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EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
CHURCH COUNCIL
April 11-13, 2008
Chicago, Illinois

AGENDA

I. ORGANIZATION OF MEETING

A. Voting Members

Officers

Bp. Mark S. Hanson, Presiding Bishop
Mr. Carlos Peña, Vice President
Mr. David D. Swartling, Secretary
Ms. Christina Jackson-Skelton, Treasurer

Church Council

Pr. David P. Anderson	Mr. John S. Munday
Ms. Rebecca Jo Brakke	Mr. Mark W. Myers
Ms. Judith Anne Bunker	Ms. Ann C. Niedringhaus, <i>excused</i>
Ms. Deborah L. Chenoweth	Pr. J. Pablo Obregon
Pr. Rachel L. Connelly	Pr. David W. Peters
Mr. John R. Emery	Pr. J. Paul Rajashekar
Ms. Karin Lynn Graddy	Ms. Lynette M. Reitz
Mr. Mark S. Helmke	Pr. John C. Richter
Ms. Norma J. Hirsch	Ms. Sandra Schlesinger
Pr. Keith A. Hunsinger	Pr. Norene Smith
Pr. David E. Jensen	Pr. Jeff Sorenson
Mr. Mark E. Johnson	Mr. David Truland
Pr. Susan Langhauser	Ms. Judith Tutt-Starr
Pr. Jonathan W. Linman	Mr. Richard Wahl
Mr. William R. Lloyd, Jr.	Ms. Phyllis L. Wallace
Pr. Steven P. Loy	Mr. Gary Wipperman

B. Liason Bishops

Bp. Allan Bjornberg	Bp. Murray D. Finck
Bp. Leonard H. Bolick	Bp. Gerald Mansholt
Bp. Callon W. Holloway	Bp. Peter Rogness
Bp. Marie C. Jerge	Bp. Paul Stumme-Diers
Bp. H. Gerard Knoche, <i>excused</i>	Bp. Martin D. Wells

C. Advisory Members

Youth

Ms. Brianna R. Watts	Mr. Samuel F. Schlouch
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Advisors

Mr. Michael Bash, chair of the Board of Trustees, Augsburg Fortress, *excused*
Pr. Chi Shih Chen, Asian and Pacific Islander Association
Pr. Khader N. El-Yateem, chair, Multicultural Ministries Program Committee
Mr. Kent Henning, ELCA colleges and universities
Mr. Joseph A. Husary, president, Arab and Middle Eastern Association, *excused*
Pr. Phillip Krey, ELCA seminaries
Ms. Kristin Kvam, chair, Justice for Women Consulting Committee
Pr. O. Dennis Mims, president, African-American Association, *excused*
Pr. Nelson H. Rabell-Gonzalez, president, Latino Community Association

Pr. Sarah M. Lee-Faulkner, chair, Evangelical Outreach and Congregational Mission Program Committee
Ms. Carmen Richards, president, Women of the ELCA, *excused*
Pr. Frederick Strickert, chair, Global Mission Program Committee
Mr. Kai Swanson, chair, Vocation and Education Program Committee
Mr. Larry Thiele, president, American Indian and Alaska Native Association
Pr. Roger Thompson, chair, Church in Society Program Committee
Ms. Suzanne Wise, Lutheran Social Ministries

D. Resource People

Office of the Presiding Bishop

Pr. Kathie Bender Schwich, Executive for Synodical and Constituent Relations
Pr. M. Wyvetta Bullock, Executive for Administration
Pr. Marcus Kunz, Executive for Discernment of Contextual and Theological Issues
Ms. Myrna J. Sheie, Executive for Governance and Institutional Relations

Section Executives and Staff

Pr. Michael L. Burk, Executive for Worship and Liturgical Resources (Chaplain)
Mr. Kenneth W. Inskeep, Executive for Research and Evaluation
Pr. Donald J. McCoid, Executive for Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations
Pr. Darrell D. Morton, Assistant to the Presiding Bishop for Federal Chaplaincy Ministries
Pr. Craig Settlage, Director for Mission Support
Ms. Else B. Thompson, Executive for Human Resources

Office of the Secretary

Pr. Ruth E. Hamilton, Executive for Official Documentation and Administration
Mr. Phillip H. Harris, General Counsel
Pr. Paul A. Schreck, Executive for Constitutional and Rostering Interpretation and Oversight
Mr. David A. Ullrich, Associate General Counsel

Office of the Treasurer

Section Executives and Staff

Ms. Karen Rathbun, Executive for Management Services, *excused*
Ms. LaRue R. Un glaube, Executive for Information Technology
Pr. Jeffrey R. King, Support Specialist, Information Technology

Program Unit Executives

Pr. Stephen P. Bouman, Executive Director, Evangelical Outreach and Congregational Mission
Ms. Linda Post Bushkofsky, Executive Director, Women of the ELCA
Pr. Sherman Hicks, Executive Director, Multicultural Ministries
Pr. Rebecca S. Larson, Executive Director, Church in Society
Ms. Beth A. Lewis, President, Augsburg Fortress, Publishers
Pr. Rafael Malpica-Padilla, Executive Director, Global Mission
Pr. Stanley N. Olson, Executive Director, Vocation and Education

Service Unit Executives

Ms. Kristi Bangert, Executive Director, Communication Services
Ms. Cynthia Halverson, Foundation of the ELCA and Executive Director for Development Services

Mr. John G. Kapanke, President, Board of Pensions
Mr. Daniel Lehmann, Editor, *The Lutheran* magazine
Ms. Eva M. Roby, Executive Vice President for Administration,
Mission Investment Fund

E. Press

Mr. John R. Brooks, Director, ELCA News Service
Ms. Elizabeth M. Hunter, *The Lutheran* magazine
Mr. Frank F. Imhoff, Associate Director, ELCA News Service
Ms. Melissa Ramirez-Cooper, Associate Director, ELCA News Service

F. Ecumenical Guests

Canon Victoria L. Garvey, The Episcopal Church, *excused*
Pr. Teresita Valeriano, North American Representative, Lutheran World Federation
Pr. Mary Ann Neevel, United Church of Christ, *excused*
Moravian Church [position vacant]
Presbyterian Church U.S.A. [position vacant]
Reformed Church [position vacant]

G. Adoption of Agenda

Agenda items have been distributed by mail. Additional items will be distributed at the meeting to the members of the Church Council and invited resource people.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To adopt the agenda and to permit the chair to call for consideration of agenda items in the order the chair deems most appropriate.

H. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the November 9-11, 2007, meeting of the Church Council have been distributed to council members.

The minutes of the council's Executive Committee meetings on November 8, 2007, December 6, 2007, and January 17, 2008, have been distributed. The Executive Committee minutes for the meeting held on February 25, 2008, will be distributed separately.

Please provide in writing for the Executive Assistant for Official Documentation any notations on typographical errors in the distributed text of the minutes. Proper corrections will be entered into the protocol copies of the minutes. Corrections of that nature need not be raised in the plenary session in connection with the approval of the minutes.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To approve the minutes of the November 9-11, 2007, meeting of the Church Council; and

To ratify actions of the council's Executive Committee as indicated in the minutes of the November 8, 2007, December 6, 2007, January 17, 2008, and February 25, 2008, meetings.

Revised April 9, 2008; 3:35 p.m.

II. WRITTEN REPORTS

A. Reports of the Officers

1. Presiding Bishop: Exhibit A, Part 1
Summary of Section Activities: Exhibit A, Part 1a
2. Vice President: Exhibit A, Part 2
3. Secretary: Exhibit A, Part 3
4. Treasurer: Exhibit A, Part 4
Summary of Section Activities: Exhibit A, Part 4a

B. Report of the Conference of Bishops: Exhibit A, Part 5

C. Report of the Executive for Administration: Exhibit E, Part 1

D. Reports of the Churchwide Units

NOTE: Refer to the *Structure of the Agenda* (salmon pages) for specific detail.

1. Reports and Recommendations of Churchwide Program and Service Units:
Exhibit J, Part 1
Summary of Unit Activities: Exhibit J, Part 1
Digest of Board Actions: Exhibit J, Part 1a
2. Items for Action: Agenda, Section III
3. Items for *En Bloc* Action: Agenda, Section IV
4. Items for Information: Agenda, Section V

E. Reports of Church Council Committees

NOTE: See Section III for action items; Section IV for *en bloc* action items; and Section V for information items related to these committees. The working schedule for the meeting, printed on green paper, lists specific page numbers and the location of related exhibits.

1. Board Development Committee
2. Budget and Finance Committee
3. Executive Committee
4. Legal and Constitutional Review
5. Planning and Evaluation Committee
6. Program and Services Committee

III. ITEMS FOR ACTION

A. Nominations, Appointments, and Elections

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. Biographical information is provided in Exhibit C, Part 1.

a. CHURCH COUNCIL

Lay Male [Term 2011] *to replace resignation of Bradley Dokken, Williston, ND (3A)*

1. a. Keith M. Johnson, Hazen, ND (3A)
- b. Baron D. Blanchard, Bismarck, ND (3A)

b. BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE MISSION INVESTMENT FUND

Lay Female [Term 2013] *to replace resignation of Barbara Swartling, Bainbridge Island, WA (1B)*

1. Julie E. Swanson, Roanoke, VA (9A)

c. BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE ELCA FOUNDATION

Lay Male [Term 2013] *to replace vacancy of Brian F. Hofland, West Harrison, NY (7C)*

1. John H. Saeger, Lancaster, PA (8D)

B. Board Development Committee

Action items related to meetings of the Board Development Committee, including its April 12, 2008, meeting, are detailed below. Additional items or revised actions will be distributed following the committee's meeting.

C. Budget and Finance

Action items related to the April 11, 2008, meeting of the Budget and Finance Committee are detailed below. Additional items or revised actions will be distributed following the committee's meeting.

1. Current Fund and World Hunger

As detailed in Exhibit F, Part 3a, current fund income is estimated to increase by \$21,500 from the income proposal approved at the November 2007 Church Council meeting to \$82,017,150. The mission support income estimate remains at \$66,600,000. This is an increase of \$ 470,883 or 0.7 percent from 2007 mission support receipts and equals 97.7 percent of 2008 synod mission support plans. Endowment distributions are based on a five year rolling average of market value. The increase of \$34,260 is a result of adding income distributions from a fund previously not distributed.

Investment income estimates have been increased by \$214,000. The \$108,310 decrease in rental income is due primarily to adjusting the estimate of space available for lease in the Lutheran Center and adjusting the sub-lease income from the space in Washington, D.C. Other income has been increased by \$50,000.

Bequest and trust income has been reduced by \$100,000 in both unrestricted and temporarily restricted income. This returns the budget for each category to previously

Revised April 1, 2008, 1:40 p.m.

budgeted levels and should result in lower risk of under-performance in this category.

The strong performance of the World Hunger appeal in 2007 supports an increase of the 2008 budget to \$20,000,000. While the unusually large increases in bequest income in 2007 are not anticipated to repeat themselves, the growth in direct giving is expected to continue.

The proposed 2008 expenditure authorization is shown in Exhibit F, Part 3b. The current fund increase of \$21,500 is added to the Strategic Initiative Fund, providing additional flexibility to the Office of the Presiding Bishop for addressing mission opportunities or unanticipated operating needs as they are presented.

