

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
CHURCH COUNCIL
August 11, 2013
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Westin Convention Center

AGENDA

Participants

Voting Members

Mr. Paul G. Archer	Mr. William B. "Bill" Horne II
Ms. Marit Bakken	Mr. Mark E. Johnson
Mr. Nicholas A. Barber	Pr. Susan Langhauser
Ms. Rebecca Jo Brakke	Pr. Yvonne I. Marshall
Ms. Deborah L. Chenoweth	Ms. Susan W. McArver
Ms. Christine P. Connell	Pr. Raymond A. Miller
Pr. Rachel L. Connelly	Pr. Robert G. Moore
Bp. Jessica Crist	Mr. John S. Munday
Pr. Elizabeth E. Ekdale	Mr. Mark W. Myers
Ms. Marjorie B. Ellis	Pr. Linda O. Norman, Treasurer
Mr. John R. Emery	Mr. John M. Pederson
Mr. Gary D. Gabrielson	Mr. Carlos E. Peña, Vice President
Pr. Vicki T. Garber	Ms. Pamela E. Pritt
Pr. Amsalu T. Geleta (<i>excused</i>)	Ms. Feronika A. Raming
Ms. Karin L. Graddy	Pr. Laurie F. Skow-Anderson
Pr. Joyce M. Graue (<i>excused</i>)	Mr. David D. Swartling, Secretary
Bp. Mark S. Hanson, Presiding Bishop	Pr. Kathryn A. Tiede
Ms. Louise A. Hemstead	Pr. Philip R. Wold
Pr. Stephen R. Herr	

Liaison Bishops

Bp. Michael Burk	Bp. Gerald Mansholt
Bp. Elizabeth Eaton	Bp. Stephen Talmage
Bp. Ralph Jones	Bp. Harold Usgaard
Bp. Wilma Kucharek	Bp. Herman Yoos

Youth and Young Adult Advisors

Ms. Amanda Briggs	Mr. Anthony Rhodes
Mr. Jacob Halsor (<i>excused</i>)	

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 (*excused*)
Pr. Walter May, Assistant to the Bishop for the Synodical Relations
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

Mr. Phillip H. Harris, General Counsel
Mr. Frank F. Imhoff, Manager, Official Documentation
Ms. Sue Rothmeyer, Assistant to the Secretary
Mr. David A. Ullrich, Associate General Counsel

Unit Staff

Pr. Stephen P. Bouman, Executive Director, Congregational and Synodical Mission
Ms. Christina Jackson-Skelton, Executive Director, Mission Advancement
Pr. Rafael Malpica-Padilla, Executive Director, Global Mission
Ms. Antoinette “Toni” Daniels, Director for Relationships and Unit Operations, GM
Ms. Evelyn Soto, Director for CSM Operations and Programs, CSM
Pr. Peter Perella, Director for Worship Formation & Liturgical Resources, CSM
(*excused*)
Pr. Jonathan Strandjord, Program Director, Seminaries, CSM

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

Sunday, August 11, 2013

- 10:00 a.m.** Registration opens (Outside Allegheny Room, Westin Convention Center
Pittsburgh Hotel, 3rd Floor)
- 10:30 a.m.** Executive Committee Meeting (Summerset East, Westin Convention Center
Pittsburgh Hotel, 2nd Floor)
- 12:00 noon** Executive Committee Lunch (Summerset West, Westin Convention Center
Pittsburgh Hotel, 2nd Floor)
- 1:00 p.m.** Joint Church Council, Conference of Bishops and Synod Vice-Presidents
Worship (First Lutheran Church)

PLENARY SESSION ONE

Joint Session with the Conference of Bishops and Synod Vice Presidents
Allegheny II/ Westin Convention Center
2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

- I.A Call to Order and Adoption of the Agenda**
Agenda items have been distributed electronically.

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 Reports of the Officers**
I.B.1 Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson

I.B.2 Treasurer Linda Norman

I.B.3 Secretary David Swartling

I.C ELCA Philosophy of Benefits and Development of Health Care Plan Design Options

Over the past two years, Portico Benefit Services has worked diligently to study possible health plan designs that would recognize the values of this church and be competitive in the marketplace upon implementation of the Affordable Care Act. Correspondingly, this work has impacted revision of the ELCA Philosophy of Benefits.

