); [August 7, 2016](#); [September 21, 2016](#); and [October 6, 2016](#), have been provided electronically on My.ELCA 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 April 7-10, 2016 and August 7, 2016 meetings of the Church Council; and

To ratify actions of the council's Executive Committee as indicated in the minutes of the April 7, 2016, May 17, 2016, June 7, 2016, August 7, 2016, September 21, 2016, and October 6, 2016 meetings.

I.C Report from the Presiding Bishop

I.D Ecumenical Greeting, the Rev. Betsy Miller, Moravian Church in North America

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 the Rev. Betsy Miller, President of the Provincial Elders' Conference of the Moravian Church Northern Province. We will have subsequent times throughout the agenda to hear from all the ecumenical guests present with us.

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

I.F Report of the Executive Committee

I.F.1 Church Council Nominations and Elections

The 2016 Churchwide Assembly elected Ms. Halle E. Bledsoe, Cincinnati, Ohio (6F), to a three-year term on the Church Council. Since then, she has resigned from the Church Council. In accordance with ELCA bylaw 13.41.05. and constitutional provisions 14.15. and 19.03., Secretary Chris Boerger declared a vacancy on the council. Ms. Bledsoe was elected on a ticket with the restriction that the position be filled by a youth from Region 6. Ms. Emilee M. Le Blanc, Dearborn, Mich. (6A), was the other nominee presented by the Nominating Committee.

The Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod (4F) has nominated Pr. Karin I. Liebster, Houston, Texas, to replace the resignation of Pr. Robert G. Moore (4F), to a term ending in 2017. Biographical information for both nominees is provided [here](#).

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To elect Ms. Emilee Le Blanc, Dearborn, Mich. [6A], to the Church Council for a term ending in 2019; and

To elect the Rev. Karin I. Liebster, Houston, Texas [4F], to the Church Council for a term ending August 31, 2017.

I.F.2 Ratification of Appointments to Church Council Committees

In preparation for the August 2016 meeting of the ELCA Church Council, continuing members of the Church Council were invited to indicate their preferences for service on one of the four standing committees of the Church Council: Budget and Finance; Legal and Constitutional Review; Planning and Evaluation; and Program and Services. Members also indicated interest in other areas of service, including the Board Development Committee. At its August 2016 meeting, the Church Council ratified the provisional membership for the four standing committees.

Following their elections by the Churchwide Assembly, newly elected members were invited to indicate their committee preferences. The Executive Committee reviewed the requests at its September 21, 2016 meeting and made recommendations for ratification by the Church Council during the October 6, 2016 meeting. The [recommendations](#) are provided in the “Other Documents” folder. New members of the Board Development Committee were appointed at the November 10, 2016 meeting.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To ratify the appointments to the Church Council committees and other advisory responsibilities for the 2016–2019 triennium as detailed in “2016-2019 Church Council Committee List.”

I.F.3 Process for Election of the Executive Committee

ELCA Bylaw 14.41.01 reads as follows: “The Church Council shall have an Executive Committee composed of the churchwide officers, the chair of the Conference of Bishops, and seven members of the Church Council elected by the council.”

To facilitate its work between regular meetings by ensuring input and perspective from each of its four standing committees, the chairs of those committees are elected to the Executive Committee. This occurred at the April 2015 Church Council meeting. [CC15.04.21] “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.”

The process for the election of Executive Committee members shall use the following pattern:

- a. The remaining three members of the Executive Committee will be selected through the following process.
- b. The first ballot shall be a nominating ballot for each of the following identified categories:
 - 1). Lay Female (two positions). Vote for no more than two eligible nominees.
 - 2). Lay Male (one position). Vote for only one eligible nominee.
- c. Anyone wishing to withdraw may do so immediately after the announcement of the first ballot results and before the casting of the second ballot.
- d. The second ballot for lay females shall be limited to the three people (plus ties) receiving the greatest number of nominations. The two candidates receiving the highest number of votes cast for the lay females shall be elected.
- e. The second ballot for lay male shall be limited to the two people (plus ties) receiving the greatest number of nominations. The one candidate receiving the highest number of votes cast for the lay males shall be elected.
- f. Upon completion of the balloting, the Executive Committee (four officers, chair of Conference of Bishops and seven at-large members) shall be deemed constituted.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To affirm the process for the election of the Executive Committee for the 2016-2019 triennium.

