



Office of the Secretary
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
 God's work. Our hands.

April 14, 2011

To: Bishops of synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
 Vice Presidents of synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
 Secretaries of synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
 Members of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
 Administrative Team of the churchwide organization
 Chief executive officers of separately incorporated ministries
 Regional Coordinators

FROM: Secretary David D. Swartling

SUBJECT: Report of Actions of the Church Council (April 8–10, 2011)

The Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) met at the Lutheran Center, Chicago, Illinois, on April 8–10, 2011. A variety of matters received attention. Here is a summary of particular actions along with background and explanatory information.

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1. REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE LIFT TASK FORCE

At its March 2009 meeting, the Church Council authorized Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson, in collaboration with the Executive Committee of the Church Council and the Conference of Bishops, to appoint a study

design group. The task of the study design group was to design a charter for a task force "...to evaluate the organization and governance of this church and the interrelationships among its expressions and partner agencies and institutions for the purpose of bringing a comprehensive report and recommendations to the 2011 Churchwide Assembly."

Subsequently, the Living into the Future Together: Renewing the Ecology of the ELCA (LIFT) task force was formed. It met throughout 2010 and submitted its report and recommendations to the Church Council.

Church Council Action:

To receive with gratitude the report and recommendations of the Living into the Future Together (LIFT) task force in response to its call to “study the evolving societal and economic changes that have occurred in the twenty years since the formation of this church and to evaluate the organization, governance, and interrelationships among this church’s expressions in the light of those changes”;

To recognize the vital input provided by ELCA members, congregations, synods, and related agencies and institutions in the development of the report and recommendations;

To acknowledge with deep appreciation the work of the LIFT task force and its significant and comprehensive documentation in response to the questions that have guided their work: What is God calling this church to be and to do in the future? What changes are in order to help us respond most faithfully?; and

To anticipate joyful response by the 2011 Churchwide Assembly to the LIFT task force recommendations as this church and its various expressions participate in carrying out God’s mission in this changing world.

Church Council Action:

To thank the Living into the Future Together (LIFT) task force and the Planning and Evaluation Committee for their work on the report and recommendations of the task force;

To refer the work of finalizing recommendations in the LIFT report and the development of proposed implementing resolutions for the task force’s report and recommendations to a writing team consisting of members of the Office of the Presiding Bishop, the Office of the Secretary, the Planning Evaluation Committee, and the LIFT task force; and

To anticipate an electronic meeting of the Church Council in May to consider the recommendations and proposed implementing resolutions.

2. ELCA MALARIA CAMPAIGN

The 2009 Churchwide Assembly approved development of an initiative on malaria. At its October 2010 meeting, the Church Council received a detailed report on the work of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America related to malaria.

The commitment of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) to malaria work continues. The ELCA has developed a strategy to join the global movement to contain deaths from malaria in Africa by 2015. Some changes have been made to the structure of this project, but the ELCA’s commitments to global health and to its companions in Africa remain firm.

Church Council Action:

To recommend the following for adoption by the 2011 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:

To launch the ELCA Malaria Campaign under the auspices of the World Hunger Appeal as a major fund-raising effort of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, its synods and congregations, and its affiliated ministries, auxiliaries, and individual members that will encompass the best efforts of this church to join companion churches in Africa to contain deaths related to malaria by 2015;

To join with domestic and global partners to address malaria as a disease intensified by poverty within the context of comprehensive and sustainable community development and in close cooperation and partnership with this church’s companion churches in Africa and the Lutheran World Federation;

To invite every congregation, synod, affiliated ministry, auxiliary, and individual member of this church to make a contribution towards the goal of \$15 million over the next four years (2011-2015);

To develop the ELCA Malaria Campaign in ways that complement efforts of the World Hunger Appeal to achieve and grow beyond its own annual goals;

To authorize continued receipt of designated ELCA Malaria Campaign gifts under the auspices of the World Hunger Appeal, with such funds to be allocated for the purposes of this campaign;

To request that reports be submitted annually to the ELCA Church Council and to each Churchwide Assembly during the duration of the campaign and that public announcements of accomplishments be made as appropriate; and

To give thanks that God’s work of bringing healing to the nations can continue to be accomplished through our hands as we share the abundance with which God has blessed us.

