



Legislative Update: Tuesday, Aug. 9, 2022

Plenary Session One

The 2022 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) convened in Hall A of the Greater Columbus Convention Center, Columbus, Ohio, at 8:34 a.m. (EDT). The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), called the assembly to order. The Credentials Committee reported that, as of 8:07 a.m., 800 voting members had registered. The chair declared that a quorum was present.

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

Consideration of the Rules of Organization and Procedure

Reference: *2022 Pre-Assembly Report, Section I, Rules of Organization and Procedure*

The assembly acted on the proposed Rules of Organization and Procedure.

ASSEMBLY

ACTION

CA22.01.01

To adopt the “Rules of Organization and Procedure” for the 2022 Churchwide Assembly (exclusive of quoted and highlighted constitutional provisions and bylaws that are already in force).

TWO-THIRDS VOTE REQUIRED

YES-754; NO-8

In accordance with the adopted rules, Presiding Bishop Eaton declared the committees of the assembly authorized and constituted.

Consideration of the Order of Business

Reference: *Schedule and Events, Order of Business*

The 2022 Churchwide Assembly acted on the proposed agenda provided in the Order of Business.

An amendment to the Order of Business was offered.

Moved;

Seconded:

To amend the Order of Business as follows:

Plenary 1: Remove Endowment Fund video

Plenary 2: Remove Mission Investment Fund video and add time to memorials

Plenary 3: Remove Board of Pensions video

Plenary 4: Remove Publishing House of the ELCA (1517 Media) Video

Extend Plenary 4 by eliminating 1:30-2:00 break and add time to memorials

Extend Plenary 5 by beginning at 9:45 and add time to memorials

Plenary 5: Remove WELCA video and add time to memorials

Extend Plenary 6 by eliminating 1:30-2:00 break and add to memorials

Plenary 6: Remove LDR video and add time to memorials

Extend Plenary 6 from 5:00 to 6:00 pm and add time to Reference and Counsel

Extend Plenary 7 by beginning at 9:45 and add time to Reference and Counsel or, if complete, to memorials

An amendment was then proposed to the amendment.

Moved;
Seconded;
Carried:

YES-399; NO-386

To amend the amendment to the Order of Business by reinstating original times as follows:

Plenary 1: Remove Endowment Fund video

Plenary 2: Remove Mission Investment Fund video and add time to memorials

Plenary 3: Remove Board of Pensions video

Plenary 4: Remove Publishing House of the ELCA (1517 Media) Video

~~Extend Plenary 4 by eliminating 1:30-2:00 break and add time to memorials~~

~~Extend Plenary 5 by beginning at 9:45 and add time to memorials~~

Plenary 5: Remove WELCA video and add time to memorials

~~Extend Plenary 6 by eliminating 1:30-2:00 break and add to memorials~~

Plenary 6: Remove LDR video and add time to memorials

~~Extend Plenary 6 from 5:00 to 6:00 pm and add time to reference and counsel~~

~~Extend Plenary 7 by beginning at 9:45 and add time to reference and counsel or, if complete, to memorials~~

ASSEMBLY

ACTION

CA22.01.02

YES-583; NO-206

To amend the Order of Business as follows:

Plenary 1: Remove Endowment Fund video

Plenary 2: Remove Mission Investment Fund video and add time to memorials

Plenary 3: Remove Board of Pensions video

Plenary 4: Remove Publishing House of the ELCA (1517 Media) Video

Plenary 5: Remove WELCA video and add time to memorials

Plenary 6: Remove LDR video and add time to memorials

ASSEMBLY

ACTION

CA22.01.03

YES-656; NO-110

To approve the Order of Business as amended as the agenda of the 2022 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, in keeping with the provisions of the “Rules of Organization and Procedure” for calling items of business before the assembly.

Elections: First Ballot for Vice President

Reference: 2022 Pre-Assembly Report, Section I, Rules of Organization and Procedure, and Section V: Election of the Vice President

The Credentials Committee reported that 804 voting members had registered to cast ballots. Presiding Bishop Eaton called on the assembly to cast the first ballot for vice president.

Plenary Session One adjourned at 11:50 a.m. (EDT).

Plenary Session Two

The assembly was called back to order at 1:32 p.m.

En Bloc Action on Social Policy Resolutions

Reference: 2022 Pre-Assembly Report, Section V, Archiving of Certain Social Policy Resolutions

ASSEMBLY

ACTION

YES-705; NO-9

CA22.01.04 To archive the social policy resolutions identified in the “2022 Archiving of Certain Social Policy Resolutions” document, in accordance with the “Policies and Procedures of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for Addressing Social Concerns” (2018).

Elections: Results of First Ballot for Vice President

Reference: 2022 Pre-Assembly Report, Section I Rules of Organization and procedure, Section V, Election of the Vice President, Section X, Report of the Elections Committee

Mr. Thomas A. Cunniff, general counsel for the ELCA and chair of the Elections Committee, presented the initial results of the first ballot for vice president. Of the 682 legal ballots cast, none of the nominees received the necessary 512 votes for election. Those who received votes were able to withdraw their names from the second ballot. The list of names from the first ballot can be found in the ELCA Guide app under “Section X – Report of the Elections Committee.”

Report: Memorials Committee

Reference: 2022 Pre-Assembly Report, Section VII, Report of the Memorials Committee; Supplemental Report of the Memorials Committee

Ms. Cheryl T. Chatman and Mr. Joseph T. Nolte, co-chairs of the Memorials Committee, noted that synod assemblies had addressed 78 memorials to the 2022 Churchwide Assembly. The memorials were sorted into 31 categories. The committee had proposed three memorials for separate consideration, with the remaining 28 recommended responses to be considered *en bloc*. Voting members removed an additional nine recommended responses from *en bloc*.

ASSEMBLY

ACTION

YES-726; NO-44

CA22.01.05 To approve *en bloc*, with the exception of those memorials considered separately, the following responses to 2019, 2021, and 2022 synod memorials printed in the Report of the Memorials Committee (2022 Pre-Assembly Report, Section VII, pages as listed).

The assembly then began consideration of the memorials pulled from *en bloc*.

Category B4: Restructure the Governance of the ELCA

The chairs moved the following substitute response on behalf of the committee:

To receive with gratitude the memorials from the Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Synod, Metropolitan Chicago Synod, Northeastern Ohio Synod, Northwestern Pennsylvania Synod, Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod, Allegheny Synod, Lower Susquehanna Synod, Delaware-Maryland Synod, Metropolitan Washington, D.C., Synod, and West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod concerning the restructure of the ELCA’s governance; and

To direct the Church Council to establish a Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church comprised of leaders of diverse representation from all three expressions that, working in consultation with the Conference of Bishops and the Church Council, shall reconsider the statements of purpose for each of the expressions of this church, the principles of its organizational structure, and all matters pertaining thereunto, being particularly attentive to our shared commitment to dismantle racism, and will present

its findings and recommendations to the 2025 Churchwide Assembly in preparation for a reconstituting convention to be called under the rules for a special meeting of the Churchwide Assembly.

A voting member offered an amendment.

Moved;
Seconded;
Carried

Yes-748; No-36

To amend by insertion:

To receive with gratitude the memorials from the Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Synod, Metropolitan Chicago Synod, Northeastern Ohio Synod, Northwestern Pennsylvania Synod, Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod, Allegheny Synod, Lower Susquehanna Synod, Delaware-Maryland Synod, Metropolitan Washington, D.C., Synod, and West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod concerning the restructure of the ELCA's governance; and

To direct the Church Council to establish a Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church comprised of leaders of diverse representation from all three expressions that, working in consultation with the Conference of Bishops and the Church Council, shall reconsider the statements of purpose for each of the expressions of this church, the principles of its organizational structure, and all matters pertaining thereunto, being particularly attentive to our shared commitment to dismantle racism, and will present its findings and recommendations to the 2025 Churchwide Assembly in preparation for a possible reconstituting convention to be called under the rules for a special meeting of the Churchwide Assembly.

**ASSEMBLY
ACTION
CA22.01.06**

Yes-738; No-72

To receive with gratitude the memorials from the Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Synod, Metropolitan Chicago Synod, Northeastern Ohio Synod, Northwestern Pennsylvania Synod, Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod, Allegheny Synod, Lower Susquehanna Synod, Delaware-Maryland Synod, Metropolitan Washington, D.C., Synod, and West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod concerning the restructure of the ELCA's governance; and

To direct the Church Council to establish a Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church comprised of leaders of diverse representation from all three expressions that, working in consultation with the Conference of Bishops and the Church Council, shall reconsider the statements of purpose for each of the expressions of this church, the principles of its organizational structure, and all matters pertaining thereunto, being particularly attentive to our shared commitment to dismantle racism, and will present its findings and recommendations to the 2025 Churchwide Assembly in preparation for a possible reconstituting convention to be called under the rules for a special meeting of the Churchwide Assembly.

Category C3: Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust Revision

The committee chairs moved the recommended action on behalf of the committee. There being no discussion, Presiding Bishop Eaton called for the vote.