I.F.4 Synod Visits by Church Council Members

Since its November 2005 meeting, the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America has committed itself to building relationships between the churchwide organization and synods, congregations, and institutions and agencies.

At its November 2007 meeting, the Church Council voted [CC07.11.65]:

To recall that, concerning changes in governance of this church, the 2005 Churchwide Assembly voted [CA05.06.21]: “To encourage greater interaction of members of the Church Council with synodical councils and synodical assemblies in their respective areas”;

To urge members of the Church Council to accept this responsibility and interact with their own synods and their partner synods in various ways, including attending at least one Synod Council meeting per year and participating in Synod Assemblies, especially in years when a synod is considering nominations to the Church Council; and

To note that expenses for attending Synod Council meetings and Synod Assemblies will be reimbursed by the churchwide organization in accordance with the ELCA travel policy.

Members of the Church Council now make the commitment, as available, to be in contact with specific synods during the triennium. [Current suggested commitments](#) are listed in “Other Documents” folder of the Church Council materials for the November 2016 meeting. A summary of reports of these contacts is available [here](#).

Members of the Church Council will be invited to review the commitments during the November 2016 meeting. After the review is complete, the document will be revised and electronically distributed.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To acknowledge the commitment of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to have “greater interaction of members of the Church Council with synodical councils and synodical assemblies in their respective areas”;

To urge members of the Church Council to accept this responsibility and interact with their own synods and their partner synods in various ways, including attending at least one Synod Council meeting per year and participating in Synod Assemblies, especially in years when a synod is considering nominations to the Church Council; and

To note that expenses for attending Synod Council meetings and Synod Assemblies will be reimbursed by the churchwide organization in accordance with the ELCA travel policy.

I.G Introduction to Called Forward Together in Christ: Future Directions Conversation

At its April 2015 meeting, the Church Council affirmed [CC15.04.10] “the intention of Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton to convene a team to generate recommendations to sharpen the priorities of this church and bring greater clarity about what this church will do and will not do in order to serve God’s mission more faithfully and effectively in the years to come.”

Presiding Bishop Eaton asked Lyla Rogan, who was a consultant with churchwide organization on its operational plan and on a similar process with the Lutheran World Federation Council, to work with her to fashion that priority-setting process. Based on that consultation, Bishop Eaton proposed a process to deliver the following objectives:

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

The proposed process was shared with the Conference of Bishops and presented for action to the Church Council at its November 2015 meeting. It had a range of mechanisms to achieve engagement and generate conversations, and a “Future Directions Table” was recommended to have a role in generating and drawing together thinking as the process moved forward. The processes dovetail with the observance of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation and provide opportunity for all church leaders to communicate a shared vision for the future of this church. The Church Council acted [CC15.11.47] to affirm the process, authorized the Executive Committee to appoint members to the Future Directions Table and requested period progress reports. The

Executive Committee appointed members to the Future Directions Table at its December 7, 2015 and January 15, 2016 meetings.

The Future Directions Table met and offered advice to the process, shaped the questions asked across the church, helped synthesize the feedback received and is now assisting in framing the final statement. The process is titled “Called Forward Together in Christ” and involves three stages in 2016.

The first stage was engaging conversations across this church about the future (January – June).

The second stage took the feedback from the conversations and shaped it into the content of the paper found in the [*Called Forward Together in Christ for the sake of the world: A Consultation Paper on Future Directions of the ELCA*](#) (July – September). The consultation paper shared the key messages harvested through conversations across the ELCA. The paper was distributed widely to get [feedback](#) on what emerged. There also was opportunity for input at the 2016 Churchwide Assembly and Grace Gathering.

The third stage moves to decision making (October – November). The Future Directions Table, Conference of Bishops, Church Council members and leaders in the churchwide organization will contribute to shaping a Future Directions Statement. The goal is to achieve joint ownership of the statement by the ELCA’s leadership tables and invite others to join in leading the church forward based on a shared view about what is important. More information can be found at [ELCA.org/future](#).

At this November 2016 meeting, Church Council will receive the [Future Directions Statement](#), engage in conversation on the Directions Statement and can endorse it. If endorsed, serious consideration will be given to the implications of the priorities and to having implementation plans that clarify what needs to happen, who is responsible, what we will do less of and how we will measure progress.