The 2008 WHA income proposal has been increased by \$750,000 to \$20,000,000. The increased World Hunger spending authorization is distributed to the four units receiving allocations based on the same percentage distributions as the original allocations.

In addition to the revised spending authorization of \$20,000,000, World Hunger income received in excess of expense in 2007 in the amount of \$1,605,270 will be distributed to units. This distribution is after allocating \$1,100,000 for potential use in the development of the Lutheran Malaria Initiative and HIV/AIDS strategy if approved by the ELCA Church Council. There also remains \$500,000 from excess income received in fiscal 2006 designated for the implementation of the HIV/AIDS strategy when approved

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To approve a revised 2008 fiscal year current fund spending authorization of \$82,017,150; and

To approve a revised 2008 fiscal year World Hunger spending authorization of \$20,000,000.

2. Mission Support Plans by Synod

The ELCA Church Council has responsibility for reviewing and approving or withholding approval for synods regarding mission support plans. Exhibit F, Part 5 shows the actual mission support received from each synod for 2007, the original and revised 2008 plans, and the original plans for the 2009 fiscal year.

a) Revisions to 2008 synod mission support plans

Since the November 2007 Church Council meeting, we have received revisions for 2008 mission support plans from five synods.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

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: Nebraska and Upstate New York synods; and

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: Southeastern Minnesota, Northeastern Pennsylvania, Florida-Bahamas, and New England synods.

Revised April 11, 2008; 2:55 p.m.

b) 2009 synod mission support plans

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To affirm with sincere appreciation the increases in the percentage for the sharing of 2009 mission support contributions by congregations for synodical and churchwide ministries of the following synods: Alaska, Eastern Washington-Idaho, Oregon, Montana, Sierra-Pacific, Grand Canyon, Eastern North Dakota, Metropolitan Chicago, Western Iowa, North/West Lower Michigan, Southern Ohio, New England, Metropolitan New York, Slovak Zion, Northwestern Pennsylvania, **Upstate New York, West Virginia-Western Maryland, and Virginia synods.**

To affirm the 2009 mission support dollar estimates for the sharing of mission support contributions by congregations for synodical and churchwide ministries of the following synods: Northwest Washington, Rocky Mountain, South Dakota, Northwestern Minnesota, Northeastern Minnesota, Southwestern Minnesota, Minneapolis Area, Saint Paul Area, Southeastern Minnesota, Nebraska, Central States, Arkansas-Oklahoma, Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana, Southwestern Texas, Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast, Northern Illinois, Central/Southern Illinois, Southeastern Iowa, Northern Great Lakes, Northwest Synod of Wisconsin, East-Central Synod of Wisconsin, Greater Milwaukee, La Crosse Area, Southeast Michigan, Indiana-Kentucky, Northwestern Ohio, Northeastern Ohio, New Jersey, New England, Northeastern Pennsylvania, Southeastern Pennsylvania, Southwestern Pennsylvania, Allegheny, Upper Susquehanna, Delaware-Maryland, Metropolitan Washington, D.C., Southeastern, and Florida-Bahamas synods.

To acknowledge the percentage change in 2009 mission support resulting from estimates of congregational mission support income for the following synods:

Western North Dakota, Northeastern Iowa, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Caribbean synods

D. Executive Committee

Action items related to the April 11, 2008, meeting of the Executive Committee are detailed below. Additional items or revised actions will be distributed following the committee's meeting.

1. Lutheran Malaria Initiative

Origins of the Lutheran Malaria Initiative

In July 2007, staff of Lutheran World Relief (LWR) brought to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

(LCMS) a proposal to develop a common Lutheran Malaria Initiative (LMI). This initiative would provide an opportunity for the Lutheran community to join the growing worldwide movement to control and ultimately eradicate this debilitating disease of poverty.

Malaria currently claims over one million lives each year, mainly infants, small children, and pregnant women, most of whom live in Africa. Each year more than 350 million people worldwide contract malaria, which pulls families—especially those who cannot afford treatment—and communities into a downward spiral of poverty. The global community has the means, including spraying, insecticide-treated nets, and combination drug therapies, to control this mosquito-borne disease. The question is whether the global community has the will to do so.

Malaria is addressed every day in many health facilities operated by ELCA companion churches and in the community development work of this church's international partners, including the Lutheran World Federation. Although the ELCA provides financial support for many of these efforts, using both mission-support and World Hunger funds, malaria has not been an explicit focus of the ELCA's mission or its international program work. Neither has it been a priority for Lutheran World Relief or the LCMS.

However, a unique opportunity for engagement in this area came to Lutheran World Relief over a year ago, when LWR staff members were approached by the United Nations Foundation (UNF). UNF encouraged LWR to explore the possibility of embarking on a unique partnership to mobilize the "Lutheran constituency" in this country against malaria. The specific opportunity involved a possible multimillion-dollar grant from the United Nations Foundation, which had received funds from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to combat malaria. These funds could assist LWR to develop its capacity to mobilize Lutherans to combat malaria. The campaign would have both a significant educational component and a major fundraising component.

Lutheran World Relief is a ministry of the ELCA and the LCMS in relief and international development; a significant focus of its work is engagement with community-based organizations. The ELCA's support for LWR, provided through the Global Mission unit of the churchwide organization, is complemented by this church's direct engagement with companion churches in health and development ministries and with the Lutheran World Federation. Funding for this comprehensive system of response to human need comes primarily from the ELCA World Hunger Appeal.

Thus, when approached by UNF, Lutheran World Relief staff understood that the goal of mobilizing U.S. Lutherans and engaging in international program work on malaria would require the full engagement of both the ELCA and the LCMS. Since last July, LWR and ELCA churchwide staff from a number of units, including the Office of the Presiding Bishop, Church in Society, Global Mission, Communication Services, and Development Services, have engaged in intensive conversation about what such a proposal might look like and whether to go forward with it. (Other churchwide units will participate in the development and implementation of the initiative should further work be approved by the Church Council.) At various stages, but with increasing intentionality, these conversations included The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

All three potential LMI partners agreed that, given their history and mission

commitments, any common inter-Lutheran campaign on malaria would need to reflect the understanding that malaria is a disease of poverty. They agreed that Lutheran engagement in malaria projects would be deficient if it were based on simplistic approaches to malaria eradication (e.g., handing out nets). LMI partners also agreed that a malaria response, to be effective in the field, would need to be carried out within the context of comprehensive and sustainable community development. Education about malaria in this country similarly would need to avoid simplistic or purely medical approaches; it would need to show clearly and convincingly the connections between poverty and malaria.

Since the 1980s, the ELCA has worked with partners in Africa to address HIV and AIDS. In 2001, at the urging of companion churches, the ELCA launched the World Hunger Appeal's "Stand with Africa" campaign, which supports education, advocacy, and fundraising that enable ELCA members to walk faithfully with companions in Africa as they address the devastating interrelated dynamics of HIV and AIDS, civil strife, poverty, and food security issues. "Stand with Africa" addresses HIV and AIDS not just as in medical terms, but as a disease of poverty.

The ELCA, therefore, considered the wisdom of engaging in a possible malaria initiative at the same time it lives out its commitment to intensify its HIV and AIDS response and develops a comprehensive churchwide HIV and AIDS strategy, as mandated by the 2007 Churchwide Assembly. ELCA staff emphasized from the beginning of the conversations with LWR, LCMS, and the United Nations Foundation that engagement in malaria work would not come at the expense of its HIV and AIDS commitment. Rather, the two would need to be held together strategically, both in interpretation and in work with companions. Developing synergy with existing health-related and HIV and AIDS efforts would need to be a high priority in the ELCA's engagement with malaria work.

The International Perspective

When ELCA staff members received the invitation of Lutheran World Relief to consider adding malaria as a priority ministry, they determined that the decision could not be made without consultation with companion churches in order to discern whether malaria work would be a priority for them and whether they would welcome partnership with the ELCA in it. Therefore, in fall 2007 and winter 2008, Global Mission staff consulted with companion churches and agencies.

Key ELCA companions—in particular the Lutheran Communion in Southern Africa (a regional expression of the Lutheran World Federation)—strongly encouraged the expansion of the ELCA's mission to include malaria within the context of a continuing and expanding emphasis on HIV and AIDS. For if HIV and AIDS are diseases of poverty, malaria is as well; they are entwined in the lives of people in many areas of Africa and other parts of the world. That is the reason the Global Fund focuses on both of these diseases, along with tuberculosis. It is also the reason these diseases are the focus of the UN Millennium Goals—goals affirmed by the ELCA—which place in one global movement both the reduction of extreme hunger and poverty and the control of these diseases.

During the same period, Lutheran World Relief, which historically has been active in East and West Africa, conducted a malaria assessment in the countries in which it currently operates. LWR is gaining on-the-ground experience through its implementation of a cooperative malaria project with a Lutheran hospital and diocese

Revised April 9, 2008; 3:35 p.m.

of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania, a project that was funded by a major grant from the US Agency for International Development.

Should a Lutheran Malaria Initiative go forward, LWR plans to work with organizations and churches through centers in East and West Africa, while the ELCA would support the Lutheran Communion in Southern Africa to provide such a center in southern Africa, linked with its HIV and AIDS efforts. These centers would work closely together, sharing information, ideas, best practices, models, and expertise across the three regions of Africa.

The Domestic Perspective

A similar assessment process concerning the impact of a malaria initiative on ongoing interpretation, communication, education, and fundraising efforts, both in the World Hunger program and the wider work of the ELCA, was conducted by other churchwide units. The Lutheran system's capacity for participating in such a campaign also was discussed. As reported to the Church Council at its November 2007 meeting, LMI partners moved through an exploratory phase with the United Nations Foundation (UNF), during which the ability of LWR, ELCA, and the LCMS to mobilize the U.S. Lutheran community for this effort was assessed.

Throughout the fall and winter, conversations between the three potential LMI partners and the UNF intensified. At the end of February 2008, a Phase I proposal was submitted to the foundation for a \$2.6 million three-year grant (Exhibit Q, Part 2). This grant would cover the period of time for planning and development prior to formal approval of the Lutheran Malaria Initiative by the ELCA Churchwide Assembly (2009) and the LCMS National Convention (2010). The proposal anticipates a minimum fundraising goal of \$75 million, to be raised by the three LMI partners after approval by their respective governance bodies. The UN Foundation has given every indication that, given successful completion of Phase I, additional funding for Phase II—the actual implementation of the campaign—will be forthcoming.

The development of this grant was facilitated by an initial feasibility study conducted in the summer of 2007 by Community Counseling Services on behalf of LWR. CCS determined that a minimum campaign goal of \$75 million over five years is realistic. The ELCA has set a goal of \$30 million, including \$20 million for malaria and \$10 million for HIV and AIDS. The budget for the proposal is printed in Exhibit Q, Part 2a.