**ASSEMBLY
ACTION
CA22.01.07**

Yes-741; No-59

To receive with gratitude the memorials on "Review and Revision of LGBTQIA+ References in the ELCA Social Statement *Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust*" from the Greater Milwaukee Synod, Southeastern Synod, and Florida-Bahamas Synod;

To authorize a social statement reconsideration to revise *Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust* (2009) so that its wording reflects current church understanding, church policy, civil law, and public acceptance of marriage of same-gender and gender non-

conforming couples in accordance with “Policies and Procedures of the ELCA for Addressing Social Concerns” (2018). While references would be reviewed throughout the whole statement, the following sections are designated for reconsideration as described here:

- “Marriage: shelter and context for trust” p.15. This would not reconsider the idea of marriage as shelter and context for trust but would consider the import that marriage legally is now a covenant between two individuals;
- “Lifelong, monogamous, same-gender relationships” p.18f. Revision here would not change this church’s current understanding that recognizes four identified positions of bound conscience within its life. p.19, but would review wording about “publicly accountable, lifelong monogamous same-sex relationships” in light of public acceptance of marriage of same-gender and gender-non-conforming couples;
- “Loving families: ground and source for social trust” p.21f. Review here would consider references to diversity of family configurations; and

To authorize the Office of the Presiding Bishop and Church Council to approve the parameters and expense budget of this process and identify the revenue source(s) to provide for this revision to be considered as early as the 2025 Churchwide Assembly.

Category A5: Fortifying Urban Ministries

The committee chairs moved the recommended action on behalf of the committee. There being no discussion, Presiding Bishop Eaton called for the vote.

ASSEMBLY

ACTION

Yes-762; No-31

CA22.01.08

To receive with gratitude the memorial on “Fortifying Ministries in Underserved Urban Areas” from the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod;

To affirm the strategic direction of the ELCA Fund for Leaders ministry to enhance the capacity of people of color through its disbursement of scholarships to Theological Education for Emerging Ministries candidates;

To refer this memorial to the Congregational Vitality Training and Development Team in the Christian Community and Leadership home area to create a churchwide Urban Ministry group, in partnership with the appropriate leaders in the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod, to accompany ELCA synods in their urban strategies that lead to the enhancement of congregational vitality and ministry sustainability in the urban context. The group will 1) collaborate with other studies already underway, 2) resource synods by gathering best practices in urban ministry and emerging ideas in the care and creative use of church facilities, 3) identify supportive networks within this church and among ecumenical partners, and 4) encourage piloting innovative ways to address the realities and complexities of urban ministry, including enhancing urban internship opportunities. The group may consider additional topics as needed;

To request that the churchwide Urban Ministry group consult with and provide regular reports to the Church Council to ensure that the purposes and objectives of this memorial are being fulfilled; and

To provide a final report to the 2025 Churchwide Assembly on the results of its study, new urban initiatives, and ways for this church to fortify the witness and service among people and communities in underserved urban areas.

Category A7: Black Migrant Strategy

The committee chairs moved the recommended action on behalf of the committee. There being no discussion, Presiding Bishop Eaton called for the vote.

ASSEMBLY

ACTION

Yes-783; No-16

CA22.01.09

To receive with gratitude the memorial on “ELCA Strategy Regarding Black Migrants” from the Delaware-Maryland Synod;

To direct the Service and Justice home area, in consultation with the program directors for African Descent Ministries, African Nationals, and Latino Ministries; African Descent Strategy Team; African Descent Lutheran Association; Association of Latino Ministries of the ELCA; and Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation, and Opportunities (AMMPARO), to prepare a proposal for the strengthening of advocacy, protection, and accompaniment of Black migrants, that includes cost estimates, for Church Council consideration by its Spring 2024 meeting;

To strengthen the current protection and accompaniment of Black migrants through AMMPARO in partnership with ecumenical and interfaith partners both domestically and internationally;

To recommit this church to advocating for Temporary Protected Status and just and humane immigration policy through the Witness in Society team within the Service and Justice home area; and

To encourage congregations to affirm the aims of the African Descent Strategy Implementation Plan for 2020–2025 and the United Nations International Decade for People of African Descent.

Category B9: Mission Development Process

The committee chairs moved the recommended action on behalf of the committee. There being no discussion, Presiding Bishop Eaton called for the vote.

ASSEMBLY

ACTION

Yes-758; No-38

CA22.01.10

To receive with gratitude the memorial on “Equity and Clarity in the Mission Development Process” from the Delaware-Maryland Synod;

To refer this memorial to the Congregational Vitality Training and Development team in the Christian Community and Leadership home area to establish a working group in partnership with the appropriate leaders in the Delaware-Maryland Synod to study and refine current ELCA guidelines and systems for appointments, calls, funds, and support mechanisms for mission developers and new ministries; and

To request that the working group consult with and provide regular reports to the Church Council beginning by Fall 2023 to ensure that the purposes and objectives of this memorial are being fulfilled.

Plenary Session Two adjourned at 3:32 p.m. (EDT).

Deadlines for Wednesday, Aug. 10, 2022

10:15 a.m. Non-Germane Resolutions

Amendments to the 2023-2025 Budget Proposal

1:45 p.m. First Common Ballot



Legislative Update: Wednesday, Aug. 10, 2022

Plenary Session Three

The 2022 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) entered into its third plenary session in Hall A of the Greater Columbus Convention Center, Columbus, Ohio, at 8:32 a.m. (EDT). The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, presiding bishop of the ELCA, called the assembly to order,

Elections: Second Ballot for Vice President

Reference: 2022 Pre-Assembly Report, Section I Rules of Organization and procedure, Section V, Election of the Vice President

The Elections Committee reported the results of the first ballot for vice president. The committee reported that 56 people received votes on the first ballot for vice president. Of these 56, 25 individuals withdrew their names from consideration, leaving 31 candidates for election as vice president.

Presiding Bishop Eaton called upon the assembly to cast the second ballot for vice president. The Credentials Committee reported that, as of 8:32 a.m., 822 voting members had registered to cast ballots.

Elections: Results of Second Ballot for Vice President

Reference: 2022 Pre-Assembly Report, Section I Rules of Organization and procedure, Section V, Election of the Vice President, Section X, Report of the Elections Committee

The Elections Committee reported that 801 votes were cast on the second ballot for vice president, requiring 601 votes for election. There was no election on the second ballot. The names of the seven candidates receiving the greatest numbers of votes were presented:

Tracey Beasley	211 votes
Imran Siddiqui	163 votes
Roberto Lara Aranda	106 votes
Carla Borchardt	60 votes
John Auger	56 votes
Paul Archer	32 votes
Clarance Smith	31 votes

Elections: First Common Ballot

Reference: 2022 Pre-Assembly Report, Section VIII: Report of the Nominating Committee

The Elections Committee provided instructions for electing members of the Church Council, boards of separately incorporated ministries, and boards of churchwide committees. There were 95 tickets for action. The deadline to return ballots was 1:45 p.m.

Plenary Session Three adjourned at 10:27 a.m.

Plenary Session Four

The assembly was called back to order at 2:00 p.m.

College Corporation Meetings

Reference: 2022 Pre-Assembly Report, Other, College Corporation Meetings.

The 2022 Churchwide Assembly recessed and convened sequentially at 3:35 p.m. as the college corporation meetings for Wartburg College, Waverly, Iowa, and Luther College, Decorah, Iowa. Minutes were kept by the colleges. The 2022 Churchwide Assembly reconvened at 3:44 p.m.

Elections: Third Ballot for Vice President

Reference: 2022 Pre-Assembly Report, Section I Rules of Organization and procedure, Section V, Election of the Vice President, Section X, Report of the Elections Committee

Presiding Bishop Eaton called upon the assembly to cast the third ballot for vice president. The Credentials Committee reported that as of 3:12 p.m. 831 voting members had registered to cast ballots.

Elections: Results of Third Ballot for Vice President

Reference: 2022 Pre-Assembly Report, Section I Rules of Organization and procedure, Section V, Election of the Vice President, Section X, Report of the Elections Committee

The Elections Committee reported that 822 votes were cast on the second ballot for vice president, requiring 548 votes for election. There was no election on the third ballot. The committee reported the results of the third ballot for vice president as follows:

Imran Siddiqui	297 votes
Roberto Lara Aranda	199 votes
Tracey Beasley	164 votes
Paul Archer	53 votes
Carla Borchardt	51 votes
John Auger	32 votes
Clarance Smith	26 votes

The three nominees who received the most votes moved on to the fourth ballot for vice president.

Report: Memorials Committee (*continued*)

Reference: 2022 Pre-Assembly Report, Section VII, Report of the Memorials Committee; Supplemental Report of the Memorials Committee

Ms. Cheryl T. Chatman and Mr. Joseph T. Nolte, co-chairs of the Memorials Committee, continued addressing memorials to be considered separately. Beginning with Category A8: Land Back, the committee recommended the following:

Category A8: Land Back

The chairs moved the following substitute response on behalf of the committee:

To receive with gratitude the memorials from Northwest Washington Synod, Oregon Synod, and Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod concerning the Land Back movement;

To encourage all ELCA members, congregations, synods, ministries, colleges, campus ministries, seminaries, camps, associated organizations, and partners to explore including land acknowledgements as part of their public gatherings;

To encourage all ELCA members, congregations, synods, ministries, colleges, campus ministries, seminaries, camps, associated organizations, and partners to become educated about the Indigenous peoples who thrived, prior to European contact, on the land they currently inhabit;

To learn about, learn from, and be in deepening relationship with Indigenous people and tribal nations;

To encourage all ELCA members, congregations, synods, ministries, colleges, campus ministries, seminaries, camps, associated organizations, and partners, to support creative programs of restorative justice in partnership with Indigenous people, including, but not limited to, whenever considering a transfer or sale of real property, including returning land (and any structures built on it) after satisfying any financial obligations, to the appropriate Native nations, and when direct return

is not feasible or not desired by the Indigenous people, to return the proceeds from the sale of the land to the ELCA Native American Ministry Fund or other local Indigenous led ministries or organizations;

To call upon the appropriate home areas and offices of the churchwide organization to work collaboratively with the relevant local synods and their local Indigenous partners to determine what amount of funding would represent full funding of the more than 30 ELCA Indigenous congregations and service ministries and to immediately provide the remaining funding needed after synod and other local sources of funding have been applied, and to use this same approach to funding new sacramental and/or service ministries by, with or among Indigenous people; and

To call upon the appropriate home areas and offices of the churchwide organization to first engage with the relevant local synods and their local Indigenous partners whenever planning or considering work related to Indigenous people or ministries.