3. SOCIAL STATEMENT ON GENETICS AND ITS IMPLEMENTING RESOLUTIONS

Genetics, Faith and Responsibility is the text of the proposed social statement on genetics for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Work on this statement was authorized at the 2005 Churchwide Assembly. If approved by the 2011 Churchwide Assembly, it will be the eleventh social statement of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

ELCA social statements are teaching documents that assist members in their thinking about social issues. They are meant to aid in communal and individual moral deliberation and formation. Social statements also set policy for this church and guide its advocacy and work in the public arena. They result from an extensive process of participation and deliberation and are adopted by a two-thirds vote of a Churchwide Assembly.

The initial request for a social statement on genetics came as a memorial from the Northeastern Iowa Synod, which cited concerns about genetic advances, the need for critical issues to be addressed, and for "moral guidance in the face of the technological advances."

Church Council Action:

To recommend the following for adoption by the 2011 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:

To adopt *Genetics, Faith and Responsibility* as a social statement of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in accordance with the "Policies and Procedures of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for Addressing Social Concerns" (2011).

Church Council Action:

To recommend the following implementing resolutions for adoption by the 2011 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:

- 1. To call upon members of this church to pray, work, advocate, and apply genetic knowledge and technology in ways that respect and promote the community of life justly and wisely;**
- 2. To call upon congregations and other sites of ministry to give renewed attention to becoming places of *koinonia* in Christ that foster a deepened understanding of and commitment to baptismal vocation, everyday callings, and moral formation and discernment;**
- 3. To encourage leaders in conferences, synods, or other appropriate bodies to compile lists of resources for their jurisdictions to which pastors, counselors, and individuals can turn for help when seeking information or guidance in dealing**

with genetic issues;

- 4. To call upon this church's advocacy ministries to support and advocate for measures consistent with this social statement;**
- 5. To affirm the study document "Genetics and Faith: Power, Choice and Responsibility" as a resource for ongoing deliberation and discernment, and to direct the Theological Discernment team in the Office of the Presiding Bishop to maintain its availability as long as demand continues;**
- 6. To affirm the 2004 ELCA social policy resolution "Genetically Modified Organisms in the Food Supply" and its continuing value for the mission and ministry of the ELCA;**
- 7. To encourage the churchwide organization to maintain a database of ELCA members with expertise related to genetic science and technology that can serve as a primary resource for consultation;**
- 8. To direct the Theological Discernment team of the Office of the Presiding Bishop to assess the feasibility of developing a social message on regenerative medicine, including, but not limited to, a range of stem cell technologies, and to bring to the Church Council in November 2013 a report and possible recommendations, in accordance with "Policies and Procedures of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for Addressing Social Concerns" (2011); and**
- 9. To call upon the Office of the Presiding Bishop to establish and oversee a process of implementation and accountability for *Genetics, Faith and Responsibility* and to report on implementation to the Church Council in November 2015.**

4. JOINT MISSION STATEMENT OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA (ELCA) AND THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH (AMEZ)

After more than three years of commitment to relationship, the ELCA-AMEZ discourse has created a statement of mission that draws these two churches closer together. The statement of mission was approved unanimously by the AMEZ Council of Bishops in July 2010. At the October 2010 meeting of the ELCA Conference of Bishops, a copy of the statement of mission was read aloud.

At its March 2011 meeting, the Conference of Bishops received and affirmed both the statement of mission and the AMEZ Council of Bishops' action and encouraged action by the Church Council. The

Conference of Bishops will respond directly to the AMEZ Council of Bishops.

Following the meeting, Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson sent a formal letter to Bishop Gregory Walker to inform him of the Conference of Bishops' action. He also invited Bishop Gregory Walker to bring greetings to the 2011 Churchwide Assembly in celebration of these new relationships. In addition, cooperative planning for local missional work has been planned between the AMEZ and three ELCA synods: Metropolitan Chicago, North Carolina, and South Carolina.

Church Council Action:

To receive and affirm the AMEZ-ELCA Statement of Mission as approved by the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Council of Bishops and affirmed by the Conference of Bishops of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:

We, the Board of Bishops of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church and the Conference of Bishops of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, are called to one another as brothers and sisters in Christ. This calling is shared in trust by all Christians who profess an abiding faith in our Risen Lord. The calling of these churches, and indeed of all Christians, is to be restorative agents of God's redeeming work in the world. We are called to be about the reconciling efforts of Christ's command to draw all people unto himself so that we might be transformed by His word and the efforts of His ministry of grace, in us.