An interim report was provided to the November 2012 Church Council. At its April 2013 meeting, Church Council affirmed in concept a draft ELCA Philosophy of Benefits and the plan design options.

Church Council Action (CC13.04.04) regarding the Philosophy of Benefits

To receive the report and recommendation of the Portico Benefit Services' philosophy of benefits task force and to express thanks and appreciation to the staff and board of trustees of Portico and to the members of its task force who have worked diligently to evaluate and update the ELCA Philosophy of Benefits in light of changes in this church and in society, especially in light of the complexities of addressing health care reform;

To affirm in concept the draft ELCA Philosophy of Benefits as presented by Portico and endorsed by its board of trustees;

To encourage Portico to continue to educate plan members, congregations, synods, the churchwide organization, other ELCA-related employers, and other interested persons regarding the ELCA Philosophy of Benefits at Synod Assemblies and in other venues and to continue to seek feedback and input from these individuals and groups as part of this process; and

To request that Portico bring a final version of the ELCA Philosophy of Benefits for review and consideration by the Conference of Bishops and for approval by the Church Council at their meetings in August 2013.

Church Council Action (CC13.04.05) on plan design options

To receive the report and recommendations of Portico Benefit Services regarding development of health care plan design options and pricing alternatives that address the challenges and complexities of implementing health care reform, and to express appreciation to Portico staff and its board of trustees for considering these issues with insight, creativity, and compassion, consistent with the draft ELCA Philosophy of Benefits;

To recognize that development of plan design options and pricing alternatives is necessary if Portico is to continue to provide financially viable, self-supporting, wellness-focused health plans that can serve the needs of this church and related organizations and their plan members;

To affirm in concept the proposed plan design options and pricing alternatives presented by Portico and endorsed by its board and to encourage their further refinement, consistent with the draft ELCA Philosophy of Benefits, in anticipation of the implementation of health care reform in January 2014;

To request that Portico finalize plan design options and pricing alternatives and bring them and associated plan amendments for review and consideration by the Conference of Bishops and approval by the Church Council in August 2013;

To endorse as a benchmark the proposed health care plan option that approximates the current level of benefits provided by the ELCA health plan, and to encourage congregations, synods, the churchwide organization, other ELCA-related organizations, and other interested persons to advocate for selection of this plan option;

To further request that Portico continue to provide timely and important education and advice to plan members, congregations, synods, the churchwide organization, other ELCA-related organizations, and other interested persons regarding planning for and implementing health care reform; and

To authorize the Executive Committee of the Church Council to take additional actions as necessary to facilitate the development of health care plan design options and pricing alternatives so that a final proposal and recommendations can be considered by the Conference of Bishops and acted upon by the Church Council at their August meetings.

The ELCA Philosophy of Benefits was widely presented at synod assemblies and made available through the Portico website and through social media. Based on feedback received, Portico proposes minimal word changes and otherwise similar content as was approved at the April 2013 Church Council meeting.

The Rev. Jeffrey Thiemann, President and CEO of Portico Benefit Services, will present the final proposed plan option names, four plan design options, age-rating factors, and Medicare-primary plan designs. He will also present a proposal for a one-year extension of the seminary pilot for Luther Seminary. The changes proposed will allow Portico to continue to meet the unique short and long-term needs of the ELCA for the sake of ministry.

DISCUSSION

I.D Churchwide Assembly Orientation and Preview

The Conference of Bishops and synodical vice presidents will join the Church Council for an overview of Churchwide Assembly business and procedures by

Bishop Hanson and Secretary Swartling. The resources for this discussion will be in the Churchwide Assembly Program Book and Order of Business.

I.D.1 Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson

I.D.2 Assembly-Related Items: Secretary David Swartling

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PLENARY SESSION TWO
Butler Room/Westin Convention Center
3:45 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

II.A Dwelling in the Word

II.B Report of the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee
ELCA Philosophy of Benefits and Development of Health Care Plan Design Options

In Plenary Session One, a presentation was given by the Rev. Jeffrey Thiemann, President and CEO of Portico Benefit Services. He gave background on the final proposed plan design names, plan design options and age rating structure. He also presented a proposal for a one-year extension of the seminary pilot for Luther Seminary. The changes proposed will allow Portico to continue to meet the unique short- and long-term needs of the ELCA for the sake of ministry. The following information provides more background. Supporting documentation can be found in [Exhibit D](#).

