

April 19, 2007

TO: Bishops of synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Secretaries of synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Vice Presidents of synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Members of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Members of the Cabinet of Executives
Regional Coordinators

FROM: The Rev. Lowell G. Almen, secretary

SUBJECT: Report of Actions of the Church Council (April 13–16, 2007)

The Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) met at the Lutheran Center, Chicago, Illinois, on April 13–16, 2007. A variety of matters received attention. Here is a summary of particular actions.

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1. BOOK OF FAITH: LUTHERANS READ THE BIBLE
A Consultation and a Proposed Initiative

In response to many voices calling for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to renew its engagement with Scripture and Lutheran approaches to the Bible, including a memorial from the North Carolina Synod considered by the 2005 Churchwide Assembly [CA05.06.27], an *ad hoc* committee has been at work for almost two years. The Office of the Presiding Bishop, the Office of the Secretary, Augsburg Fortress, Publishers, and the Vocation and Education unit, in regular conversation with the Conference of Bishops and others, developed an initial proposal for a consultation and a five-year initiative.

As word spread of the draft proposal and when *The Lutheran* magazine and ELCA news service reported that such an initiative was under consideration in the ELCA, many individuals submitted suggestions, expressed strong support, and indicated an interest in participating in some way. These also helped shape the concept.

The Church Council was kept apprised of the

development of the initiative by regular reports. At its November 2006 meeting, the council voted [CC06.11.55]:

To receive the report of the *ad hoc* committee for a five-year initiative, “Book of Faith: Lutherans Read the Bible”;

To affirm the planned January 2007 consultation, “Book of Faith: Lutherans Read the Bible”;

To direct that a report on the proposed initiative be prepared, with recommendations and expenditure plan, for consideration by the Church Council in April 2007;

To request that a report and overview of the initiative, “Book of Faith: Lutherans Read the Bible,” be developed for possible recommendation by the Church Council to the 2007 Churchwide Assembly; and

To assign direction of this initiative to the presiding bishop, with programmatic implementation to be carried out by the Vocation and Education unit.

Consultation—January 2007

The committee planned a consultation, “Book of Faith: Lutherans Read the Bible.” Its purpose was to explore issues around Lutheran understandings of the authority of Scripture and to lay groundwork for the proposed initiative.

Some 90 people were gathered in January 2007 for the consultation. These included lay people and rostered leaders, parish pastors, teaching theologians, bishops, specialists in such areas as worship, preaching, and theological education for all ages, and Augsburg Fortress staff. Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson convened the conversation with an opening address. Keynote speakers were Professor Diane Jacobson of Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minn., and Professor Erik Heen, Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, Pa. In a variety of ways, the consultation dwelt in the Word through worship, hearing, and study. The three presentations are available online at www.elca.org/bookoffaith.

Much of the consultation was devoted to eight working groups on aspects and arenas of the Bible’s place in Christian life: adult studies; children and the Bible; ethics, daily life and contemporary issues; evangelizing and outreach; hermeneutics; theological education; worship and preaching; and youth and young adult ministries. Each group addressed the needs and opportunities in that area and moved toward initial identification of elements that might be part of the initiative.

The Book of Faith Initiative

A proposal for a five-year Book of Faith initiative has been developed from the consultation. The initiative would pursue the dual objective of broader and deeper engagement with Scripture in the ELCA and a renewed teaching and use of Lutheran approaches to Scripture, which have proven fruitful for 500 years. Book of Faith would not be merely a theme or emphasis that would be succeeded by other emphases. Rather, the intent is to form culture and customs in this church that will open it to a new level of valuing and being shaped by the power of the Word.

Although decisions about what would be included await approval of the initiative by the Church Council and the Churchwide Assembly, there is a clear consensus on several things that would help the ELCA seize the opportunity God is giving it now. There is a call for new learning resources for all ages; wider awareness of what is already available; common effort with Renewing Worship; an accessible resource on Lutheran approaches to Scripture (hermeneutics); a study of effective teaching methods for all ages; support in experiencing meditative uses of the Bible; and enabling the evangelizing use of the Scripture. Again and again, participants encouraged making use of emerging technologies for communication and taking particular interest in youth and young adults.