Money raised in this campaign would be channeled through church or church-related entities, specifically LWR, as it builds its capacity to provide malaria-related services in Africa (particularly in West and East Africa); the ELCA, as it engages companion churches in all regions of Africa and within the wider context of the Lutheran World Federation; and LCMS, as it develops projects in eight African countries. It also would be given to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, a partnership between governments, civil society, the private sector, and affected communities.¹

¹ From the Global Fund's Web Site: "The Global Fund's purpose is to attract, manage and disburse resources to fight AIDS, TB and malaria. [The fund] does not implement programs directly, relying instead on the knowledge of local experts. As a financing mechanism, the Global Fund works closely with other multilateral and bilateral organizations involved in health and development issues to ensure that newly funded programs are coordinated with existing ones. In

Building a case for support of LMI among the members of this church means articulating it as a priority among the ministries of the ELCA. From the beginning, the case must integrate this church's LMI efforts with the World Hunger Appeal and other strategic priorities, including the HIV and AIDS strategy.

The ELCA, unlike LWR and the LCMS, would include HIV and AIDS and malaria in its awareness-building and fundraising efforts. A goal of raising \$20 million for malaria and \$10 million to support the ELCA's HIV and AIDS strategy in the campaign's five-year time period (2009–2013) is projected. In addition, in 2008, the ELCA will conduct a feasibility study for a comprehensive churchwide campaign in conjunction with its 25th anniversary in 2012. If approved, such a campaign would incorporate LMI and the HIV and AIDS strategy into a larger effort. A positive recommendation to move forward with a comprehensive campaign would need approval by the Churchwide Assembly in 2009.

Previous Church Council Action

At its November 2007 meeting, the Church Council received an update on a possible Lutheran Malaria Initiative and took the following action:

To authorize staff of Development Services, Global Mission, and Church in Society, under the coordination of the Office of the Presiding Bishop:

- to develop, in partnership with Lutheran World Relief, The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod, and the United Nations Foundation, a proposal for a possible Lutheran Malaria Initiative, which would support the work of companion churches in the Lutheran World Federation and other international partners in ministry as well as the Global Fund to Combat AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria; and
- to develop plans for integrating and coordinating such an effort with the ELCA's longstanding commitment to walk with those affected by HIV and AIDS and companion churches that are responding to this crisis, within the context of the integrated churchwide HIV and AIDS strategy that was called for by the 2007 Churchwide Assembly;

To request Development Services, Global Mission, and Church in Society to bring through the Office of the Presiding Bishop a report and possible recommendations on this initiative to the April 2008 meeting of the Church Council;

To authorize the Executive Committee, between meetings of the Church Council, to monitor and take appropriate action relating to the development of a possible malaria appeal and program, including the possible receipt of funding from the UN Foundation;

To request that the Office of the Presiding Bishop seek input from the Cabinet of Executives and that any information relating to the development of a possible malaria appeal and program be posted to the Church Council's online listserve for input to the Executive Committee prior to any decision; and

To authorize staff of Development Services and Global Mission to include in the World Hunger program's "Stand with Africa" campaign pilot efforts in anti-malaria fundraising, education, and international programming in 2008-2009 as proposals for action by the 2009 Churchwide Assembly on a possible churchwide appeal are developed during that period.

Meeting in February 2008, the Church Council's Executive Committee was briefed on the initiative's progress. Information on a possible Lutheran Malaria Initiative also was shared at the March 2008 meeting of the Conference of Bishops, as well as at unit program and advisory committee meetings.

The United Nations Foundation Grant

The proposal that comes before this meeting of the Church Council is to use the United Nations Foundation grant to lay the foundation for a proposed malaria and HIV and AIDS campaign that could be launched by the 2009 Churchwide Assembly. Preparation for such an initiative, which would include several pilot programs, would occur under the auspices of the World Hunger Appeal. Efforts during 2008 and 2009 would provide significant information to help shape the wider campaign, into which these initial activities would be folded if the campaign is approved by the 2009 Churchwide Assembly.

Exhibit Q, Part 2 contains an executive summary and the full text of the grant proposal submitted to the UN Foundation, the goal of which is to raise resources and create structures to combat diseases of poverty. The two specific goals of Phase I are: (1) to "increase the fundraising capacity of LMI partners to launch a fundraising campaign to raise approximately \$75 million over five years to combat malaria, and to a lesser extent, HIV and AIDS"; and (2) to "implement a coordinated effort by the LMI partners to educate and raise awareness among U.S. Lutherans about malaria and other global health issues, resulting in constituent engagement with the LMI through leadership, outreach, and advocacy activities." It is anticipated that, in the last year of Phase I engagement, additional resources from external partners would be sought.

The three-year UN Foundation grant would fund the following:

- Shared campaign staff and consultants, housed in LWR's Baltimore offices, who would serve both LWR and the two church bodies. These include a full-time campaign executive director with extensive experience in complex campaign planning and implementation, who would serve for the full three years of the grant; a full-time public relations and marketing director; a half-time education director, who would serve for a year; and a full-time fundraising director, who would serve during the last 18 months of this first phase of the grant.
- Fundraising counsel.
- Donor database analysis.
- A limited number of staff, housed in the offices of the partners, who would focus on ELCA, LWR, or LCMS activities. ELCA staff would include a major gifts officer, who would serve full time for the last two years of the grant.
- Several pilots, limited in time and geography, in representative areas. During the pilot phase messages, activities, and materials would be developed and tested, to be used in the nationwide launch of the LMI campaign that would follow Churchwide Assembly approval. Within the context of these pilots, volunteer networks will be developed. Contract staff in Web and graphic design, video production, and meeting facilitation would support these pilot efforts.

During Phase I, ongoing ELCA, LCMS, and LWR events would be used to build awareness about malaria and LMI. Direct mail engagement with LWR, ELCA, and

LCMS donors would begin. In addition, the UNF would invite participation by LMI partners in a program advisory committee, which would provide high level information, coordination, and planning advice to help them strengthen relationships with the Global Fund.

It is important to note that the entire UNF grant will be used for the domestic campaign development, including pilots. None of this grant will be spent on international work, given the assumption that the funds raised through the proposed campaign would be directed toward that purpose. However, both the ELCA and Lutheran World Relief recognize that immediate and intentional international action is needed, both in staffing and financing programmatic work with global companions. Even as Phase I lays the foundation for an actual campaign, parallel work internationally and in other domestic arenas that are not being funded by the grant (e.g., advocacy and broader education and communication efforts) needs to begin now.

If the Church Council affirms the planning work toward a Lutheran Malaria Initiative, which will include an HIV and AIDS component, \$1.1 million of the 2007 World Hunger overage (income over expenses) would be used this and next year to provide staff and grants to begin malaria work with companion churches and the Lutheran World Federation. The overage also would fund a position to provide strategic guidance and direction to ELCA engagement with LWR, LCMS, the UN Foundation, and others engaged in this country in eradicating malaria.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To affirm the work of the Church in Society, Communication Services, Development Services, and Global Mission units and the Office of the Presiding Bishop in developing a proposed Lutheran Malaria Initiative;

To acknowledge that the proposed initiative also will include an HIV and AIDS emphasis and will be integrated with the churchwide strategy on HIV and AIDS and any churchwide appeal;

To authorize receipt of funds and their utilization for the purposes of preparation for a potential Lutheran Malaria Initiative educational and fundraising campaign in accordance with the United Nations Foundation grant proposal;

To authorize continued Lutheran Malaria Initiative work until the 2009 Churchwide Assembly under the auspices of the World Hunger Appeal and Program;

To stipulate that, as specifically designated monies, United Nations Foundation grant funds for the Lutheran Malaria Initiative are not subject to the allocation between World Hunger domestic and international projects; and

To request that an update on the initiative be brought to the November 2008 meeting of the Church Council and that a report and recommendations to the Churchwide Assembly be brought to the April 2009 meeting of the Church Council.

Revised April 11, 2008; 7:45 p.m.

3. Discussion of Draft Social Statement on Human Sexuality

The Church Council occasionally has voted to discuss topics as a “committee of the whole.” At this meeting, it has been suggested that the Church Council and its advisors use this format to hold a “hearing” on the draft social statement on human sexuality.

Dr. Kenneth Inskip, executive for research and evaluation, will facilitate the discussion.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To go into a “committee of the whole” for the purpose of an overview and general discussion by Church Council members and advisors of the draft social statement on human sexuality for the following:

Introduction and overview (30 minutes); questions for clarification (10 minutes; “fishbowl” with advisors (30 minutes); conversation (60 minutes).

E. Legal and Constitutional Review Committee

Action items related to the April 11, 2008, meeting of the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee are detailed below. Additional items or revised actions will be distributed following the committee’s meeting.

1. Definition of Regions

A review of the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* indicated that, although the documents make frequent reference to regions, nowhere is it defined which synods comprise which regions.

CC ACTION *Two-thirds required*

Recommended:

To adopt new continuing resolution 18.01.A08. to define regions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:

18.01.A08. The regions shall be numbered 1 through 9 and comprised of the following synods as designated in bylaw 10.01.11.):

Region 1—Alaska Synod; Northwest Washington Synod; Southwestern Washington Synod; Eastern Washington-Idaho Synod; Oregon Synod; and Montana Synod.

Region 2—Sierra Pacific Synod; Southwest California Synod; Pacifica Synod; Grand Canyon Synod; and Rocky Mountain Synod.

Region 3—Western North Dakota Synod; Eastern North Dakota Synod; South Dakota Synod; Northwestern Minnesota Synod; Northeastern Minnesota Synod; Southwestern Minnesota Synod; Minneapolis Area Synod; Saint Paul Area Synod; and Southeastern Minnesota Synod.

Region 4—Nebraska Synod; Central States Synod; Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod; Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Synod; Southwestern Texas Synod; Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod.

Region 5—Metropolitan Chicago Synod; Northern Illinois Synod; Central/Southern Illinois Synod; Southeastern Iowa Synod; Western Iowa Synod; Northeastern Iowa Synod; Northern Great Lakes Synod; Northwest

Synod of Wisconsin; East-Central Synod of Wisconsin; Greater Milwaukee Synod; South-Central Synod of Wisconsin; and La Crosse Area Synod.

Region 6—Southeast Michigan Synod; North/West Lower Michigan Synod; Indiana-Kentucky Synod; Northwestern Ohio Synod; Northeastern Ohio Synod; and Southern Ohio Synod.

Region 7—New Jersey Synod; New England Synod; Metropolitan New York Synod; Upstate New York Synod; Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod; Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod; and Slovak Zion Synod.

Region 8—Northwestern Pennsylvania Synod; Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod; Allegheny Synod; Lower Susquehanna Synod; Upper Susquehanna Synod; Delaware-Maryland Synod; Metropolitan Washington, D.C., Synod; and West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod.

Region 9—Virginia Synod; North Carolina Synod; South Carolina Synod; Southeastern Synod; Florida-Bahamas Synod; and Caribbean Synod.

F. Planning and Evaluation Committee

Action items related to the April 11, 2008, meeting of the Planning and Evaluation Committee are detailed below. Additional items or revised actions will be distributed following the committee's meeting.