In past meetings, the Church Council has received periodic reports from Portico Benefit Services (“Portico”) relating to the ELCA Philosophy of Benefits and plan amendments necessary to implement the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (“health care reform”). Since the inception of the ELCA, Portico (formerly known as the Board of Pensions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) has had the responsibility under the *Constitution, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions of the ELCA* to “provide church retirement and other benefit plans” to rostered leaders and lay employees of the expressions of this church and to employees of other related organizations, including seminaries and social ministry organizations. In doing so, Portico has drawn on the legacy of predecessor church bodies and developed benefit programs that both recognize the importance of supporting the health and wellness of rostered leaders and other lay employees and the economic and social realities of the environments in which they are called or employed.

In an effort to synthesize an underlying philosophy of benefits and to bring additional consistency to the design and delivery of the ELCA benefit programs, Portico began in 2003 to undertake a review of the history and evolution of benefit plans and the governing documents of this church. This process resulted in a report prepared by Portico staff and approved by Portico’s Board of Trustees in 2004. The 2004 Philosophy of Benefits Report identified five supporting principles, discussed their application in different plans, provided the views of church leaders, and suggested proposed interpretations to achieve greater flexibility. (The background of the 2004 report and the supporting principles are provided in part 4 of the revised ELCA Philosophy of Benefits.)

Since 2004, societal changes and changes in the ELCA have raised profound issues that have militated for re-visiting and revising the ELCA Philosophy of Benefits Report. These changes have included the financial and market turmoil in 2008 and the uneven and lengthy recovery, as well as demographic changes in the ELCA. At the same time, there have been profound changes in the marketplace for benefits. Collectively, these changes have placed substantial stresses on employers in the ELCA and related organizations. Moreover, the adoption of health care reform in

March 2010 and the prospect of implementing many aspects of the legislation in January 2014 have caused a tectonic shift in the field of health care insurance. Health care reform also necessitates updating the ELCA Philosophy of Benefits and studying the possibility of providing alternative health care plans.

In anticipation of health care reform and in order to address the impact of other changes in society and this church, Portico convened a task force to address possible revisions and updating of the ELCA Philosophy of Benefits. This task force included Portico staff, churchwide officers, bishops, and others. In November 2011, Church Council members Marjorie B. Ellis and John R. Emery were added to the task force. Originally, the hope had been to provide a report to the Church Council at its meeting in November 2012. However, that schedule became unrealistic in light of continued uncertainties regarding the implementation of health care reform and the appropriate response of Portico. In addition, Portico determined that it was advisable to add other stakeholders to the task force.

In addition to evaluating the impacts of health care reform, Portico was approached by ELCA seminary presidents in 2012 about the possibility of developing alternative health care plans for seminaries. In response to this request, Portico developed pilot proposals, which necessitated amendments to the ELCA Medical and Dental Benefits Plan. These amendments were approved by the ELCA Church Council in a special meeting on September 18, 2012. That action (CC12.09.21) also included the following provision:

To commit that the Church Council will prepare proactively to address the challenges of health care reform and will encourage constructive discussion regarding the implications of health care reform among Portico plan members, congregations, synods, the churchwide organization, and agencies and institutions of this church

In the past two years, Portico has worked diligently to study possible plan designs that would recognize the values of this church and be competitive in the marketplace upon implementation of health care reform. Correspondingly, this work has impacted revision of the ELCA Philosophy of Benefits. Until the landscape of health care reform was clarified, it did not make sense to refine a revised ELCA Philosophy of Benefits. Consequently, an interim report was provided to the Church Council in November 2012, and the following action was adopted (CC12.11.35):

To express appreciation and thanks to the staff and board of Portico Benefit Services for providing leadership, education, and advice to this church regarding the provision of benefits to plan members, especially in light of the complexities of addressing potential health care reform;

To encourage Portico to continue its leadership in providing timely and important education and advice to plan members, congregations, other employers, and those involved with preparing for and implementing health care reform;

To recognize that Portico has appointed a philosophy of benefits task force to undertake the process of revising Portico's philosophy of benefits in such a way that recognizes the historic principles of providing benefits to clergy, rostered laypersons, and church employees, the realities of societal changes, both within and outside this church,