The initiative would aim to engage all expressions of the ELCA—congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization—as well as outdoor and campus ministries, colleges and universities, seminaries, and other agencies and institutions. Augsburg Fortress, Publishers, is committed to the effort and would collaborate with the Vocation and Education unit in leading the churchwide organization’s involvement. Leaders of the Women of the ELCA have expressed interest in building on their long role in engaging the Scriptures. The board of Lutheran Men in Mission at its February 2007 meeting voted to support the proposal for the Book of Faith initiative. The committee for the Hein-Fry Lecture Series already has committed to collaborate with this initiative as it plans for the next several years.

Ecumenical and global contexts and partnerships will be important in this effort. Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson, in his capacity as president of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF), addressed the 60th anniversary celebration of the LWF in Lund, Sweden, and said, “I believe that central to this fundamental ecumenism will be renewed and new practices of hearing, reading, and studying Scripture together, both within our communion and with our companion churches. Could the decade leading up to 2017 have this as a primary and public focus? In our multicultural communion, can we commit to becoming fluent in the first language of faith—the language of Scripture? It is very important that we build upon the results of the LWF study published in *Witnessing to God’s Faithfulness: Issues of Biblical Authority*.”

Expenditures for 2007, the initiative’s first year, are anticipated to be less than \$50,000 and will come from the Vocation and Education budget and from a designated fund that was established by the Church Council for the proposed consultation and initiative. The draft Vocation and Education budget for 2008 contains \$166,000 for the initiative. This would supply staff, support, and resources, including some Web development. The planning committee assumes that some projects, such as publication of major resources, expanded efforts for a particular age group, or expansion of Web usage, would require special subventions that might come in the form of designated gifts or grants.

Augsburg Fortress, Publishers, the publishing ministry of the ELCA, has been fully represented in the planning of the consultation and initiative. Augsburg Fortress and the Vocation and Education unit anticipate a broad partnership, parallel to that between the churchwide organization and publishing ministry for the Renewing Worship project. Augsburg Fortress is prepared to commit staff and financial resources to the initiative.

Church Council Action:

The Church Council voted to recommend adoption by the 2007 Churchwide Assembly of two resolutions of support for the Book of Faith initiative.

2. AFFIRMATION OF EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP

The 2005 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America affirmed the outcomes of the five-year Renewing Worship project and anticipated the 2006 publication of *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* [CA05.03.05].

Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW) was released on October 3, 2006, as part of a new series of worship resources—the primary resource in an unfolding family of new worship resources that will be available in print and in electronic form—and early sales have been brisk. Nearly 600,000 volumes of *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* were ordered in 2006; the fifth printing is now available.

Introductory efforts will culminate in “Worship Jubilee 2007,” a churchwide worship event designed to feature the flexibility of *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* and further the ongoing work of worship renewal throughout the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Worship Jubilee 2007 will be held at Navy Pier in Chicago prior to the 2007 Churchwide Assembly.

Church Council Action:

The Church Council voted to recommend adoption by the 2007 Churchwide Assembly of a resolution of affirmation of *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*.

3. BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE ON MISSION FUNDING

The November 2005 meeting of the Church Council authorized the creation of a Blue Ribbon Task Force on Mission Funding for the purpose of studying mission funding in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and preparing a report with recommendations for the April 2007 Church Council meeting.

Church Council Action:

To receive with gratitude the report of the Blue Ribbon Committee on Mission Funding and to commend the members of the committee for their creative and diligent efforts on behalf of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America;

To request that the presiding bishop inaugurate implementation in the 2008 proposed expenditure authorization of the funding and staffing implications contained in the report and recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Committee on Mission Funding;

To delegate oversight and coordination for the implementation of the report of the Blue Ribbon Committee on Mission Funding to the Office of the Presiding Bishop—with special responsibility assigned to the Synodical Relations section and the Mission Funding and Interpretation Team—with an implementation plan, including specific measurements

and evaluation cycles, to be presented to the November 2007 meeting of the Church Council and subsequently through regular progress reports to the Church Council commencing in April 2008; and

To urge that the Office of the Presiding Bishop develop, with the support of the Church Council, ways to foster throughout the ELCA’s congregations, synods, churchwide ministries, and related institutions and agencies a deeper and broader understanding of this church’s ecclesiology, polity, and philosophy of mission funding.