A voting member offered an amendment.

Moved;

Seconded:

To amend the response as follows:

To receive with gratitude the memorials from Northwest Washington Synod, Oregon Synod, and Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod concerning the Land Back movement;

To encourage all ELCA members, congregations, synods, ministries, colleges, campus ministries, seminaries, camps, associated organizations, and partners to explore including land acknowledgements which center native voices as part of their public gatherings;

To encourage all ELCA members, congregations, synods, ministries, colleges, campus ministries, seminaries, camps, associated organizations, and partners to become educated about the Indigenous peoples who thrived, prior to European contact, on the land they currently inhabit;

To learn about, learn from, and be in deepening relationship with Indigenous people and tribal nations;

To encourage all ELCA members, congregations, synods, ministries, colleges, campus ministries, seminaries, camps, associated organizations, and partners, to support creative programs of restorative justice in partnership with Indigenous people, including, but not limited to, whenever considering a transfer or sale of real property, including returning land (and any structures built on it) after satisfying any financial obligations, to the appropriate Native nations, and when direct return is not feasible or not desired by the Indigenous people, to return the proceeds from the sale of the land to the ELCA Native American Ministry Fund or other local Indigenous led ministries or organizations;

To call upon the appropriate home areas and offices of the churchwide organization to work collaboratively with the relevant local synods and their local Indigenous partners to determine what amount of funding would represent full funding of the more than 30 ELCA Indigenous congregations and service ministries and to immediately provide the remaining funding needed after synod and other local sources of funding have been applied, and to use this same approach to funding new sacramental and/or service ministries by, with or among Indigenous people; and

To call upon the appropriate home areas and offices of the churchwide organization to first engage with the relevant local synods and their local Indigenous partners whenever planning or considering work related to Indigenous people or ministries.

A voting member made a motion.

Moved;

Seconded;

Carried:

YES-529; NO-278

To postpone acting on the response to Memorial A8 until the next report of the Memorials Committee.

Category A6: Advance Salary Equity

The chairs moved the following substitute response on behalf of the committee:

To receive with gratitude the memorial on “Salary Equity in the ELCA” from the Delaware-Maryland Synod;

To refer the memorial to the Church Council to consider commissioning a study of pay gaps for rostered ministers in the ELCA, particularly as they relate to women, people of color, minority ethnic groups, people with disabilities, and the LGBTQIA+ community, and to consider using such a study not only for the purposes described in this memorial but also for the study of inequitable compensation of clergy of color previously called for by the Church Council (CC19.06.23.), for the Quality of Call Initiative for Women in Ministry, for the study of educational debt, and for such other purposes as might serve the needs of this church;

To encourage Portico Benefit Services to work with the Churchwide organization in making appropriate changes to its bylaws and data privacy policies in order to facilitate a deeper understanding of compensation patterns for rostered ministers;

To replace the “Current gross compensation” question from the Rostered Minister Profile with “Minimum Compensation for Next Call;”

To amend the “Current Health Benefits” question to read “Needed Health Benefits;” and

To remove the “Current Retirement Contribution” question from the Rostered Minister Profile.

A voting member offered an amendment.

Moved;

YES-734; NO-58

Seconded;

Carried:

To amend the response by substitution as follows:

To receive with gratitude the memorial on “Salary Equity in the ELCA” from the Delaware-Maryland Synod;

To refer the memorial to the Church Council to consider commissioning a study of pay gaps for rostered ministers in the ELCA, particularly as they relate to women, people of color, minority ethnic groups, people with disabilities, and the LGBTQIA+ community, and to consider using such a study not only for the purposes described in this memorial but also for the study of inequitable compensation of clergy of color previously called for by the Church Council (CC19.06.23.), for the Quality of Call Initiative for Women in Ministry, for the study of educational debt, and for such other purposes as might serve the needs of this church;

To encourage Portico Benefit Services ~~to work with~~ **and** the churchwide organization ~~in making to make~~ appropriate changes to ~~its~~ **their** bylaws and data privacy policies in order to facilitate a deeper understanding of compensation patterns for rostered ministers;

To replace the “Current gross compensation” question from the Rostered Minister Profile with “Minimum Compensation for Next Call;”

To amend the “Current Health Benefits” question to read “Needed Health Benefits;” and

To remove the “Current Retirement Contribution” question from the Rostered Minister Profile.

ASSEMBLY

ACTION

CA22.02.11

Yes-774; No-46

To receive with gratitude the memorial on “Salary Equity in the ELCA” from the Delaware-Maryland Synod;

To refer the memorial to the Church Council to consider commissioning a study of pay gaps for rostered ministers in the ELCA, particularly as they relate to women, people of color, minority ethnic groups, people with disabilities, and the LGBTQIA+ community, and to consider using such a study not only for the purposes described in this memorial but also for the study of inequitable compensation of clergy of color previously called for by the Church Council (CC19.06.23.), for the Quality of Call

Initiative for Women in Ministry, for the study of educational debt, and for such other purposes as might serve the needs of this church;

To encourage Portico Benefit Services and the Churchwide organization to make appropriate changes to their bylaws and data privacy policies in order to facilitate a deeper understanding of compensation patterns for rostered ministers;

To replace the “Current gross compensation” question from the Rostered Minister Profile with “Minimum Compensation for Next Call;”

To amend the “Current Health Benefits” question to read “Needed Health Benefits;” and

To remove the “Current Retirement Contribution” question from the Rostered Minister Profile.

Plenary Session Four adjourned at 5:12 p.m.



Legislative Update: Thursday, Aug. 11, 2022

Plenary Session Five

The 2022 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) convened for its fifth plenary session in Hall A of the Greater Columbus Convention Center, Columbus, Ohio, at 10:03 a.m. (EDT).

Elections: Report of the First Common Ballot

Reference: *2022 Pre-Assembly Report, Section I, Rules of Organization and Procedure, Section X, Report of the Elections Committee*

The Elections Committee reported elections on all 95 tickets of the first common ballot for the Church Council, Committee on Appeals, Committee on Discipline, Nominating Committee, and the boards of the Board of Pensions (Portico Benefit Services), Mission Investment Fund, Endowment Fund of the ELCA (ELCA Foundation), and the Publishing House of the ELCA (1517 Media).

Consideration: 2023–2025 Budget

Reference: *2022 Pre-Assembly Report, Section V, 2023–2025 Proposed Budget*

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on Secretary Sue E. Rothmeyer to present the recommendation of the Church Council for the 2023–2025 budget. There being no discussion, Vice President Peña called for the vote.

ASSEMBLY

ACTION

CA22.03.12

YES-751; NO-19

2023 Budget Proposal

To approve a 2023 current fund spending authorization of \$68,814,000;

To approve a 2023 ELCA World Hunger spending authorization of \$22,869,000;

and

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

2024 Budget Proposal

To approve a 2024 current fund income proposal of \$70,191,000;

To approve a 2024 ELCA World Hunger income proposal of \$22,930,000; and

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

2025 Budget Proposal

To approve a 2025 current fund income proposal of \$71,594,000;

To approve a 2025 ELCA World Hunger income proposal of \$22,960,000; and

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

Report: Memorials Committee

Reference: 2022 Pre-Assembly Report, Section VII, Report of the Memorials Committee; Supplemental Report of the Memorials Committee

Ms. Cheryl T. Chatman and Mr. Joseph T. Nolte, co-chairs of the Memorials Committee, resumed the discussion from Plenary Session 4, beginning with Category A8: Land Back.

Category A8: Land Back

Moved;

Seconded;

Carried:

YES-677; NO-76

To amend by insertion:

To receive with gratitude the memorials from Northwest Washington Synod, Oregon Synod, and Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod concerning the Land Back movement;

To encourage all ELCA members, congregations, synods, ministries, colleges, campus ministries, seminaries, camps, associated organizations, and partners to explore including land acknowledgements **which center Native voices** as part of their public gatherings;

To encourage all ELCA members, congregations, synods, ministries, colleges, campus ministries, seminaries, camps, associated organizations, and partners to become educated about the Indigenous peoples who thrived, prior to European contact, on the land they currently inhabit;

To learn about, learn from, and be in deepening relationship with Indigenous people and tribal nations;

To encourage all ELCA members, congregations, synods, ministries, colleges, campus ministries, seminaries, camps, associated organizations, and partners, to support creative programs of restorative justice in partnership with Indigenous people, including, but not limited to, whenever considering a transfer or sale of real property, including returning land (and any structures built on it) after satisfying any financial obligations, to the appropriate Native nations, and when direct return is not feasible or not desired by the Indigenous people, to return the proceeds from the sale of the land to the ELCA Native American Ministry Fund or other local Indigenous led ministries or organizations;

To call upon the appropriate home areas and offices of the churchwide organization to work collaboratively with the relevant local synods and their local Indigenous partners to determine what amount of funding would represent full funding of the more than 30 ELCA Indigenous congregations and service ministries and to immediately provide the remaining funding needed after synod and other local sources of funding have been applied, and to use this same approach to funding new sacramental and/or service ministries by, with or among Indigenous people; and

To call upon the appropriate home areas and offices of the churchwide organization to first engage with the relevant local synods and their local Indigenous partners whenever planning or considering work related to Indigenous people or ministries.

