

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
CHURCH COUNCIL
April 13-15, 2012

Agenda

Page 1

REVISED April 10, 2012

**EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
CHURCH COUNCIL
April 13-15, 2012
Chicago, Illinois**

AGENDA

Participants

Voting Members

Mr. Paul G. Archer
Ms. Rebecca Jo Brakke
Ms. Rebecca D. Carlson
Ms. Deborah L. Chenoweth
Ms. Christine P. Connell
Pr. Rachel L. Connelly
Bp. Jessica Crist
Pr. Elizabeth E. Ekdale
Ms. Marjorie B. Ellis
Mr. John R. Emery
Mr. Gary D. Gabrielson
Pr. Vicki T. Garber
Pr. Amsalu T. Geleta
Ms. Karin L. Graddy
Bp. Mark S. Hanson, Presiding Bishop
Ms. Louise A. Hemstead
Pr. Stephen R. Herr
Mr. William B. "Bill" Horne II

Mr. Mark E. Johnson
Pr. Susan Langhauser
Pr. Yvonne I. Marshall
Ms. Susan W. McArver
Pr. Raymond A. Miller
Pr. Robert G. Moore
Mr. John S. Munday
Mr. Mark W. Myers
Pr. Linda O. Norman, Treasurer
Mr. John M. Pederson (*excused*)
Mr. Carlos E. Peña, Vice President
Mr. Ivan A. Pérez
Ms. Pamela E. Pritt
Ms. Feronika A. Raming
Pr. Laurie F. Skow-Anderson
Mr. David D. Swartling, Secretary
Pr. Kathryn A. Tiede
Pr. Philip R. Wold

Liaison Bishops

Bp. William C "Chris" Boerger
Bp. Michael Burk
Bp. Elizabeth Eaton
Bp. Ralph Jones (*excused*)
Bp. Gerald Mansholt

Bp. Margaret Payne
Bp. Stephen Talmage (*excused*)
 Represented by Bp. Holmerud
Bp. Harold Usgaard
Bp. Herman Yoos (*excused*)

Youth and Young Adult Advisors

Ms. Amanda Briggs
Mr. Jacob Halsor
Mr. Anthony Rhodes

Resource People

Office of the Presiding Bishop

Pr. M. Wyvetta Bullock, Assistant to the Bishop, Executive for Administration
Mr. Kenneth W. Inskip, Executive for Research and Evaluation
Pr. Marcus Kunz, Assistant to the Bishop for Theological Discernment
Ms. Kathryn Lohre, Director, Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Relations
Pr. Walter May, Assistant to the Bishop for the Conference of Bishops
Pr. Donald J. McCoid, Assistant to the Bishop for Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Relations
Ms. Jodi Slattery, Assistant to the Bishop for Governance
Ms. Else B. Thompson, Executive for Human Resources

Office of the Secretary

Pr. Ruth E. Hamilton, Assistant to the Secretary
Mr. Phillip H. Harris, General Counsel
Mr. Frank F. Imhoff, Manager, Official Documentation
Mr. David A. Ullrich, Associate General Counsel

Unit Executives

Program Units

Pr. Stephen P. Bouman, Executive Director, Congregational and Synodical Mission
(excused) Represented by Ms. Evelyn Soto, Associate Executive Director
Ms. Christina Jackson-Skelton, Executive Director, Mission Advancement
Pr. Rafael Malpica-Padilla, Executive Director, Global Mission

Congregational and Synodical Mission

Ms. Patricia Zerega, Corporate Social Responsibility Consultant to the ELCA

Separately Incorporated Ministries

Ms. Linda Post Bushkofsky, Executive Director, Women of the ELCA
Mr. Doug Haugen, Executive Director, Lutheran Men in Mission
Ms. Beth A. Lewis, President, Augsburg Fortress, Publishers
Ms. Eva M. Roby, President and CEO, MIF
Pr. Jeffrey D. Thiemann, President and CEO, Portico Benefit Services

Press

Ms. Melissa Ramirez Cooper, Mission Advancement
Ms. Elizabeth M. Hunter, *The Lutheran* magazine
Mr. Daniel Lehmann, *The Lutheran* magazine

Ecumenical Guests

Pr. Scott Anderson, Presbyterian Church (USA)
Bp. Susan Johnson, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada
Ms. Lelanda Lee, The Episcopal Church
Pr. Christopher Thore, Moravian Church in America
Pr. Lisa Vander Wal, The Reformed Church in America

Friday, April 13, 2012

- 6:30 a.m. **Breakfast**, Marriott Hotel (Buffet opens at 6:30 a.m.)
- 7:45 a.m. Orientation for new members, Lent (as invited)
- 10:30 a.m. Executive Committee, Pentecost
- 12:00 noon Board Development Committee, Advent
- 12:00 noon **Lunch, Augsburg Room**
- 1:00 p.m. Update for Net Community users, Church Council Room
 John Hessian, Office of the Presiding Bishop
- 1:30 p.m. Committees meet
 Budget and Finance, Epiphany
 Legal and Constitutional Review, Advent
 Program and Services, Pentecost
 Planning and Evaluation, 10th Floor Training Room
- 5:30 p.m. **EVENING PRAYER**, 1st Floor Chapel
 Leader: The Rev. Peter Perella, ELCA Director for Worship
 Formation & Liturgical Resources
- 6:00 p.m. **DINNER**, Augsburg Room
 Wine and beer available (\$5.00 donation)
- 7:00 p.m. **Café Conversation**, Augsburg Room

Saturday, April 14, 2012

- 6:30 a.m. **BREAKFAST**, Marriott Hotel (Buffet opens at 6:30 a.m.)
- 8:00 a.m. **MORNING DEVOTION**, Church Council Room (led by CDTF)

PLENARY SESSION ONE

April 14, 2012

8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

I.A Call to Order and Adoption of the Agenda

Agenda items have been distributed electronically and 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.

I.B Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the November 11-13, 2011 and February 29, 2012 meetings of the Church Council has been distributed to council members electronically on Net Community. Minutes for meetings held in executive session have been added to the protocol file in the Office of the Secretary.

The minutes of the council's Executive Committee meetings on November 10-13, 2011, December 9, 2011, January 18, 2012, and February 23, 2012 have been distributed electronically to members. Minutes for meetings held in executive session have been added to the protocol file in the Office of the Secretary.

Please provide in writing for the Executive for Office of the Secretary Administration any notations or typographical errors in the distributed text of the minutes. Proper corrections will be entered into the protocol copies of the minutes. Such corrections 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 11-13, 2011, and February 29, 2012 meetings of the Church Council; and

To ratify actions of the council's Executive Committee as indicated in the minutes of the November 10-13, 2011; December 9, 2011; January 18, 2012; and February 23, 2012 meetings.