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as well as pending health care reform, with the expectation that a report would be submitted to the Church Council meeting in November 2012;

To acknowledge that the Church Council appointed Marjorie Ellis and John Emery to serve on the philosophy of benefits task force;

To recognize that complexities and political uncertainties militate against revising Portico's philosophy of benefits until there is greater clarity regarding the political landscape and the form of health care reform;

To authorize deferring the submission of a report and recommendations of the philosophy of benefits task force until the Church Council meeting in April or August 2013; and

To authorize the Executive Committee of the Church Council to add additional members to the task force to include other stakeholders and to provide such other liaison and assistance as may be necessary for the Portico task force to complete its report and recommendations no later than August 2013.

In accordance with this action, additional members were added to the task force (including two parish pastors, a synod vice president, a congregational council member, and a former Synod Council member), and work continued both on the development of health care plan options and on revision to the ELCA Philosophy of Benefits. Possible health care plan options and pricing alternatives and the revised ELCA Philosophy of Benefits were shared with the Administrative Team of the churchwide organization and with the Conference of Bishops.

Between the fall Church Council meeting and the Church Council meeting in April 2013, Portico continued to work both on the ELCA Philosophy of Benefits as well as developing plan design options and pricing methodologies in order to be competitive with options that would be available under health care reform. It provided an interim report and recommendations to the Church Council at its April meeting, and the Church Council adopted the following two actions (CC13.04.04 and CC13.04.05):

(CC.13.04.04)

To receive the report and recommendation of the Portico Benefit Services' philosophy of benefits task force and to express thanks and appreciation to the staff and board of trustees of Portico and to the members of its task force who have worked diligently to evaluate and update the ELCA Philosophy of Benefits in light of changes in this church and in society, especially in light of the complexities of addressing health care reform;

To affirm in concept the draft ELCA Philosophy of Benefits as presented by Portico and endorsed by its board of trustees;

To encourage Portico to continue to educate plan members, congregations, synods, the churchwide organization, other ELCA-related employers, and other interested persons regarding the ELCA Philosophy of Benefits at Synod Assemblies and in other venues and to continue to seek feedback and input from these individuals and groups as part of this process; and

To request that Portico bring a final version of the ELCA Philosophy of Benefits for review and consideration by the Conference of Bishops and for approval by the Church Council at their meetings in August 2013.

(CC.13.04.05)

To receive the report and recommendations of Portico Benefit Services regarding development of health care plan design options and pricing alternatives that address the challenges and complexities of implementing health care reform, and to express appreciation to Portico staff and its board of trustees for considering these issues with insight, creativity, and compassion, consistent with the draft ELCA Philosophy of Benefits;

To recognize that development of plan design options and pricing alternatives is necessary if Portico is to continue to provide financially viable, self-supporting, wellness-focused health plans that can serve the needs of this church and related organizations and their plan members;

To affirm in concept the proposed plan design options and pricing alternatives presented by Portico and endorsed by its board and to encourage their further refinement, consistent with the draft ELCA Philosophy of Benefits, in anticipation of the implementation of health care reform in January 2014;

To request that Portico finalize plan design options and pricing alternatives and bring them and associated plan amendments for review and consideration by the Conference of Bishops and approval by the Church Council in August 2013;

To endorse as a benchmark the proposed health care plan option that approximates the current level of benefits provided by the ELCA health plan, and to encourage congregations, synods, the churchwide organization, other ELCA-related organizations, and other interested persons to advocate for selection of this plan option;

To further request that Portico continue to provide timely and important education and advice to plan members, congregations, synods, the churchwide organization, other ELCA-related organizations, and other interested persons regarding planning for and implementing health care reform; and

To authorize the Executive Committee of the Church Council to take additional actions as necessary to facilitate the development of health care plan design options and pricing alternatives so that a final proposal and recommendations can be considered by the Conference of Bishops and acted upon by the Church Council at their August meetings.

After the Church Council meeting in April 2013, Portico set out on an extensive effort to educate plan members, congregations, synods, and others on the implications of health care reform, as well as the draft ELCA Philosophy of Benefits. This work included presentations and/or workshops in 62 synods as part of their Synod Assemblies. Input was solicited, and an email address was provided as an additional opportunity to provide feedback and suggestions.