1. Communal Discernment

Southwestern Minnesota Synod (3F)

WHEREAS, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America has been a church body for twenty years; and

WHEREAS, the overall culture we live in has grown more polarized and contentious; and

WHEREAS, we continue to struggle to discern truth together as a large, complex church body serving the Gospel in very different contexts; and

WHEREAS, we believe there are other ways of discerning and working together to follow Jesus and that our process might be adjusted in ways that would help our life together; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Southwestern Minnesota Synod ask the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to call together a task force to explore and analyze other models and possible adjustments of our model of communal discernment as a church body; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Southwestern Minnesota Synod ask that a report be given about what is learned in the study of other large Christian bodies work of engaging difficult church and social issues as well as recommendations about how we might work together in a way that fosters trust and deepens our spiritual discernment of challenging dilemmas and issues in our future together following Christ Jesus.

At its August 2007 meeting, the Church Council voted (CC07.08.57) to refer this resolution for study:

To receive the resolution of the Southwestern Minnesota Synod related to communal discernment;

To refer the resolution to the Church Council Planning and Evaluation Committee in consultation with the Administrative Team and the Conference of Bishops with a request that a report and possible recommendations be brought to the April 2008 meeting of the Church Council; and

To request that the secretary of this church inform the synod of this action.

Responding to this referral, the Administrative Team and members of the Planning and Evaluation Committee began initial study of the conceptual framework implied by the resolution of the Southwestern Minnesota Synod Council. As was noted during discussion at the August 2007 meeting of the Church Council, discernment is a technical, theological term with a variety of levels of related meanings. In order to respond appropriately to the resolution, Bishop Jon V. Anderson was invited to share his reflections on the underlying concerns that prompted the Synod Council resolution. Bishop Anderson's response provided a detailed outline largely centered on the importance of all participants who comprise large decision-making bodies working together to discover the truth of a matter, thereby making decisions by consensus. If the Church Council establishes a task force, one task will be to define appropriately what is meant by "discernment." In the meantime, based upon the response from Bishop Anderson, preliminary research focused on various models of consensus decision-making.

Consensus decision-making is a process that not only seeks the agreement of a very large majority of participants, but seeks also to resolve or mitigate the objections of the minority in order to achieve decisions with the greatest level of support possible. Consensus usually is defined both as general agreement and the process of getting to such agreement. Consensus decision-making is thus concerned primarily with that process. As a process, consensus decision-making aims to be:

- *Inclusive:* As many stakeholders as possible should be involved in the consensus decision-making process;
- *Participatory:* The consensus process should solicit actively the input and participation of all decision-makers;
- *Cooperative:* Participants in an effective consensus process should strive to reach the best possible decision *for the group and all of its members*, rather than opt to pursue a majority opinion, potentially to the detriment of a minority.
- *Egalitarian:* All members of a consensus decision-making body should be afforded, as much as possible, equal input into the process. All members have the opportunity to table, amend, and "block" proposals.
- *Solution-oriented* An effective consensus decision-making body strives to emphasize common agreement over differences and reach effective decisions using compromise and other techniques to avoid or resolve mutually-exclusive positions within the group.

Consensus is not equivalent to unanimity. A healthy consensus decision-making process usually encourages the expression of dissenting opinions early, maximizing the chance of accommodating the views of all minorities. Consensus is reached when a pre-determined threshold of participant support has been reached; "rough consensus" has no specific rule for such a majority, but instead the question of consensus is left to the judgment of the chair. In either case, dissenters are given the opportunity to declare reservations, stand aside to let the motion pass, or block a proposal (generally considered to be an extreme measure, used only when a participant believes a proposal endangers the organization or its participants, or violates the mission of the organization).

The model used by the Quakers is effective because it puts in place a simple, time-tested structure that moves a group toward consensus. This model has been

well-received when employed in other settings because it gives everyone a chance to speak, while limiting potential disruptors.

A model used with mixed results by the Reformed Church in America relies upon the moderator periodically inviting participants to hold up a red, yellow, or green card to reflect the level of agreement with the proposal. The level of consensus is determined by the moderator based upon this periodic visual feedback.

The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod uses parliamentary procedures, but alters *Robert's Rules of Order* with some intriguing modifications. For example, according to their 2007 Special Standing Rules for the Convention, no motion to amend, table, or end debate can be made during the presentation of committee recommendations or initial debate on the main motion, but can be introduced only during a special segment of discussion during which amendments and substitutes can be introduced. Amendments to proposed substitutes are to be published in “Today’s Business” (the LCMS version of the “Daily Docket”) for publication prior to consideration so all delegates have the language before them prior to deliberation. Motions to end debate are limited only to the immediate question, which means there are no motions to “call the question on all matters before the house.” And, while anyone can move to end debate, the chair is required to call for a vote to end debate after every 20 minutes of open debate. The chair also can call for a vote to end debate whenever he judges that the assembly has heard sufficient speaking from both sides of the issue.

All NATO decisions are made by consensus after discussion and consultation among member countries. A decision reached by consensus is an agreement reached by common consent, a decision that is accepted by each member country. This means that when a “NATO decision” is announced, it is the expression of the collective will of all the sovereign states that are members of the Alliance. This principle also is applied at every committee level and demonstrates clearly that NATO decisions are collective decisions made by its member countries.

The World Council of Churches (WCC) has changed its meeting procedures from a parliamentary style to one making decisions by consensus. They made this transition in part for theological reasons, seeking to bear witness to unity in a world marked by division. By promoting collaboration rather than adversarial debate, consensus procedures help the WCC assembly, commissions, and committees to seek the mind of Christ together. Their consensus model also encourages prayerful listening to one another and growth in understanding between ecclesial traditions. At the same time it requires discipline on the part of participants and moderators. There are rules, but the aim is to arrive at a common mind rather than simply determine the will of the majority. When consensus is declared, all who have participated can affirm confidently: “It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us...” (Acts 15:28).

Because the Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is fundamentally a legislative body, some consensus decision-making models may be impossible to implement. Revisions to the Rules of Organization and Procedure, however, might be considered that would increase the level of consensus within the body. This might include procedural changes such as a requirement to table a substitute motion until a subsequent plenary session so the substitution can be photocopied and distributed to voting members. Other possible changes might be to restrict how motions to end debate are introduced, or not including debates over procedures within time restrictions, so that such measures are not perceived simply as ways to manipulate or limit discussion.

The Planning and Evaluation Committee prepared the following recommendation for discussion by the Executive Committee at its February 2008 meeting.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To give thanks to the Southwestern Minnesota Synod for its resolution asking the Church Council to appoint a task force to examine models of communal discernment and report “recommendations about how we might work together in a way that fosters trust and deepens our spiritual discernment of challenging dilemmas and issues in our future”;

To underscore the importance of communal discernment to the interrelationships and life of this church in each of its expressions and to anticipate that this examination will serve not only to provide a vehicle to speak to each other about difficult issues in difficult times, but also call this church to look deeply and prayerfully at how it seeks to be led by the Holy Spirit in all its communal discernment processes;

To recognize that this request asks the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) to examine specific criteria for discernment, both current and future, and therefore a breadth of representation on the task force and a flexible time lines is necessary;

To anticipate that, together with the *Book of Faith* Initiative, this church is committing itself to a journey with the Spirit, a journey of spiritual renewal through Holy Scripture and discernment;

To appoint a communal discernment task force to explore whether there may be better ways for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in all its expressions to engage emotional and divisive issues, seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and make difficult decisions as a church body in ways that will increase mutual trust, build respect for each other as the Body of Christ, and deepen spiritual discernment;

To encourage the task force to engage in a thorough study of alternative possibilities for communal discernment, to recommend to the Church Council alternative models of communal discernment if it deems helpful, and to offer leadership to this church as it seeks to be led by the Holy Spirit in its communal discernment processes;

To request that the task force consult regularly with the Administrative Team and the Conference of Bishops, work collaboratively with all expressions of this church, and report its findings and possible recommendations through the Planning and Evaluation Committee to the Church Council;

To include as members of the task force people selected for their interest and expertise from among:

- The Church Council;
- The Conference of Bishops;
- ELCA churchwide officers and staff;
- Teaching theologians;
- Rostered and lay leaders from ELCA congregational settings; and
- ELCA institutions and agencies;

To include as advisors to the task force people selected for their interest and expertise from among ecumenical partners and intentional faith communities who have explored, or already employ, alternative models of communal discernment;

Revised April 11, 2008; 8:20 p.m.

To anticipate that the task force, as it determines what will be helpful for its work, may invite resource people from a wide range of faith traditions who practice varied models of communal discernment;

To allocate \$20,000-\$25,000 for the work of the task force;

To request that the task force be named and convened by July 1, 2008, and that the task force provide 1) a preliminary outline of the scope of its work and a timeline for completing it; and 2) any recommended changes in the process of deliberation that would affect the 2009 Churchwide Assembly, to the November 2008 meeting of the Church Council following consultation with the Administrative Team.

G. Program and Services Committee

Action items related to the April 11, 2008, meeting of the Program and Services Committee are detailed below. Additional items or revised actions will be distributed following the committee's meeting.

1. *Evangelical Lutheran Worship: Pastoral Care*

Of the worship materials that constitute the family of resources unfolding around the primary worship resource, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, at least two publications merit a level of liturgical review that requires action by the Church Council. Section 1.17 of the process for liturgical review is detailed in "Policies and Procedures of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America: Review of Liturgical Material." The document was part of the review by the Program and Services Committee.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship: Pastoral Care is the first of two titles related to occasional services. While work is just beginning on the second volume, this first volume already has received two levels of review:

- Pre-publication review involved responding to and incorporating insights from a development panel and comments from individuals and groups who chose to review the provisional contents that were posted on the ELCA Web site.
- A subsequent review by designated reviewers including synodical bishops, pastors, lay rostered leaders, and teaching theologians informed the strategies for final decision-making.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To commend *Evangelical Lutheran Worship: Pastoral Care* for use by pastors and lay persons involved in this church's ministry of care;

To express gratitude for the conscientious efforts of the reviewers and the insights and observations by the many people who helped to shape and refine the content of *Evangelical Lutheran Worship: Pastoral Care*; and

To encourage the completion of the second volume of materials related to occasional services in the life of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

2. United Methodist Full Communion Agreement

The Lutheran-United Methodist Bilateral dialogue began with a first round study on baptism (1977-79). That study concluded that Lutherans and United Methodists shared “in one Spirit and one baptism.” The second round of the dialogue (1985-87) focused on episcopacy concluded that, while there are distinctions between how the two churches utilize the office of bishop, they both insist “that no particular structure of oversight is of the essence of the Church.” The final report was published by Augsburg Fortress, Publishers, in 1991 as *Episcopacy: A Lutheran-United Methodist Common Statement to the Church*, which, in addition to background papers prepared for the dialogue, also included the 1979 common statement on baptism.

The conclusion of the round two participants was that “the remaining topics can and should be addressed in a third and final round of dialogues between our two churches.” After a hiatus of seven years, a formal invitation was received in June 1998 from the ecumenical officer of The United Methodist Church asking that the dialogue be resumed. Staff members met in November 1998 to begin planning the third round of the dialogue. In November 1999 the co-chairs, the Rev. Allan C. Bjornberg, bishop of the Rocky Mountain Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and the Rev. Melvin G. Talbert, ecumenical officer and bishop of The United Methodist Church, and dialogue members were appointed. The United Methodist Church: Ms. Judith Crain of Green Bay, Wisconsin; the Rev. Dr. Amy Laura Hall of Duke Divinity School; Dr. Jean Miller-Schmidt of Iliff School of Theology; and the Rev. Lars-Erik Nordby of Norway. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America: Dr. Kathryn L. Johnson of Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary; Dr. Cynthia D. Moe-Lobeda, the Graduate School of Theology and Ministry at Seattle University; the Rev. Dr. H. Frederick Reisz Jr. of Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary; and the Rev. Dr. Timothy J. Wengert of The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia. Staff members for the dialogue were the Rev. Betty Gamble, Associate General Secretary, General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns, UMC, and the Rev. Paul A. Schreck, associate for bilateral dialogues, ELCA.