I.C Report of the Presiding Bishop ([Exhibit A, Part 1](#))

I.D Greeting from the ELCIC National Bishop Susan Johnson

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.

Bishop Susan C. Johnson, National Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, will be present for the April 2012 meeting of the Church Council and will bring a greeting to the Church Council.

I.E Primer on Ecumenism ([Exhibit E, Part 2](#))

The Board Development Committee occasionally recommends primers so that Church Council members will have a better understanding of a particular issue or ministry. The Rev. Donald McCoid, Assistant to the Presiding Bishop for Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Relations, and the Rev. Kathryn Lohre, Director, Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Relations, will present a primer on ecumenism.

The 1991 Churchwide Assembly adopted “A Declaration of Ecumenical Commitment: A Policy Statement of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.” In the policy document it states, “The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America seeks to be faithful to its scriptural and confessional foundations. As a confessional church that is evangelical, catholic, and ecumenical, this church will pursue the goal of full communion and will rejoice in all movement toward that goal.”

As a church body, we have developed full communion relationships with these six churches: Presbyterian Church (USA), Reformed Church in America, United Church of Christ, The Episcopal Church, The Moravian Church, and United Methodist Church. We are also in bilateral conversations with African Methodist Episcopal, African Methodist Episcopal Zion, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Mennonite Church USA, Orthodox, and Roman Catholic.

The ELCA Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Relations (ER) team assists the ELCA as a public church, alive in Christ, and present for the sake of the world. *Ecumenism: The Vision of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* can be found in [Exhibit E, Part 2](#).

I.F Greetings from Ecumenical Liaisons

At the December 2011 Executive Committee meeting, Church Council members were appointed as ecumenical liaisons with our full communion partners. In accordance with 15.12.B10c, ecumenical representatives are chosen by the presiding bishop in consultation with the Executive Committee. The following ELCA Church Council members were appointed: Pr. Vicki Garber for PCUSA, Mr. Paul Archer for RCA, Ms. Marjorie Ellis for UCC, Pr. Kathryn Tiede for TEC, Pr. Rachel Connelly for Moravian Church, and Pr. Susan Langhauser for United Methodist Church.

In turn, a number of our full communion partners have also appointed individuals to serve as ecumenical liaisons. We welcome the ecumenical representatives and invite them to bring a brief greeting from their respective churches.

Presbyterian Church (PCUSA):

Pr. Scott Anderson

Reformed Church in America (RCA):

Pr. Lisa Vander Wal

The Episcopal Church (TEC):

Ms. Lelanda Lee

The Moravian Church:

Pr. Christopher Thore

I.G Report of the Vice President ([Exhibit A, Part 2](#))

Revised April 11, 2012

Agenda

Page 6

REVISED April 10, 2012

I.H Report of the Executive Committee

I.H.1. Election of Church Council member

The Southwestern Minnesota Synod (3F) has nominated Pr. Joyce M. Graue, Raymond, Minnesota to replace the resignation of Pr. Dean Elton Johnson, Willmar, Minnesota (3F) to a term ending in 2013. Biographical information is provided in [Exhibit C](#).

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To elect the Rev. Joyce M. Graue, Raymond, Minn. (3F), to the Church Council for a term ending in 2013.

I.H.2. Appointment of Task Force on Mission Funding

The Church Council transmitted to the 2011 Churchwide Assembly a number of recommendations based on report of the task force on Living Into the Future Together: Renewing the Ecology of the ELCA (LIFT). The Churchwide Assembly took several actions related to these recommendations, one of which [CA11.03.07] read in part as follows:

To invite members, congregations, synods, regions, the churchwide organization, colleges and universities, institutions and agencies, networks, and global, ecumenical, and other partners into deep conversation, prayer, and discernment, as, together, this church commits itself to the following actions to implement the report and recommendations:

...

3. To request the Conference of Bishops, in consultation with synod leaders and the churchwide organization, to prepare a report and recommendations for the November 2012 meeting of the Church Council for consideration by the 2013 Churchwide Assembly that:

- **describes patterns of synodical life in the ELCA that effectively support vital congregations, mission growth and outreach;**
- **proposes a pattern or a set of patterns that will allow synods to receive and distribute financial resources to support the whole ministry of this church;**
- **builds on the Blue Ribbon Committee report of 2007 and includes recommendations for renewed, sustainable financial support for the mission and ministries of this church, including funding for theological education;**
- **includes strategies for increased mission vitality that may include consideration of redrawing synod boundaries; and**
- **recommends revision of the constitutional responsibilities of bishops and synods to emphasize synods as catalysts for mission in the changing context and culture.**

...

The Conference of Bishops delegated responsibility for studying and making recommendations on the above matters to a Group of Nine. The Group of Nine presented its final report and recommendations to the March 2012 meeting of the Conference of Bishops. At that meeting, after discussion among the members of the Conference of

Bishops, the Executive Committee of the Conference of Bishops decided that the chair of the Conference of Bishops and Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson would propose to the Church Council a configuration of people to address the funding issue. The Executive Committee also made provisions for the other matters listed in the Churchwide Assembly action to be addressed.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To thank the Conference of Bishops and its Group of Nine for the work it has accomplished in response to the 2011 Churchwide Assembly action [CA11.03.07] related to the report and recommendations of the task force on Living Into the Future Together: Renewing the Ecology of the ELCA;

To appoint the Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson and Vice President Carlos E. Pena to a task force on funding the mission of the ELCA;

To authorize Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson, in consultation with Bishop Jessica R. Crist, chair of the Conference of Bishops, to appoint the following people to the task force: a synodical bishop, a synodical vice president, a parish pastor, a Church Council member, and a churchwide organization Administrative Team member;

To affirm the assembly's request that the task force address the following issues:

- propose a pattern or a set of patterns that will allow synods to receive and distribute financial resources to support the whole ministry of this church;
- build on the Blue Ribbon Committee report of 2007 and include recommendations for renewed, sustainable financial support for the mission and ministries of this church, including funding for theological education; and

To request that a report and recommendations be brought to the October 2012 meeting of the Conference of Bishops to facilitate the conference's fulfilling of the mandate of the 2011 Churchwide Assembly to bring a report and recommendations to the November 2012 meeting of the ELCA Church Council.

I.H.3. 2013 Churchwide Assembly Process for Elections

At the 2013 Churchwide Assembly, elections will be held for presiding bishop and secretary of the ELCA. The procedures for these elections are established in the ELCA constitution, specifically in bylaw 19.31.01. and continuing resolutions 19.31.A09. and 19.61.A94. Other relevant information is contained in Chapter 13. In addition to these constitutional procedures, the Rules of Organization and Procedure for the Churchwide Assembly usually provide opportunities during the balloting process for voting members to hear nominees' views on matters relevant to this church and the office for which they have been nominated.