A voting member offered an amendment.

Moved;

Seconded;

Carried:

YES-706; NO-84

To amend as follows:

To receive with gratitude the memorials from Northwest Washington Synod, Oregon Synod, and Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod concerning the Land Back movement;

To encourage all ELCA members, congregations, synods, ministries, colleges, campus ministries, seminaries, camps, associated organizations, and partners to explore including land acknowledgements which center Native voices as part of their public gatherings;

To encourage all ELCA members, congregations, synods, ministries, colleges, campus ministries, seminaries, camps, associated organizations, and partners to become educated about the Indigenous peoples who thrived, prior to European contact, on the land they currently inhabit;

To learn about, learn from, and be in deepening relationship with Indigenous people and tribal nations;

To encourage all ELCA members, congregations, synods, ministries, colleges, campus ministries, seminaries, camps, associated organizations, and partners, to support creative

programs of restorative justice in partnership with Indigenous people, including, but not limited to, whenever considering a transfer or sale of real property, including returning land (and any structures built on it) after satisfying any financial obligations, to the appropriate Native nations, and when direct return is not feasible or not desired by the Indigenous people, to return the proceeds from the sale of the land to the ELCA Native American Ministry Fund or other local Indigenous led ministries or organizations;

To call upon the appropriate home areas and offices of the churchwide organization to work collaboratively with the relevant local synods and their local Indigenous partners to explore sources and needs in funding for the more than 30 ELCA Indigenous congregations and service ministries; and to direct the Resource Development and the Budget and Finance Committees of the Church Council to identify potential sources of sustainable funding for these congregations and service ministries; and for these synods, home areas, offices, and committees to present findings of possible funding of these ministries to the Church Council no later than its Spring 2025 meeting, with a commitment to implement proposed and sustainable actions for funding of these ministries during the 2026-2028 triennium budget cycle; with the relevant local synods and their local Indigenous partners to determine what amount of funding would represent full funding of the more than 30 ELCA Indigenous congregations and service ministries and to immediately provide the remaining funding needed after synod and other local sources of funding have been applied, and to use this same approach to funding new sacramental and/or service ministries by, with or among Indigenous people; and

To call upon the appropriate home areas and offices of the churchwide organization to first engage with the relevant local synods and their local Indigenous partners whenever planning or considering work related to Indigenous people or ministries.

ASSEMBLY

ACTION

CA22.03.13

YES-737; NO-65

To receive with gratitude the memorials from Northwest Washington Synod, Oregon Synod, and Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod concerning the Land Back movement;

To encourage all ELCA members, congregations, synods, ministries, colleges, campus ministries, seminaries, camps, associated organizations, and partners to explore including land acknowledgements which center Native voices as part of their public gatherings;

To encourage all ELCA members, congregations, synods, ministries, colleges, campus ministries, seminaries, camps, associated organizations, and partners to become educated about the Indigenous peoples who thrived, prior to European contact, on the land they currently inhabit;

To learn about, learn from, and be in deepening relationship with Indigenous people and tribal nations;

To encourage all ELCA members, congregations, synods, ministries, colleges, campus ministries, seminaries, camps, associated organizations, and partners, to support creative programs of restorative justice in partnership with Indigenous people, including, but not limited to, whenever considering a transfer or sale of real property, including returning land (and any structures built on it) after satisfying any financial obligations, to the appropriate Native nations, and when direct return is not feasible or not desired by the Indigenous people, to return the proceeds from the sale of the land to the ELCA Native American Ministry Fund or other local Indigenous led ministries or organizations;

To call upon the appropriate home areas and offices of the churchwide organization to work collaboratively with the relevant local synods and their local Indigenous partners to explore sources and needs in funding for the more than 30 ELCA Indigenous congregations and service ministries; and to direct the Resource Development and the Budget and Finance Committees of the Church Council to identify potential sources of sustainable funding for these congregations and service ministries; and for these synods,

home areas, offices, and committees to present findings of possible funding of these ministries to the Church Council no later than its Spring 2025 meeting, with a commitment to implement proposed and sustainable actions for funding of these ministries during the 2026-2028 triennium budget cycle; and

To call upon the appropriate home areas and offices of the churchwide organization to first engage with the relevant local synods and their local Indigenous partners whenever planning or considering work related to Indigenous people or ministries.

Category B8: Separation Agreements

The committee chairs moved the recommended action on behalf of the committee. A voting member then offered an amendment.

Moved;

Seconded;

Defeated:

YES-213; NO-592

To amend the proposed response as follows:

To receive with gratitude the memorials from the Delaware-Maryland Synod, Southwest California Synod, and Northwestern Ohio Synod concerning separation agreements;

To affirm the commitment of the churchwide organization of the ELCA to limit the use of non-disclosure provisions to the small minority of cases in which they are truly necessary to protect confidential and sensitive materials related to donors, personnel, legal, information technology, and similar categories;

To direct the Churchwide Office of the ELCA to not make payment of severance contingent upon an agreement which restricts in any way the ability of staff members to speak about their experiences as part of the ELCA;

To direct the Churchwide Office of the ELCA, in the small minority of cases in which non-disclosure provisions are truly necessary to protect confidential and sensitive materials, to limit the tying of severance pay to non-disclosure provisions to no more than 5% of the total severance pay, in order to satisfy the legal requirements for consideration an integration;

To urge synods, congregations, agencies, institutions, and other parts of the ELCA to limit the use of non-disclosure agreements to the small minority of cases in which they are truly necessary and to not make payment of severance contingent upon an agreement which restricts in any way the ability of staff members to speak about their experiences as part of the church and its institutions and expressions and not to use such agreements as a matter of course or in the termination of calls of rostered ministers; and

To direct the Church Council to update the “Churchwide Organization Personnel Policies” to appropriately limit the use to non-disclosure agreements consistent with these memorials.

ASSEMBLY

ACTION

CA22.03.14

YES-721; NO-79

To receive with gratitude the memorials from the Delaware-Maryland Synod, Southwest California Synod, and Northwestern Ohio Synod concerning separation agreements;

To affirm the commitment of the churchwide organization of the ELCA to limit the use of non-disclosure provisions to the small minority of cases in which they are truly necessary to protect confidential and sensitive materials related to donors, personnel, legal, information technology, and similar categories;

To urge synods, congregations, agencies, institutions, and other parts of the ELCA to limit the use of non-disclosure agreements to the small minority of cases in which they are truly necessary and not to use such agreements as a matter of course or in the termination of calls of rostered ministers; and

To direct the Church Council to update the “Churchwide Organization Personnel Policies” to appropriately limit the use to non-disclosure agreements consistent with these memorials.

Category A14: Roe v. Wade

The chairs moved the following substitute response on behalf of the committee:

To receive with gratitude the memorial on “A Change in Roe v. Wade and Its Effect Upon Pastoral Counseling” from the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod and to affirm the intent of the memorial;

To encourage support and prayer for all people affected by the overturning of Roe v. Wade, especially the most vulnerable;

To encourage bishops to amplify support for rostered ministers and lay staff of our congregations and affiliated social ministry organizations;

To encourage synod and congregational conversation around this church’s teachings on abortion, gender justice, and related topics; and

To encourage synods of the ELCA to review the impact that the overturning of Roe v. Wade and any legislation and/or judicial rulings of their state(s), commonwealth(s), or territory (or territories) of the United States may have upon pastoral counseling, the pastor-client relationship, and the rostered ministers and social ministry agencies and organizations of the ELCA.

ASSEMBLY

ACTION

YES-776; NO-27

CA22.03.15

To receive with gratitude the memorial on “A Change in Roe v. Wade and Its Effect Upon Pastoral Counseling” from the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod and to affirm the intent of the memorial;

To encourage support and prayer for all people affected by the overturning of Roe v. Wade, especially the most vulnerable;

To encourage bishops to amplify support for rostered ministers and lay staff of our congregations and affiliated social ministry organizations;

To encourage synod and congregational conversation around this church’s teachings on abortion, gender justice, and related topics; and

To encourage synods of the ELCA to review the impact that the overturning of Roe v. Wade and any legislation and/or judicial rulings of their state(s), commonwealth(s), or territory (or territories) of the United States may have upon pastoral counseling, the pastor-client relationship, and the rostered ministers and social ministry agencies and organizations of the ELCA.

A voting member made a motion to suspend the rules to extend Plenary Session 6 by 30 minutes by reconvening at 1:30 p.m. instead of 2:00 p.m.

Moved;

Two-Thirds Vote Required

Seconded;

YES-350; NO-436

Defeated:

To suspend the rules and to extend Plenary Session 6 by 30 minutes by amending the agenda to reconvene at 1:30 p.m.

A voting member made a motion to suspend the rules and amend the agenda to allow the Memorials Committee to continue its report following the fourth ballot for vice president.

Moved;

Two-Thirds Vote Required

Seconded;

YES-460; NO-326

Defeated:

To suspend the rules and amend the agenda to allow the Memorials Committee to continue its report following the fourth ballot for vice president.

Category B11: Specialized Ministries and On Leave from Call Status

The committee chairs moved the recommended action on behalf of the committee.