Church Council Action:

The Church Council also voted to transmit the report of the Blue Ribbon Committee on Mission Funding to the 2007 Churchwide Assembly and to recommend adoption by the assembly of a resolution of support for and implementation of its recommendations.

4. FEASIBILITY STUDY ON A FUND APPEAL FUND APPEAL FOR NEW MINISTRIES Grand Canyon Synod (2D) [2005 Memorial]

WHEREAS, it is the commission of the Lord of the Church to “Go and make disciples . . . baptizing them . . . and teaching them . . .” (Matthew 28:19–20); and

WHEREAS, the challenge of the great commission would coincide with the present Evangelical Lutheran Church in America emphasis on evangelism; and

WHEREAS, the resources of this church, the people, are relatively untapped for this kind of witness; and

WHEREAS, new mission development has never, since 1988, reached the level of new starts that existed in the predecessor synods; and

WHEREAS, the basic ministries of the Gospel take place in and through congregations; and

WHEREAS, there is estimated to be over 90,000,000 unchurched people in this country; and

WHEREAS, membership in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is diminishing, some 200,000 in recent years, now numbering under 5,000,000 people at the same time the population of the nation is increasing; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Grand Canyon Synod in assembly memorialize the 2005 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to authorize a three-year professionally guided fund appeal to be used for the establishing of new congregations.

Response from the 2005 Churchwide Assembly

The Churchwide Assembly voted [CA05.07.39q]:

To express gratitude to the Grand Canyon Synod for its commitment to the evangelism strategy, “Sharing Faith in a New Century: A Vision for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America,” adopted by the 2003 Churchwide Assembly, the great need to increase this church’s establishment of new congregations, and the significant funding required for this endeavor; and

To direct, in accordance with churchwide bylaw 11.41.06., that the Division for Outreach (or the appropriate churchwide unit), the Division for Congregational Ministries (or the appropriate churchwide unit), the Office of the Presiding Bishop, the Office of the Treasurer, and the Conference of Bishops bring a report related to funding for new and renewing congregations to the April 2007 meeting of the Church Council, with a report to the 2007 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Churchwide Assembly Background [2005]

The *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* includes bylaw 11.41.06., which reads:

No churchwide appeal to congregations or individuals of this church for the raising of funds shall be conducted by this church or churchwide units without the consent of the Churchwide Assembly, following consultation with the Conference of Bishops. No appeal to selected congregations and individuals of this church for the raising of funds shall be conducted by this church or churchwide units without the consent of the Church Council, following consultation with either the Conference of Bishops or specific synods as appropriate. Proposals for such special appeals shall be presented to the Church Council through the appropriate council committee with recommendations by the Office of the Presiding Bishop.

The topic of a churchwide campaign or funding appeal was discussed in two churchwide settings during the 2003–2004 biennium. First, a churchwide staff working group developed a report with recommendations to the Office of the Presiding Bishop in 2003 on the subject of mission funding. One topic addressed in the report was a major churchwide campaign. The commentary indicated that “a major churchwide campaign to support specific churchwide mission priorities (e.g., planting new congregations) could provide significant additional income. Such a campaign could enhance a sense of unity and, possibly, new energy and excitement to advance a common purpose. It could also build major donor capacity and provide an opportunity to ‘tell the story.’ It would, however, require a significant, multi-million dollar up-front outlay to defray fund-raising expenses (commensurate with the goals set). It would have a long window for return. In the current fund-raising and economic environment, the outcome of such a campaign is not certain.”

The recommendation accompanying the report advised “do not launch a major churchwide campaign at

this time.” The report was presented to the Budget and Finance Committee of the Church Council in April 2003. A significant portion of that committee meeting was devoted to discussion of the report and recommendations. There were no suggested changes to the recommendations.

