



# Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

November 15, 2017

**TO:** Bishops of synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
 Vice presidents of synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
 Secretaries of synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
 Members of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
 Administrative Team of the churchwide organization  
 Chief executive officers of separately incorporated ministries  
 Seminary leaders

**FROM:** The Rev. Wm Chris Boerger, secretary

**SUBJECT:** Report of Actions of the Church Council (November 9-12, 2017)

The Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) met at the Lutheran Center in Chicago, Ill., November 9-12, 2017. Here is a summary of particular actions along with background information.

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## 1. ELECTION OF THE TREASURER

The *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* states:

- 13.51. The treasurer shall serve under the presiding bishop of this church, providing leadership as specified in Chapter 11 of this constitution, and shall fulfill the normal functions of the treasurer of a corporation.
- 13.52. The treasurer shall be elected by the Church Council to a six-year term and serve until a successor takes office.
  - 13.52.01. The treasurer shall be elected as provided in Chapter 19 and shall take office on the first day of the third month after election.
  - 13.52.02. The treasurer shall be a full-time, salaried position.
- 19.01.01. The treasurer shall be elected by a two-thirds vote of the Church Council.

In July 2011, the Church Council elected [CC11.07.45] the Rev. Linda O. Norman to a six-year term as treasurer of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, beginning October 1, 2011.

***Church Council action:***

**To elect [\*] to a six-year term as treasurer of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, beginning February 1, 2018.**

\*The name of the treasurer will be released once the individual has had an opportunity to inform the current employer.

**2. PRESENTATION OF THE *SERVUS DEI* AWARD TO TREASURER LINDA O. NORMAN**

The established practice of predecessor church bodies, bestowing the *Servus Dei* award, was carried forward into the ELCA as a way of expressing special gratitude for those completing their service as an officer of this church.

***Church Council action:***

**To approve the following citation by acclamation:**

**The Rev. Linda Norman has for six years devoted generous amounts of time and steadfast commitment and offered her exceptional gifts of leadership in her calling as treasurer of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. As treasurer, she has shared her financial expertise and conducted her work with conscientious ability and a gracious manner. We are grateful for Linda's sound financial advice, collaborative spirit, effective stewardship of resources and support of the mission of this church. During her tenure, Linda demonstrated forthright commitment to the faith and genuine compassion for the people in congregations and communities throughout the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.**

**We give thanks to God for the contributions Linda has made to the life of this church.**

**3. ELECTION OF MS. MAN-HEI YIP TO THE CHURCH COUNCIL**

The 2013 Churchwide Assembly elected Ms. Amanda E. Briggs to a six-year term on the Church Council in an at-large position designated as Lay Female (person of color and/or whose primary language is other than English, preference for young adult). Ms. Briggs resigned her position on the council.

In accordance with ELCA bylaw 13.41.05., Secretary Wm Chris Boerger declared a vacancy on the Church Council. According to provisions 14.15. and 19.03., the Church Council elects someone to serve the balance of the term.

***Church Council action:***

**To elect Ms. Man-Hei Yip, Quincy, Mass. (7B), to the Church Council for a term ending in 2019.**

**4. ELECTION OF MS. INGRID S. STAFFORD TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

According to ELCA bylaw 14.41.01., the Executive Committee of the Church Council is composed of the churchwide officers, the chair of the Conference of Bishops, and seven members of the Church Council elected by the council. At its November 2016 meeting, the Church Council elected [CC16.11.34] Ms. Marjorie B. Ellis, Ms. Maren Hulden and Mr. Allan J Bieber to a term ending in 2019 on the council's Executive Committee. The council also elected [CC17.03.03] the chairs of its four standing committees — Mr. Reid A. Christopherson, Ms. Cynthia M. Gustavson, Mr. James M. Hushagen and Mr. Clarence M. Smith — to the Executive Committee. The term of Ms. Ellis on the Church Council ended on Aug. 31, 2017.