To receive with gratitude the memorials from the Southwest California Synod, South Dakota Synod, Metropolitan Chicago Synod, Northern Illinois Synod, La Crosse Area Synod, Indiana-Kentucky Synod, Northwestern Ohio Synod, and Lower Susquehanna Synod concerning specialized ministries and On Leave from Call status;

To direct the Church Council to establish a process for examining constitutional provisions and policies and procedures as they relate to interim, transition, bridge, specialized, non-parish-based, and innovative calls, as well as on-leave from call status, protocols for removal from the rosters, and communication protocols;

To ask that those involved in the review consult with rostered ministers who are or have recently been involved in specialized ministries (e.g., interim, transition, campus, outdoor, college or seminary faculty, chaplains, etc.), and those currently on leave from call for a variety of reasons (e.g., regular leave from call, family, disability, study, etc.).

A voting member offered an amendment.

Moved;

Seconded:

To substitute as follows:

To receive with gratitude the memorials from the Southwest California Synod, South Dakota Synod, Metropolitan Chicago Synod, Northern Illinois Synod, La Crosse Area Synod, Indiana-Kentucky Synod, Northwestern Ohio Synod, and Lower Susquehanna Synod concerning specialized ministries and On Leave from Call status;

To direct the Church Council to direct the appropriate Churchwide unit to initiate a review process of the “Manual of Policies and Procedures for Management of the Rosters of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America” and the constitutional provisions and policies and procedures as they relate to interim, transition, bridge, specialized, non-parish-based, and innovative calls, as well as on-leave from call status, protocols for removal from the rosters, and communication protocols;

To direct the Church Council to ensure that this review process include in its scope of inquiry, but not be limited to: the time limits given for On-leave-from-Call, steps for requesting a roster status, and a process by which an action or lack of recommendation from a bishop may be appealed, including the possibility of an appeal in a synod other than the synod from which they were removed from the roster;

To require that those involved in the review process include a diverse group representing both the roster of Word and Sacrament and the roster of Word and Service who are or have recently been involved in specialized ministries (e.g., interim, transition, campus, outdoor, college or seminary faculty, chaplains, etc.), and those currently or recently on leave from call for a variety of reasons (e.g., between calls, family, disability, study, etc.);

To urge bishops and synod councils to use sparingly any action by which a minister is removed from the roster for non-disciplinary reasons, unless the minister requests removal, until this review is complete, especially for those serving contract calls, as supply preachers, and in other ELCA ministries that don't qualify as a call; and

To require that appropriate unit of the Churchwide organization prepare a report and recommendations for consideration by the fall 2024 meeting of the ELCA Church Council.

Vice President Peña called for the orders of the day.

Elections: Question and Answer Forum for Vice President Election

Reference: 2022 Pre-Assembly Report, Section V, Election of the Vice President

The three candidates on the fourth ballot for vice president responded to questions prepared by the Executive Committee of the Church Council.

Plenary Session Five ended at 11:58 a.m.

Plenary Session Six

The assembly reconvened at 2:01 p.m.

Elections: Fourth Ballot for Vice President

Reference: 2022 Pre-Assembly Report, Section I, Rules of Organization and Procedure, and Section V: Election of the Vice President

The Credentials Committee reported that, as of 1:18 p.m., 829 voting members were registered. Presiding Bishop Eaton called on the assembly to cast the fourth ballot for vice president.

Elections: Results of Fourth Ballot for Vice President

Reference: 2022 Pre-Assembly Report, Section I Rules of Organization and procedure, Section V, Election of the Vice President, Section X, Report of the Elections Committee

Mr. Thomas A. Cunniff, chair of the Elections Committee, presented the results of the fourth ballot for vice president. The committee reported that 802 votes were cast on the fourth ballot for vice president, requiring 482 votes for election. No candidate received the number of votes required for election. Ballot results were as follows:

Imran Siddiqui	443 votes
Roberto Lara Aranda	228 votes
Tracey Beasley	131 votes

The fifth ballot for vice president will include the two nominees receiving the highest number of votes.

En Bloc Action to Ratify Amendments to the Constitutions of the ELCA

Reference: 2022 Pre-Assembly Report, Section V, Amendments to the Constitutions of the ELCA

The Church Council recommended *en bloc* ratification of amendments to the Constitutions of the ELCA approved by the 2019 Churchwide Assembly.

ASSEMBLY

Two-Thirds Vote Required

ACTION

YES-757; NO-27

CA22.03.16

To ratify, *en bloc*, the actions of the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly regarding amendments to constitutional provision 4.02.c. and related provisions in the *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*.

Proposed Amendments to the Constitutions of the ELCA *En Bloc*

ASSEMBLY

Two-Thirds Vote Required

ACTION

YES-784; NO-18

CA22.03.17

To adopt, *en bloc*, with the exception of such amendments as may be considered separately, the amendments to the *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*; and

To authorize the Office of the Secretary to make appropriate changes in the *Constitution for Synods* and the *Model Constitution for Congregations* congruent with the ELCA constitution as amended.

Amendments to the Constitutions of the ELCA Removed from *En Bloc*

Reference: 2022 Pre-Assembly Report, Section V, Amendments to the Constitutions of the ELCA

Presiding Bishop Eaton reminded the assembly that the following proposed amendments to the *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* had been removed from *en bloc*:

- Constitutional provision 5.01.-e and f (p. 1/26);
- Bylaw 7.31.03.g (p. 2/26);
- Bylaw 8.22.01. (p. 4/26);
- Bylaw 15.21.03. (p. 10/26); and
- *Constitution for Synods* †S6.04. (p. 17/26).

To amend constitutional provision 5.01.-e and f as follows:

- 5.01. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America shall be one church. This church recognizes that all power and authority in the Church belongs to the Lord Jesus Christ, its head. Therefore, all actions of this church by congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization shall be carried out under his rule and authority in accordance with the following principles: [...]
- e. Except as otherwise provided in this constitution and bylaws, the appropriate office or unit of the churchwide organization, through the Church Council, shall establish processes that will ensure that at least 60 percent of the members of its assemblies, councils, committees, boards, and other organizational units shall be laypersons; that, as nearly as possible, at least 45 percent of the lay members of these assemblies, councils, committees, boards, or other organizational units shall be women and, as nearly as possible, at least 45 percent shall be men, and that, ~~where possible~~, the representation of rostered ministers ~~of Word and Sacrament~~ shall include both men and women. At least 10 percent of the members of these assemblies, councils, committees, boards, or other organizational units shall be persons of color and/or persons whose primary language is other than English. Processes shall be developed that will assure that in selecting staff there will be a balance of women and men, persons of color and persons whose primary language is other than English, laypersons, and persons on the rosters of this church. This balance is to be evident in the selection of staff consistent with the inclusive policy of this church.
 - f. Except as otherwise provided in this constitution and bylaws, synods, through synod councils, shall establish processes that will ensure that at least 60 percent of the members of their assemblies, councils, committees, boards, and other organizational units shall be laypersons; that, as nearly as possible, at least 45 percent of the lay members of their assemblies, councils, committees, boards, or other organizational units shall be women and, as nearly as possible, at least 45 percent shall be men, and that, ~~where possible~~, the representation of rostered ministers ~~of Word and Sacrament~~ shall include both women and men. Each synod shall establish processes that will enable it to reach a minimum goal that 10 percent of the membership of its assemblies, councils, committees, boards, or other organizational units be persons of color and/or persons whose primary language is other than English.

Moved;
Seconded;
Defeated:

Two-Thirds Vote Required
YES-316; NO-490

To amend bylaw 7.31.03 as follows:

- 7.31.03. **Preparation and Approval.** Except as provided in 7.31.04., a candidate for the ministry of Word and Sacrament shall have:
[...]
- g. been recommended to a congregation ~~or other entity~~ by the bishop of the synod to which the candidate has been assigned for first call ~~in accordance with the procedures recommended by the appropriate churchwide unit, reviewed by the Conference of Bishops, and adopted by the Church Council~~; and

Moved;
Seconded;
Defeated:

Two-Thirds Vote Required
YES-412; NO-391

To amend bylaw 8.22.01 as follows:

~~8.22.01. The relationship of this church to its colleges and universities shall be guided by policies fostering educational institutions dedicated to the Lutheran tradition wherein such institutions are an essential part of God's mission in the world; faithful to the will of God as institutions providing quality instruction in religion and a lively ministry of worship, outreach, and service; diligent in their preparation of leaders committed to truth, excellence, and ethical values; and pledged to the well-being of students in the development of mind, body, and spirit.~~

- 8.22.0201. Colleges Each college and universities university of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America this church shall establish a ~~may relate to this church in various ways,~~ including relationship with: ~~the Churchwide Assembly, the Church Council,~~
- a. a synod ~~assembly or synods;~~ or
 - b. a corporation whose voting members are, ~~or have been~~ elected or appointed by, a synod or synods assemblies, other organizational units (conferences, clusters, etc.), or congregations; or. ~~Subject to approval by the appropriate synods, a college or university may be owned by a not for profit~~
 - c. a corporation
 - 1) that has voting members, at least a majority of whom shall consist of members of the Churchwide Assembly or the Church Council, and
 - 2) that shall hold the meeting of such a corporation in conjunction with the Churchwide Assembly or the Church Council for the purpose of approving amendments to the articles of incorporation, and approving amendments to other governing documents which affect the relationship between the college or university and this church. A majority of the members of the governing board of a corporation that meets in conjunction with the Churchwide Assembly or Church Council shall be members of this church or of a church body with which this church is in a relationship of full communion, but under no circumstances shall fewer than forty (40) percent of the members of such board be members of this church.

Moved;
Seconded;
Defeated:

Two-Thirds Vote Required
YES-484; NO-314

To amend bylaw 15.21.03 as follows:

15.21.03. In conformity with this church's commitment to inclusive practice, churchwide units and offices will ensure that staff include a balance of genders, persons of color and persons whose primary language is other than English, laypersons, and rostered ministers.