Throughout 2013, Portico worked diligently to craft viable plan design options and pricing methodologies that would recognize both the complex realities of health care reform and the needs of plan members and participating employers, including congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization. These efforts also meshed with the ELCA Philosophy of Benefits. At the same time Portico engaged in further conversations with Luther Seminary about the continuation of the one year pilot seminary program to allow Luther Seminary to keep benefits unchanged for 2014 during a time of significant change at Luther. As a result of these conversations, in addition to the ELCA Philosophy of Benefits and the health care plan amendments

relating to health care reform, Portico recommended to its board continuation of the seminary pilot. The resultant final version of the ELCA Philosophy of Benefits and specific plan design and pricing methodologies were presented to and approved by the Portico board of trustees on August 3, 2013.

The Portico board adopted the following actions:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the full Board of Trustees approves the final version of the ELCA Philosophy of Benefits . . . to then be forwarded to the ELCA Church Council with the recommendation that it be approved at its August 2013 meeting.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees approves the proposed four health plan benefit options, the proposed health option names, extension of the Seminary pilot for Luther and alternative pricing methods . . . to then be forwarded to the ELCA Church Council for approval at its August 2013 meeting.

The final recommended ELCA Philosophy of Benefits is provided in [Exhibit D, part 1](#). The proposed amendments to the ELCA Medical and Dental Benefits Plan are described in a memorandum of Portico President Jeff Thiemann in [Exhibit D, part 2](#); the plan amendments are contained in [Exhibit D, part 3](#).

In addition to proposed amendments to the ELCA Medical and Dental Benefits Plan recommended in response to health care reform, Portico also recommended and its board considered proposed amendments to the ELCA Survivor Benefits Plan. The Portico board of trustees also endorsed these proposals and recommended their adoption to the Church Council. The proposed amendments to the ELCA Survivor Benefits Plan are in [Exhibit D, part 4](#).

Finally, as part of its ongoing review and evaluation of governance issues, the Portico board of trustees approved amendments to its restated bylaws. These amendments implement proposals to change the structure and governance of the board of trustees in response to the adoption of the triennial Churchwide Assembly cycle. They provide that the treasurer will be an appointed position rather than an elected position. These amendments have been submitted for approval to the Church Council, and are subject to the Churchwide Assembly's approval of proposed amendments to the Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the ELCA relating to election issues. The amendments are found in [Exhibit D, part 5](#).

Thus, the following four actions are brought to the Church Council. These have been reviewed by the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee and are forwarded to the council with the recommendation to approve them.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To receive the report and recommendations of the Portico Benefit Services' board of trustees endorsing and recommending approval of the ELCA Philosophy of Benefits;

To thank the staff of Portico Benefit Services for their diligent follow-through in providing educational opportunities and inviting conversation and

input about the ELCA Philosophy of Benefits at Synod Assemblies and in other venues;

To approve the ELCA Philosophy of Benefits (a copy of which is contained in Exhibit D, part 1); and

To encourage and invite plan members, congregations, synods, the churchwide organization, other ELCA-related agencies and institutions, and other employers to reflect upon, discuss, and employ the ELCA Philosophy of Benefits when they evaluate and implement benefit programs and engage in employment decisions involving benefits.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To receive the report and recommendations of Portico Benefit Services' board of trustees endorsing and recommending approval of ELCA Medical and Dental Benefits plan amendments implementing four health plan benefit options and alternate pricing structure, including age rating, as well as the extension of the seminary pilot plan;

To express gratitude and appreciation to the staff and board of trustees of Portico Benefit Services for their continued faithfulness, imagination, insight, creativity and compassion in designing, testing, rolling out, evaluating, and anticipating the implementation of four health plan benefit options, which both reflect the principles underlying the ELCA Philosophy of Benefits and recognize the complexities of implementing health care reform;

To approve the four proposed health plan benefit options and pricing alternatives, identified and described as the Bronze+, Silver+, Gold+, and Platinum+ plan options, including the age rating pricing structure;

To affirm the endorsement of the Gold+ option as the benchmark and recommended health plan benefit option because it approximates the level of medical and dental benefits and expense allocation provided by the current ELCA Medical and Dental Benefits Plan, and to encourage congregations, synods, the churchwide organization, other ELCA-related institutions and agencies to advocate for selection of the Gold+ plan option;

To approve the continuation for one year of the seminary pilot plan option; and

To approve the amendments to the ELCA Medical and Dental Benefits Plan that incorporate the plan design options and pricing alternatives in the Bronze+, Silver+, Gold+, and Platinum+ options as well as the one year continuation of the seminary pilot (copies of which are in Exhibit D, part 3).

