

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

CHURCH COUNCIL

August 5, 2007

1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Crystal Room A, The Hyatt Hotel

Chicago, Illinois

AGENDA

I. ORGANIZATION OF MEETING

A. Voting Members

Officers

Bp. Mark S. Hanson, Presiding Bishop

Mr. Carlos Peña, Vice President

Pr. Lowell G. Almen, Secretary

Ms. Christina Jackson-Skelton, Treasurer

Church Council

Mr. Grieg L. Anderson

Ms. Faith A. Ashton

Ms. Judy Biffle

Ms. Judith Anne Bunker

Pr. Joseph G. Crippen

Mr. Bradley Dokken

Mr. Mark S. Helmke

Ms. Norma J. Hirsch

Pr. Keith A. Hunsinger

Pr. David E. Jensen

Pr. Jonathan W. Linman

Mr. William R. Lloyd Jr.

Pr. Steven P. Loy

Pr. Charles W. Mays

Ms. Jessica M. McKee

Mr. David M. Nelson

Ms. Ann F. Niedringhaus

Pr. J. Paul Rajashekar

Ms. Lynette M. Reitz

Pr. John C. Richter

Mr. Kenneth M. Rupp

Ms. Sandra Schelsinger

Pr. Jeff B. Sorenson

Pr. Sarah J. Stumme

Mr. Allan E. Thomas

Pr. Jennifer J. Thomas

Mr. David Truland

Ms. Judith Tutt-Starr

Mr. Richard L. Wahl

Ms. Phyllis L. Wallace

Mr. Gary L. Wipperman

B. Advisory Members

Synod Bishops

Bp. Leonard H. Bolick

Bp. Callon Holloway

Bp. Marie C. Jerge

Bp. Kevin S. Kanouse

Bp. A. Donald Main

Bp. Dean W. Nelson

Bp. E. Roy Riley

Bp. Peter Rogness

Bp. Paul Stumme-Diers

Bp. Martin D. Wells

Youth

Ms. Brianna R. Watts

Mr. Samuel F. Schlouch

C. Resource People

Office of the Presiding Bishop

Pr. M. Wyvetta Bullock, Executive for Leadership Development

Pr. Charles S. Miller, Executive for Administration

Pr. Kathie Bender Schwich, Executive for Synodical and Constituent Relations

Ms. Myrna J. Sheie, Executive for Governance and Institutional Relations

Section Executives and Staff

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

Office of the Secretary

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

Office of the Treasurer

Section Executives and Staff

Ms. Karen Rathbun, Executive for Management Services
Ms. LaRue R. Unglaube, Executive for Information Technology

Program Unit Executives

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

Service Unit Executives

Ms. Kristi Bangert, Executive Director, Communication Services
Pr. Donald M. Hallberg, President, Foundation of the ELCA and Executive Director for
Development Services
Mr. John G. Kapanke, President, Board of Pensions
Mr. Daniel Lehmann, Editor, *The Lutheran* magazine
Ms. Eva. M. Roby, Executive Vice President for Administration,
Mission Investment Fund

D. Press

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

E. Adoption of Agenda

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

CC ACTION

Recommended:

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

II. WRITTEN REPORTS

A. Reports of the Officers

Reports from the officers will be distributed in Exhibit A. A copy of the Churchwide Assembly Briefing Guide, prepared by the secretary, is enclosed as Exhibit A, Part 2, for information.

III. ITEMS FOR ACTION

A. *Servus Dei* Medal In Honor of the Reverend Dr. Lowell G. Almen

The *Servus Dei* Medal is presented to each officer of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America at the conclusion of the officer's term. The award, a formal recognition of the officer's service, is presented at the churchwide assembly. The ELCA Church Council, meeting in executive session without the officer present, will consider and approve the citation that will accompany the presentation of the *Servus Dei* Medal at the 2007 ELCA Churchwide Assembly. The citation will be distributed as Exhibit B at the Church Council meeting.

CC ACTION

Recommended: To adopt the following resolution:

[See Exhibit B, to be provided]

B. Authorization of Executive Committee

At its pre-council meeting on August 5, the Executive Committee will consider how the functions of the Executive Committee will be carried out between the Churchwide Assembly in August 2007 and the first regular meeting of the newly constituted Church Council in November 2007. A recommendation on this matter will be brought to the Church Council at its pre-assembly meeting. It is anticipated that the action will be similar to the recommended action below.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To authorize the officers of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the continuing members of the Executive Committee to serve as the Executive Committee of the Church Council between the Churchwide Assembly and the November 2007 meeting of the Church Council.

B. Ratification of Church Council Committees for the 2007-2009 Bienium

In preparation for the August 2007 meeting of the ELCA Church Council, continuing members of the Church Council were invited to indicate their preferences for service on one of the four standing committees of the Church Council, plus the Board Development Committee: Budget and Finance; Legal and Constitutional Review; Planning and Evaluation; and Program and Services. At its August 2005 meeting, the Church Council will ratify the provisional membership for the four standing committees.

Following the elections at the Churchwide Assembly, newly elected members will indicate their preferences prior to the November meeting. A final listing of committee membership for the biennium will be ratified by the Church Council at its November meeting.

At its November 2007 meeting, the Church Council will also appoint members to related advisory committees for the biennium. Members of the Board Development Committee for the 2007-2009 biennium will be appointed by the Executive Committee in November 2007.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To ratify the following appointments to Church Council committees for the 2007–2009 biennium:

Budget and Finance Committee

Keith Hunsinger
Ann Niedringhaus
Lynette Reitz
John Richter
Phyllis Wallace

Legal and Constitutional Review Committee

Mark Helmke
Jonathan Linman
William Lloyd, Jr.