We, these two expressions of the one Body of Christ, believe it is time that our churches to come together as communities of faith and to know each other in order that we might be more effective as people of God.

We invite you to gather in your regions and communities, to listen and speak our stories of faith, and to create and enhance communities of hope where our ministries may be enriched by one another.

Our vision requires that we adhere to the movement of God's Spirit, and that we demonstrate the love of God, so that we identify the tapestry of God's vision for us in our communities of faith.

Therefore, we encourage you to respond to this invitation by partnering with us as we share the witness of God's vision throughout the world.

5. PROPOSED 2012-2013 BIENNIUM BUDGET

Church Council Action:

To recommend to the 2011 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America the following:

2012 Budget Proposal

To approve a 2012 current fund spending authorization of \$61,792,900; and

To approve a 2012 World Hunger income proposal of \$18,500,000.

2013 Budget Proposal

To approve a 2013 current fund income proposal of \$61,939,400; and

To approve a 2013 World Hunger income proposal of \$18,500,000; and

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

6. 2011 WORLD HUNGER SPENDING AUTHORIZATION

Church Council Action:

To approve a revised total World Hunger spending authorization for fiscal year 2011 of \$19,000,000.

7. REVISIONS TO 2011 AND PROPOSED 2012 SYNODICAL MISSION-SUPPORT PLANS

The Church Council has responsibility for reviewing and taking action on synodical mission-support plans as an interdependent partner with congregations and synods in implementing and strengthening the financial support for the work of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA constitution, 8.15. and 10.71.).

Revisions in synodical plans, following the November 2010 meeting of the Church Council, were received and reviewed by the Conference of Bishops at its March 2011 meeting.

Since the November 2010 Church Council meeting, revisions for 2011 mission-support plans from 30 synods have been received. Five synods have increased their percentage share and five synods have decreased their percentage share. The other 20 synods remained at their previous percentage-sharing plans.

Church Council Action:

To acknowledge with sadness that circumstances in the following synods have led to decisions to seek a decrease in the percentage of sharing of 2011 mission-support contributions by congregations for synodical

and churchwide ministries; to encourage each synod to continue to work to grow mission support in the synod; and to request that each synod develop a plan, in consultation with the churchwide organization, to restore or surpass the previous level of mission-support sharing: Pacifica; Central States; Western Iowa; Upstate New York; and Florida-Bahamas synods;

To acknowledge with thanksgiving the decision of the following synods to increase the percentage of sharing of 2011 mission-support contributions by congregations for synodical and churchwide ministries: Alaska; Eastern Washington-Idaho; Northeastern Iowa; North Carolina; and South Carolina synods;

To acknowledge with thanksgiving the decision of the following synods to maintain the percentage of sharing of 2011 mission-support contributions by congregations for synodical and churchwide ministries but estimating an adjustment in the estimated amount to be shared: Sierra Pacific; Grand Canyon; Eastern North Dakota; South Dakota; Northwestern Minnesota; Saint Paul Area; Southeastern Minnesota; Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana; Metropolitan Chicago; Northern Illinois; Central/Southern Illinois; Northern Great Lakes; Northwest Synod of Wisconsin; La Crosse Area; North/West Lower Michigan; Indiana-Kentucky; Northwestern Ohio; Metropolitan New York; Northwestern Pennsylvania; Delaware-Maryland; and Southeastern synods;

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

2012 Synod Mission Support Plans

Many synods are still in the process of preparing their 2012 mission support plans for presentation to their synod assemblies. To date, plans from only 35 synods have been received.