The co-chairs subsequently met December 8-9, 2000, at Chicago to organize a schedule of topics for the dialogue, and concluded this meeting by adopting the following statement:

As we begin our conversation, we expect to further explore and discover our partnership in the Gospel, and we hope to discern a clearer vision of our common discipleship. In committing ourselves to this next round of dialogue, we express our hope for full communion between our two churches.

The dialogue convened its first plenary meeting in Denver, Colorado, September 6-9, 2001, to discuss a series of papers on the role of Scripture as authority as well as confessional and doctrinal authority within the two churches. The dialogue members were encouraged by significant work previously accomplished by Lutheran and United Methodist churches through bilateral and multilateral relationships throughout the world. United Methodists in several European countries already have entered into agreements with Lutheran churches. The ELCA-UMC dialogue found of particular assistance *Fellowship of Grace*, which describes the 1994 full-communion relationship between the UMC and the Church of Norway, as well as *The Church: Community of Grace*, the 1984 final report of the Lutheran World Federation and World Methodist Council dialogue, which details significant convergence in our churches' doctrines of grace and baptism.

The second plenary session convened February 14-17, 2002, in Orlando, Florida. Because of continuing illness, Dr. Jean Miller-Schmidt was replaced by the UMC Council of Bishops with the Rev. Dr. Paul Chilcote of Asbury Seminary, a John Wesley scholar. Discussion centered on a review of the 1979 common statement on baptism and the Lord's Supper. The two church bodies have these sacraments in common, the only rites considered sacraments by these church bodies. Baptism is understood to be the entry into church life; the Lord's Supper is the regular gathering around the holy meal for faith communities. Significant agreement was found among the churches' history and doctrinal teaching.

The third plenary session convened September 12-15, 2002, in Oslo, Norway, immediately prior to a meeting of the Executive Committee of the World Methodist Council. The dialogue members benefitted from consultations with representatives of the Church of Norway and The United Methodist Church in Norway. The Rev. Andreas Aarflot, former bishop of the Church of Norway and an authority on Hans Nilsen Hauge, and Dr. Roar Fotland, dean of the United Methodist Seminary in Norway, addressed the dialogue team. The meeting included careful study and discussion of the landmark agreement between the Church of Norway (Lutheran) and The United Methodist Church in Norway, *Fellowship of Grace*, with key church leaders providing helpful insights into theological issues to be addressed by the ELCA-UMC dialogue. In addition, the dialogue members discussed papers on justification and sanctification, and were encouraged by the level of convergence that was experienced around these topics.

The fourth plenary session convened October 30-November 2, 2003, at the Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky. Due to other commitments, the Rev. Dr. Amy Laura Hall was replaced by the UMC Council of Bishops with the Rev. Dr. Sarah Heaner Lancaster of the Methodist Theological School in Ohio. Dialogue members discussed papers on the mission of the Church and orders of ministry, as well as a draft version of "This Holy Mystery," a document articulating the eucharistic theology of The United Methodist Church to be considered at its 2004 General Conference. Participants were encouraged by the understanding of Holy Communion it described, but proposed an amendment to clarify reference to a common misunderstanding among United Methodists that Lutherans believe in consubstantiation. This proposed amendment was subsequently considered by the UMC General Conference and adopted for the final version of "This Holy Mystery."

The fifth plenary session convened February 19-22, 2004, at the Melancthon Institute in Houston, Texas. Discussion began on a proposal for Interim Eucharistic Sharing, and the preliminary text of a final report of round three. In addition, a presentation on Lutheran liturgy was made by the Rev. Dr. Gordon W. Lathrop of The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, and a presentation on United Methodist liturgy was made by the Rev. Dr. Gayle C. Felton of United Methodist Board of Discipleship.

The sixth plenary session convened August 26-29, 2004, at the Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS) office in Baltimore, Maryland. Dialogue participants completed work on the proposal for Interim Eucharistic Sharing, and voted unanimously to submit the proposal for consideration by each church. The process for consideration was to include approval by the Council of Bishops, indicating that such sharing was in compliance with existing policies and procedures of The United Methodist Church, and adoption by the ELCA Churchwide Assembly

to authorize such sharing by ELCA congregations. The dialogue also continued to discuss issues related to the Lord's Supper and orders of ministry.

The seventh plenary session convened February 24-27, 2005, in Miami, Florida. The participants discussed principles for congregational guidance during the interim period, with a final text to be completed subsequent to adoption of the Interim Eucharistic Sharing agreement. Work also continued on a final report moving toward preparing recommendations for full communion. Topics of continued discussion were sanctification and perfection, and mission. A draft version of this report was completed at the August 2005 plenary meeting, to then be distributed throughout both churches for review and comment. Comments were considered at the plenary meeting August 2006, with a finished text for study and review by each church completed in early 2007, completing the work of the third round participants.

The following action was recommended by the Church Council at its 2005 meeting [CC05.04.23]

To recommend that the 2005 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America adopt the following as a basis for Interim Eucharistic Sharing with The United Methodist Church:

A Proposal for Interim Eucharistic Sharing between
the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and
The United Methodist Church

In Round III of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America—United Methodist Church bilateral dialogue, we have examined the basis for a relationship of full communion between our two church bodies. Our study thus far has discovered no impediment to such a relationship. We have found, however, that the extent of our existing convergence in faith has not always been recognized in our faith communities. As we continue the work of this dialogue, we believe the time has come for our churches to deepen our knowledge of one another, honor and extend our currently shared mission, and share in a new relationship of worship and ministry through an agreement of Interim Eucharistic Sharing. Our work has built upon substantial existing relationships:

We rejoice in our common witness through the World Council of Churches and the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A.;

We rejoice in the example of the close relationship that exists between the United Methodist Church in Norway (a part of The United Methodist Church) and the Church of Norway (a member of the Lutheran World Federation), described in *Fellowship of Grace* (1994 www.kirken.no/engelsk/fship_grace.html), which has served as an important resource for this dialogue;

We rejoice that European Lutheran, Reformed, and United Methodist churches have deepened their relationships (1997 <http://lkg.alb.de/lkg/start.php>);

We rejoice in the joint statement of the World Methodist Council and the Lutheran World Federation, *The Church: Community of Grace* (1984 www.elca.org/ea/Resources/lumersce.html);

We rejoice in the two previous rounds of dialogue in the United States between Lutherans and United Methodists on baptism (1979) and the episcopacy (1988); and

We rejoice in discovering that our two distinctive worship traditions have enriched each other and are sustained by those hymns we share together; that the ELCA statement on sacramental practice, *The Use of the Means of Grace* (1997 www.elca.org/dcm/worship/worship/sacraments/umg.html), has made explicit that (as in The United Methodist Church) baptized Christians who receive Holy Communion in their own congregations are welcome to receive the sacrament in ELCA congregations; and that The United Methodist Church has articulated its understanding of the sacraments in two documents, *By Water and the Spirit: A United Methodist Understanding of Baptism* (1996

www.gbod.org/worship/articles/water_spirit/) and *This Holy Mystery: A United Methodist Understanding of Holy Communion* (2004 www.gbod.org/worship/thm-bygc.pdf).

Drawing upon these resources and previous agreements, the work of the dialogue thus far has discovered significant areas of shared faith:

Both churches confess with Christians of all ages the Triune God as the one true God;
we confess the Bible as the Word of God and the source and norm of our proclamation, faith, and life;

we agree that, in accordance with the Scriptures, human beings are justified by God's grace in Christ received freely through faith alone;

we agree that good works are the natural and spontaneous fruit of faith;

we agree that in baptism God enables the Christian to rely upon this gift, promise, and assurance throughout all of life;

we confess that the Lord's Supper is one of the fundamental means of grace. Like Holy Baptism, the Lord's Supper is an efficacious sign of God's grace, including and giving real participation in Christ;

we confess that the entire Eucharistic celebration expresses the real presence of Christ;

we confess that Christ is really present, shared, and received in the forms of bread and wine in the Eucharist, and that the blessings of this supper are received by faith alone;

we confess that in the Lord's Supper believers receive the benefits of Christ's perfect sacrifice on the cross and his victorious resurrection; and

we confess that the Holy Spirit uses the Supper to express and realize the communion (*koinonia*) of the people of God with Christ and with each other.

Furthermore, both churches emphasize in their liturgies the dimension of worship and thanksgiving in communion (*eucharistia*) and regard the entire worship service, centered in the proclamation of God's Word and the celebration of the Sacraments with prayer and praise, to be the central act in our common Christian life.

While in the dialogue we continue to address such topics as the work of the Holy Spirit in sanctification, perfection in love, and understandings of ministry, we believe that significant convergence exists—and there is sufficient urgency in our need for closer relations of common witness and mission—that a step toward closer relationship is both possible and timely.

On the basis of these discoveries we believe that our churches now should commit to Interim Eucharistic Sharing. This agreement, though short of full communion, makes more visible the unity we already share in Christ, and makes more credible our common witness in the world. For the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (which defines Interim Eucharistic Sharing and Full Communion in "Ecumenism: The Vision of the ELCA" [1991 www.elca.org/ecumenical/Vision.html]) this requires approval by its Churchwide Assembly. At the call of its Council of Bishops, The United Methodist Church, for whom such Eucharistic sharing already is possible, will commit to a time of intentional deepening of relations with ELCA congregations.

We continue to hope and work toward a relationship of full communion between our two church bodies. With this interim commitment, congregations and judicatories of our two churches would now be encouraged to study together *This Holy Mystery* and *The Use of the Means of Grace*, to celebrate joint services of the Lord's Supper, and to explore new opportunities for shared ministry. Guidelines for planning joint liturgies and resources for study and conversation can be found on-line (www.elca.org/ecumenical).

Each of our communions remains a broken and incomplete witness to God's mercy. Longing for that glorious day when all are one, we trust that worship and work together in relationships of mutual challenge and celebration will strengthen our proclamation of the Gospel for the enabling of faith. We prayerfully commit ourselves to this continuing journey together.

In March 2005 the ELCA Conference of Bishops took the following action (CB05.03.05):

To endorse the proposal to establish interim Eucharistic sharing between the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and The United Methodist Church.