For previous elections of officers, the Executive Committee of the Church Council has played a role in helping shape the election process. In 2001, the Executive Committee determined the format of the forum for nominees for presiding bishop (seven nominees) and the format for the question-and answer session with nominees for presiding bishop (three nominees). In 2007, it determined the process for a forum for nominees for secretary. In 2001, the Executive Committee edited questions submitted by

Revised April 11, 2012

Agenda
Page 8

REVISED April 10, 2012

Churchwide Assembly voting members for the nominees for presiding bishop, and in 2007, the committee drafted the questions for nominees for both presiding bishop and secretary. The processes recommended by the Executive Committee became part of the Rules of Organization and Procedure for the Churchwide Assembly.

For the 2013 elections, it is proposed that the Church Council delegate to the Executive Committee (with Presiding Bishop Hanson and Secretary Swartling excused), along with the chair of the Conference of Bishops, the authority to review previous practices and propose a process that would provide opportunities for discernment by this whole church and particularly Churchwide Assembly voting members in anticipation of the elections of officers at the 2013 Churchwide Assembly. The proposals could include recommendations for Part 16 of the Rules of Organization and Procedure for the 2013 Churchwide Assembly.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To delegate to the Executive Committee of the Church Council (excluding the presiding bishop and secretary), together with the chair of the Conference of Bishops, responsibility for (1) review and evaluation of and recommendations for Part 16 of the draft Rules of Organization and Procedure for the 2013 Churchwide Assembly, particularly the assembly discernment process, and (2) consideration of a potential pre-assembly process to facilitate discernment throughout this church in anticipation of officer elections at the assembly; and

To bring to the Church Council recommendations for Part 16 of the Rules of Organization and Procedure for the 2013 Churchwide Assembly and for a potential pre-assembly discernment process no later than the November 2012 meeting.

I.I Corporate Social Responsibility (Exhibit J, Part 2)

The Plan for Mission of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) includes a call for this church to be a voice in the public square, advocating for justice and peace consistent with its teachings and social policies. One aspect of this advocacy work involves corporate social responsibility (CSR).

Prior to the redesign of the churchwide organization in 2010-11, responsibility for CSR was embedded in the continuing resolution for the Church in Society program unit [former 16.12.D06]. It provided:

[The Church in Society 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;**

Revised April 11, 2012

Agenda
Page 9

REVISED April 10, 2012

- 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.*

Implementing these provisions of the governing documents involved the following work:

- Review of ELCA social policies and drafting of CSR Issue Papers;
- Vetting of CSR Issue Papers through the Advisory Committee on Corporate Social Responsibility (ACCSR) and providing for their submission to and approval by the Church Council;
- Creation of Social Criteria Investment Screens and guidelines for funds, in consultation with the Board of Pensions and others, based upon the Social Issue Papers, which served as points of reference also for other Lutheran entities (colleges, seminaries, inter-Lutheran groups, etc.) beyond the churchwide organization;
- Engaging in shareholder advocacy, including providing advice regarding shareholder resolutions, engaging in dialogues, considering sign-on letters, and providing advice regarding proxy voting to the Board of Pensions;
- Service on the Interfaith Center for Corporate Responsibility (ICCR), including its governing board and committees, and with other groups that engage in corporate social responsibility;
- Providing staff support to the ACCSR;
- Addressing CSR issues on behalf of the churchwide organization in correspondence, consulting with staff, and providing advice as required.

The redesign of the churchwide organization deleted continuing resolution 16.12.D06 and eliminated the Church in Society program unit. The functions of this unit were either incorporated into other units or eliminated. The ACCSR and the staff responsible for CSR were eliminated.

After the redesign, CSR oversight was allocated to the Church Council. Bylaw 14.21.14, adopted by the Churchwide Assembly in 2011, provided as follows:

14.21.14

The Church Council may direct the churchwide organization to exercise the corporate social responsibility of this church by filing shareholder resolutions, casting proxy ballots, and taking other actions as it deems appropriate.

Initially, the hope had been that advocacy staff in the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit (CSM) could absorb the work of CSR. However, it soon became apparent that important CSR work, including providing input to the Board of Pensions regarding social screens and social purpose investing, was distinct from the portfolio of the advocacy team and required staff with expertise. The churchwide organization recognized that while not all CSR work could be accomplished as it had been previously, a new approach needed to be developed.

In April 2011, Stephen Bouman, executive director of CSM, and David Swartling, ELCA secretary, submitted a plan to the Administrative Team for an interim approach to address CSR work. It encompassed the following:

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
CHURCH COUNCIL
April 13-15, 2012

Revised April 11, 2012

Agenda
Page 10

REVISED April 10, 2012

- Hiring Pat Zerega [the staff person who had worked in the Church in Society unit on CSR] under a part-time contract as a consultant on corporate social responsibility with duties as described in a revised position description.
- Approaching the Board of Pensions to share the cost of this contract position.
- Convening a table, including CSM, Office of the Treasurer, and Board of Pensions staff, to address the intermediate and long-range ways that corporate social responsibility functions could be accomplished. Specifically, recommendations should be made about ways that corporate social responsibility work can be shared among ecumenical partners.
- Identifying a committee of the Conference of Bishops to make recommendations on Social Issue Papers and other corporate social responsibility issues and developing a process for submission of these documents to the Church Council.

This proposal was approved by the Administrative Team and reviewed by the Conference of Bishops. As a result, a CSR Review Table was established in the churchwide organization, and Pat Zerega was hired on a part-time basis (with her salary shared between Portico Benefit Services and the churchwide organization). The CSR Review Team, consisting of representatives from CSM, the Office of the Treasurer, the Office of the Secretary, Portico Benefit Services, and the Theological and Ethical Discernment team, has worked with Pat Zerega to develop an interim plan to address CSR issues. In addition, the team also has conducted a review of existing CSR documents to propose revisions that address the redesign of the churchwide organization and elimination of ACCSR. Following review by the Conference of Bishops, the revised CSR-related documents are ready for Church Council review and consideration.