***Church Council action:***

**To elect Ms. Ingrid S. Stafford to a term ending in 2019 on the Executive Committee of the Church Council.**

**5. ELECTION OF THE REV. TIFFANY C. CHANEY TO THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

The 2013 Churchwide Assembly elected the Rev. Ruth E. Hamilton, Atlanta, Ga. (9D), to a six-year term on the Nominating Committee in a position designated for a minister of Word and Sacrament. Pastor Hamilton resigned that position. ELCA bylaw 19.11.01. states that the Nominating Committee “shall consist of at least one member but no more than three members from any region.” Pastor Hamilton’s resignation resulted in no member of the Nominating Committee serving from Region 9. Pursuant to ELCA bylaw 13.41.05., Secretary Wm Chris Boerger declared a vacancy on the committee.

***Church Council action:***

**To elect the Rev. Tiffany C. Chaney, Montgomery, Ala. (9D), to the Nominating Committee for a term ending in 2019.**

**6. TASK FORCE ON THE STRUCTURE AND GOVERNANCE OF THE ELCA FOUNDATION**

Staff of the churchwide organization initiated conversations regarding the possibility of separately incorporating the ELCA Foundation, which currently relates to the churchwide organization through the Mission Advancement unit. Continuing resolution 16.12.D11. states:

*The ELCA Foundation shall provide major gift and deferred giving programs, including educational and support services, for individual donors, congregations, synods, agencies, and related institutions, and shall promote pooled investment services for endowment funds of this church, its congregations, synods, agencies, and affiliated institutions.*

External firms that supply legal counsel, fundraising consulting and investment consulting provided advice.

At its November 2016 meeting, the Church Council voted [CC16.11.40]:

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....

The task force gave the Endowment Fund of the ELCA board of trustees and the Church Council a progress report, and on March 31, 2017, the council voted [CC17.03.05]:

To affirm the direction of the ELCA Foundation Task Force on Structure and Governance to move toward a structure in which the deferred giving programs of the ELCA Foundation are transferred to the Endowment Fund of the ELCA; and

To authorize the task force and staff to lay the groundwork for that transition, including the hiring of such advisors and consultants as reasonably necessary, with the goal of bringing a complete proposal, including the necessary implementing continuing resolutions, to the Church Council at its November 2017 meeting.

The task force presented its summary report and recommendations to the October 2017 meeting of the Endowment Fund of the ELCA board of trustees, which acted on the proposals contingent upon Church Council approval.

***Church Council actions:***

**To accept and affirm the report of the Task Force on the Structure and Governance of the ELCA Foundation; and**

**To express appreciation to the members of the task force for their diligent and thoughtful work.**

**To approve the proposed governance structure and organizational structures by functions as outlined in the “Report of the Task Force on the Structure and Governance of the ELCA Foundation.”**

To approve and start the process of transferring the activities of the ELCA Foundation to the Endowment Fund of the ELCA, including authorizing the churchwide organization staff to proceed with the following:

- transferring trusteeship of the existing charitable remainder trusts from the ELCA to the Endowment Fund of the ELCA;
- gradually transferring ownership of the existing charitable gift annuities from the ELCA to the Endowment Fund of the ELCA;
- as the ownership of the charitable gift annuities is gradually transferred, gradually transferring the asset pools supporting the charitable gift annuities from the ELCA to the Endowment Fund of the ELCA;
- as the ownership of the charitable gift annuities is gradually transferred, gradually transferring sufficient additional assets from the ELCA to the Endowment Fund of the ELCA, to ensure that the Endowment Fund of the ELCA does not incur any unfunded liabilities (currently estimated at \$2,150,000 for the entire annuity pool);
- transferring assets from the ELCA to the Endowment Fund of the ELCA of an amount, currently estimated to be \$3,200,000, reasonably believed to be sufficient to render the Endowment Fund fully operational on January 1, 2018, after taking into account its expanded functions and responsibilities; and
- entering into the Memorandum of Understanding that sets forth how contingent future liabilities under the charitable gift annuity program are to be shared between the ELCA and the Endowment Fund of the ELCA.

To adopt amendments to appropriate continuing resolutions in the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*.

To approve the amended bylaws of the Endowment Fund of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

## **7. THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

At its April 2016 meeting, the Church Council created [CC16.04.05] its Theological Education Advisory Committee, while accepting and referring to the committee the recommendations of the former Theological Education Advisory Council.

### ***Church Council action:***

To direct the Theological Education Advisory Committee to define a single-seminary governance structure; and

To adopt enterprise-wide seminary fiscal metrics and to request that a report on the results be brought to the April 2018 meeting of the Church Council.