In April 2005, the Church Council voted (CC05.04.23):

To recommend adoption by the 2005 Churchwide Assembly of the following action:

To welcome and rejoice in the substantial progress of the Lutheran-United Methodist Dialogue, looking toward the future possibility of a relationship of full communion between the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the United Methodist Church;

To now recognize the United Methodist Church as a church in which the Gospel is preached and taught;

To affirm, on the basis of studies conducted by the Lutheran-United Methodist dialogue, that the basic teaching of each respective church is consonant with the Gospel;

To acknowledge, on the same basis, that the central teaching of the United Methodist Church is sufficiently compatible with the teaching of this church;

To encourage common concern throughout the respective churches by such means as:

1. mutual prayer and mutual support by members of congregations;
2. study together of the Holy Scripture as well as the histories and theological traditions of both churches;
3. joint programs of theological discussion, evangelical outreach, and social ministry endeavors; and

To declare, on the basis of these findings, that a relationship of Interim Sharing of the Eucharist is hereby established between the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and

The United Methodist Church in the U.S.A., with such an interim sharing to be exercised according to established guidelines (Exhibit K, Part 2).

This resolution subsequently was adopted on August 11, 2005, by the Churchwide Assembly (CA05.04.11) by a strong majority (Yes-877; No-60), and a relationship of Interim Eucharistic Sharing with The United Methodist Church was established.

A draft document describing a relationship of full communion between the two churches, "Confessing Our Faith Together," was submitted for review by the Conference of Bishops at its September 29-October 3, 2005, meeting with the intention that it would be circulated in a study format for discussion throughout the two churches. The draft also was submitted to the eight ELCA seminaries for review. The deadline for individual, congregational, and seminary responses and recommendations for revisions was January 15, 2007. Since The United Methodist Church is scheduled to consider the proposal for full communion at its General Conference meeting in 2008, the members of the Conference of Bishops discussed at length whether the ELCA should consider the matter at its 2007 or 2009 Churchwide Assembly. Based on this conversation, it was agreed that the proposal should come for a vote in 2009.

The Rev. Dr. Timothy G. Wengert, professor of Reformation history and

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Lutheran confessions at The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia and a member of the bilateral dialogue, was invited to address the Conference of Bishops meeting in October 2006, with the specific request that he address any potentially neuralgic points.

Responses to the study draft were reviewed by members of the bilateral dialogue at its final meeting in December 2007 and, based upon those responses, the dialogue decided to make no changes. The United Methodist Church will consider this proposal for full communion on April 29, 2008. A formal transmittal to the 2009 Churchwide Assembly by the ELCA Church Council is anticipated in November 2008

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To give thanks to God for the deepening relationship with The United Methodist Church that has resulted from Interim Eucharistic Sharing;

To thank the members of the Lutheran-United Methodist Dialogue for the final report of the dialogue and the proposal for full communion, “Confessing Our Faith Together”;

To encourage continued study of this proposal for full communion throughout this church; and

To anticipate action of the United Methodist General Conference on this full-communion agreement, as it meets April 23-May 2, 2008.

To request a formal proposal for a full-communion agreement with the United Methodist Church for consideration by the Church Council at its November 2008 meeting for **action by the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly.**

H. Office of the Secretary

1. Selection of Site for 2011 Churchwide Assembly

The Office of the Secretary is responsible to “arrange for and manage meetings of the Churchwide Assembly” (ELCA 13.41.02.) and presents its recommendations for Churchwide Assembly sites to the Church Council for approval.

Information about the site for the 2011 ELCA Churchwide Assembly is printed in Exhibit R, Part 1.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To designate **the Marriott World Center, Orlando, Fla.—subject to the satisfactory completion of negotiation in the judgment of the secretary of this church—as the site for the Twelfth Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, **August 14-20, 2011.****

Revised April 9, 2008; 3:35 p.m.

IV. ITEMS FOR *EN BLOC* ACTION

The following *en bloc* resolution includes agenda items that will be considered on the last day of the Church Council meeting. Inclusion of these items in the *en bloc* action reflects a judgment that these items are relatively non-controversial in nature and may not require plenary discussion and a separate vote.

Each of the items is noted as [*EN BLOC*] on pages 26-36. On the first day of the Council meeting, the chair will provide an opportunity for members to indicate whether they wish to discuss separately any of the items any of the items listed in the *en bloc* resolution; any such item will be removed from the *en bloc* resolution and discussed at the appropriate point in the agenda.

The chair will not call for a discussion or separate vote on those items that are not removed from the *en bloc* resolution by the end of the first day of plenary sessions. The items remaining in the *en bloc* resolution normally will be considered as the last item of council business.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To take action *en bloc* on the items listed below, the full texts of which are found in the body of the agenda or in the exhibit as noted:

IV.A.1	Synodical Resolutions directed to the Church Council	26
IV.A.2	Churchwide Assembly Referrals directed to the Church Council	27
IV.B	ELCA Pension and Other Benefits Program	27
IV.C	Budget and Finance Committee	27
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IV.E	Legal and Constitutional Review Committee	27
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IV.E.3	Global Mission Personnel	29
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IV.G	Program and Services Committee	32
IV.G.1	Corporate Social Responsibility	32
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IV.H.2	Social Ministry Organizations	35

A. Synodical Resolutions and Churchwide Assembly Actions

1. Synodical Resolutions Directed to the Church Council

No synodical resolutions directed to the Church Council have been received since the council's November 2007 meeting. Any resolutions received prior to the Church Council's April 2008 meeting will be printed in Exhibit B, Part 1a. Any actions contained in Exhibit B, Part 1a will be voted *en bloc* unless indicated otherwise.

Exhibit B, Part 1b contains proposed responses to synodical resolutions that were referred to units at previous Church Council or Executive Committee meetings. The

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actions contained in Exhibit B, Part 1b will be considered *en bloc* unless indicated otherwise.

CC ACTION [EN BLOC]

Recommended:

To approve the actions found in Exhibit B, Part 1b.

2. Churchwide Assembly Referrals Directed to the Church Council

Exhibit B, Part 2b contains proposed responses to referrals to the Church Council from the 2007 Churchwide Assembly. The actions contained in Exhibit B, Part 2b will be considered *en bloc* unless indicated otherwise.

CC ACTION [EN BLOC]

Recommended:

To approve the actions found in Exhibit B, Part 2b.

B. ELCA Pension and Other Benefits Program

The Board of Trustees of the Board of Pensions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America met February 29-March 2, 2008, in Minneapolis, Minn. There were no plan amendments to recommend to the Church Council for adoption.

C. Budget and Finance Committee

Action items recommended by the Budget and Finance Committee for *en bloc* approval will be distributed following the committee's April 11, 2008, meeting.

1. Audit Committee

a. Audit Committee Membership

The membership of the Audit Committee is defined by ELCA bylaw 14.41.E02. The Audit Committee is comprised of six members. A minimum of two members should be members of the Church Council's Budget and Finance Committee. Members are appointed by the Budget and Finance Committee and forwarded to the Church Council for approval. Budget and Finance Committee members are appointed for two-year terms with the possibility of reappointment throughout their Church Council term. Non-Church Council members are appointed for two-year terms, renewable for two additional terms. Terms are staggered to provide for continuity in committee membership from year to year.

Members of the Audit Committee and current term end dates are:

Pr. John Richter (April 2009); Ms. Ann F. Niedringhaus (August 2009); Mr. John F. Timmer (August 2008); Mr. Timothy L. Stephan (August 2009); Ms. Deborah Chenoweth (April 2010); Mr. Philip Bertram (April 2010)

CC ACTION [EN BLOC]

Recommended:

To elect John F. Timmer to a second two-year term on the ELCA Audit Committee beginning August 2008.

D. Executive Committee

Action items recommended by the Executive Committee for *en bloc* approval are detailed below. Additional items or revised actions will be distributed following the committee's April 11, 2008, meeting.

E. Legal and Constitutional Review Committee

Action items recommended by the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee for *en bloc* approval will be distributed following the committee's April 11, 2008, meeting.

1. Amendment to Church Council Action CC87.06.03.

Chapter 7 of the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* addresses the sources of calls for ordained ministers, associates in ministry, deaconesses, and diaconal ministers. In most cases where service is to a churchwide entity, the source of call is the Church Council. In action CC87.06.03, the Church Council provided a process for issuing certain of the calls for which it is the source. This action has not been amended subsequently. The practice has been that the secretary report annually on the calls issued under this authorization. In order to incorporate amendments in Chapter 7 and to confirm the reporting process, the following action is recommended.

CC ACTION [EN BLOC]

Recommended:

To authorize the secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to issue letters of call on behalf of the Church Council for ordained ministers, associates in ministry, deaconesses, and diaconal ministers, in accordance with the Sources of Calls tables in Chapter 7 of the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*;

To note that this action supersedes Church Council action CC87.06.03; and

To request that the secretary annually report letters of call issued under this authorization.

2. Amendments to Seminary Governing Documents

Bylaw 8.31.01. provides both for the independent incorporation of ELCA seminaries and for a churchwide role in the approval of their governing documents: "Each seminary shall be a seminary of this church, shall be incorporated, and shall be governed by its board of directors consistent with policies established by the Church Council. Amendments to the governing documents of each seminary and each seminary cluster shall be submitted, upon recommendation of the appropriate unit of the churchwide organization, to the Church Council for approval." This process of approval is accomplished by the following steps:

1. The appropriate seminary president notifies the director for theological education that the seminary board has taken action to amend its governing documents.
2. The director for theological education consults with the president on the content and intent of the amendment(s).
3. The director for theological education consults with the executive director of Vocation and Education and ELCA legal counsel.
4. The executive director of Vocation and Education and the director for theological education recommend appropriate amendments to the Church Council at its next meeting.
5. The Office of the Secretary notifies the seminary president and the executive director of Vocation and Education of the action taken by the Church Council on the recommendation.
6. The amendment(s) become(s) effective upon approval of the Church Council.

Due to the length of the amended constitution, complete copies of the text with amendments indicated was provided only to members of the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee. One complete copy also is available for review by Church

Revised April 10, 2008; 12:30 p.m.

Council members at the materials distribution table.

CC ACTION [EN BLOC]

Recommended:

To approve the amended constitution and bylaws of Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, Columbia, South Carolina.

3. Global Mission Personnel

Previously all long-term mission personnel, both lay and clergy, and rostered individuals serving under provisions of a Letter of Agreement or Global Mission two-year and Global Mission associate appointments received a call from the board of the Division for Global Mission. Action was taken to accept their resignations or retirements upon completion of service.

The action below contains the names of the ELCA mission personnel appointed by a board call committee who have resigned from service between January 1, 2007, and December 31, 2007. The full report is printed in Exhibit M, Part 1.

CC ACTION [EN BLOC]

Recommended:

To receive the following resignations with gratitude for the commitment and service given in the global mission program of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, effective on or about the dates indicated:

Long Term

Bangsund, James (Tanzania), April 14, 2007; Bangsund, Judith (Tanzania), April 14, 2007; Bekedam, Mahlon (Japan), October 19, 2007; Bekedam, Nancy (Japan), October 19, 2007; Churchill, Cristel (PNG), August 31, 2007; Fonner, Michael (Malaysia) November 20, 2007; Gabe, Karen (China), July 31, 2007; Grafton, David (Egypt), November 30, 2007; Grafton, Karla (Egypt) December 14, 2007; Gretebeck, Lowell (Japan), September 30, 2007; Gretebeck, Junko (Japan), September 30, 2007; McCallum, Ronald (Senegal), July 6, 2007; McCallum, Karen (Senegal), July 6, 2007; Nelson, Timothy (Cameroon), August 21, 2007; Nelson, Holly (Cameroon), September 4, 2007; Person, David (Japan), September 30, 2007; Person, Nahoko (Japan), September 30, 2007; Reynolds, Timothy (Cameroon), December 6, 2007; Reynolds, Ann (Cameroon), December 6, 2007; Siler, Russell (Jerusalem) October 31, 2007; Siler, Anne (Jerusalem) October 31, 2007; Sorum, Ann (Slovakia), January 17, 2007; Stewart, Timothy (Denmark), February 15, 2007; Stewart, Mary Ann (Denmark), February 15, 2007; Weed-Fonner, Leslie (Malaysia), November 20, 2007; and

Global Mission Associate

Huwiler, Elizabeth (Poland), July 31, 2007.