These documents are as follows:

- Corporate Social Responsibility Program. (This document provides background information; it does not require approval)
- Corporate Social Responsibility Roles and Responsibilities. (This chart describes the post-redesign process for development and review of CSR documents. It has been approved by the Administrative Team and reviewed by the Conference of Bishops. It comes to the Church Council for review and consideration.)
- Social Criteria Investment Screens Policy and Procedures. (This document describes the process for development of social criteria investment screens. The original process began in 1989 with the Church Council approving screens through 1993. The next process was approved by ACCSR in April 2006 and by the Church Council in November 2006. There are currently seven approved screens. The revised document is substantively similar to that approved by the Church Council in 2006, except for incorporation of the redesign and editorial revisions. It comes to the Church Council for review and consideration.)
- Issue Paper Policy and Procedures. (This document describes the process for development and review of issue papers. These papers are prepared to interpret the social teachings of this church for use in the context of corporate social responsibility. There are currently eleven such issue papers, and a new issue paper on genetics is proposed. This document was approved by ACCSR in 2007, and now has been updated to reflect the redesign and to provide a revised schedule for issue paper review. It comes to the Church Council for review and consideration.)
- Boycott Policy and Procedures. (This document was originally approved by the Church Council in November 1989 and was revised by the Church Council on the recommendation of ACCSR in 2005 and 2008. The revised document now incorporates the redesign of the churchwide organization; otherwise, it is substantially identical to the previous version. It

Revised April 11, 2012

REVISED April 10, 2012

should be pointed out that the Church Council has never endorsed a boycott under this policy, but the policy stands ready to inform this church how to move forward on such requests. The document comes to the Church Council for review and consideration.)

- Genetics Issue Paper. (This is a new issue paper prepared by the writing team for the genetics issue paper and members of the CSR Review Team. It was reviewed by Portico's Corporate Social Responsibility Committee and the Conference of Bishops, which recommended an amendment that has been incorporated into the document that is now brought to the Church Council for review and consideration.)

Approval of these documents would provide an interim plan for addressing CSR work. This church has been blessed by the dedication and expertise of Pat Zerega, who has steadfastly represented the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America at various tables addressing corporate social responsibility, including the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility (ICCR), the Portico Corporate Social Responsibility Committee, and various corporate board rooms. The churchwide organization and Portico have agreed to extend her contract through the end of fiscal year 2012 (January 31, 2013). Before that time, the CSR Review Team, in collaboration with the churchwide organization and Portico, will develop a proposal for addressing CSR work in the longer term.

CC ACTION

Recommended

To express thanks and appreciation to the Corporate Social Responsibility Review Team, and especially to Patricia Zerega, for their commitment to advocacy and representing this church in a socially responsible way in the corporate arena;

To adopt the process described in the Corporate Social Responsibility Roles and Responsibilities chart as an interim process for addressing functions and issues involving corporate social responsibility until a long-term recommendation is adopted;

To approve the following documents to serve as the basis for ongoing corporate social responsibility work in this church:

- **Social Criteria Investment Screens Criteria, as revised;**
- **Corporate Social Responsibility Issue Paper Policy and Procedures, as revised;**
- **Boycott Policy and Procedures, as revised; and**
- **Genetics Issue Paper; and**

To encourage the churchwide organization, synods, congregations, members, and affiliated and related institutions and agencies to study documents and information provided by this church concerning issues of corporate social responsibility, to make investment decisions recognizing these principles, and to advocate for socially responsible decision-making in the corporate arena, consistent with the social policies of this church.

I.J Church Council Nominations and Elections

The Church Council has the responsibility of electing people to fill terms on boards of Separately Incorporated Ministries, social ministry organizations, and seminaries. The relationship of the ELCA to certain affiliated social ministry organizations is expressed through the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit. The Congregational and Synodical Mission unit has forwarded the nominations for social ministry organizations to Church

Revised April 11, 2012

REVISED April 10, 2012

Council. Bylaw 8.31.03. outlines basic parameters for the election of members to the boards of ELCA seminaries. Biographical information is provided in [Exhibit C](#).

CC ACTION

Recommended:

**To elect to the Portico Benefit Services board of trustees to a term expiring in 2013:
Ms. Diana Goude-lock Haywood;**

**To elect to the Lutheran Medical Center board of trustees to terms expiring in 2015:
Ms. Brenda Grandell, Dr. Genevieve Go, Ms. Miriam Katowitz, Mr. Darin McAtee, Mr.
George Renert, Mr. Vincent Rohan, and Mr. Danny Tsoi, and Ms. Kathryn Wylde;**

**To elect to the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg board of directors to a
term expiring in 2016: Mr. Steve Gunderson;**

**To elect to the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago board of directors to terms
expiring in 2015: Ms. Kathryn M. Hasselblad-Pascale and Mr. Marvin J. Lofquist;**

**To elect to the Trinity Lutheran Seminary board of directors to terms expiring in
2016: Mr. Gerald (Gary) H. Philpy, Ms. Elizabeth Baer and Pr. Frederick D. Fritz; and**

**To elect to the Wartburg Theological Seminary board of directors: Pr. Stephen J.
Cornils (term expiring 2018), Pr. Nelson C. Meyer (term expiring 2019) and Mr. Joel
Streng (term expiring 2017).**

PLENARY SESSION TWO

April 14, 2012

10:45 a.m. – 12:00 noon

II.A Primer on Communal Discernment

The Board Development Committee occasionally recommends primers so that Church Council members will have a better understanding of a particular issue or ministry. Throughout this meeting, the Communal Discernment Task Force will be engaging with Church Council so that members might experience communal discernment. “Building a culture for communal spiritual discernment will take real time and energy... But with time, good practices and habits, and the action of the Holy Spirit, a culture of communal discernment can be created and nurtured” (*Draft Report, Communal Discernment Task Force, November 4, 2010*).

The draft report was received at the November 2010 meeting of the Church Council. It can be found on Net Community under the Planning and Evaluation section and in [Exhibit E, Part 1](#).

Bishop Jon Anderson, Southwestern Minnesota Synod, will present a brief history on the Communal Discernment Task Force.

The Rev. Marcus Kunz, Assistant to the Presiding Bishop for Theological Discernment, will give a report on what is already happening.

II.B Report of the Secretary ([Exhibit A, Part 3](#))

II.C Report of the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee

Action items recommended by the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee for *En Bloc* approval are found in [Exhibit D](#) and background information for the *En Bloc* items are found in [Exhibit H](#). *En Bloc* items will be acted upon later in the meeting.

II.C.1 Lutheran Youth Organization Changes ([Exhibit H, Part 1](#))

Youth Ministry in the ELCA Churchwide Organization

Prior to the reorganization of the churchwide organization in 2010, the Lutheran Youth Organization (LYO) related to the Vocation and Education unit, and its constitution was approved by the Church Council in accordance with former constitutional continuing resolution 16.12.C06.b.2. After the reorganization, LYO related to the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit (CSM).

The 2011 Churchwide Assembly considered the matter of youth ministry and voted, as part of a larger action (CA11.05.36), the following:

CA11.05.36

RESOLVED, that the 2011 ELCA Churchwide Assembly call upon the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit to maintain and strengthen a youth-led faith formation and leadership development organization based at the churchwide expression.