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To receive the report and recommendation from the Portico Benefit Services' board of trustees endorsing and recommending approval of proposed revisions to the ELCA Survivor Benefits Plan; and

To approve proposed amendments to the ELCA Survivor Benefits Plan (copies of which are in Exhibit D, part 4).

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To approve amendments to the Restated Bylaws of The Board of Pensions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (copies of which are in Exhibit D, part 5), subject to approval by the Churchwide Assembly of proposed amendments to the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* regarding election issues.

II.C Synod 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). Since the Budget and Finance Committee is not meeting prior to this Church Council meeting where the recommendations to the Church Council for action usually are made, the Office of the Presiding Bishop and the Office of the Treasurer are recommending the following action. [Exhibit F, Part 2](#) shows the actual mission support received from each synod for 2012 with plans and any revisions for the 2013 plus original synod plans and any revisions for 2014 fiscal years.

II.C.1 Revisions to 2013 synod mission support plans

Since the April 2013 Church Council meeting, we have received revisions for 2013 mission support plans from thirteen synods.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To acknowledge the decision of the following synods to maintain the percentage of sharing of 2013 mission support contributions by congregations for synodical and churchwide ministries but estimating an adjustment in the estimated amount to be shared: Alaska; Rocky Mountain; Northwestern Minnesota; Northern Illinois; Northern Great Lakes; Northwestern Ohio; and Northwestern Pennsylvania synods;

To acknowledge 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: South Dakota; Minneapolis Area; Southeastern Pennsylvania; and, North Carolina synods;

To acknowledge the decision of the following synods to increase the percentage of sharing of 2013 mission support contributions by congregations for synodical and churchwide ministries: Arkansas-Oklahoma and Delaware-Maryland synods; and

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

II.C.2 2014 synod mission support plans

Since the April 2013 Church Council meeting, revisions or original plans for the 2014 mission support plans have been received from twenty-four synods.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To acknowledge that circumstances in the following synods have led to decisions to seek a decrease from prior levels in the percentage of sharing of 2014 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: Southwest California; Minneapolis Area; Saint Paul Area; Southeastern Pennsylvania; and North Carolina synods;

To acknowledge the decision of the following synods to increase the percentage of sharing of 2014 mission support contributions by congregations for synodical and churchwide ministries: Eastern North Dakota; Arkansas-Oklahoma, Metropolitan Chicago; and Lower Susquehanna synods;

To acknowledge the decision of the following synods to maintain the percentage of sharing of 2014 mission support contributions by congregations for synodical and churchwide ministries: Alaska; Southwestern Washington; Rocky Mountain; Northwestern Minnesota; Northern Illinois; Central/Southern Illinois; Southeastern Iowa; Indiana-Kentucky; Northwestern Ohio; Southern Ohio; Northwestern Pennsylvania; Allegheny; Upper Susquehanna; and, Delaware-Maryland; and West Virginia-Western Maryland synods; and

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

II.D Consideration of unfinished agenda items

II.E Consideration of Resolutions Removed from *En Bloc* ([Exhibit B](#))

II.F *En Bloc* Approval of Certain Items

The following en bloc resolution includes agenda items that will be considered at the end 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](#). At the beginning 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.

II.G Church Council Information and Discussion

II.G.1 Churchwide Organization Operational Planning Update

The Rev. M. Wyvetta Bullock, Executive for Administration, will provide a brief update on the progress of the churchwide organization operational planning. An All-Staff Communication was sent out to all churchwide organization employees. A copy of that memorandum can be found in [Exhibit E](#).