## **8. SOCIAL MESSAGE ON HUMAN RIGHTS**

In response to memorials from four synods regarding Justice for the Holy Land, the 2016 Churchwide Assembly voted [CA16.06.31]:

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

A proposed social message on human rights was drafted to support and inform the development of a human rights social criteria investment screen, while also striving to articulate this church's positions on human rights in a single message.

***Church Council action:***

**To adopt the revised social message on “Human Rights” of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.**

**9. 2018 REVISED INCOME ESTIMATES AND SPENDING AUTHORIZATIONS**

As part of the 2017-2019 budget for the churchwide organization, the 2016 Churchwide Assembly voted [CA16.03.08]:

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

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

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

***Church Council action:***

**To approve a revised 2018 fiscal year current fund spending authorization of \$67,140,670; and**

**To approve a revised 2018 ELCA World Hunger spending authorization of \$23,750,000.**

**10. ALWAYS BEING MADE NEW: THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE ELCA**

The 2013 Churchwide Assembly approved *Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA* with a five-year goal of raising \$198 million. The comprehensive campaign established goals according to several priorities, and donors could make undesignated gifts to be used where needed most among the campaign priorities.

An update on the campaign for the Church Council noted that the “Where Needed Most” category had received more than \$5.5 million and it was projected to receive more than \$9 million.

***Church Council action:***

**To request that the churchwide organization prepare a plan for the process by which “where needed most” dollars in *Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA* will be allocated and that the plan be reported to the Budget and Finance Committee at the April 2018 Church Council meeting for approval.**

**11. FEASIBILITY OF INITIATING SOCIAL MESSAGE PROCESSES**

In November 2016, the Church Council affirmed [CC16.11.461] the prioritization of a social message on human rights and postponed the question of developing a social message on aging or the U.S. National Drug Policy until November 2017. After an assessment of staff workload and capacity, an additional deferment was requested.

***Church Council action:***

**To defer the question of developing social messages on aging or the U.S. National Drug Policy until 2018.**

**12. ADOPTION OF ELCA CAMPUS MINISTRY: GUIDELINES AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

In response to a 2016 resolution from the Southeastern Iowa Synod regarding campus ministry, the Domestic Mission unit reported in November 2016:

A comprehensive review and revision of ELCA Campus Ministry Policies and Procedures, last revised by the Church Council in 2006, is currently underway. The goal is to replace this document

with an updated resource that describes the current context for campus ministry and defines the interdependent nature of this ministry within the life of the ELCA, including congregations, synods and the churchwide organization. The Domestic Mission unit anticipates completion of this resource during 2017, with a report back to the Church Council in November 2017.

***Church Council action:***

**To adopt “Vision, Process, and Practice of ELCA Campus Ministry: Guidelines and Recommendations” to serve as the operation of and support for campus ministry in the ELCA; and**

**To request that “Policies and Procedures for Campus Ministry” be archived for historical and research purposes.**

**13. AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT**

ELCA continuing resolution 14.41.E15. provides that the Church Council’s Audit Committee “shall assist the Budget and Finance Committee and the Church Council in fulfilling oversight of the churchwide organization’s accounting and financial reporting, internal control systems, and audit functions, consistent with its responsibilities as specified in the charter recommended by the Audit Committee, reviewed by the Budget and Finance Committee, and approved by the Church Council.”

***Church Council action:***

**To approve the report of the ELCA Audit Committee describing its review of the audited financial statements, management letter, and response of management for the churchwide organization’s fiscal year ended January 31, 2017.**

**14. ADDITIONAL VOTING MEMBERS FOR THE 2019 CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY**

ELCA bylaw 12.41.11. presents the formula by which the number of voting members from each synod to a churchwide assembly is determined. The bylaw provides, “The Church Council may allocate up to 10 additional voting members among synods, but no single synod may be allocated more than two additional voting members.”

In his report to the November 2017 meeting of the Church Council, Secretary Wm Chris Boerger asked “that the council allocate nine additional voting members so that each synod will have at least six voting members.”