On January 27-28, 2012, the Executive Committee of the Board of the Lutheran Youth Organization met in Chicago, IL with CSM staff to formulate a plan of action regarding the restructuring of the LYO at the churchwide expression. The Committee,

guided by previous recommendations of the LYO Restructuring Committee and work done with CSM staff in February 2011, agreed upon the following plan:

Mission

Firmly believing in the distinct and powerful role of youth within the Church and in the world, the churchwide organization is called to connect youth across the ELCA to explore their vocations together, develop leadership skills and abilities, share ministry ideas and strive toward the greater inclusion of youth in all the work of this church for the service of Christ and help the ELCA live out its mission and vision today and tomorrow.

Vision

Strive for an ELCA where youth are fully included; where their unique spiritual gifts are freely shared, nurtured, and applied; and where concerns relevant to each new generation of youth are intentionally addressed.

Guiding Principles

1. Youth are people in grades nine (9) through twelve (12).
2. Youth engagement will be fully integrated and broadly inclusive of race/ethnicity, gender, and ability.
3. Youth engagement will focus on leadership development and faith formation.
4. Youth in governance shall be rooted in the work of the Churchwide Assembly and the ELCA Church Council. This is in line with the new commitment to have at least 10% of youth and young adults represented in all expressions of church governance.
5. All youth engagement needs to be sustainable (operate within current budget and staff realities).

Organizational Structure

1. The Lutheran Youth Organization (LYO) will cease to exist in its current form at the churchwide expression; thus, the Constitution of the LYO will be considered null and void.
2. A Core Leadership Team will replace the current Board of the LYO.
 - a. The team will serve as a resource for the staff of the churchwide organization.
 - b. The team will be composed of not less than nine (9), nor more than twelve (12), youth each serving two-year staggered terms.
 - c. The selection process for these youth will be attentive to inclusivity and diversity. The team will also include one Synodical Youth Ministry Band of Leaders (SYMBOL) representative and not less than one staff member from CSM.
 - d. The selection process for this core leadership team will be application-based. Paper copies of the application will be made available at the annual event, and copies will also be available electronically. At the conclusion of the event, the core leadership team will inform the event attendees of the following things:
 - i. The application shall be due not less than one (1), nor more than two (2), months immediately following the conclusion of the event.

REVISED April 10, 2012

- ii. Outgoing youth members of the core leadership team, along with the two adult members of the team acting in an advisory capacity, will screen applications and select new members.
- e. No less than four (4), nor more than six (6), members will be admitted to the team in any given year. This is to ensure that the team's members serve staggered terms.
- f. The team will meet at least once a year.
- g. The team will plan an annual youth leadership event.
- 3. The current Council of Synod Lutheran Youth Organization Presidents (CSLYOPs) and LYO Convention events will be replaced by one event which will:
 - a. Be called "Lutheran Youth Formation Event," and also referred to as "The Event."
 - b. Include worship, music, leadership development, networking and service learning opportunities, educational experiences, and faith formation.
 - c. Empower attendees with faith-based leadership skills to be put to use in their home congregations and synods.
 - d. Be composed of ninth through twelfth (9th-12th) graders.
 - e. Have a scripture-based theme selected on a yearly basis by the Core Leadership Team.
 - f. Be held in early November at a site to be selected by the Core Leadership Team.
 - g. All synods will be invited to participate by sending one adult and at least one youth.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To recognize, in accordance with the action of the 2011 Churchwide Assembly (CA11.05.36), the rich history of the Lutheran Youth Organization (LYO) and affirm the work that it has accomplished since 1987;

To acknowledge the dissolution of the Lutheran Youth Organization in its current form at the churchwide expression; and

To receive with gratitude the plan for new directions in youth ministry in the ELCA.

II.D Executive Session – Legal Briefing, Phil Harris

12:00 noon **Unit and SIM Lunches** (Various Locations)

Deadline for Removal of Items from *En Bloc*
Deadline for New Business

PLENARY SESSION THREE

April 14, 2012
1:15 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

III.A Bible Study with Bishop Jon Anderson, Southwestern Minnesota Synod and Communal Discernment Task Force member, Church Council Room

III.B Report of the Treasurer ([Exhibit A, Part 4](#))

III.C Report of the Budget and Finance Committee ([Exhibit F](#))

The following report is provided by the Budget and Finance Committee. *En Bloc* items can be found in [Exhibit D](#) and will be acted upon later in the meeting.

III.C.1 2012 Income Estimate and Expenditure Authorization

The 2011 year-end results in Mission Support income received from congregations through synods, plus the 2012 and early 2013 synods plans allow for an increase in Mission Support income of \$750,000 to \$48,750,000. This is below the actual amount received in 2011 by \$1.7 million, but is equal to 95 percent of synod plans, the same percentage received in 2011.

Other income changes were in Vision for Mission (decrease of \$100,000), Investment Income (increase of \$100,000), Missionary Sponsorship (decrease of \$550,000) and an increase of \$50,000 in Unit Designated gifts. These adjustments reflect trends experienced in 2011 and changes in funding strategies (see Report of Mission Advancement at Exhibit F, Part 6).

This revised income and expense proposals also reflect changes in the distribution of telephone and floor copier expenses. These expenses will no longer be allocated to units, but will be funded through the Office of the Treasurer. Unit budgets have been reduced by the 2011 spending levels, with offset to the budget for Office of the Treasurer.

Revisions to the income categories of 'rent' and 'other' reflect changes in the recording of related transactions and creation of Service Level Agreements (SLAs) with separately incorporated ministries and related organizations holding occupancy in The Lutheran Center. The SLAs serve as governing agreements for services provided by the churchwide organization. Types of services identified in the SLAs include: space usage; accounting services; information technology services (including phones and floor copiers); and human resource services. Fees related to SLA services are included as 'other' revenue; amounts have been re-classified from rental income and expense recovery categories to align with this convention. Further investigation is being made as to the appropriateness of extending service level arrangements to other major programs not included in the current operating budget, but funded through restricted funds or anticipated to be self-supporting operations, such as World Hunger, Disaster Relief, and *The Lutheran*.

REVISED April 10, 2012

No adjustment in the income estimate of \$18,500,000 for 2012 World Hunger is anticipated. We will begin tracking income for direct giving, separating giving from congregations from those of individuals and other sources. The year-end balance in excess of required reserves allows for an increase in the 2012 World Hunger expense allocation of \$1.4 million to \$19,900,000. [Exhibit F, Part 2a](#) shows the 2012 income estimates. [Exhibit F, Part 2b](#) shows the revised 2012 expense authorization by unit.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To approve a revised current fund spending authorization for fiscal year 2012 of \$65,498,135; and

To approve a revised total World Hunger spending authorization for fiscal year 2012 of \$19,900,000.

III.C.2 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 incomes sources, is used to establish approved spending levels 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 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 Endowment Fund Pooled Trust as Church Council designated funds “functioning as endowment.” They are reported annually to the Church Council in the spring through the Church Council Budget and Finance Committee. (See [Exhibit F, Part 4a](#)) One of the funds invested in the Pooled Trust is the Mission Development Fund. [Exhibit F, Part 4b](#) reflects activity in this fund requested by the Church Council at its inception.