Church Council Action:

To acknowledge with sadness that circumstances in the following synods have led to decisions to seek a decrease from prior levels in the percentage of sharing of 2012 mission-support contributions by congregations for synodical and churchwide ministries; to encourage each synod to continue to work to grow mission support in the synod; and to request that each synod develop a plan, in consultation with the churchwide organization, to restore or

surpass the previous level of mission-support sharing: Oregon and North Carolina synods;

To acknowledge with thanksgiving the decision of the following synods to increase the percentage of sharing of 2012 mission-support contributions by congregations for synodical and churchwide ministries: Southwestern Washington; Montana; South Dakota; Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana; Indiana-Kentucky; Upstate New York; Lower Susquehanna; West Virginia-Western Maryland; and South Carolina, and New England synods;

To acknowledge with thanksgiving the decision of the following synods to maintain the percentage of sharing of 2012 mission-support contributions by congregations for synodical and churchwide ministries: Rocky Mountain; Eastern North Dakota; Northeastern Minnesota; Southeastern Minnesota; Nebraska; Central States; Southwestern Texas; Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast; Northern Illinois; Central/Southern Illinois; Northeastern Iowa; Northern Great Lakes; Northwest Synod of Wisconsin; East-Central Synod of Wisconsin; South-Central Synod of Wisconsin; La Crosse Area; North/West Lower Michigan; New Jersey; Slovak Zion; Northwestern Pennsylvania; Southwestern Pennsylvania; Metropolitan Washington, D.C.; and Southeastern synods;

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

To request that all synods submit their 2012 mission support plans prior to their 2011 synod assemblies.

8. RULES OF ORGANIZATION AND PROCEDURE

In each biennium, the Church Council submits a recommendation to the Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America on proposed rules of organization and procedure. Voting members of the assembly act on the rules in the first plenary session. A two-thirds vote of the assembly is required for adoption of the rules. The Rules will be posted at www.elca.org/assembly.

Church Council Action:

To authorize the presiding bishop and secretary of this church to prepare further editing and scheduling revisions that may be found necessary in the Churchwide Assembly Rules of Organization and

Procedure prior to their publication in the *Pre-Assembly Report*; and

To report any changes to the Church Council at its August 2011 meeting.

Church Council Action:

To recommend adoption of the following resolution by the voting members of the 2011 Churchwide Assembly:

To adopt the Rules of Organization and Procedure for the 2011 Churchwide Assembly (exclusive of quoted and highlighted constitutional provisions and bylaws that are already in force).

9. AMENDMENTS FOR THE REDESIGN OF THE CHURCHWIDE ORGANIZATION

The *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* states in provision 22.31.: "Continuing resolutions not in conflict with the constitution or bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America may be adopted or amended by a majority vote of the Churchwide Assembly or by a two-thirds vote of the Church Council. Such continuing resolutions become effective immediately upon adoption. Matters related to the administrative functions of this church shall be set forth in the continuing resolutions."

Church Council Action: *Two-Thirds Vote Required*

To adopt the following amendments to the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*:

15.12.G10. *Responsibility for Theological Discernment*

Responsibility shall be exercised in the Office of the Presiding Bishop for serving the Church's theological work by promoting, coordinating, and facilitating theological discernment of the Church's message and its theological foundations in collaboration with all who share in the responsibilities to be teachers of the faith in the Church, including the Conference of Bishops, the seminary faculties, the Convocation of Teaching Theologians, networks such as Lutheran ethicists and women theologians, the editorial staff of the ELCA publishing ministry and publications, and all rostered leaders. This responsibility for serving the Church's theological work also shall encompass theological work in and commitment to discern, understand, and respond to racism, classism, and sexism and issues of justice for women in the Church and in society in order to advance full participation, equal opportunity, and justice for all.

To fulfill these responsibilities the presiding bishop shall appoint an executive for theological discernment, who will assist the presiding bishop and coordinate the service of staff groups that provide theological resources and assistance in programmatic implementation.

~~15.12.H10. *Responsibilities for Relationships with Separately Incorporated Ministries*~~

~~*—The Office of the Presiding Bishop shall be the primary liaison between the churchwide organization and Women of the ELCA, the Publishing House of the ELCA, the Deaconess Community of the ELCA, Lutheran Men in Mission, and National Lutheran Campus Ministry, Inc. The Office of the Secretary shall be the primary liaison between the churchwide organization and ELCA Risk Management, Inc. The Office of the Treasurer shall be the primary liaison between the churchwide organization and the Mission Investment Fund, the Endowment Fund of the ELCA, and the Board of Pensions of the ELCA.*~~