The proposed priorities for the ELCA fall into three categories:

1. The church we are becoming;
2. Our most important ministries; and
3. A relational, connected and sustainable church

This church needs to make some strategic choices so we can concentrate our efforts and steward our human and financial resources in the right direction. This is what setting directions and priorities for this church is about. We want to create a vision for the future ELCA – as a church with solid foundations sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ and making a difference in the world locally and globally. And as a church that we can be proud to pass on to our children. Church Council will engage in this generative and strategic conversation at various times throughout this meeting.

The Church Council retreat next Spring 2017 is intended to focus on the implementation of the Directions Statement. Implementation of the directions and priorities is likely to happen over years to come. And the ELCA’s leadership tables, including the Conference of Bishops and Church Council, will need to continue to revisit and refocus the directions as this church journeys forward – in the face of new opportunities and challenges.

I.H Hymn and Prayer

6:30 p.m. Welcome Dinner, Augsburg Room
Wine and beer available (\$5 suggested donation)

Friday, November 11, 2016

- 6:00 a.m. Breakfast, Marriott Hotel (Buffet opens at 6 am)
- 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
- 12:00 p.m. Mid-Day Prayer
Led by Pr. Maria Gracia Sijera-Grant, Asian and Pacific Islander Association, president
- 12:15 p.m. Lunch, Augsburg Room
Stewardship conversations with new members ([*as assigned*](#))
- 1:30 p.m. Committees continue to meet
Budget and Finance, Epiphany
Legal and Constitutional Review, Advent
Program and Services, Pentecost
Planning and Evaluation, 10th Floor Training Room
- 3:15 p.m. Break

PLENARY SESSION TWO

Council Room
November 11, 2016
3:45 – 6:30 p.m.

II.A Executive Session: Legal Briefing

Mr. Philip Harris, General Counsel, will provide a briefing to Church Council on legal matters. This is an executive session for Church Council, Administrative Team and Minutes Team. Other guests will be invited back to the meeting after this executive session.

II.B Personal Reflection of Faith by Pr. Will Voss

II.C [Report from the Secretary](#)

II.D Report of the Theological Education Advisory Committee

At its April 2013 meeting, the Church Council created [CC13.04.11] the Theological Education Advisory Council (TEAC) and authorized it “to consult as appropriate with other leaders both within and beyond the ELCA in order to consider how our interdependent network of theological education providers can best serve the church as it seeks to address in a holistic manner issues in leadership development, theological education, candidacy and call, and the rosters of this church.”

After numerous consultations with Conference of Bishops, seminary presidents and board chairs, Baker Tilly consultants, and other key leaders, the advisory council presented its [report and recommendations](#) to the Church Council at its November 2015 meeting. The council acted [CC15.11.46] to make the report available to synods, congregations, agencies, institutions and ecumenical partners and created a comment period inviting feedback and engagement in conversation on the future theological education enterprise in the life of this church. It also appointed a working group to receive the feedback and craft implementing strategies that would operationalize the recommendations.

At the Church Council’s April 2016 meeting, the working group presented its [implementing strategies](#) to operationalize the overarching recommendations presented by the advisory council.

Based on those recommendations and implementing strategies, the Church Council established [CC16.04.05] a new advisory committee to the Church Council “whose charge it is to sustain a robust network of theological education for the ELCA and to prioritize and oversee the implementation of the TEAC recommendations.”

In addition, the Church Council approved [CC16.04.06] the remaining recommendations and referred them to the Advisory Committee and the Office of the Presiding Bishop for analysis and implementation.

The Executive Committee appointed members to the Advisory Committee at its May 17, 2016, June 7, 2016, and August 7, 2016 meetings. The Advisory Committee has met twice and is bringing a [report](#) on its ongoing work to this Church Council meeting.

Whereas, the primary charge of the Theological Education Advisory Committee (“Advisory Committee”) is to prioritize and oversee the implementation of Church Council recommendations around sustaining a robust network of theological education, and ensuring collaboration in developing leaders positioned to carry out the mission of the ELCA;

Therefore, be it resolved:

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To authorize the Theological Education Advisory Committee to require those proposing theological education initiatives to complete a designated assessment tool that defines the initiative and its impact. The assessment results will be used to prioritize financial and other resources.