The second way designated funds are managed is through the ELCA treasury as designated funds to be used for a specific activity within a given time frame. [Exhibit F, Part 4c](#) is a summary exhibit of all active Church Council designated funds, exclusive of those “functioning as endowments.” [Exhibit F, Parts 4d-f](#) includes reports for each of the active Church Council designated funds.

The Church Council is being requested to approve a new designation at this time. The request is a result of a change in Thrivent Financial for Lutheran Foundation – 2012 Churchwide Grant Program. We continue to be grateful for the generosity of Thrivent and what the annual grant makes possible for ministries in this church.

Historically, the ELCA has used \$1,000,000 of the churchwide block grant to support new starts. The remainder of the grant, \$425,000, has been used to support leadership events and gatherings such as the ELCA Churchwide Assembly. Our practice has been to allocate \$200,000 annually from the block grant, thus acquiring \$400,000 in the biennium to support an assembly. Under the new program criteria,

REVISED April 10, 2012

the remainder of the grant in 2012 will be directed to Thrivent's interest in growing the generosity of the members of this church.

Balances in the fund from the 2011 Churchwide Assembly may allow us to continue planning for the 2013 CWA without this support. However, the Church Council is being asked to support the 2013 Churchwide Assembly planning by allowing for the potential designation of \$400,000 from unrestricted fund balances, if needed. This potential designation would allow us to incorporate the reduced grant support into our fiscal planning for the triennial budget for 2014-2017 that will be presented to the 2013 Churchwide Assembly.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To approve Church Council designated funds for the support of the 2013 Churchwide Assembly in the amount of \$400,000, if required.

III.C.3 Revisions to 2012 Mission Support Plans

The ELCA Church Council has responsibility for reviewing and taking action on synod mission support plans as an interdependent partner with congregations and synods in implementing and strengthening the financial support for the work of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA Constitution, 8.15 and 10.71). [Exhibit F, Part 5b](#) shows the actual mission support received from each synod for 2011, with plans and any revisions for the 2012 and 2013 fiscal years.

Since the November 2011 Church Council meeting, we have received revisions for 2012 mission support plans from 26 synods. Six synods have increased their percentage share and three synods have decreased their percentage share. The other 17 synods remained at their previous percentage sharing plans.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To acknowledge with sadness that circumstances in the following synods have led to decisions to seek a decrease in the percentage of sharing of 2012 mission support contributions by congregations for synodical and churchwide ministries; to encourage each synod to continue to work to grow mission support in the synod; and to request that each synod develop a plan, in consultation with the churchwide organization, to restore or surpass the previous level of mission support sharing: Nebraska; Upstate New York; and Northeastern Pennsylvania synods.

To acknowledge with thanksgiving the decision of the following synods to increase the percentage of sharing of 2012 mission support contributions by congregations for synodical and churchwide ministries: Western North Dakota; South Dakota; Southern Ohio; New England; Metropolitan New York; and Caribbean synods.

To acknowledge with thanksgiving the decision of the following synods to maintain the percentage of sharing of 2012 mission support contributions by congregations for synodical and churchwide ministries but estimating an adjustment in the estimated amount to be shared: Northwest Washington; Rocky

REVISED April 10, 2012

Mountain; Northeastern Minnesota; Minneapolis Area; Southeastern Minnesota; Central States; Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana; Southeastern Iowa; Western Iowa; Northwest Synod of Wisconsin; La Crosse Area; Indiana-Kentucky; Northwestern Ohio; Northeastern Ohio; Virginia; South Carolina; and, Florida-Bahamas synods.

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

III.C.4 2013 Synod Mission Support Plans

Many synods are still in the process of preparing their 2013 mission support plans for presentation to their synod assemblies this spring and summer. To date, we have received plans from 56 synods. Seventeen synods are showing increased percentages, four decreases and the remaining thirty-five remain constant.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To acknowledge with sadness that circumstances in the following synods have led to decisions to seek a decrease from prior levels in the percentage of sharing of 2013 mission support contributions by congregations for synodical and churchwide ministries; to encourage each synod to continue to work to grow mission support in the synod; and to request that each synod develop a plan, in consultation with the churchwide organization, to restore or surpass the previous level of mission support sharing: Arkansas-Oklahoma; Northeastern Ohio and, Southwestern Pennsylvania and North Carolina synods;

To acknowledge with thanksgiving the decision of the following synods to increase the percentage of sharing of 2013 mission support contributions by congregations for synodical and churchwide ministries: Northwest Washington; Southwestern Washington; Oregon; Montana; Sierra Pacific; Southwest California; Western North Dakota; Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana; Southwestern Texas; Western Iowa; Northern Great Lakes; Southeast Michigan; New England; Slovak Zion; Delaware-Maryland; Virginia and South Carolina synods;

To acknowledge with thanksgiving the decision of the following synods to maintain the percentage of sharing of 2013 mission support contributions by congregations for synodical and churchwide ministries: Alaska; Eastern Washington-Idaho; Pacifica; Grand Canyon; Rocky Mountain; South Dakota; Southwestern Minnesota; Minneapolis Area; Southeastern Minnesota; Nebraska; Central States; Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast; Central/Southern Illinois; Southeastern Iowa; Northeastern Iowa; Northwest Synod of Wisconsin; East-Central Synod of Wisconsin; Greater Milwaukee; South-Central Synod of Wisconsin; La Crosse Area; North/West Lower Michigan; Indiana-Kentucky; Northwestern Ohio; Southern Ohio; New Jersey; Upstate New York; Northeastern Pennsylvania; Northwestern Pennsylvania; Allegheny; Lower Susquehanna;

Revised April 13, 2012

REVISED April 10, 2012

Metropolitan Washington, D.C.; Southeastern; Florida-Bahamas and Caribbean synods;

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

To request that all synods submit their 2013 mission support plans prior to their 2012 synod assemblies.

III.C.5 Resources to Promote Mission Support

In their role as ambassadors and advocates for the ministries and programs of the churchwide organization, Church Council members are called upon to meet with synod councils, synod assemblies, congregations and members. They also share the ways in which mission support sustains the activities of the wider church. It is felt that this work would be facilitated by the provision to Church Council members of resources to use in explaining and lifting up the ministries of the churchwide organizations, celebrating the ways in which gifts are used by this church to advance the kingdom, as well as showing the consequences of reduced capacity, especially since the economic downturn and reaction to the 2009 Churchwide Assembly.

The Budget and Finance Committee feels that it would be useful for the Mission Advancement unit to prepare and provide resources to Church Council members to use in their sharing with mission support partners in explaining the importance of mission support to the churchwide organization and the ways in which it is utilized. The sharing of resources would provide a consistent, integrated narrative and would make the process of engaging other expressions easier.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To request that the Mission Advancement unit provide resources to be used by members of the ELCA Church Council in their role as advocates to sustain and increase mission support.