ASSEMBLY
ACTION
CA22.03.19

Two-Thirds Vote Required
YES-760; NO-48

To amend the *Constitution for Synods* †S6.04 as follows:

- †S6.04. Except as otherwise provided in this constitution and bylaws, the Synod Council shall establish processes that will ensure that at least 60 percent of the members of the synod assemblies, councils, committees, boards, and other organizational units shall be laypersons; and that, as nearly as possible, at least 45 percent of the lay members of assemblies, councils, committees, boards, or other organizational units shall be women and, as nearly as possible, at least 45 percent shall be men; and that, where possible, the representation of rostered ministers ~~of Word and Sacrament~~ shall include both men and women. This synod shall establish processes that will enable it to reach a minimum goal that 10 percent of its assemblies, councils, committees, boards, or other organizational units be persons of color and/or persons whose primary language is other than English.

A voting member made a motion to amend the Order of Business to allow time for the nominees for the office of vice president to address the assembly for five minutes each.

Moved; *Two-Thirds Vote Required*
Seconded; *Yes-398; No-386*
Defeated: **To amend the Order of Business to allow time for the nominees for the office of vice president to address the assembly for five minute each.**

Report: Reference and Counsel Committee

Reference: 2022 Pre-Assembly Report, Section IX, Report of the Reference and Council Committee

Mr. David M. Lenz, co-chair of the Reference and Counsel Committee, reported to the assembly that Motion J in the committee's report had been withdrawn by its maker. He then moved the following motions.

A voting member proposed amending the *Constitution for Synods* †S7.21.01. The committee had recommended declining the proposal. The member then moved his amendment.

ASSEMBLY *Two-Thirds Vote Required*
ACTION *YES-616; NO-178*
CA22.03.20 **To amend the *Constitution for Synods* †S7.21.01 by striking the dagger and therefore making the provision non-required:**

‡S7.21.01. Voting members shall begin serving with the opening of a regular Synod Assembly and shall continue serving until the opening of the next regular Synod Assembly.

A voting member proposed an additional amendment to the *Constitution for Synods* †S11.04.

To amend the *Constitution for Synods* †S7.11.04. by striking the dagger and therefore making the provision non-required:

‡S7.11.04. The Mutual Ministry Committee shall be appointed by the Executive Committee of the Synod Council to provide support and counsel to the bishop.

The Reference and Council Committee recommended that the amendment be referred to the Conference of Bishops, Church Council, and Office of the Secretary for discussion to determine appropriate mutual ministry structures.

ASSEMBLY
ACTION *YES-747; NO-30*
CA22.03.21 **To refer consideration of the amendment to the *Constitution for Synods* †S11.04 to the Conference of Bishops, Church Council, and Office of the Secretary for discussion to determine appropriate mutual ministry structures.**

A voting member proposed an amendment to the *Constitution for Synods* †S15.31.

To amend by striking the dagger and therefore making the provision non-required:

‡S15.31. This synod shall arrange to have an annual audit of its financial records conducted by a certified public accountant firm recommended by the synod Audit Committee and approved by the Synod Council. The audited annual financial report shall be submitted by this synod to the churchwide Office of the Treasurer and to the congregations of this synod.

The Reference and Council Committee recommended that the amendment be referred to the Office of the Treasurer to determine options available for future financial reporting and auditing requirements.

ASSEMBLY

ACTION

YES-742; NO-29

CA22.03.22

To refer consideration of the amendment to the *Constitution for Synods* †S15.31 to the Office of the Treasurer to determine options available for future financial reporting and auditing requirements.

The Reference and Counsel Committee recommended approval of the following motion.

Motion K: Revision to *Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust* Social Statement

Submitted by: Mr. Michael Schulte [Southeastern Synod, 9D]

ASSEMBLY

Two-Thirds Vote Required

ACTION

YES-708; NO-93

CA22.03.23

To authorize a possible revision of the social statement on *Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust* which reconsiders the church's current concept of the four positions of bound conscience. This revision would focus on pages 19-21 ("lifelong, monogamous, same-gender relationships) and any other references to the four positions of bound conscience.

Presiding Bishop Eaton called for the orders of the day.

Elections: Fifth Ballot for Vice President

Reference: *2022 Pre-Assembly Report, Section I, Rules of Organization and Procedure, and Section V: Election of the Vice President*

The Credentials Committee reported that as of 3:38 p.m., 829 voting members were registered. Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton called for the assembly to cast the fifth ballot for vice president.

Elections: Results of Fifth Ballot for Vice President

Reference: *2022 Pre-Assembly Report, Section I Rules of Organization and procedure, Section V, Election of the Vice President, Section X, Report of the Elections Committee*

The Elections Committee reported that 814 votes were cast on the fifth ballot for vice president, with 408 votes required for election. Mr. Imran Siddiqui is elected as vice president.

Imran Siddiqui	550 votes
Roberto Lara Aranda	264 votes

Plenary Session Six adjourned at 5:18 p.m.



Legislative Update: Friday, Aug. 12, 2022

Plenary Session Seven

The 2022 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) convened for its seventh plenary session in Hall A of the Greater Columbus Convention Center, Columbus, Ohio, at 10:31 a.m. (EDT).

Report: Memorials Committee (*continued*)

Reference: 2022 Pre-Assembly Report, Section VII, Report of the Memorials Committee; Supplemental Report of the Memorials Committee

Ms. Cheryl T. Chatman and Mr. Joseph T. Nolte, co-chairs of the Memorials Committee, resumed the discussion from Plenary Session 4, beginning with Category B11: Specialized Ministries and On Leave from Call Status.

Category B11: Specialized Ministries and On Leave from Call Status

The committee chairs had moved the recommended action on behalf of the committee.

To receive with gratitude the memorials from the Southwest California Synod, South Dakota Synod, Metropolitan Chicago Synod, Northern Illinois Synod, La Crosse Area Synod, Indiana-Kentucky Synod, Northwestern Ohio Synod, and Lower Susquehanna Synod concerning specialized ministries and On Leave from Call status;

To direct the Church Council to establish a process for examining constitutional provisions and policies and procedures as they relate to interim, transition, bridge, specialized, non-parish-based, and innovative calls, as well as on-leave from call status, protocols for removal from the rosters, and communication protocols;

To ask that those involved in the review consult with rostered ministers who are or have recently been involved in specialized ministries (e.g., interim, transition, campus, outdoor, college or seminary faculty, chaplains, etc.), and those currently on leave from call for a variety of reasons (e.g., regular leave from call, family, disability, study, etc.).

A voting member offered a substitute motion.

Moved;

Seconded:

To amend by substitution as follows:

To receive with gratitude the memorials from the Southwest California Synod, South Dakota Synod, Metropolitan Chicago Synod, Northern Illinois Synod, La Crosse Area Synod, Indiana-Kentucky Synod, Northwestern Ohio Synod, and Lower Susquehanna Synod concerning specialized ministries and On Leave from Call status;

To direct the Church Council to direct the appropriate churchwide unit to initiate a review process of the “Manual of Policies and Procedures for Management of the Rosters of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America” and the constitutional provisions and policies and procedures as they relate to interim, transition, bridge, specialized, non-parish-based, and innovative calls, as well as on-leave from call status, protocols for removal from the rosters, and communication protocols;

To direct the Church Council to ensure that this review process include in its scope of inquiry, but not be limited to: the time limits given for On-leave-from-Call, steps for requesting a roster status, and a process by which an action or lack of recommendation from a bishop may be appealed, including the possibility of an appeal in a synod other than the synod from which they were removed from the roster;

To require that those involved in the review process include a diverse group representing both the roster of Word and Sacrament and the roster of Word and Service who are or have

recently been involved in specialized ministries (e.g., interim, transition, campus, outdoor, college or seminary faculty, chaplains, etc.), and those currently or recently on leave from call for a variety of reasons (e.g., between calls, family, disability, study, etc.);

To urge bishops and synod councils to use sparingly any action by which a minister is removed from the roster for non-disciplinary reasons, unless the minister requests removal, until this review is complete, especially for those serving contract calls, as supply preachers, and in other ELCA ministries that don't qualify as a call; and

To require that the appropriate unit of the churchwide organization prepare a report and recommendations for consideration by the fall 2024 meeting of the ELCA Church Council.

Vice President Peña first invited amendments to the original motion from the Memorials Committee. A voting member offered an amendment.

Moved;

Yes-586; No-90

Seconded:

Carried:

To amend the original motion as follows:

To receive with gratitude the memorials from the Southwest California Synod, South Dakota Synod, Metropolitan Chicago Synod, Northern Illinois Synod, La Crosse Area Synod, Indiana-Kentucky Synod, Northwestern Ohio Synod, and Lower Susquehanna Synod concerning specialized ministries and On Leave from Call status;

To direct the Church Council to establish a process for examining constitutional provisions and policies and procedures as they relate to interim, transition, bridge, specialized, non-parish-based, and innovative calls, as well as on-leave from call status, protocols for removal from the rosters, and communication protocols;

To ask that those involved in the review consult with rostered ministers who are or have recently been involved in specialized ministries (e.g., interim, transition, campus, outdoor, college or seminary faculty, chaplains, etc.), and those currently on leave from call for a variety of reasons (e.g., regular leave from call, family, disability, study, healing from abuse, etc.).

Vice President Peña then invited amendments to the substitute motion. A voting member proposed an amendment.