Second, as part of the churchwide strategic planning process, a roundtable on mission funding was held October 7–8, 2003. There were twenty participants from congregations, synods, and institutions of this church and ten participants from churchwide staff. In the course of the meeting, a major churchwide funding appeal was discussed, but without definitive conclusion. The final report of the roundtable includes eight far-reaching outcomes related to mission funding with many additional short-term outcomes. No reference was made in the report to a churchwide fund appeal.

Cost Analysis

It is generally estimated that an organization needs to have in hand the equivalent of 20 percent of the fund appeal goal to underwrite the appeal expenses. Thus, for example, if the goal is \$25 million, \$5 million would be required up front to study, plan, and implement the appeal. The source for such funding is unknown at this time.

Church Council Background [2007]:

The 2005 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America considered a memorial from the Grand Canyon Synod “to authorize a three-year professionally guided fund appeal to be used for the establishing of new congregations.” The 2005 Churchwide Assembly directed the memorial to certain churchwide units and the Conference of Bishops and requested that a report related to funding for new and renewing congregations be brought to the April 2007 meeting of the Church Council for transmission to the 2007 Churchwide Assembly.

Subsequently, following the constituting of the Blue Ribbon Committee on Mission Funding, the 2005 memorial and the request for a report was referred to the Blue Ribbon Committee for consideration.

The Blue Ribbon Committee consulted with the Conference of Bishops at its March 2007 meeting. The committee reported to the conference its conviction that the role of the synodical bishop is pivotal to a successful appeal. This implies a significant time commitment and personal gift to the fund appeal. There is also the expectation that synods would not be conducting their own formal appeals to their congregations during the period of a joint churchwide and synodical campaign. Consultation with the conference concluded with a “straw poll” indicating 80 percent support among the bishops to proceed with a feasibility study for the appeal.

Based on its own assessment of the memorial of the Grand Canyon Synod and its discussion with the Conference of Bishops, the committee affirmed a feasibility study on a churchwide fund appeal to benefit both synodical and churchwide ministries.

The committee believes that fund appeals work best when several ministry areas are supported and therefore initially commends the ministry areas of new congregations, theological education, and global mission as the ministry areas to benefit from the appeal. The feasibility study not only will assist in ascertaining if these are the appropriate areas around which to organize a funding campaign, but will also provide a projection of an appropriate campaign goal.

The 25th anniversary of the ELCA in 2012 is an opportunity to strengthen relationships in this church, tell the story of God's mission through this church, and raise capital for the mission to which God calls this church. This date coincides well with the time required for a feasibility study in 2008, consideration of the appeal by the 2009 Churchwide Assembly, and, if approved by the assembly, organization of the campaign.

If this church proceeds with a fund appeal of this nature, the committee believes that a joint committee of synodical and churchwide representatives must be constituted immediately after the 2007 Churchwide Assembly to oversee the feasibility study and develop the formulas needed for distribution of the appeal receipts.

The committee believes that this appeal will give this church a burst of focused energy and thus is worth the expenses related to organizing and implementing the appeal. The appeal will be a tangible reminder that this is one church and that the responsibility to assist key areas of our ministry in taking on new life is shared.

Response from the Evangelical Outreach and Congregational Mission unit [2007]

The response of the Blue Ribbon Committee on Mission Funding serves as the response from the Evangelical Outreach and Congregational Mission unit.

Church Council Action:

To approve implementation of a feasibility study related to an ELCA fund appeal benefitting both synodical and churchwide ministries;

To request the Office of the Presiding Bishop, Office of the Treasurer, Development Services, Communication Services, and Conference of Bishops to proceed with the steps required for a professionally conducted feasibility study; and

To request a report to the April 2009 meeting of the Church Council on the results of the feasibility study and recommendations pursuant to a fund appeal benefitting both synodical and churchwide ministries of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

5. REVISED 2007 INCOME ESTIMATE AND SPENDING AUTHORIZATION

Income estimates for 2007 have been revised since the November 2006 meeting of the Church Council. These estimates reflect an increase in total estimated current fund income of \$695,000, for a total of \$81,422,000.