III.D Report of the Conference of Bishops ([Exhibit A, Part 6](#))

III.E Church Council Joys and Concerns

III.F Stewardship and Whole-Person Health Conversations

Martin Luther said, “This life, therefore, is not godliness but the process of becoming godly, not health but getting well, not being but becoming, not rest but exercise. We are not now what we shall be, but we are on the way.”

All Church Council members have, at some point during their term, experienced one-on-one stewardship conversations. The basis for these conversations comes from the Mission Flowing from God’s Abundance, which is the Blue Ribbon Report on Mission Funding. In that document, one of the goals is to engage Church Council members about their personal stewardship and their overall “whole-person health.” As stated in the document, “Beginning immediately, the churchwide organization will incorporate the same model with the ELCA Church Council, encouraging Church Council members to challenge each other to tithe and then publicly witness to those gifts.”

This time in the agenda has been set aside for conversations to continue on stewardship, whole-person health, and competencies as a well-formed stewardship leader. Such competencies are a way of thinking about what attributes or assets a well-formed stewardship leader would have. “How Much is Enough?” is a resource meant to help guide leadership formation in this church and is found in [Exhibit L](#). The publication, used by pastors, deaconesses, diaconal ministers and associates in ministry, will help us dig deeper into how we, as elected leaders of this church, can trust God’s abundance and embrace financial health as an expression of faith.

III.G Announcements

3:15 p.m. Health and Wellness Break
(Stewardship conversations with new members – as assigned)

PLENARY SESSION FOUR

April 14, 2012
4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

IV.A Dwelling in the Word, Communal Discernment Task Force

IV.B Report of the Program and Services Committee

The following report is provided by the Program and Services Committee. Action items related to the April 13, 2012 meeting of the Program and Services Committee are detailed below. Additional items or revised actions may be distributed following the committee's meeting.

IV.B.1 Update on Social Statement on Criminal Justice ([Exhibit J, Part 3](#))

The ELCA is preparing a social statement that addresses issues in criminal justice. Work on this statement was authorized at the 2007 ELCA Churchwide Assembly. It will be completed and reported to the 2013 assembly.

In early 2011 the ELCA released, "Hearing the Cries: Faith and Criminal Justice," a study written by the Criminal Justice Task Force. The study was created to invite members of the church to engage in moral deliberation on this major social issue. The responses from the study were used by the task force to draft the social statement. The draft was released on March 15, 2012.

Synods are already scheduling hearings to receive feedback on the document. Those who are not able to participate in a synodical hearing are invited to study the draft in a group and submit a form (available at the end of the document or online) to provide feedback to the task force. The Program and Services committee reviewed the draft social statement on criminal justice during their committee time on Friday, April 13, 2012.

IV.B.2 Update on Social Statement on Justice for Women

The 2009 Churchwide Assembly called for the development of a social statement on justice for women in church and society. A representative from the Program and Services Committee will serve on the task force along with other persons who are interested in serving. It is expected that the 2016 Churchwide Assembly will consider this social statement.

Two members of the Program and Services Committee will serve as advisory members to this task force.

CC ACTION:

Recommended

To appoint Ms. Pamela E. Pritt and Pr. Robert G. Moore as advisory members to the task force developing the social statement on justice for women.

IV.B.3 Update on Social Message on Mental Illness

Program and Services also received a report on the proposed social message on mental illness. This message will come to the Church Council for consideration at its November 2012 meeting.

IV.B.4 Interim Report from Addressing Social Concerns Review Task Force

At the 2011 Churchwide Assembly, voting members authorized the Church Council, in consultation with the Conference of Bishops and Communal Discernment Task Force, to establish a review process of current procedures for the development and adoption of social statements and for no social statements beyond *Genetics, Faith and Responsibility* to be brought to any Churchwide Assembly until completion of a review of the process for addressing social concerns based on a spirit of communal discernment.

In November 2011, Church Council authorized the Executive Committee, in consultation with the Program and Services committee, to appoint ELCA members to an “Addressing Social Concerns Review Task Force.” Those members are the Rev. William “Chris” Boerger and the Rev. David B. Zellmer, Conference of Bishops; Mr. Paul G. Archer and Ms. Rebecca Jo Brakke, Church Council; the Rev. Kathryn A. Kleinhans (chair); Mr. Per Anderson; Ms. Linda Bobbitt; Ms. Sylvia Bull; Ms. Rose Stephens-Booker; Ms. Suzanne Wise; the Rev. Margaret Herz-Lane; Mr. Chris Meade; the Rev. Fred Opalinski; and Mr. Arthur Norman. Staff liaisons to the committee are the Rev. Marcus Kunz, the Rev. Roger Willer, Ms. Jodi Slattery and Mr. John Hessian.

The in-person meetings were held January 19 – 21, 2012, and March 6 – 8, 2012, with a third to be held in August 2012. The committee has received initial input from the Conference of Bishops during the March meeting.

An interim report for the April 2012 meeting of the Church Council is found in [Exhibit J, Part 1](#). A final report and possible recommendations will be brought to the November 2012 Church Council meeting.

Communal Discernment principles will be used for this discussion.

IV.C Communal Discernment and Process Observation

IV.D Announcements

Dinner on own
(Dinner for Class of 2017 and Youth and Young Adult Advisors at the home of Bishop Hanson)

Sunday, April 15, 2012

6:30 a.m. **Breakfast**, Marriott Hotel (Buffet opens at 6:30 a.m.)

8:30 a.m. **Holy Communion, 1st Floor Chapel**
 Installation of Ms. Christine Connell, Ms. Feronika Raming

 Presiding Minister: Bishop Susan Johnson
 Preaching Minister: Bishop Mark Hanson
 Assisting Minister: Ms. Marjorie Ellis
 Lector: Mr. Tony Rhodes

The Executive Committee has recommended that the offering taken at this worship service support ELCA Vision for Mission. Please make checks payable to the ELCA with the notation "Vision for Mission."

9:30 a.m. Break

9:45 a.m. **Racial and Gender Awareness Training**, Augsburg Room
 Leaders: Dr. Mary Streufert, Director for Justice for Women
 Ms. Judith Roberts, Director for Racial Justice Ministries

12:00 noon **Lunch**, Augsburg Room

Executive Committee meets with Officers
 With Bishop Hanson, 11A
 With Treasurer Norman, Luther Room
 With Secretary Swartling, Office of the Secretary Conference Room

PLENARY SESSION FIVE

April 15, 2012
1:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.