Moved;

Adopted by Unanimous Consent

Seconded:

Carried:

To amend the substitute motion as follows:

To receive with gratitude the memorials from the Southwest California Synod, South Dakota Synod, Metropolitan Chicago Synod, Northern Illinois Synod, La Crosse Area Synod, Indiana-Kentucky Synod, Northwestern Ohio Synod, and Lower Susquehanna Synod concerning specialized ministries and On Leave from Call status;

To direct the Church Council to direct the appropriate churchwide unit to initiate a review process of the "Manual of Policies and Procedures for Management of the Rosters of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America" and the constitutional provisions and policies and procedures as they relate to interim, transition, bridge, specialized, non-parish-based, and innovative calls, as well as on-leave from call status, protocols for removal from the rosters, and communication protocols;

To direct the Church Council to ensure that this review process include in its scope of inquiry, but not be limited to: the time limits given for On-leave-from-Call, steps for requesting a roster status, and a process by which an action or lack of recommendation from a bishop may be appealed, including the possibility of an appeal in a other than the synod from which they were removed from the roster;

To require that those involved in the review process include a diverse group representing both the roster of Word and Sacrament and the roster of Word and Service who are or have recently been involved in specialized ministries (e.g., interim, transition, campus, outdoor, college or seminary faculty, chaplains, etc.), and those currently or recently on leave from call for a variety of reasons (e.g., between calls, family, disability, study, healing from abuse etc.);

To urge bishops and synod councils to use sparingly any action by which a minister is removed from the roster for non-disciplinary reasons, unless the minister requests removal, until this review is complete, especially for those serving contract calls, as supply preachers, and in other ELCA ministries that don't qualify as a call; and

To require that the appropriate unit of the churchwide organization prepare a report and recommendations for consideration by the fall 2024 meeting of the ELCA Church Council.

A voting member proposed another amendment to the substitute motion.

Moved;
Seconded:
Carried:

Yes-650; No-52

To amend the amended substitute motion as follows:

To receive with gratitude the memorials from the Southwest California Synod, South Dakota Synod, Metropolitan Chicago Synod, Northern Illinois Synod, La Crosse Area Synod, Indiana-Kentucky Synod, Northwestern Ohio Synod, and Lower Susquehanna Synod concerning specialized ministries and On Leave from Call status;

To direct the Church Council to direct the appropriate churchwide unit to initiate a review process of the “Manual of Policies and Procedures for Management of the Rosters of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America” and the constitutional provisions and policies and procedures as they relate to interim, transition, bridge, specialized, non-parish-based, and innovative calls, as well as on-leave from call status, protocols for removal from the rosters, and communication protocols;

To direct the Church Council to ensure that this review process include in its scope of inquiry, but not be limited to: the time limits given for On-leave-from-Call, steps for requesting a roster status, and a process by which an action or lack of recommendation from a bishop may be appealed, including the possibility of an appeal in a other than the synod from which they were removed from the roster;

To require that those involved in the review process include a diverse group representing both the roster of Word and Sacrament and the roster of Word and Service who are or have recently been involved in specialized ministries (e.g., interim, transition, campus, outdoor, college or seminary faculty, chaplains, mission developers, etc.), and those currently or recently on leave from call for a variety of reasons (e.g., between calls, family, disability, study, healing from abuse etc.);

To urge bishops and synod councils to use sparingly any action by which a minister is removed from the roster for non-disciplinary reasons, unless the minister requests removal, until this review is complete, especially for those serving contract calls, as supply preachers, and in other ELCA ministries that don't qualify as a call; and

To require that the appropriate unit of the churchwide organization prepare a report and recommendations for consideration by the fall 2024 meeting of the ELCA Church Council.

A voting member proposed another amendment to the substitute motion.

Moved;
Seconded:
Carried:

Yes-601; No-93

To amend the substitute motion as follows:

To receive with gratitude the memorials from the Southwest California Synod, South Dakota Synod, Metropolitan Chicago Synod, Northern Illinois Synod, La Crosse Area Synod, Indiana-Kentucky Synod, Northwestern Ohio Synod, and Lower Susquehanna Synod concerning specialized ministries and On Leave from Call status;

To direct the Church Council to direct the appropriate churchwide unit to initiate a review process of the “Manual of Policies and Procedures for Management of the Rosters of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America” and the constitutional provisions and policies and procedures as they relate to interim, transition, bridge, specialized, non-parish-based, and innovative calls, as well as on-leave from call status, protocols for removal from the rosters, and communication protocols;

To direct the Church Council to ensure that this review process include in its scope of inquiry, but not be limited to: the time limits given for On-leave-from-Call, steps for requesting a roster status, and a process by which an action or lack of recommendation from a bishop may be appealed, including the possibility of an appeal in a **synod judicatory** other than the synod from which they were removed from the roster;

To require that those involved in the review process include a diverse group representing both the roster of Word and Sacrament and the roster of Word and Service who are or have recently been involved in specialized ministries (e.g., interim, transition, campus, outdoor, college or seminary faculty, chaplains, mission developers, etc.), and those currently or recently on leave from call for a variety of reasons (e.g., between calls, family, disability, study, healing from abuse, etc.);

To urge bishops and synod councils to use sparingly any action by which a minister is removed from the roster for non-disciplinary reasons, unless the minister requests removal, until this review is complete, especially for those serving contract calls, as supply preachers, and in other ELCA ministries that don't qualify as a call; and

To require that the appropriate unit of the churchwide organization prepare a report and recommendations for consideration by the fall 2024 meeting of the ELCA Church Council.

Vice President Peña requested a Credentials Report. The Credentials Committee reported that, as of 10:45 a.m., 829 voting members were registered.

Moved;
Seconded:
Carried:

Yes-590; No-126

To replace the original motion as amended with the substitute motion as amended:

To receive with gratitude the memorials from the Southwest California Synod, South Dakota Synod, Metropolitan Chicago Synod, Northern Illinois Synod, La Crosse Area Synod, Indiana-Kentucky Synod, Northwestern Ohio Synod, and Lower Susquehanna Synod concerning specialized ministries and On Leave from Call status;

To direct the Church Council to direct the appropriate churchwide unit to initiate a review process of the “Manual of Policies and Procedures for Management of the Rosters of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America” and the constitutional provisions and policies and procedures as they relate to interim, transition, bridge, specialized, non-parish-based, and innovative calls, as well as on-leave from call status, protocols for removal from the rosters, and communication protocols;

To direct the Church Council to ensure that this review process include in its scope of inquiry, but not be limited to: the time limits given for On-leave-from-Call, steps for requesting a roster status, and a process by which an action or lack of recommendation from a bishop may be appealed, including the possibility of an appeal in a judicatory other than the synod from which they were removed from the roster;

To require that those involved in the review process include a diverse group representing both the roster of Word and Sacrament and the roster of Word and Service who are or have recently been involved in specialized ministries (e.g., interim, transition, campus, outdoor, college or seminary faculty, chaplains, mission developers, etc.), and those currently or recently on leave from call for a variety of reasons (e.g., between calls, family, disability, study, healing from abuse, etc.);

To urge bishops and synod councils to use sparingly any action by which a minister is removed from the roster for non-disciplinary reasons, unless the minister requests removal, until this review is complete, especially for those serving contract calls, as supply preachers, and in other ELCA ministries that don't qualify as a call; and

To require that the appropriate unit of the churchwide organization prepare a report and recommendations for consideration by the fall 2024 meeting of the ELCA Church Council.

To receive with gratitude the memorials from the Southwest California Synod, South Dakota Synod, Metropolitan Chicago Synod, Northern Illinois Synod, La Crosse Area Synod, Indiana-Kentucky Synod, Northwestern Ohio Synod, and Lower Susquehanna Synod concerning specialized ministries and On Leave from Call status;

To direct the Church Council to direct the appropriate churchwide unit to initiate a review process of the “Manual of Policies and Procedures for Management of the Rosters of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America” and the constitutional provisions and policies and procedures as they relate to interim, transition, bridge, specialized, non-parish-based, and innovative calls, as well as on-leave from call status, protocols for removal from the rosters, and communication protocols;

To direct the Church Council to ensure that this review process include in its scope of inquiry, but not be limited to: the time limits given for On-leave-from-Call, steps for requesting a roster status, and a process by which an action or lack of recommendation from a bishop may be appealed, including the possibility of an appeal in a judicatory other than the synod from which they were removed from the roster;

To require that those involved in the review process include a diverse group representing both the roster of Word and Sacrament and the roster of Word and Service who are or have recently been involved in specialized ministries (e.g., interim, transition, campus, outdoor, college or seminary faculty, chaplains, mission developers, etc.), and those currently or recently on leave from call for a variety of reasons (e.g., between calls, family, disability, study, healing from abuse, etc.);

To urge bishops and synod councils to use sparingly any action by which a minister is removed from the roster for non-disciplinary reasons, unless the minister requests removal, until this review is complete, especially for those serving contract calls, as supply preachers, and in other ELCA ministries that don't qualify as a call; and

To require that the appropriate unit of the churchwide organization prepare a report and recommendations for consideration by the fall 2024 meeting of the ELCA Church Council.