Whereas TEAC Recommendation 3D requests the Advisory Committee “to bring to the fall 2016 meeting of the Church Council...proposed revision of the ELCA churchwide funding formula for seminaries which would be effective at the beginning of the 2017-2018 academic year designating a portion (10-15 percent) of the total grant to be directed to promote and facilitate measures undertaken by the seminaries to move toward a common theological enterprise that enables operational efficiencies and innovation that free up resources needed for expanded work and new experiments;

Whereas ELCA seminaries are assessing and adjusting their fiscal situations and seeking to collaborate on joint initiatives that would create a more sustainable overall system; and

Therefore, be it resolved:

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To encourage synods and direct the churchwide organization to maintain financial support for seminaries for 2017 without a percentage reduction for special incentives.

II.E Panel Conversation with Ethnic-Specific Association Ministry Presidents and Representatives

At this meeting, we will be welcoming guests from this church’s Ethnic Specific Ministry Associations. This is an opportunity for the Church Council to engage in conversation with the presidents and representatives regarding their ministries.

II.F Update from Global Mission

The update from Global Mission is provided by Pr. Rafael Malpica Padilla, executive director for Global Mission. The Global Mission unit is constitutionally responsible for providing “integrated support of this church’s work in other countries and be the means through which churches in other countries engage in mission to this church and society. The Global Mission unit shall build capacity and provide support for mission in the following areas:

- a. *Global Community*: maintaining church-to-church relationships and mutual endeavors for evangelical witness, leadership development, sharing of mission personnel, and collaborative work;

- b. *Mission Formation and Relationships*: mutual learning and growth with companion churches and ELCA synods and congregations in the accompaniment model for mission, companion synod relationships, young adults in global mission, relationships with independent Lutheran organizations related to global mission, and mission efforts for full communion partners;
- c. *Diakonia*: meeting human need and working collaboratively with partners toward the flourishing of human community through engagement in international development and disaster response.” (ELCA Constitution 16.12.B13.)

II.G Update from Domestic Mission

The update from Domestic Mission is provided by Pr. Stephen Bouman, executive director for Domestic Mission. The Domestic Mission unit is constitutionally responsible for fostering and facilitating “the work of synods, congregations, and partners in making congregations vital centers for mission and in creating coalitions and networks to promote justice and peace. Its work includes creating and revitalizing congregations; leadership development; enhancing discipleship; supporting multicultural ministries and the commitment of this church to inclusivity, fostering relationships with educational partners; facilitating the engagement of this church in advocacy; and related activities that serve the evangelical mission of synods and congregations.” (ELCA Constitution 16.12.A16.)

II.H Process Observation

II.I Announcements

II.J Hymn and Prayer

6:00 p.m. Dinner, Augsburg Room
Wine and beer available

Saturday, November 12, 2016

6:00 a.m. Breakfast, Marriott Hotel (Buffet opens at 6 a.m.)

7:00 a.m. Board Development Committee, Advent (*working breakfast*)

PLENARY SESSION THREE

Council Room
November 12, 2016
9:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

III.A Ecumenical Greeting

III.B [Report from the Treasurer](#)

III.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. Background information can be found in the Budget and Finance Committee section of My.ELCA.org.

III.C.1 2017 Income Estimates and Spending Authorizations

As part of its ongoing fiduciary responsibility, the Budget and Finance Committee reviews the income estimates and the spending authorizations to be approved for current fund and World Hunger. At the 2016 Churchwide Assembly, the 2017 income estimates and spending authorizations were approved as part of the triennium budget. The Office of the Treasurer and Office of the Presiding Bishop reviewed current financial results and will present a recommendation for revisions to [income estimates](#) and [spending authorizations](#).

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To approve a revised 2017 fiscal year current fund spending authorization of \$67,210,025.

III.C.2 ELCA Post-Retirement Medical Plan & ELCA Supplemental Retirement Plan

Historically the ELCA Supplemental Retirement Plan has been over funded and the Post-Retirement Medical Plan underfunded. The churchwide organization is looking at strategies to address both plans and ensure a sustainable funding model moving forward.