The primary increase was in mission-support income, to \$65,800,000. In 2006, synods remitted at 98.9 percent of their mission-support plans as revised by April 2006. The revised 2007 mission-support estimate amounted to 97.6 percent of current revised synod mission-support plans. Trends in bequest and trust income indicated that an increase of \$100,000 each, in unrestricted and temporarily restricted bequests and trust income, was appropriate. Investment income was expected to be \$135,000 higher than the earlier estimate. "Vision for Mission" was anticipated to increase \$50,000 to \$1,250,000.

The increased expenditure authorization was distributed primarily to the program units in a proportionate manner. Due to the opportunity for the Evangelical Outreach and Congregational Mission unit to provide advance grant payments in 2006 for funding of new ministry starts, the unit did not receive an increased allocation in 2007. Communication Services received an additional \$195,000 to support its inauguration of a comprehensive churchwide communication strategy.

The 2006 general World Hunger Appeal results exceeded projections by \$1,650,000, reaching \$19,100,000. Of this, \$500,000 was from the offering at the ELCA Youth Gathering. As a result of these strong results, the World Hunger income estimates have been raised to \$18,750,000 from the original estimate of \$17,500,000.

Church Council Action:

To approve a revised current fund spending authorization for the 2007 fiscal year of \$81,422,000; and

To approve a revised 2007 World Hunger spending authorization for the 2007 fiscal year of \$18,750,000.

6. SYNODICAL-CHURCHWIDE CONSULTATION ON MISSION-SUPPORT PLANS

The Church Council has responsibility for reviewing and acting on synod mission-support plans.

A. Revisions to 2007 Mission-Support Plans

Since the November 2006 meeting of the Church Council, revisions to six synod mission-support plans have been received, as well as one new submission received that had been outstanding.

Church Council Action:

To acknowledge that the ELCA constitution established the process for determination of the percentage for the sharing of mission-support contributions for synodical and churchwide ministries and that this process has been affirmed by actions of the 1995 Churchwide Assembly;

To underscore that this process specifies that the implementation of churchwide constitutional provision 10.71. and †S15.12. in the *Constitution for Synods* for the sharing of mission-support funds shall involve mutual consultation, mutual agreement, and mutual affirmation;

To affirm the revised 2007 mission-support dollar estimates for the sharing of mission-support contributions by congregations for synodical and churchwide ministries of the following synods:

**South Dakota,
Southeastern Minnesota,
Northeastern Pennsylvania,
Lower Susquehanna, and
Southeastern synods;**

To affirm with sincere appreciation the increases in the percentage for the sharing of 2007 mission-support contributions by congregations for the synodical and churchwide ministries of the following synod:

Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Synod; and

To acknowledge the decision of the following synod to request a reduction of its previously established percentage for the sharing of mission-support contributions by congregations for synodical and churchwide ministries; to affirm its prayerful efforts in continuing to be a strong partner; to encourage it to restore its percentage to the previous level in the future; and to commit to supporting it in this process through continuing conversation and collaboration on behalf of our shared ministries: Alaska Synod.

B. 2008 Mission-Support Plans

Synodical-churchwide mission-support consultations were held September 2006 through March 2007. Regional consultations were held in Regions 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, and 8. Consultations with individual synods were held in Regions 1, 5, and 9. The typical pattern for these consultations was to have two representatives from the churchwide office meet with synodical representatives.

This year's format began with questions that invited participants to discuss the relationship between their synod and the churchwide organization. Synodical representatives were asked to reflect on the strongest aspects of that relationship as well as those aspects that were troublesome or challenging. The reports from these consultations indicated that these questions elicited significant conversation between the synodical and

churchwide representatives with ideas generated to continue to strengthen the partnership between synods and the churchwide organization.

The second segment of this year's consultations included extensive discussion of financial and funding realities in each synod and the churchwide organization. This segment included discussion of the "challenges we face together." These challenges include the importance of our Lutheran identity, mission-support giving from abundance and not scarcity, and the ways that ministries will be funded in the future. Extensive notes from each consultation were kept by the churchwide representatives and will be used as a resource in developing future consultations between the churchwide organization and synods.