***Church Council action:***

**To allocate for the 2019 Churchwide Assembly one additional voting member to the West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod (8H), making a total of six voting members; and**

**To allocate for the 2019 Churchwide Assembly two additional voting members to the Alaska Synod (1A), Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod (4C), Slovak Zion Synod (7G) and Caribbean Synod (9F), making a total of six voting members per synod.**

**15. APPROVAL OF THE ELCA DEACONESS COMMUNITY BYLAWS**

At its 2017 Deaconess Assembly, the Deaconess Community of the ELCA voted to amend its bylaws, updating its relationship with the ELCA, clarifying its purpose, membership, functions and the role of its assembly, and revising its governance and staffing structures.

***Church Council action:***

**To approve the amended bylaws of the Deaconess Community of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.**

## **16. CAPITAL UNIVERSITY AND TRINITY LUTHERAN SEMINARY**

The Church Council received [CC17.03.08] draft documents related “to the proposed asset acquisition of Trinity Lutheran Seminary by Capital University” on March 31, 2017. The documents included draft bylaws for Capital University that would incorporate Trinity Lutheran Seminary as a school of the university, a draft asset transfer agreement to address how Capital University will acquire and utilize the assets of Trinity Lutheran Seminary, and a statement of principles regarding the Capital University and Trinity Lutheran Seminary reunion.

### ***Church Council action:***

**To approve the Asset Transfer Agreement for the Reunion of Capital University and Trinity Lutheran Seminary; and**

**To approve the revised Bylaws of Capital University as they relate to Trinity Lutheran Seminary, in particular Articles VI, XXII and XXIX.**

## **17. THE LUTHERAN WORLD FEDERATION (LWF) GENDER JUSTICE POLICY**

The Administrative Team of the churchwide organization reviewed and affirmed the principles and methodology sections of the Lutheran World Federation Gender Justice Policy to inform and guide the work of the churchwide organization.

At its October 2017 meeting, Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton presented the policy to the council’s Executive Committee, which recommended [EC17.10.21] the Church Council take the following action.

### ***Church Council action:***

**To commend the Lutheran World Federation Gender Justice Policy to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for study and consideration.**

## **18. ELECTIONS, DESIGNATIONS, NOMINATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS**

**To elect to the board of trustees of the Board of Pensions of the ELCA — Portico Benefit Services — for a term ending in August 2019: Ms. Helen Doerpinghaus;**

**To elect to the board of trustees of the Publishing House of the ELCA — 1517 Media — for a term ending in August 2019: The Rev. Mark G. Vitalis Hoffman and Ms. Lisa J. Peck;**

**To re-elect to the board of directors of Wartburg Theological Seminary for a six-year term ending in December 2023: The Rev. Stephen J. Cornils and the Rev. Kathryn A. Kleinhaus;**

**To elect to the board of directors of Mosaic, Inc. for a three-year term ending in 2020: Ms. Megan M. Gustafson; and**

**To approve the 2017 designation of the following members of the board of directors of The Evangelical Lutheran Good Samaritan Society as representatives to the ELCA: Mr. David J. Horazdovsky [president], Mr. H. Theodore Grindal [term ending in 2018], Dr. Gwen Wagstrom Halaas [term ending in 2019] and Mr. Dale M. Thompson [term ending in 2018].**

**To reappoint the Rev. Linda Nou as the Church Council advisor to the Justice for Women Consulting Committee for a two-year term expiring in 2019.**

**To nominate to the advisory council of Trinity Lutheran Seminary as part of Capital University for a one-year term expiring in 2018: Ms. Barbara J. Burgie, Mr. Roderick G.W. Chu and Ms. Judy K. Leidy;**

**To nominate to the advisory council of Trinity Lutheran Seminary as part of Capital University for a two-year term expiring in 2019: Mr. James A. McCoy and Mr. Aaron Schmalzle; and**

**To nominate to the advisory council of Trinity Lutheran Seminary as part of Capital University for a three-year term expiring in 2020: Ms. Danette Miller.**

**To elect to the board of trustees of the Endowment Fund of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for a six-year term expiring in November 2023: Ms. Kristy Albrecht and the Rev. Glenn D. Miller; and**

**To authorize the Executive Committee of the Church Council, pursuant to 14.41.01.a. and 15.15.01. of the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the ELCA*, to elect up to four trustees to fill vacancies on the board of trustees for the Endowment Fund of the ELCA between now and the next meeting of the Church Council, bringing the board to its maximum complement of 12 trustees.**