At this meeting the Church Council will review recommendations for closing the ELCA Supplemental Retirement Trust, making provisions for lump sum payments to existing beneficiaries, establishing a sustainable funding source for the ELCA Federal Chaplain benefit, and investing the remaining funds into the underfunded Post-Retirement Medical Plan. The Budget and Finance Committee will consider establishing an ad hoc working group on post-retirement medical benefits tasked with developing a long-term sustainable funding strategy for this plan. This working group will be comprised of representatives from the Church Council, the Churchwide Organization, and Portico Benefit Services.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To terminate the ELCA Supplemental Retirement Benefits Trust (“Trust”) and the ELCA Continuation of the ALC and LCA Minimum and Non-Contributory Pension Plan (“Pension Plan”), including satisfaction of the Pension Plan’s liabilities, and to establish a general account to reserve potential liabilities associated with the ELCA Supplemental Retirement Plan for Government Chaplains (“Chaplains Plan”); and

To transfer the excess amounts (“Residual”) remaining after full satisfaction of the Pension Plan’s liabilities and reservation of potential liabilities associated with the Chaplains Plan to help satisfy the 2016 ELCA Retiree Medical Obligation.

[Remainder of page intentionally left blank]

III.C.3 Revisions to 2016 and 2017 Synod Mission Support Plans

The Church Council has responsibility for reviewing and acting 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 August 2016 Church Council meeting, we have received revisions for [2016 and 2017 mission support plans](#) from synods.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To acknowledge with appreciation the action of the Northwestern Pennsylvania Synod 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 appreciation the action of the following synods 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;

Delaware-Maryland, Southern Ohio, Southeastern Pennsylvania, Upper Susquehanna, Upstate New York

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:

Lower Susquehanna Synod; Nebraska 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 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; and

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

III.C.4 ELCA Foundation Governance and Structure

The churchwide organization has initiated conversation regarding the possibilities for separately incorporating the ELCA Foundation. In this effort, we have received advice from external firms that provide legal counsel, fundraising consulting and investment consulting. During the committee time, the Legal and Constitutional Review and Budget and Finance Committees will have an opportunity to discuss management rationale, the firms' evaluations and consider next steps.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To establish a task force to consider whether the ELCA Foundation should be separately incorporated from the churchwide organization or otherwise reorganized, and to make recommendations on governance and structure,

To appoint the following members to the Task Force: Ms. Ingrid Sponberg Stafford, Evanston, Illinois as chair; the Rev. William Boerger, ELCA Secretary; Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; Ms. Marjorie Ellis, Worthington, Ohio; Mr. Eric Goldberg, Hudson, New York; Ms. Christina Jackson-Skelton, Executive Director of Mission Advancement; the Rev. Linda Norman, ELCA Treasurer; the Rev. Thomas Skrenes, Bishop of the Northern Great Lakes Synod;

To appoint the following ELCA Churchwide staff as resource people to the Task Force: the Rev. Wyvetta Bullock, ELCA Executive for Administration; Mr. Thomas Cunniff, ELCA Associate General Counsel; Ms. Annette Shoemaker, Director for the ELCA Foundation; and

To authorize the Executive Committee of the ELCA Church Council to appoint additional members to the taskforce as needed.

III.D Update on Campaign for the ELCA

The *Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA* is now half way through its 5-year effort to raise \$198 million in support of new and expanded churchwide ministries above and beyond those supported by your regular weekly offerings. We are grateful for the support of generous individuals, congregations and synods. The emphasis for 2016 has been ELCA World Hunger. The emphasis for 2017, as the anniversary of the Reformation is commemorated, is Global Church. Thank you if you have already made a commitment to the campaign as a Church Council member. If you have not already made a commitment to the campaign as a Church Council member, you are invited to do so at this meeting. Campaign commitment cards will be made available during the meeting. Pr. Ron Glusenkamp, director for the campaign, will be presenting the update.

III.E Update from Mission Advancement

The update from Mission Advancement is provided by Ms. Christina Jackson-Skelton, executive director for Mission Advancement. The Mission Advancement unit is constitutionally responsible for planning, coordinating and carrying out this church's communication through publications and other tools. In addition, it is responsible for mission support interpretation and consultations, constituent data management and to lead its fundraising and development efforts including current, major and planned gifts. (ELCA Constitution 16.12.C15.)

III.F 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. Background information can be found in the Planning and Evaluation Committee section of My.ELCA.org.

III.G 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. Background information can be found in the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee section of My.ELCA.org.