4. Housing Allowances

The following resolution of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America delegates designation of rental/housing allowances for qualifying clergy employees.

CC ACTION [EN BLOC]

Recommended:

WHEREAS, Internal Revenue Code Section 107, as well as the associated Regulations and Revenue Rulings, provides that the portion of a minister's remuneration designated as a rental or housing allowance by the employing church or other qualifying organization is excludable from the minister's gross income under Section 107 of the Code; and

WHEREAS, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is a qualifying organization; and

WHEREAS, by action of the Church Council [CC06.04.25], the responsibility to take all proper steps to collect information regarding rental or housing allowance designations and then set those housing allowance amounts for qualifying clergy employees of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is delegated to Human Resources, in consultation with the Office of the Treasurer; and

WHEREAS, it is prudent to provide for a back-up rental or housing allowance designated amount should a form not be completed; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that Human Resources annually shall provide forms for designating or declining a rental or housing allowance, to be completed and returned by each clergyperson. Human Resources shall notify in writing each clergyperson of his or her housing allowance designation. Human Resources shall include in its annual report a statement that the designations have been properly completed; and be it further

RESOLVED, that if a form is not submitted by a clergyperson, 20 percent of gross salary shall be designated as a rental or housing allowance; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the amounts so designated as rental or housing allowance are excludable from the gross income of the recipient only to the extent that said amounts are used to rent or provide a home. The clergyperson has the responsibility for compliance with IRS rules and regulations and is responsible for keeping an accurate record of housing expenditures in order to be able to substantiate any amounts excluded from gross income.

5. Lutheran Medical Center

Lutheran Medical Center is an affiliated social ministry organization incorporated under the New York Not-For-Profit Corporation Law and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America ("ELCA") is the sole voting member of the corporation. Lutheran Medical Center's (LMC) board is proposing the following change:

WHEREAS, the Board has determined that the Hospital's President and Chief Executive Officer should be an ex officio voting member of the Board; and

WHEREAS, in order to effectuate such change, the Board desires to amend its Constitution and Bylaws to provide for same; be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees hereby approves and adopts the

amendment to the Bylaws of Lutheran Medical Center specified in [Exhibit G, Part 1] hereto; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees hereby recommends for approval and adoption by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America the amendment to the Constitution of Lutheran Medical Center as specified in [Exhibit G, Part 1]; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Chief Executive Officer and her designees shall present these amendments to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and take any and all other actions necessary to effectuate the implementation of these resolutions.

The action below and the exhibit to which it refers have been reviewed by the General Counsel of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

CC ACTION [EN BLOC]

Recommended: *To approve the following resolution on behalf of the ELCA, the sole voting member of Lutheran Medical Center, Brooklyn, New York:*

WHEREAS, Lutheran Medical Center (LMC), a New York not for profit corporation, is an affiliated social ministry organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA); and

WHEREAS, the ELCA is the sole voting member of the LMC corporation and the ELCA has the authority to amend the LMC constitution; and

WHEREAS, LMC, by action of its Board of Trustees, has requested that its constitution be amended as indicated in Exhibit G, Part 1, attached hereto, in order to designate the President/CEO as an ex officio member of the Board; and

WHEREAS, under its certificate of incorporation, Lutheran Medical Center must obtain authorization of the ELCA for any constitutional amendments; and

WHEREAS, LMC has therefore requested that the ELCA formally adopt amendments to the LMC constitution as indicated in Exhibit G, Part 1;

therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Church Council, on behalf of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, hereby authorizes and adopts the amendments to the constitution of Lutheran Medical Center specified in Exhibit G, Part 1, hereto; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Church Council, on behalf of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, hereby approves the amendments to the bylaws of Lutheran Medical Center as adopted in Exhibit G, Part 1, hereto.

6. Independent Lutheran Organization Application

At its April 2006 meeting, the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America voted [CC06.04.27] to approve a revised "Policy on Relationships of Churchwide Units with Independent Lutheran Organizations." The revision was made necessary by changes in structure, governance, and the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*.

Review of the "Policy on Relationships of Churchwide Units with Independent Lutheran Organizations" was included in the committee's review of the request.

In accord with the revised policy, the Rev. Stanley N. Olson, executive director of the Vocation and Education unit, is recommending the establishment of a relationship with Lutheran CORE [Coalition for Reform].

CC ACTION [EN BLOC]

Recommended:

To acknowledge, in accord with bylaw 14.21.16. of the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* and the “Policy on Relationships of Churchwide Units with Independent Lutheran Organizations,” Lutheran CORE [Coalition for Reform], which will relate to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America through the Vocation and Education unit of the churchwide organization.

F. Planning and Evaluation Committee

Action items recommended for *en bloc* approval by the Planning and Evaluation Committee will be distributed following the committee’s April 11, 2008, meeting.

G. Program and Services Committee

Action items recommended for *en bloc* approval by the Program and Services Committee will be distributed following the committee’s April 11, 2008, meeting.

1. Corporate Social Responsibility

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America has a long history of working for justice through corporate social responsibility. The Corporate Social Responsibility Program (CSR) of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) is mandated by the ELCA Constitution (14.21.14):

14.21.14.: The Church Council, acting through the designated churchwide unit, shall have responsibility for the corporate social responsibility of this church and shall have the authority to file shareholder resolutions and cast proxy ballots thereon on stocks held by the churchwide units that are not separately incorporated. In addition, the Church Council may make recommendations to the churchwide units that are separately incorporated concerning the filing of shareholder resolutions and the casting of ballots on stocks held by those units.

16.12.D06.: The Church in Society unit shall assist this church to discern, understand, and respond to the needs of human beings, communities, society, and the whole creation through direct human services and through addressing systems, structures, and policies of society, seeking to promote justice, peace, and the care of the earth. To fulfill these responsibilities, this program unit shall: ...

- I. give expression to this church’s concern for corporate social responsibility, both in its internal affairs and its interaction in the broader society. To do so, this program unit will:
 - 1) exercise, at the direction of the Church Council, the rights of this church as a corporate shareholder on issues of social concern on stocks held by the churchwide units that are not separately incorporated. In addition, the Church Council may make recommendations to the churchwide units that are separately incorporated concerning the filing of shareholder resolutions and the casting of proxy ballots on stocks held by those units;
 - 2) facilitate the formation of an Advisory Committee on Corporate Social Responsibility that will include representatives from the Board of Pensions, the Church Council, and other units of this church and that will

- give counsel and advice to all appropriate units of this church on corporate social responsibility; and
- 3) work with national ecumenical groups on issues of corporate responsibility.

At its November 2003 meeting, the Church Council voted (CC03.11.68):

To approve the revised governance process for Corporate Social Responsibility in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, with the request that:

1. The ELCA Church Council, upon recommendation of the board for the Division for Church in Society:
 - a. review and recommend prioritized focus issues for the attention of this church in Corporate Social Responsibility; and
 - b. recommend a policy framework for each focus issue that will identify and delimit the scope within which resolutions may be filed;
2. The executive director of the Division for Church in Society, within the policy framework, approve individual Corporate Social Responsibility resolutions for filing; and
3. Regular reports be made to the board of the Division for Church in Society, the Conference of Bishops, the ELCA Church Council, and the trustees of the Board of Pensions regarding resolutions that have been filed ; and

To approve the following five issue papers and to anticipate additional issue papers as they are developed . . . :

In accordance with the roles and responsibilities, the following amended items are provided for Church Council approval:

1. Boycott Policy: ELCA Boycott Policy and Procedure, Exhibit K, Part 3
2. Issue paper 5: Sufficient, Sustainable Livelihood for All, Exhibit K, Part 3a
3. Issue paper 6: For Peace in God's World: Human Rights, Exhibit K, Part 3b
4. Issue paper 7: For Peace in God's World: Violence in Our World, Exhibit K, Part 3c

CC ACTION [EN BLOC]

Recommended:

To approve the amendments to the following Corporate Social Responsibility issue papers, but to request that the wording of the original issue papers be archived for historical and research purposes:

- **Issue paper 5: Sufficient, Sustainable Livelihood for All;**
- **Issue paper 6: For Peace in God's World: Human Rights;**
- **Issue paper 7: For Peace in God's World: Violence in Our World.**

CC ACTION [EN BLOC]

Recommended:

To approve the amendments to the "ELCA Boycott Policy and Procedure" as printed in Exhibit K, Part 3.

2. Revised Message on Immigration

The ELCA Church Council at its November 1998 meeting approved an ELCA Message on Immigration. Since that time, both the 2007 Churchwide Assembly and the Executive Committee of the Church Council have received and referred requests from synods related to the ELCA Message on Immigration.

In response to resolutions, the Executive Committee at its January, March, and June 2006 meetings, voted (EC06.01.04b, EC06.03.16, and EC06.06.20e) to receive

the resolutions and recommended for each, “To refer the resolution to the Church in Society unit with a request that a report and possible recommendations be brought to the November 2006 meeting of the Church Council”

In addition, the ELCA Churchwide assembly voted in response to memorials from three synods (CA07.06.33i.):

To thank the Southwest California Synod, Northwest Washington Synod, and Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod for calling this church’s attention to the urgent concern for immigrants who are being unjustly treated;

To reaffirm the revision and updating of the 1998 Message on Immigration that was requested by the ELCA Church Council in response to the synodical resolutions received in 2006 for its consideration and approval in November 2007 and to anticipate that the revisions will address new concerns that are emerging related to immigrant rights and just policies toward immigrants in this country;

To reaffirm the work of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS) in partnership with the synods of this church in the development of immigration task forces;

To continue this church’s support for and close partnership with LIRS, including the delivery of technical assistance, networking, grants to dedicated and independent legal service projects, and advocacy for comprehensive immigration reform; and

To request that the Church in Society unit work with LIRS and other relevant churchwide units to convene opportunities for partners and interested leaders to meet to establish opportunities and strategies for further supporting and accompanying undocumented immigrants.

At its November 2007 meeting, the Program and Services Committee of the Church Council reviewed and provided input on the initial draft of the revised Message on Immigration. At that time, it was anticipated that the final draft of the statement would be considered by the Church Council in April 2008.

Work on the draft, however, has been delayed both by the demands of the social statement on human sexuality and an open position on the studies staff of the Church in Society unit. The Church in Society unit has requested a delay in the time frame for completion of the revised Message on Immigration until the November 2008 meeting of the ELCA Church Council.