II.G.2 Feedback from the Class of 2013

At its final meeting of the biennium, the Church Council invites the retiring members to reflect on their experience as members of the ELCA Church Council. In April 2013, members provided verbal reflections; at this meeting, a report on responses to a series of questions posted by the Board Development Committee in consultation with Kenneth Inskeep, executive for ELCA Research and Evaluation. Kathryn Tiede and Bill Horne will provide an introduction, followed by an overview by Dr. Inskeep. The summary can be found in [Exhibit G](#).

The Church Council Class of 2013 is: Rebecca Brakke, Deborah Chenoweth, Rachel Connelly, John Emery, Karin Graddy, Joyce Graue, Mark Johnson, Susan Langhauser, John Munday, Mark Myers and Philip Wold. The class will be honored during the final plenary session of the 2013 ELCA Churchwide Assembly.

II.G.3 Information about the November 2013 Church Council Meeting

The November 2013 meeting of the ELCA Church Council will be held November 8-10, 2013 at the Lutheran Center in Chicago, Illinois. The Audit Committee will meet on Thursday, November 7. Orientation for newly elected members of the Church Council will be Thursday, November 7 starting at 2:00 p.m. The Executive Committee will meet on Friday morning, November 8. Church Council will begin at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, November 8. The newly constituted committees of the Council will meet on Saturday morning, November 12. The meeting will conclude on Sunday, November 10 at 4:00 p.m.

II.G.4 Churchwide Assembly Orientation for Church Council

Orientation to the Churchwide Assembly for Church Council members is scheduled on Monday, August 12 at 9:30 a.m. in Hall A in the convention center. Please bring [Exhibit A](#), which details Churchwide Assembly assignments for Church Council members. A new section has been added since the July Church Council meeting. This section names Church Council members who are able to provide additional information about particular matters that may be brought to the plenary floor of the Churchwide Assembly. There also have been changes due to Church Council members who are unable to attend the assembly.

The orientation will include an overview and discussion of hearings, an explanation of the responsibilities for Church Council hosts to churchwide officer nominees, sound check for Church Council members providing morning and afternoon prayers and other CWA items.

II.H Churchwide Assembly Citation in Honor of David Swartling

Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson has requested that the ELCA Church Council consider and approve a citation to honor ELCA Secretary David Swartling at the Churchwide Assembly.

CC ACTION

Recommended: *To approve the following citation:*

Whereas Secretary David Swartling has shown signs, both literally and figuratively, of his deep faith, passionate sense of vocation, and love of this church;

Whereas Secretary Swartling has demonstrated repeatedly that the constitutions of the ELCA are missional documents;

Whereas Secretary Swartling has embraced the sense of interdependence between the three expressions of this church called forth in those missional documents in his responsiveness to congregations and his collegiality with members of the Conference of Bishops and synod officers and staff;

Whereas Secretary Swartling has contributed valuable insight to the boards of Augsburg Fortress, Publishers, and Portico Benefit Services;

Whereas, Secretary Swartling has both modeled and preached the joy of stewardship in a Christian's life;

Whereas Secretary Swartling has highlighted the vitality of lay leadership within the ELCA;

Whereas Secretary Swartling has exuded brilliance in his willingness to provide feedback whenever asked, write a report, review a resolution, revise governing documents, give a last-minute presentation, and brainstorm new ways to embrace technology while at the same time continuously supporting colleagues;

Whereas Secretary Swartling has modeled health and wellness in his daily living, while simultaneously instituting the annual staff outing in search of the best Chicago hot dog;

Whereas Secretary Swartling has exhibited shared leadership, full of collegiality, charm, integrity, and grace; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that this church expresses its deepest appreciation to David Swartling for the many ways in which he has lived out his vocation in this church through the years, but particularly as secretary of this church; and be it

RESOLVED, that the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, upon action of the Church Council, confers upon Mr. David Swartling, secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, 2007-2013, the Servus Dei Medal; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that we give thanks to God for this dedicated servant of the Gospel who is deeply rooted, yet always being made new!

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
CHURCH COUNCIL
August 11, 2013

Agenda

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REVISED August 7, 2013

- 5:30 p.m.** Closing Prayer and Adjournment
- 6:00 p.m.** Church Council Photograph, Omni Hotel Lobby
- 6:15 p.m.** DINNER for Church Council, Conference of Bishops, Synod Vice Presidents and Churchwide Executive Leadership, Omni Hotel
- 9:00 p.m.** Compline (Trinity Episcopal Cathedral)