16.12.A10. *Congregational and Synodical Mission Unit*

The Congregational and Synodical Mission unit shall foster and facilitate the work of synods, congregations, and partners in making congregations vital centers for mission and in creating coalitions and networks to promote justice and peace. Its work includes creating and revitalizing congregations; leadership development; providing worship and liturgical resources; enhancing discipleship; supporting multicultural ministries and the commitment of this church to inclusivity, fostering relationships with educational partners; facilitating the engagement of this church in advocacy; and related activities that serve the evangelical mission of synods and congregations. The Congregational and Synodical Mission unit shall relate to the Deaconess Community, Lutheran Men in Mission, National Lutheran Campus Ministry, Inc, and ELCA Risk Management, Inc.

a. The Deaconess Community of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is a separately incorporated ministry of theologically trained, professionally prepared women called to ministry and service by congregations, synods, and agencies of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada. Its mission is "Compelled by the love of the Christ and sustained by community, we devote our lives to proclaiming the Gospel through ministries of mercy and servant leadership." Deaconesses are consecrated by the ELCA and the ELCIC.

b. Lutheran Men in Mission is a separately incorporated, self-supporting ministry whose vision is

for every man to have a growing relationship with Jesus Christ through an effective men's ministry in every congregation. The purpose of Lutheran Men in Mission is, by God's grace, to build men's faith, relationships, and ministry through events, resources, and ongoing leadership development.

c. National Lutheran Campus Ministry, Inc. is a separately incorporated ministry that helps to provide and support suitable facilities to carry out ELCA campus ministry at state-supported and non-ELCA-related colleges and universities.

d. ELCA Risk Management, Inc. (ELCARM) is a separately incorporated ministry that provides risk management and insurance services to colleges, universities, and seminaries related to the ELCA.

10. AMENDMENTS TO GOVERNING DOCUMENTS

The Church Council has the responsibility for submitting recommendations for action by the 2011 Churchwide Assembly. While amendments to provisions of the constitutions of this church require a six-month notice to synods, amendments to bylaws and continuing resolutions do not require such notice. The following proposed amendments to bylaws and continuing resolutions will be distributed to the voting members of the Churchwide Assembly in the *Pre-Assembly Report*.

Church Council Action:

To recommend the following for adoption by the 2011 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:

To adopt the following amendment to the Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:

~~16.31.A05-17.40.A11.~~ Responsibilities of the Publishing House of the ELCA

The Publishing House of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America—also known as Augsburg Fortress, Publishers—shall:

- a. be responsible for the publishing, production, and distribution of publications to be sold to accomplish the mission of this church.*
- b. work in close cooperation with congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization to provide a diversity of published resources.*
- c. relate to other churchwide units through resource planning groups. Materials published to assist congregations in fulfilling their life in mission shall be developed in coordination with other appropriate churchwide units. Development costs will be paid by the unit developing the publication.*
- d. develop, produce, and distribute materials required*

to carry out its functions.

e. be financed from the distribution of materials, not from the budget of this church.

f. create, develop, and publish a diversity of resources in various media; make available other publications, materials, and church supplies; produce the official documents and publications of this church; and produce materials in a manner that assures their ready availability.

g. establish a distribution center, as well as utilize other means for the wide distribution of resources within and beyond this church.

h. manage its finances and other resources in a manner that assures the continuity and extension of its activities. This publishing house shall maintain its own accounting, data processing, personnel, pension, and other functions essential to a cohesive, efficient, and effective operation.

i. identify and nurture talented authors, composers, artists, and others involved in creating various media.

j. produce and distribute the church periodical in accord with provisions of this church's constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions.

k. determine its necessary financial reserves, appropriations, and publishing subsidies.

l. make available resources to meet unique language and cultural needs.

m.—provide for production and distribution services for materials that originate in churchwide units, including the option of providing for competitive printing costs and delivery from independent printers, with costs for these services paid by the originating unit.

