



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

November 15, 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 (November 11–13, 2011)

The Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) met at the Lutheran Center, Chicago, Illinois, on November 11–13, 2011. A variety of matters received attention. In addition, the Rev. Linda O. Norman was installed as ELCA treasurer, and members of the Church Council who were elected at the 2011 Churchwide Assembly also were installed. Here is a summary of particular actions along with background and explanatory information.

<b>1. TASK FORCE TO REVIEW PROCEDURES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND ADOPTION OF DOCUMENTS ADDRESSING SOCIAL CONCERNS</b>	<b>PAGE 1</b>
<b>2. ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR CONTINUATION OF THE WORK OF THE LIFT TASK FORCE</b>	<b>PAGE 2</b>
<b>3. ALLOCATION OF ADDITIONAL VOTING MEMBERS FOR THE 2013 CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY</b>	<b>PAGE 3</b>
<b>4. INITIAL 2012 CURRENT FUND AND WORLD HUNGER SPENDING AUTHORIZATIONS</b>	<b>PAGE 4</b>
<b>5. REVISIONS TO 2012 SYNODICAL MISSION-SUPPORT PLANS</b>	<b>PAGE 4</b>
<b>6. AMENDMENTS TO THE ELCA CONSTITUTION, BYLAWS, AND CONTINUING RESOLUTIONS</b>	<b>PAGE 4</b>
<b>7. AMENDMENT OF CONTINUING RESOLUTION FOR THE BOARD OF PENSIONS</b>	<b>PAGE 6</b>
<b>8. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE CHURCH COUNCIL ELECTIONS</b>	<b>PAGE 6</b>
<b>9. OTHER ELECTIONS</b>	<b>PAGE 7</b>

**1. SOCIAL CONCERNS REVIEW TASK FORCE**

At the 2011 Churchwide Assembly, voting members adopted the following action [CA 11.04.14]:

To authorize the Church Council, in consultation with the Conference of Bishops and Communal Discernment Task Force, to establish a review process of current procedures for the development and adoption of social statements, following the consideration of the genetics social statement, *Genetics, Faith and Responsibility*, at the 2011 Churchwide Assembly; and

To bring no social statements other than *Genetics, Faith and Responsibility* to any Churchwide Assembly until completion of a

review of the process for addressing social concerns based on a spirit of communal discernment. This review shall be completed and brought to the fall 2012 Church Council meeting, with a report to the 2013 Churchwide Assembly. During this review, the process for developing the criminal justice social statement and the justice for women social statement may continue, without alteration of the process already under way for the statement on criminal justice, which is to be completed and reported to the 2013 assembly.

Staff from the Office of the Presiding Bishop and the Office of the Secretary met with an *ad hoc* committee to

address the Living Into the Future Together implementing resolution on the social statement review process. A proposed process then was discussed by the Program and Services Committee, which recommended an action to the Church Council. A proposed time line for the work also was adopted.

*Church Council Action:*

**To respond to the authorization of the 2011 Churchwide Assembly that the Church Council, in consultation with the Conference of Bishops and the Communal Discernment Task Force, establish a review process of current procedures for the development and adoption of documents addressing social concerns;**

**To request the Executive Committee, in consultation with the Program and Services Committee, appoint members to serve on the “Addressing Social Concerns Review Task Force” by its December 2011 meeting;**

**To approve a charter with specific interim reports to the Conference of Bishops and Church Council for the work of the task force; and**

**To anticipate that the task force will bring a report to the November 2012 meeting of the Church Council, which will serve as the basis for a report with possible recommendations to the 2013 Churchwide Assembly.**

## **2. ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR CONTINUATION OF THE LIFT TASK FORCE WORK**

Voting members of the 2011 Churchwide Assembly adopted implementing resolutions based on the report of the task force for Living Into the Future Together: Renewing the Ecology of the ELCA (LIFT). They also took the following action to provide for continuation of the work of the LIFT task force [CA11.04.21]:

To provide a means to continue the work assigned to the task force on Living into the Future Together: Renewing the Ecology of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (LIFT), the 2011 Churchwide Assembly directs that the Office of the Presiding Bishop, in collaboration with the Church Council and the Conference of Bishops, do the following:

1. To facilitate review of the constitutional responsibilities of synods in order that synods continue and increase their roles as catalysts for missional planning;

2. To facilitate a broad-based process addressing legislative decision-making in this church;
3. To initiate a process to expand the consultative role of the Conference of Bishops that allows the Church Council to refer issues to it and the Conference of Bishops to make recommendations to the Church Council;
4. To explore the use of social media and technology in order to allow greater participation of ELCA members in meetings of the Church Council and the Churchwide Assembly;
5. To initiate collaborative work by congregations, synods, the churchwide organization, institutions of this church, and others to create and support diverse non-legislative forums and events that bring together leaders of this church to address missional issues, participate in theological study and reflection, foster leadership development, and enhance the interdependence of this church;
6. To request units of the churchwide organization to propose to the Church Council ways of receiving grassroots input on and disseminating information about their work through the use of emerging forms of communication, taking care to include those engaged in multicultural, ethnic-specific, justice for women ministries, youth and young adult networks, and various ministry partners; and
7. To request that annual reports related to this work be presented to the Church Council through 2013.

In response to the assembly’s action, the Program and Services Committee recommended the following to the Church Council.

*Church Council Action:*

**To respond to the actions of the 2011 Churchwide Assembly [CA11.04.21] concerning the report and recommendations of the task force on Living into the Future Together: Renewing the Ecology of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (LIFT);**

**To acknowledge that the assembly called on the Office of the Presiding Bishop, in collaboration with the Church Council and the Conference of Bishops, to provide a means to**

continue the work assigned to the LIFT task force;

**To establish an Advisory Committee to assist the Office of the Presiding Bishop in its collaboration with the Church Council and the Conference of Bishops to continue the work assigned to the LIFT task force;**

**To appoint the following people as members of the Advisory Committee: the Rev. Robert N. Bacher; Ms. Karin L. Graddy, Church Council; Ms. Deborah L. Chenoweth, Church Council; the Rev. Richard H. Graham, bishop of the Metropolitan Washington, D.C., Synod; Mr. William B. Horne III, Church Council member; and the Rev. Diane H. “Dee” Pederson; and**

**To request that an interim report be brought to the April 2012 meeting of the Church Council and that a final report and possible recommendations be brought to the November 2012 Church Council meeting.**

### **3. ADDITIONAL VOTING MEMBERS FOR THE 2013 CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY**

For each Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, provision for additional voting members has been made for certain synods. This has been done in keeping with this church’s “Principles of Organization.” Under those principles, the Church Council is assigned responsibility for ensuring that at least 60 percent of the members of assemblies shall be lay persons and that at least 10 percent of such voting members shall be people of color or people whose primary language is other than English (provision 5.01.f.).

Experience in the registration process for assemblies has demonstrated the need for allocation of additional positions to help ensure fulfillment of the organizational principles and also to provide for broader representation in synods (for example, the Caribbean Synod) that normally would be entitled to only two voting members, one of whom would be the synodical bishop.

The 2011 Churchwide Assembly passed an amendment to bylaw 12.41.11., which describes the process for determining the number of voting members for a Churchwide Assembly and includes the possibility that the Church Council may allocate up to ten additional voting members:

**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.

The allocation for the 2013 Churchwide Assembly remained the same as those for the 2009 and 2011 assemblies.

#### *Church Council Action:*

**To allocate for the 2013 Churchwide Assembly one additional voting-member position to the Alaska Synod (1A), making a total of four voting members, with the provision that the position shall be filled by an Alaska Native person;**

**To allocate for the 2013 Churchwide Assembly one additional voting-member position each to the Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod (4C), making a total of four voting members, and the West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod (8H), making a total of five voting members, for an individual of color or an individual whose primary language is other than English;**

**To allocate for the 2013 Churchwide Assembly one additional voting-member position for a lay member of the Slovak Zion Synod (7G); the total number of voting members is three; and**

**To allocate for the 2013 Churchwide Assembly two additional voting-member positions to the Caribbean Synod (9F), making a total of four, with the provision that these additional voting members shall be people of color or people whose primary language is other than English.**

#### **4. 2012 CURRENT FUND AND WORLD HUNGER SPENDING AUTHORIZATIONS**

Income estimates have been revised since the August 2011 Churchwide Assembly. Current income is projected to be \$64.2 million, an increase of \$2.4 million or 3.4 percent from the budget approved by the Churchwide Assembly.