Category A4: Greenhouse Gas Reduction

The chairs moved the following substitute response on behalf of the committee:

To receive with gratitude the memorials from the Oregon Synod, Southwest California Synod, Northeastern Minnesota Synod, Minneapolis Area Synod, Saint Paul Area Synod, Southwestern Texas Synod, Northern Illinois Synod, Northeastern Iowa Synod, East-Central Synod of Wisconsin, Greater Milwaukee Synod, North/West Lower Michigan Synod, New England Synod, Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, Northwestern Pennsylvania Synod, Central States Synod, and Delaware-Maryland Synod concerning greenhouse gas reduction;

To reaffirm the commitment of this church to engage in creation care and advocacy based on the principles of sufficiency, sustainability, participation, and solidarity;

To reaffirm the commitment of this church to advocacy and action in support of 50% reduction from 2005 levels in United States economy-wide net greenhouse gas pollution by 2030 and achieve net-zero emissions by 2050;

To urge the churchwide organization to continue its network ministry through the Creation Care Network to inform and guide this church in its efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions;

To encourage congregants, rostered ministers, and bishops to commit themselves to education about the urgency of the climate emergency, the global opportunities of a just transition, and to lift up loving our neighbor in response to the climate emergency through their preaching;

To affirm the Mission Investments Fund's “Green Building” initiative and resources, and to encourage continued commitment to supporting ministries in caring for creation and addressing climate change;

To refer to the Service and Justice home area, Office of the Treasurer, Office of the Secretary, and Office of the Presiding Bishop, for implementation consistent with the memorials; and

To request the churchwide organization provide a report to the 2025 Churchwide Assembly assessing the progress in reducing greenhouse gas emissions across all three expressions and sharing lessons learned to help meet reduction goals.

A voting member offered an amendment.

Moved;
Seconded:
Carried

Yes-597; No-81

To amend the motion as follows:

To receive with gratitude the memorials from the Oregon Synod, Southwest California Synod, Northeastern Minnesota Synod, Minneapolis Area Synod, Saint Paul Area Synod, Southwestern Texas Synod, Northern Illinois Synod, Northeastern Iowa Synod, East-Central Synod of Wisconsin, Greater Milwaukee Synod, North/West Lower Michigan Synod, New England Synod, Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, Northwestern Pennsylvania Synod, Central States Synod, and Delaware-Maryland Synod concerning greenhouse gas reduction;

To reaffirm the commitment of this church to engage in creation care and advocacy based on the principles of sufficiency, sustainability, participation, and solidarity;

To reaffirm the commitment of this church to advocacy and action in support of 50% reduction from 2005 levels in United States economy-wide net greenhouse gas pollution by 2030 and achieve net-zero emissions by 2050;

To direct the ELCA Churchwide organization to set the goal of reducing its net greenhouse gas pollution 50% by 2030, and achieve net-zero emissions by 2050;

To urge the churchwide organization to continue its network ministry through the Creation Care Network to inform and guide this church in its efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions;

To encourage congregants, rostered ministers, and bishops to commit themselves to education about the urgency of the climate emergency, the global opportunities of a just transition and to lift up loving our neighbor in response to the climate emergency through their preaching;

To affirm the Mission Investments Fund's "Green Building" initiative and resources, and to encourage continued commitment to supporting ministries in caring for creation and addressing climate change;

To refer to the Service and Justice home area, Office of the Treasurer, Office of the Secretary, and Office of the Presiding Bishop, for implementation consistent with the memorials; and

To request the churchwide organization provide a report to the 2025 Churchwide Assembly assessing the progress in reducing greenhouse gas emissions across all three expressions and sharing lessons learned to help meet reduction goals.

**ASSEMBLY
ACTION
CA22.04.25**

YES-672; NO-45

To receive with gratitude the memorials from the Oregon Synod, Southwest California Synod, Northeastern Minnesota Synod, Minneapolis Area Synod, Saint Paul Area Synod, Southwestern Texas Synod, Northern Illinois Synod, Northeastern Iowa Synod, East-Central Synod of Wisconsin, Greater Milwaukee Synod, North/West Lower Michigan Synod, New England Synod, Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, Northwestern Pennsylvania Synod, Central States Synod, and Delaware-Maryland Synod concerning greenhouse gas reduction;

To reaffirm the commitment of this church to engage in creation care and advocacy based on the principles of sufficiency, sustainability, participation, and solidarity;

To reaffirm the commitment of this church to advocacy and action in support of 50% reduction from 2005 levels in United States economy-wide net greenhouse gas pollution by 2030 and achieve net-zero emissions by 2050;

To direct the ELCA Churchwide organization to set the goal of reducing its net greenhouse gas pollution 50% by 2030, and achieve net-zero emissions by 2050;

To urge the churchwide organization to continue its network ministry through the Creation Care Network to inform and guide this church in its efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions;

To encourage congregants, rostered ministers, and bishops to commit themselves to education about the urgency of the climate emergency, the global opportunities of a just transition and to lift up loving our neighbor in response to the climate emergency through their preaching;

To affirm the Mission Investments Fund's "Green Building" initiative and resources, and to encourage continued commitment to supporting ministries in caring for creation and addressing climate change;

To refer to the Service and Justice home area, Office of the Treasurer, Office of the Secretary, and Office of the Presiding Bishop, for implementation consistent with the memorials; and

To request the churchwide organization provide a report to the 2025 Churchwide Assembly assessing the progress in reducing greenhouse gas emissions across all three expressions and sharing lessons learned to help meet reduction goals.

Category B5: Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Accessibility (DEIA) ELCA Governance Audit

The committee chairs moved the recommended action on behalf of the committee.

A voting member made a motion to replace the proposed response with a substitute response.

Moved;

Yes- 313; No-390

Seconded:

Defeated

To replace the proposed response with a substitute response as follows:

To refer Memorial B5 and the proposed recommendations of the Memorials Committee in toto to the Church Council for review and consideration and that a report be provided to the Conference of Bishops and to all synods no later than the fall of 2023.

ASSEMBLY

ACTION

Yes-538; No-175

CA22.04.26

To receive with gratitude the memorial on "Audit of Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the ELCA" from the Northwest Washington Synod;

To authorize the Church Council to determine the parameters and the expense budget of this process and identify the revenue source(s) to provide for this audit;

To direct the Church Council to engage an external auditor to conduct a comprehensive audit for diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility of the Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the ELCA and related governance documents and present a report of the findings by the Fall 2023 Church Council meeting;

To direct the Church Council to release the findings of the audit to this church; and

To direct the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee to use the findings of this audit to recommend changes to the governing documents to the 2025 Churchwide Assembly.

Report: Reference and Counsel Committee (continued)

Reference: 2022 Pre-Assembly Report, Section IX, Report of the Reference and Counsel Committee

Mr. David M. Lenz, co-chair of the Reference and Counsel Committee, moved Motion I, with the committee’s recommendation for approval.

Motion I: Nomination and Election Processes

Submitted by: The Rev. Kathy Gerking [Nebraska Synod, 4A]

RESOLVED, that the Church Council appoint a Task Force to explore and analyze nomination and election processes used by synods and the churchwide organization, including but not limited to the ecclesiastical ballot, in order to determine best practices and to make practical recommendations concerning options for the selection of all synod and churchwide officers; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Task Force report to the Conference of Bishops and Church Council in sufficient time that potential governing document amendments and/or a report on best practices can be prepared in time for the 2025 Churchwide Assembly.

ASSEMBLY

ACTION

YES-600; NO-39

CA22.04.27 To adopt Motion I as submitted.

RESOLVED, that the Church Council appoint a Task Force to explore and analyze nomination and election processes used by synods and the churchwide organization, including but not limited to the ecclesiastical ballot, in order to determine best practices and to make practical recommendations concerning options for the selection of all synod and churchwide officers; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Task Force report to the Conference of Bishops and Church Council in sufficient time that potential governing document amendments and/or a report on best practices can be prepared in time for the 2025 Churchwide Assembly.

The following motions were brought forward sequentially by the Reference and Counsel Committee and were approved by unanimous consent:

ASSEMBLY

ACTION

ADOPTED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

CA22.04.28 To adopt the following resolution:

Motion L: Resolution of Appreciation for Church Council Members who are Ending their Terms of Service in 2022

ASSEMBLY

ACTION

ADOPTED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

CA22.04.29 To adopt the following resolution:

Motion M: Resolution of Appreciation for Churchwide Staff

ASSEMBLY

ACTION

ADOPTED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

CA22.04.30 To adopt the following resolution:

Motion N: Resolution of Appreciation for Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton

ASSEMBLY
ACTION
CA22.04.31 *To adopt the following resolution:*
Motion O: Resolution of Appreciation for Interim Vice President Carlos E. Peña **ADOPTED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT**

ASSEMBLY
ACTION
CA22.04.32 *To adopt the following resolution:*
Motion P: Resolution of Appreciation for Secretary Sue Rothmeyer **ADOPTED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT**

ASSEMBLY
ACTION
CA22.04.33 *To adopt the following resolution:*
Motion Q: Resolution of Appreciation for Treasurer Lori Fedyk **ADOPTED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT**

ASSEMBLY
ACTION
CA22.04.34 *To adopt the following resolution:*
Motion R: Resolution of Appreciation for Nominees for Election **ADOPTED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT**

ASSEMBLY
ACTION
CA22.04.35 *To adopt the following resolution:*
Motion S: Resolution of Appreciation for Churchwide Committees Roll of Assembly Members **ADOPTED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT**

ASSEMBLY
ACTION
CA22.04.36 *To adopt the following resolution:*
Motion T: Resolution of Appreciation for Ecumenical and Inter-religious guests **ADOPTED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT**

ASSEMBLY
ACTION
CA22.04.37 *To adopt the following resolution:*
Motion U: Resolution of Appreciation and Thanksgiving for Hospitality **ADOPTED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT**

Announcement of the 2025 Churchwide Assembly

Secretary Sue Rothmeyer announced that the 2025 Churchwide Assembly will be held in Phoenix, Ariz., July 28–Aug.3, 2025.

The sixteenth Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America adjourned at 12:11 p.m.