III.H Personal Reflection on Faith by Pr. Elizabeth Ekdale

III.I Church Council Joys and Concerns

III.J Announcements

- 11:30 a.m. Mid-day Prayer Service, Chapel
Led by Bishop Kirby Unti
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch, Augsburg Room
Stewardship conversations with new members (*as assigned*)
- 1:00 p.m. *Deadline for Removal of Items from En Bloc*
Deadline for New Business

PLENARY SESSION FOUR

Augsburg Room
November 12, 2016
1:15 – 3:00 p.m.

IV.A Lectio Divina, led by Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton

IV.B Called Forward Together in Christ: Future Directions Conversation
(*Separate agenda to be provided*)

3:00 p.m. Break

PLENARY SESSION FIVE

Augsburg Room
November 12, 2016
3:30 – 5:15 p.m.

V.A Called Forward Together in Christ: Future Directions Conversation
(*Separate agenda to be provided*)

V.B Process Observation

V.C Announcements

V.D Hymn and Prayer

5:15 p.m. Dinner, Dinner on own

Sunday, November 13, 2016

6:00 a.m. Breakfast, Marriott Hotel (Buffet opens at 6 am)

8:45 a.m. **WORSHIP SERVICE WITH HOLY COMMUNION**, 1st Floor Chapel
Installation of newly elected Church Council members
Offering: ELCA World Hunger

Presider: Pr. Linda Norman
Preacher: Bp. Richard Graham
Assisting Minister: Ms. Amanda Briggs
Lector: Mr. Allan Bieber

PLENARY SESSION SIX

Council Room
November 13, 2016
10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

VI.A Report of the Executive Committee, continued

VI.A.1 Called Forward Together in Christ: Future Directions Statement

After Church Council review of the Future Directions Statement, it will consider a proposed action to endorse a Directions Statement on the priorities for the ELCA.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

[to be provided]

VI.B Report of the Program and Services Committee

The following report is provided by the Program and Services 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.

VI.C [Report from the Executive for Administration](#)

VI.D Announcements

VI.E Hymn and Prayer

11:30 a.m. Lunch, Augsburg Room
Executive Committee, Epiphany (lunch provided outside Epiphany)

PLENARY SESSION SEVEN

Council Room
November 13, 2016
1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

VII.A Ecumenical Greeting

VII.B [Report from the Conference of Bishops](#)

VII.C Report of the Executive Committee, continued

VII.C.1 Amendments to Committee Charters

At the first meeting of every triennium, each committee is to review their charters. Any amended charters then need to be reviewed by the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee is responsible for reviewing and making recommendations regarding committee charters.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To approve the revised committee charters.

VII.D New Business

VII.E Consideration of Items Removed from *En Bloc*

VII.F *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. On the first day of the Council meeting, the chair will remind members of the deadline to remove items from *en bloc* consideration 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. The items remaining in the *en bloc* resolution normally will be considered as one of the last items of council business.

CC ACTION (Two-thirds approval required)

Recommended:

To approve the *En Bloc* continuing resolution amendments to the *Constitution, 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 Churchwide Assembly Actions](#) and [Responses to Synodical Resolutions](#).

VII.G 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.

Board Development Committee is responsible to coordinate the planning and implementation of themes and agenda for periodic Church Council retreats. The Church Council will hold its next retreat in Spring 2017 at Eaglewood Resort in Itasca, Ill. The Church Council will meet in committees on Thursday afternoon, March 30, 2017, at the Lutheran Center in Chicago. In addition, on Friday morning, March 31, the Church Council will have a plenary session to address any pressing legislative matters. Then the council will adjourn and enter a retreat time to focus on the Called Forward Together in Christ process and Church Council's role as this church's board of directors. You can view a draft agenda [here](#).

VII.H Personal Reflection on Faith by Pr. Stephen Herr

VII.I Debrief of the 2016 Churchwide Assembly

The report of the evaluation of the 2016 Churchwide Assembly is available [here](#). At the council's November 2016 meeting, members who attended the assembly will have an opportunity to share their perspectives on the assembly, which will inform those who will be planning for the 2019 Churchwide Assembly.

VII.J Church Council Joys and Concerns

VII.K Process Observation

VII.L Evaluation and Debriefing

VII.M Hymn and Prayer

Adjournment