Mission support is anticipated to increase from the assembly-approved income budget of \$47 million to \$48 million, an increase of \$1 million or 2.1 percent. This mission support income estimate is based on early estimates from ELCA synods and will be revisited in February 2012.

Investment income estimates have been adjusted by \$1,250,835, due to the anticipated receipt of mineral rights for the next three years. Other unrestricted income is projected to increase by \$218,665, due to the signing of rental leases for space in the Lutheran Center. Temporarily restricted gifts, designated for programs in units, are anticipated to decrease by \$50,000.

The World Hunger Appeal estimate is unchanged from that approved at the assembly.

*Church Council Action:*

**To approve an initial 2012 fiscal year current fund spending authorization of \$64,173,000; and  
To approve an initial 2012 fiscal year World Hunger spending authorization of \$18,500,000.**

#### **5. 2012 SYNODICAL MISSION SUPPORT PLANS**

The Church Council has responsibility for reviewing and approving or withholding approval for synods Mission Support plans. Since the August 2011 Church Council meeting, notice from six synods about 2012 mission support plans, including the original plans from the four outstanding synods.

*Church Council Action:*

**To affirm with sincere appreciation the increases in the percentage for the sharing of 2012 mission support contributions by congregations for synodical and churchwide ministries of the following synods: Western North Dakota; Metropolitan New York; and Caribbean;**

**To affirm the revised 2012 mission support dollar estimates for the sharing of mission support contributions by congregations for synodical and churchwide ministries of the following synods: Northwestern Ohio and**

**Northeastern Ohio;**

**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; 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: Upstate New York synod; and**

**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.**

#### **6. AMENDMENTS TO THE ELCA CONSTITUTION, BYLAWS, AND CONTINUING RESOLUTIONS**

The *Constitution, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* provides that the Church Council may adopt or amend continuing resolutions by a two-thirds vote [provision 22.31.]. Changes in the structure of the churchwide organization have necessitated a number of amendments to continuing resolutions.

*Church Council Action: [Two-Thirds Vote Required]*

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

**To delete because service units no longer exist:**

~~**14.21.A11. Election of an Executive Director for Service Units**~~

~~—Unless otherwise specified in this constitution and bylaws, the Church Council shall elect the executive director for each churchwide service unit to a four-year term in consultation with and with the approval of the presiding bishop of this church. Nomination of a candidate for election shall be made by the presiding bishop. The presiding~~

~~bishop, as chief executive officer, shall arrange within the policy of this church for an annual review of each executive director. A unit executive director shall be eligible for reelection. The employment of the executive director may be terminated jointly by the presiding bishop of this church and the Executive Committee of the Church Council.~~

To amend by addition because there is a decreased representation of this demographic on the Church Council:

14.31.B11. The Church Council may appoint one young adult and two youth, as defined in continuing resolution 6.02.A09., to serve as advisors to the Church Council from the time of appointment through the conclusion of the Churchwide Assembly in 2013.

To amend and renumber because program units no longer exist:

~~14.32.C10A11. One voting member of the Church Council shall be selected in each biennium to serve as a liaison with voice but not vote on each program committee of the churchwide units. In addition, a member of the Church Council, upon invitation, may serve as liaison for the respective boards of trustees of the separately incorporated ministries.~~

To amend to include the following responsibilities:

**17.30.A11. Operation of the Mission Investment Fund of the ELCA**

The Mission Investment Fund of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America shall:

- a. have primary responsibility for the development, administration, and promotion, and sale of Mission Investments;
- b. develop and administer a loan program, including management responsibilities for the underwriting, legal, accounting, reporting, servicing, marketing, and other related functions;
- c. provide expertise for management of real property and execute all necessary documents for the acquisition and disposition of such property;
- d. relate to the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit, which shall request real estate

acquisition for new and existing ministries within the limits of the capital funds available and within established criteria;

- e. confer with the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit on any loans to developing ministries;
- f. offer building and architectural consultative services to new congregations entering first-unit construction, to congregations relocating with synodical approval, to other congregations, and to other organizations and institutions that are affiliated with this church;
- g. offer building and property consultative services to congregations of this church.