CC ACTION [EN BLOC]

Recommended:

To authorize a delay in the new Message on Immigration until the November 2008 meeting of the ELCA Church Council; and

To anticipate that the Program and Services Committee of the Church Council receive and provide input to the draft document prior to its November 2008 meeting in accordance with “Policies and Procedures of the ELCA for Addressing Social Concerns”; and

To further anticipate that the Church in Society program unit will consider the feasibility of working with Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS) to develop supporting material for the message following its adoption by the Church Council.

Revised April 12, 2008; 8:30 a.m.

H. Other Nominations, Appointments, and Elections

1. 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.

CC ACTION [EN BLOC]

Recommended:

To elect Bishop Philip L. Hougen to a three-year term expiring 2011 as an at-large member of the board of directors of the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago;

To re-elect Mr. Gerald Schultz and Ms. Ling Li to a three-year term expiring 2011 as an at-large member of the board of directors of the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, Chicago, Ill.;

To elect Ms. Pam Moret to a four-year term expiring 2011 as an at-large member of the board of directors of the Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minn; and

To elect the Rev. Nancy Milleville, and Ms. Amanda Smoot to a three-year term expiring 2011 as an at-large member of the board of directors of the Lutheran Theological Seminary and Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Penn.

2. 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 Church in Society 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. The Church in Society

program unit has forwarded to the Church Council the following nominations for positions on the boards of these organizations.

CC ACTION *[EN BLOC]*

Recommended:

To elect Robert Tuttle to a three-year term beginning July 2008 as a Class B member of the board of directors of Lutheran Services in America, Baltimore, Md..

Revised April 9, 2008; 3:35 p.m.

V. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

A. Office of the Presiding Bishop

Information items from the Office of the Presiding Bishop will be distributed.

B. Board Development Committee

Information items related to the April 12, 2008, meeting of the Board Development Committee will be distributed following the committee's meeting.

1. Racial Justice Process Observation

The Church Council received a report on anti-racism training for the Church Council at its April 2007 meeting. One of the recommendations included in the report related to racial justice monitoring. Following discussion, the Church Council voted (CC07.04.03):

To assign to the Board Development Committee responsibility for continuing anti-racism training in relation to the Church Council;

To acknowledge that the Board Development Committee may appoint a subcommittee for assistance in addressing issues of anti-racism training; and

To affirm the possibility of engagement of a racial justice monitor or monitors at future meetings of the Church Council to provide observations on the process of deliberations of the council.

Subsequent to this action, the Church Council has included anti-racism training sessions at its November 2007 and April 2008 meetings. In addition, the summer 2008 Church Council retreat will focus on the "scandalous realities" of racism and sexism.

The Board Development Committee requested a proposal for a racial justice monitoring pilot to be undertaken by the Church Council at its regular meetings from April 2008 - April 2009. The committee appointed Judy Tutt-Starr, Lynette Reitz, and Shenandoah Gale (staff) as a design team. The committee approved the final proposal at its February 2008 meeting.

Pilot Method

- Process observers observe three two-hour (or equivalent) plenary sessions. Identified categories for observation questions include
 - a. Process
 - b. Who's in the room: who speaks or addresses the plenary; how often? Whose voices are brought into the room?
 - c. Climate: disconnect between advisors and council; comfort in sharing, speaking in plenary
- Just before the end of a session, observers compile information into one report.
- Observers report to the plenary what they saw and heard.
- A written report of observations is given to the chair of the Board Development Committee.
- At the end of the third observation session, members and advisors complete and submit a pilot evaluation form.
- Upon consideration of this report, the Board Development Committee may make corresponding recommendations to the Executive Committee for consideration.
- Compiled pilot evaluation results are given to the Board Development Committee Chair and incorporated into the pilot design for the Fall 2008 implementation.

The Board Development Committee, in consultation with Shenandoah Gale, coordinator for anti-racism education and training, has authorized a delay in the process observation pilot until the November 2008 meeting of the Church Council. The delay will provide additional time to identify and secure two experienced and external observers.

CC INFORMATION

2. 2008 Church Council Retreat

It has been the practice for elected members of the ELCA Church Council to gather in most non-Churchwide Assembly years for a non-legislative summer retreat to explore an issue or topic that relates to their leadership role as the board of directors of this church. The 2008 retreat will be held July 25-27, 2008 at the Eaglewood Conference Center in Itasca, Ill., and will focus on the "scandalous realities" of racism and sexism. A draft agenda is printed as Exhibit D, Part 2.

Materials for preparation have been provided for members of the Church Council, including:

- *Privilege, Power, and Difference* by Allan Johnson; and
- Selected readings by other authors.

Gary Wiperman, chair of the Board Development Committee, will report on plans for the retreat during the April 2008 meeting.

CC INFORMATION

C. Budget and Finance Committee

Information items related to the April 11, 2008, meeting of the Budget and Finance Committee will be distributed following the committee's meeting.

1. Church Council Designated Funds

The established method for funding the mission plans of the churchwide organization is through the operating budget. The operating budget, developed after review of potential income sources, is used to establish expense dollar guidelines for the various units of the churchwide organization as they provide programs or support outlined in the ELCA governing documents.

The Church Council is asked occasionally to establish designated funds for support of certain specific programs or events that may not be included in the "normal" yearly operations of the churchwide organization. Approved requests may be managed in two different ways.

The first way designated funds are managed is through investment in the ELCA Foundation as Church Council designated funds "functioning as endowment." They are reported annually to the Church Council in April through the Church Council Budget and Finance Committee and can be found in Exhibit F, Part 4a.

The second way designated funds are managed is through the ELCA treasury as a designated fund to be used for a specific activity within a given time frame. Exhibit F, Part 4b is a summary exhibit of all active Church Council designated funds,

exclusive of those "functioning as endowments." Exhibit F, Parts 4c - 4i includes reports for each of the active Church Council designated funds.

CC INFORMATION

D. Executive Committee

Information items related to the April 11, 2008, meeting of the Executive Committee will be distributed following the committee's meeting.

1. Church Council Committee Charters

The committees of the Church Council will submit charters for review by the Executive Committee at the April 2008 meeting. The charters will be printed in Exhibit D, Part 3.

As part of each charter, the committee is to establish a process for evaluation of its meetings. The Executive Committee has recommended a uniform process for the evaluation of the meetings. The form printed in Exhibit D, Part 4 may be adapted for use by Church Council committees.

CC INFORMATION

E. Legal and Constitutional Review Committee

Information items related to the April 11, 2008, meeting of the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee will be distributed following the committee's meeting.

F. Planning and Evaluation Committee

Information items related to the April 11, 2008, meeting of the Planning and Evaluation Committee will be distributed following the committee's meeting.

G. Program and Services Committee

Information items related to the April 11, 2008, meeting of the Program and Services Committee will be distributed following the committee's meeting.

1. Draft Social Statement on Human Sexuality

The draft social statement on human sexuality was distributed via e-mail to members of the ELCA Church Council, rostered leaders, and other key leaders on March 12, 2008. The draft statement was available publicly on March 13, 2008, at 1:00 p.m. (Eastern time). Printed copies have been mailed to ELCA congregations and key leaders.

Hearings on the draft social statement have been scheduled in 59 synods. In accordance with the Church Council's unique leadership role related to the development of social statements, Church Council members and advisors will participate in a hearing on the draft social statement on Sunday afternoon, April 13, 2008.

In preparation for the hearing, participants are encouraged to read the draft social statement, which is available on the ELCA Website at <http://www.elca.org/faithfuljourney/>. In accordance with ELCA policies, the hearing will be a closed "off the record" session with no news reporting made from it. As is

the practice for social statement hearings, comments will be summarized for reporting to the Task Force for the ELCA Studies on Sexuality.

CC INFORMATION

2. Update on the Book of Faith Initiative

The Church Council will receive a verbal update on planning for the *Book of Faith* initiative of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America from Dr. Diane Jacobson, director for the *Book of Faith* initiative, on Saturday morning, April 12, 2008. A written report is printed in Exhibit O, Part 1.

The first publication of the Book of Faith initiative, *Opening the Book of Faith: Lutheran Insights for Bible Study* has been provided for elected and advisory members of the Church Council as a gift from Augsburg Fortress, Publishers.

CC INFORMATION

3. Update on Redevelopment of ELCA.org

Ms. Kristin Koskinen and Mr. Paul Edison-Swift of the ELCA's Communications Services section, will present an update to the Church Council about the redevelopment of ELCA.org during the April 2008 meeting.

CC INFORMATION

VI. OTHER CHURCHWIDE ITEMS

A. Recipient for Church Council Offering

At its November 2005 meeting, the ELCA Church Council discussed offerings taken during worship services held as part of Church Council meetings. Subsequent to that meeting, the ELCA Administrative Team recommended that the Executive Committee discuss a two-part process for identification of offering recipients prior to each Church Council meeting: 1) a recommendation by the Development Services unit of the offering recipient(s) for each Church Council meeting; and 2) approval of the offering recipient(s) by the Executive Committee prior to each Church Council meeting.

The Executive Committee has recommended that the offering taken at the worship service on Sunday, April 13, 2008, support the Mount of Olives Housing Project of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land. Information about the project, which will provide 84 housing units on land owned by the Lutheran World Federation adjacent to the LWF-administered Augusta Victoria Hospital, will be available on the resource table.

Please make checks payable to the ELCA with the notation "Mount of Olives Housing Project."

CC INFORMATION

B. Greeting from Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

The closest neighbor of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC). For the last several years, a representative of the ELCIC has been a guest at each spring meeting of the ELCA Church Council, just as a representative of the ELCA has been a guest at each fall meeting of the ELCIC National Church Council.

The Rev. Susan Johnson, who was elected National Bishop of the ELCIC in 2007, will be present for the April 2008 meeting of the Church Council and will bring a greeting to the Church Council on Saturday, April 12, 2008

CC INFORMATION

C. Update from Augsburg Fortress, Publishers

Augsburg Fortress, Publishers, is the publishing arm of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America with headquarters in Minneapolis, Minn. Beth A. Lewis, president and CEO, will bring an update on the publishing house during the April 2008 meeting.

The Augsburg Fortress bookstore, located on the first floor of the Lutheran Center, will host a reception for the Church Council and its advisors following Evening Prayer on Friday afternoon, April 11, 2008, at 5:30 p.m..

CC INFORMATION

D. Report of the Lutheran World Federation North American Regional Officer

The report of the North American regional officer for the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) is printed in Exhibit A, Part 1b. The LWF North American regional desk is located in the Lutheran Center in Chicago, Ill. Pr. Teresita ("Tita")Valeriano is the LWF Regional Officer for North America.

CC INFORMATION

E. Reports on Synod Visits

The Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is committed to building relationships between the churchwide organization and synods, congregations, and institutions and agencies. According to the “Report on Governance” prepared for the 2005 ELCA Churchwide Assembly by the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (2004), “Church Council voting members . . . interact with synods in their region in various ways, including attending at least one synodical council meeting per year, visiting congregations, and participating in synodical assemblies, especially in years when a synod is nominating people to the Church Council.”

At its November 2007 meeting, members of the Church Council prepared assignments for “Church Council contacts with synods: 2007-2009.” Members are encouraged to report on synod visits regularly. A summary of the reports received since the November 2007 meeting of the Church Council are printed in Exhibit D, Part 1. A notebook including the full texts of reports submitted is available on the materials distribution table.

CC INFORMATION