Church Council Action:

To delete the following amendments to the Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America from the Church Council's recommendation to the 2011 Churchwide Assembly concerning amendments to the governing documents concerning the reorganization of the churchwide organization:

~~17.70.A11. The Deaconess Community of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is a separately incorporated ministry of theologically trained, professionally prepared women called to ministry and service by congregations, synods, and agencies of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada. Its mission is "Compelled by the love of the Christ and sustained by community, we devote our lives to proclaiming the Gospel through ministries of mercy and servant leadership." Deaconesses are consecrated by the ELCA and the ELCIC.~~

~~17.70.B11. Lutheran Men in Mission is a separately incorporated self-supporting ministry whose vision is for every man to have a growing relationship with Jesus Christ through an effective men's ministry in every congregation. The purpose of Lutheran Men in Mission is, by God's grace, to build men's faith, relationships, and ministry through events, resources, and ongoing leadership development.~~

~~17.70.C11. National Lutheran Campus Ministry, Inc. is a separately incorporated ministry that helps to provide and support suitable facilities to carry out ELCA campus ministry at state-supported and non-ELCA-related colleges and universities.~~

~~17.70.D11. Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Risk Management, Inc. (ELCARM) is a separately incorporated ministry that provides risk management and insurance services to colleges, universities, and seminaries related to the ELCA.~~

Church Council Action:

To recommend the following for adoption by the 2011 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:

To adopt the following amendments to the Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:

10.31.04. The treasurer ~~may~~ shall be elected by the Synod Assembly ~~or may be appointed by the Synod Council~~. The treasurer may be either a layperson or an ordained minister.

12.41.11. Each synod shall elect one voting member of the Churchwide Assembly for every 5,800 baptized members in the synod. In addition, each synod shall elect one voting member for every 50 congregations in the synod. The synodical bishop, who is *ex officio* a member of the Churchwide Assembly, shall be included in the number of voting members so determined. There shall be at least two voting members from each synod. The Church Council may allocate up to ten additional voting members among synods in order to further the principles of organization, commitment to inclusiveness, and interdependence as specified in Chapter 5 of this constitution, but no single synod may be allocated more than two additional voting members. The secretary shall notify each synod of the number of assembly members it is to elect.

19.21.04. ~~It shall be the responsibility of the The Church Council to make certain~~ shall endeavor to ensure that every synod has at least one person serving on the

Church Council or churchwide boards, or committees, task forces, or other groups. Among those persons elected by the assembly, no more than two persons from any one synod shall serve on the Church Council or any one board, or committee, task force, or other group.

11. CHURCH COUNCIL ELECTION

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. At its April 2011 meeting the council elected the following person to replace the Rev. Michael Schmidt of the Western Iowa Synod (5E) for a term ending in 2015: the Rev. Yvonne Marshall of Council Bluffs, Iowa.

12. OTHER ELECTIONS

Social Ministry Organizations

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 Congregational and Synodical Mission unit.

The ELCA serves as a corporate member of Lutheran Medical Center, Brooklyn, New York; 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. In the case of Lutheran Medical Center, Brooklyn, New York, the ELCA's annual election of board members complies with their constitutional requirement that this action constitute an annual meeting of the corporate member. The Congregational and Synodical Mission program unit has forwarded to the Church Council the following nominations for positions on the boards of these organizations.

Church Council Action:

To elect to the board of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service to three-year terms expiring in 2014: Pr. Stephen Bouman, Ms. Betty Boyd, Ms. Judith Diers, and Mr. Richmond Appleton;

To elect to the board of trustees of Lutheran Medical Center to a three-year term expiring in 2014:

Mr. Richard J. Novak; and

To re-elect to the board of trustees of Lutheran Medical Center to three-year terms expiring in 2014: Ms. Lynda Anderson, Mrs. Martha Bakos Dietz, Mr. Joseph Lodato, Mrs. Carol Knuth Sakoian, Mrs. Martha Wolfgang, and Pr. Samuel Fook Wong.

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." The following are submitted for election based on a protocol between the seminary and the Congregational and Synodical Mission program unit.

Church Council Action:

To elect as members of the board of directors of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to three-year terms expiring in 2014: Ms. Emma Porter, Ms. Amanda Smoot, Pr. John Richter, and Mr. Nelvin Vos;

To elect as members of the board of directors of the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, Columbia, South Carolina, to three-year terms expiring in 2014: Pr. Lowell G. Almen and Pr. Robert Byrne;

To elect as a member of the board of directors of the Trinity Lutheran Seminary, Columbus, Ohio, to a four-year term expiring in 2015: Mr. John Marr; and

To elect as a member of the board of directors of Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, Iowa, to a six-year term expiring in 2017: Ms. Pamela Shellberg.