To delete because program committees no longer exist and the transition actions have been taken:

**19.04.A10. Implementation Process**

~~—To implement the transition in the number of program committees, the Church Council shall take the following actions during its November 2010 meeting:~~

- a. ~~invite the duly elected members of the program committee related, as of October 2010, to the Global Mission unit to serve the remainder of their terms;~~
- b. ~~elect from the members of the program committees related, as of October 2010, to the Evangelical Outreach and Congregational Mission unit, the Vocation and Education unit, the Church in Society unit, and the Multicultural Ministries unit, sixteen (16) people to serve the remainder of their terms as the program committee of the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit;~~
- c. ~~appoint, in accordance with bylaw 16.12.12., one member of the Church Council to serve as a liaison member of the Congregational and Synodical Mission program committee; and~~
- d. ~~request the Conference of Bishops to select, in accordance with bylaw 16.12.12., one bishop to serve as an advisory member of the Congregational and Synodical Mission program committee.~~

## 7. BOARD OF PENSIONS CONTINUING RESOLUTION 17.20.A11

From time to time throughout the past decade, the board of trustees of the ELCA Board of Pensions has discussed changing the name of this separately incorporated ministry, particularly during various strategic planning processes of the Board of Pensions. The same point was highlighted in a benefit study for the board by Hewitt Associates in 2008. Further, an audit of communications by Buck Consultants in early 2009 recommended exploration of a new name to reflect the nature and scope of the annuity and other benefits program of the ELCA.

Furthermore, one of the recommendations of the *Ad Hoc* Committee on Board of Pensions Matters, which had been appointed by action of the Church Council [CC10.08.33] on August 4, 2010, in response to nine synodical resolutions on annuity-related matters, was a request for a possible change in the name of the Board of Pensions. Specifically, the council voted [CC10.11.63]:

To request that the Board of Pensions . . . [c]onsider amending the name of the Board of Pensions to reflect that it is providing retirement income through annuity payments and investment fund(s) distributions, not providing pension payments, and to reflect more accurately the other services it provides. . . .

The Board of Pensions contracted with a firm, Yamamoto Moss Mackenzie (YMM), to explore and test possible names to reflect the nature of the work of the Board of Pensions as a separately incorporated ministry of the ELCA. The YMM firm has expertise in name identification consistent with the purposes of particular entities.

The proposed name, Portico Benefit Services, refers to an architectural structure, such as a roof supported by columns. It offers shelter, just as is the case with the benefits offered to members of the program. A portico also can serve as a covered walkway at the entrance of a building. For example, recall the references to the portico of the temple in the time of Jesus, as cited in John 10:22-28.

The Board of Trustees of the Board of Pensions gave preliminary endorsement to the new name in executive session at the board's March 2011 meeting and final approval at its November 2011 meeting.

*Church Council Action:*

To amend the following continuing resolution:

### 17.20.A11. Responsibilities of the Board of Pensions

*The Board of Pensions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America—also known as Portico Benefit Services—shall: . . .*

[with the rest of the continuing resolution unchanged]

## 8. ELECTION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

At the first meeting of each biennium the Church Council elects a new Executive Committee. Seven members of the Church Council will serve on this committee for the 2011–2013 biennium, in addition to the four officers of this church. Incumbent members of the Executive Committee are eligible for reelection.