At the March 1-6, 2007, meeting of the Conference of Bishops the new director for mission support, the Rev. A. Craig Settlage, spoke to the conference about his commitment to support the mission and ministry of the ELCA by close collaboration with the synods in interpreting that mission and ministry to the members and congregations of the synods. He spoke of the need for expanded consultations that will be based on transparency and mutual accountability. The report and recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Committee on Mission Funding will give direction and content to this work in the coming years.

Annually, synods are requested to forward their mission-support numbers to the churchwide organization by March 15. Forms indicating 2008 mission-support plans, including both dollar and percentage estimates, have been received from 58 synods. Two additional synods have supplied estimates for percentage sharing, but do not yet have dollar estimates available.

Church Council Action:

To acknowledge that the ELCA constitution established the process for determination of the percentage for the sharing of mission-support contributions for synodical and churchwide ministries and this process has been affirmed by actions of the 1995 Churchwide Assembly;

To underscore that this process specifies that the implementation of churchwide constitutional provision 10.71. and †S15.12. in the *Constitution for Synods* for the sharing of mission-support funds shall involve mutual consultation, mutual agreement, and mutual affirmation;

**To affirm the 2008 mission-support dollar estimates for the sharing of mission-support contributions by congregations for synodical and churchwide ministries of the following synods: Southwestern Washington,
Rocky Mountain,
Eastern North Dakota,
South Dakota,**

Northeastern Minnesota,
Southwestern Minnesota,
Saint Paul Area,
Southeastern Minnesota,
Central States,
Arkansas-Oklahoma,
Southwestern Texas,
Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast,
Metropolitan Chicago,
Northern Illinois,
Central/Southern Illinois,
Southeastern Iowa,
Northwest Synod of Wisconsin,
East-Central Synod of Wisconsin,
Greater Milwaukee,
South-Central Synod of Wisconsin,
North/West Lower Michigan,
Indiana-Kentucky,
Northwestern Ohio,
Northeastern Ohio,
New Jersey,
New England,
Metropolitan New York,
Northeastern Pennsylvania,
Southeastern Pennsylvania,
Southwestern Pennsylvania,
Lower Susquehanna,
Upper Susquehanna,
Delaware-Maryland,
Metropolitan Washington, D.C.,
West Virginia-Western Maryland, and
Southeastern synods;

To affirm with sincere appreciation the increases in the percentage for the sharing of 2008 mission-support contributions by congregations for synodical and churchwide ministries of the following synods: Northwest Washington, Eastern Washington-Idaho, Oregon, Montana, Sierra Pacific, Southwest California, Pacifica, Grand Canyon, Western North Dakota, Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana, Western Iowa, Northeastern Iowa, Southern Ohio, Slovak Zion, Northwestern Pennsylvania, Virginia, North Carolina, and Florida-Bahamas synods;

To acknowledge the decision of the following synods to request a reduction of their previously

established percentage for the sharing of mission-support contributions by congregations for synodical and churchwide ministries: to affirm their prayerful efforts in continuing to be strong partners; to encourage them to restore their percentage to their previous level in the future; and to commit to supporting them in this process through continuing conversation and collaboration on behalf of our shared ministries:

Alaska,
Northern Great Lakes,
South Carolina, and
Caribbean synods; and

To refer action on 2008 mission-support plans to the Church Council Executive Committee for the following synods:

Northwestern Minnesota,
Minneapolis Area,
Nebraska,
La Crosse Area,
Southeast Michigan,
Upstate New York,
Allegheny, and
Florida-Bahamas synods.

7. ELECTION TO THE CHURCH COUNCIL

Between meetings of the Churchwide Assembly, the Church Council has the responsibility of electing people to fill unexpired terms on churchwide boards, steering committees of churchwide commissions, and certain advisory committees.