V.A Report of the Executive for Administration ([Exhibit A, Part 5](#))

V.B Report of the Planning and Evaluation Committee

The following report is provided by the Planning and Evaluation Committee. Action items related to the April 13, 2012, meeting of the Planning and Evaluation Committee are detailed below. Additional items or revised actions may be distributed following the committee's meeting.

V.B.1 Interim Report from LIFT Advisory Committee

The 2011 Churchwide Assembly adopted several implementing resolutions proposed by the ELCA Church Council for the LIFT Task Force. The action directed the Office of the Presiding Bishop, in collaboration with the Church Council and the Conference of Bishops, to provide a means to continue the work assigned to the LIFT task force. At the November 2011 meeting of the Church Council, a LIFT advisory committee was appointed to assist in the work.

An interim report was requested for the April 2012 meeting of the Church Council and can be found in [Exhibit I, Part 1](#). A final report and possible recommendations will be brought to the November 2012 Church Council meeting.

V.C Review of Proposal for Observance of 500th Anniversary of the Reformation

A staff working group, convened by the Rev. Marcus Kunz, within the churchwide organization has been working on a proposal for the upcoming observation of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation.

Lutheran World Federation (LWF) is still in the process of developing plans which will focus on the year 2015-2017. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Germany (EKD) and the German government are observing the Luther Decade that began in 2007. We will be attentive to and supportive of the LWF plans as they develop and seek appropriate ways for our context.

At the March meeting of the Conference of Bishops, the staff working group presented a proposal for their discussion. Staff would like to share the proposal with you at this meeting. More information is provided in [Exhibit K, Part 4, Theological Discernment](#).

V.D Conversation about *The Lutheran Magazine*

The Lutheran Magazine is the church periodical published by the churchwide organization. The magazine:

- Nurtures awareness of Christ's presence in our lives and the world.
- Shares stories of God's people living their faith.
- Connects us with the global Christian community.
- Provides an open forum for discussion.
- Challenges us to bring God's grace and care to all.

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
CHURCH COUNCIL
April 13-15, 2012

Agenda
Page 26

REVISED April 10, 2012

Planning the future of *The Lutheran* Magazine requires a process of reflection on the past life and contribution of the magazine, an analysis of the future context and needs, consultation to develop and assess options and facilitation of staff and Advisory Committee workshops that enable those responsible for the magazine to arrive at sound decisions.

This work comes at a critical time in the life of the magazine, with declining subscriptions leading to a situation of increasing financial vulnerability and questions about the ongoing purpose, relevance, value and ideal format for the magazine in the future.

An advisory committee for *The Lutheran* has the responsibility for the church periodical and Church Council has the responsibility of electing the nine advisory members of the committee. (16.12.D11.) Church Council member, Ms. Pamela Pritt, serves as an advisory member of this committee. Church Council is also responsible for electing the editor, who in turn is responsible to Church Council.

Mr. Daniel Lehmann, editor of *The Lutheran*, requested time on the agenda to gather ideas and feedback from Church Council members.

Future path for *The Lutheran* magazine

Questions for discussion at the ELCA Church Council meeting April 15, 2012

The ELCA has commenced a process to determine a direction and sustainable future for *The Lutheran*. Decisions will be made through the October meeting of the magazine's Advisory Committee with a report and possible proposals shared with the Church Council in November. As representatives of the ELCA with deep connections into different parts of the church ecology, the views of council members on the magazine's future are important.

In this session we are inviting Church Council discussion on three questions, with guidance on your task below. The background to this work and information on the current status of the magazine was provided as a separate council paper.

We realize this short survey and discussion will only provide a snapshot of your thinking. We would appreciate being able to interview some Church Council members by phone or Skype. Please check the box below if you would be willing to be interviewed in the course of this work.

Name: (I am happy to offer further ideas and feedback)

Your task:

Take a few minutes to write down individually your responses to the questions below.

You will then be invited to share your thoughts in conversation with two other members of Church Council.

Finally, we will invite each group to share one important idea from the discussion and then collect the individual responses so they can be considered as part of the consultation process.

1. In the future, how might *The Lutheran* best support the mission of the ELCA? What is its particular contribution?

2. Is the magazine in its current form still relevant and needed by church members, congregations and other parts of the ELCA?
 - a. **If yes**, what will it take to increase circulation and readership of the magazine?

 - b. **If no**, say why and indicate what could be done to address the question of relevance and responsiveness to needs of church members and different expressions of the ELCA?

3. On the back of this sheet, write down any other ideas you have to strengthen or improve the magazine's impact and financial prospects?

PLENARY SESSION SIX

April 15, 2012
2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

VI.A Report of Board Development Committee

Action and information items related to the April 13, 2012, meeting of the Board Development Committee will be distributed following the committee's meeting.

VI.A.1 Primers and Bible Study

At this meeting, we have had primers on Ecumenism and Communal Discernment. The Bible Study led by Bishop Jon Anderson, Southwestern Minnesota Synod, focused on Communal Discernment.

In November 2012, Church Council will receive a primer on Budget and Financial Management by Treasurer Linda Norman and the Rev. Wyvetta Bullock, executive for administration. The Bible study at the November 2012 meeting will focus on stewardship and will be led by Bishop Jessica Crist, Montana Synod.

The Board Development Committee is interested in hearing from Church Council members on what other primers might be helpful for subsequent meetings.

VI.A.2 Leadership Development

The Board Development Committee has discussed possible leadership development tools to help strengthen the effectiveness of the Church Council. Some ideas were use of strength-finders, gifts inventories, Myers- Briggs, and others which could also be a part of a mini-retreat or retreat.

VI.A.3 Retreats

Several Church Council members have expressed an interest in having some type of Church Council retreat. In the past, retreats have been used to help with issues such as team-building and leadership development.

Ideas range from adding more Sabbath time to the Church Council agenda to extending the time for a mini-retreat at an already scheduled Church Council meeting to organizing a separate retreat during the summer.

Some concerns expressed are the extra time an extended or separate retreat would mean for members who already use vacation time to attend meetings as well as concerns about the additional time away from family and friends.

Board Development Committee would like to take some time at this meeting to hear from Church Council members and discuss what the possibilities might be for a retreat.

VI.B New Business

VI.C Consideration of Unfinished and Additional Agenda Items

VI.D Consideration of Items Removed from *En Bloc* ([Exhibit B](#) and [Exhibit D](#))

VI.E *En Bloc* Approval of Certain Items

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*] in [Exhibit B](#) and [Exhibit D](#). 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 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 in [Exhibit B](#) and [Exhibit D](#).

VI.F Preview of 2012 November Church Council Meeting

VI.G Process Observation

VI.H Communal Discernment Debriefing and Preview of Activities

VI.I Church Council Joys and Concerns

VI.J Meeting evaluation and debriefing

VI.K Announcements

VI.L Closing Prayer

4:00 p.m. Adjournment