The process uses the following pattern:

1. To facilitate its work between regular meetings by ensuring input and perspective from each of its standing committees, the chairs of the committees will be elected to the Executive Committee. Two committee chairs were elected in April 2011 and will serve as members of the Executive Committee: Pr. Susan Langhauser, Planning and Evaluation Committee, and Ms. Susan McArver, Program and Services Committee. The chairs of the Budget and Finance Committee and the Legal and Constitutional Committee were elected during the committees' November 2011 meetings.
2. The remaining three members of the Executive Committee were selected through the following process. The first ballot shall be a nominating ballot for each of the following categories to be identified based on the composition of the Executive Committee (i.e., male/female; clergy/lay; and ethnic inclusivity):
  - a. Clergy Male
  - b. Lay Female
  - c. Lay
3. The second ballot shall be limited to the two people (plus ties) in each category receiving the greatest number of nominations.
4. Upon completion of the balloting, the Executive Committee (four officers and seven at-large members) shall be deemed constituted.

*Church Council Action:*

To reaffirm the process for the election of the Executive Committee for the 2011-2013 biennium; and

To declare that the chairs of the Budget and Finance Committee, the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee, the Planning and Evaluation Committee, and the Program and Services Committee shall be members of the Executive Committee of the Church Council.

*Church Council Action:*

To declare elected to the Executive Committee the following members: Ms. Deborah L. Chenoweth, Mr. John R. Emery, the Rev. Amsalu T. Geleta, Mr. William B. "Bill" Horne II, Mr. Mark E. Johnson, the Rev. Susan Langhauser, and Ms. Susan W. McArver.

## 9. OTHER ELECTIONS

Between meetings of the Churchwide Assembly, the Church Council has the responsibility of electing people to fill terms on churchwide boards, boards of separately incorporated ministries and certain advisory committees

### Advisory Committee of The Lutheran

*Church Council Action:*

To elect the following:

**Region 4, Lay Male [Term 2017]**

**Mr. John David Hanna, Topeka, Kan. (4B)**

**Region 5, Clergy [Term 2017]**

**Pr. Norman Keith Fry, Elgin, Ill. (5A)**

**Region 6, Lay Male [Term 2015] – to fill an unexpired term of John Wagner**

**Mr. Jack H. Palmer, Defiance, Ohio (6D)**

**Region 8, Lay Female [Term 2017]**

**Ms. Sara Johe Busse, Charleston, W.V. (8H)**

### Committee of Hearing Officers and Board of Trustees of the Board of Pensions

*Church Council Action:*

To elect as members of the Committee of Hearing Officers to one six-year term expiring in 2017: Pr. Paul (Chip) Gerhard Gunsten, Ms. Cynthia Eleanor Nance, and Pr. Janice Elaine Nesse; and

To elect as trustees of the Board of Pensions: Ms. Janette E. Drew [four-year term], Ms. Raye Nae Darlene Nylander [six-year term], and Pr. Paul William Stumme-Diers [two-year term].

### 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 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 directors of Mosaic, Inc., to a three-year term expiring in October 2014: Ms. Lisa Negstad; and

To ratify the election as members of the board of directors of The Evangelical Lutheran Good Samaritan Society: Mr. David J. Horazdovsky, president [no term limit]; Ms. Patricia Haugen [term expiring 2013]; Mr. Neil Gulsvig [term expiring in June 2012]; and Mr. Christopher Johnson [term expiring in June 2014].

### **Boards of ELCA Seminaries**

Bylaw 8.31.03. outlines basic parameters for the election of members to the boards of ELCA seminaries. Subsection 8.31.03.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 unit.

#### *Church Council Action:*

**To elect as members of the board of directors of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, to four-year terms expiring in 2015: Ms. Suzanne Moyer, Ms. Lois O'Rourke, Mr. Larry Webber, and Pr. Daniel Yeiser;**

**To elect as a member of the board of directors of the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, Chicago, Illinois for a two-year term expiring in 2013: Pr. Harvard Stephens, Jr.; and**

**To elect as members of the board of directors of the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, Chicago, Illinois for three-year terms expiring in 2014: Mr. Gerald Schultz and Mr. J. Arthur Gustafson;**

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

**To elect as a member of the board of directors of Luther Seminary, Saint Paul, Minnesota for a four-year term expiring in 2016: Ms. Karis Thompson.**