Church Council

Clergy [Term 2011] - *to replace vacancy of Pr. Elizabeth A. Eaton, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio (6E)*
Pr. David P. Anderson, Strongsville, Ohio (6E)

8. OTHER ELECTION RESULTS

Program Committee for Multicultural Ministries unit

Clergy [Term 2009] - *to replace vacancy of Pr. Ramona S. Rank, Portland, Ore. (1E)*
Pr. Jesse D. Hill, Charlotte, N.C. (9B)

Advisory Committee for *The Lutheran Magazine*

Clergy [Term 2013]
Pr. Harold W. Eppley, Milwaukee, Wis. (5J)
Lay Male [Term 2011 - *to replace resignation of Mr. Ben McDonald-Coltvet, Waukesha, Wis. (5J)*
Mr. Rick White, Lack Kill, Pa. (8E)
Lay Male (PC/L) [Term 2013]
Mr. Frank Ramos, Guaynabo, Puerto Rico (9F)

Churchwide Committee on Appeals

Clergy [Term 2007] - *to replace vacancy of Pr. Edmond Yee, Berkeley, Calif. (2B)*
Pr. A. Donald Main, Sunburg, Pa. (8E)

Boards of ELCA Seminaries

Bylaw 8.31.02. outlines basic parameters for the election of members to the boards of ELCA seminaries. Subsection 8.31.02.a. provides for churchwide representation: "At least one-fifth nominated, in consultation with the seminaries, by the appropriate churchwide unit and elected by the Church Council." This process of nomination and election is accomplished by these steps:

1. The appropriate seminary president notifies the director for theological education of an upcoming board vacancy and the term of that board position (as specified in the seminary's governing documents).
2. The director for theological education contacts the seminary president in order to consult on filling the vacancy and, with the concurrence of the executive director of Vocation and Education, reaches an agreement on a single nomination.
3. The director for theological education submits that nomination in a letter also signed by the executive director to the secretary of the ELCA for inclusion in the agenda of the Church Council. This letter will include a brief candidate vita and a summary of the gifts this person brings to this service.
4. The Church Council is asked to ratify the nomination at its next meeting.
5. The Office of the Secretary notifies the seminary president of the action taken on the nomination, sending a copy to the director for theological education for the unit's records.

Church Council Action:

To elect as at-large members of the board of directors of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, Pa., to three-year terms expiring in 2011: Ms. Suzanne Moyer, Mr. Larry Weber, and Dr. Gwen Halaas;

To elect as an at-large member of the board of directors of Trinity Lutheran Seminary at Columbus, Ohio, to a two-year term expiring in 2011: Dr. Thomas Ludwig;

To elect as at-large members of the board of directors of the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, Ill., to a three-year term expiring in 2010: Ms. Sarah Stegemoeller and Ms. Trina Gould;

To elect as an at-large member of the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, Ill., to a two-year term expiring in 2009: Dr. David Wegge;

To elect as at-large members of the board of directors of Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minn., to a four-year term expiring in 2001: Ms. Beth A. Lewis and Mr. Robert Torkelson; and

To elect as at-large members of the board of directors of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, Pa., to a three-year term expiring in 2010: Ms. Addie J. Butler and Ms. Lynn H. Askew.

Social Ministry Organization Boards

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America serves as a corporate member of certain inter-Lutheran organizations and affiliated social ministry organizations. The role of corporate members includes the responsibility to elect ELCA representatives to the organization's board of directors as prescribed in the organization's governing documents. The relationship of the ELCA to certain inter-Lutheran organizations and affiliated social ministry organizations is expressed through the Church in Society unit.

The ELCA serves as a corporate member of Lutheran Health Care, Brooklyn, New York (formerly Lutheran Medical Center, Brooklyn, N.Y.); the Evangelical Lutheran Good Samaritan Society, Sioux Falls, S.D.; Lutheran Services in America, Baltimore, Md.; Mosaic, Inc., Omaha, Neb.; and Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, Baltimore, Md. The Church in Society program unit has forwarded to the Church Council nominations for positions on the boards of these organizations.

Church Council Action:

To elect Ms. Karen Hawkins and Ms. Julie Schlueter to the board of directors of Mosaic, Inc. for terms ending in 2010.