Planning and Evaluation Committee

Judith Bunker
Brad Dokken
David Jensen
Jeff Sorenson
David Truland
Richard Wahl
Gary Wipperman

Program and Services Committee

Norma Hirsch
Steven Loy
J. Paul Rajashekar
Sandra Schlesinger
Judith Tutt-Starr

IV. ITEMS FOR *EN BLOC* ACTION

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*] below. Early in the Council meeting, the chair will provide an opportunity for members to indicate whether they wish to discuss separately any of the items any of the items listed in the *en bloc* resolution; any such item will be removed from the *en bloc* resolution and discussed at the appropriate point in the agenda.

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

CC ACTION

Recommended:

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

- IV.A. Synodical Resolutions Directed to the Church Council;**
- IV.B. Amendment of Continuing Resolutions**

A. Synodical Resolution Directed to the Church Council

One synodical resolutions directed to the Church Council has been received since the council's April 2007 meeting.

1. Communal Discernment as a Church Body Southwestern Minnesota Synod (3F)

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

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

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

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

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

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

CC ACTION [*EN BLOC*]

Recommended:

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

**To refer the resolution to the Administrative Team in consultation with the Conference of Bishops with a request that a report and possible recommendations be brought to the April 2008 meeting of the ELCA Church Council; and
To request that the secretary of this church inform the synod of this action.**

B. Amendment of Continuing Resolutions

1. Liaison Role of Synodical Bishops

The Blue Ribbon Report on Mission Funding and the experience of the past 20 years both underscore the crucial role of the bishops from regions in serving a strategic liaison role between the Conference of Bishops and the Church Council. Therefore, to reflect and underscore that responsibility, the following amendment is proposed.

CC ACTION

Recommended: *To recommend to the 2007 Churchwide Assembly adoption of the following amendment:*

To amend bylaw 14.32.01. to reflect the liaison responsibility of bishops from regions between the Conference of Bishops and the Church Council and to identify the chair of the Conference of Bishops as a non-voting participant in meetings of the Church Council:

14.32.01. The Church Council shall have as ~~advisory~~ liaison members nine synodical bishops, each elected by the Conference of Bishops to one four-year term, with voice but not vote in meetings of the Church Council. One bishop shall be elected from each region. In addition, the chair of the Conference of Bishops shall be present with voice but not vote for meetings of the Church Council.

2. Revision of synodical territory

Bylaw 10.01.11. in the Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America defined the territory of the respective synods. Periodically, adjustments are requested by synods. A change now must be made related to the Montana Synod and the Rocky Mountain Synod to reflect the responsibilities carried out by those synods as currently in practice.

CC ACTION

Recommended: *To recommend to the 2007 Churchwide Assembly adoption of the following amendments:*

To amend bylaw 10.01.11., sub-sections 1.F and 2.E, to reflect current responsibilities of the respective synods:

Synod 1.F— Montana. The state of MONTANA; and the counties of Big Horn, Park, Sheridan, and Washakie in the state of WYOMING.

Synod 2.E— Rocky Mountain. The states of COLORADO; NEW MEXICO; UTAH; and WYOMING, excluding the counties of Big Horn, Park, Sheridan, and Washakie; and the counties of Brewster, Culberson, El Paso, Hudspeth, Jeff Davis, Loving, Presidio, Reeves, Ward, and Winkler in the state of TEXAS.

To amend bylaw 10.01.11., sub-section 2-D, to reflect the responsibility of the Grand Canyon Synod:

Synod 2.D— Grand Canyon. The state of ARIZONA; the counties of Clark, Esmeralda, Lincoln, Nye in the state of NEVADA; and the town of St. George in the state of Utah.

3. Additional Voting Members for 2009 Churchwide Assembly

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

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

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To allocate for the 2009 Churchwide Assembly two additional voting-member positions to the Caribbean Synod (9F), with the provision that these additional voting members shall be people of color or people whose primary language is other than English;

To allocate for the 2009 Churchwide Assembly one additional voting-member position to the Alaska Synod (1A), with the provision that the position shall be filled by an Alaska Native person;

To allocate for the 2009 Churchwide Assembly one additional voting-member position each to the Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod (4C) and the West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod (8H) for a individual of color or an individual whose primary language is other than English; and

To allocate for the 2009 Churchwide Assembly one additional voting-member position for a lay member of the Slovak Zion Synod (7G).

V. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

A. Churchwide Assembly Overview

On August 5, 2007, at 3:00 p.m., the Church Council will meet with the Conference of Bishops for a joint session in the Crystal Room A of the Hyatt Hotel. Following a brief worship service, Bishop Hanson and Secretary Almen will give an overview of the Churchwide Assembly business and procedures. A copy of the Churchwide Assembly Briefing Guide, prepared by the secretary, is printed in Exhibit A, Part 2.

Members of the Church Council and their guests are invited to a dinner cruise on Sunday, August 5 at 6:00 p.m. Buses will leave the Hyatt Hotel at 5:30 p.m.

CC INFORMATION

B. Information about the November 2007 Church Council Meeting

The November 2007 meeting of the ELCA Church Council will be held November 9-11, 2007, in Chicago, Illinois. The Executive Committee and Audit Committee will meet on Thursday, November 8. The Church Council meeting will begin on Friday, November 11 at 8:30 a.m. with orientation for all Church Council members, including those newly elected. The newly constituted committees of the council will meet on Saturday morning, November 12. The meeting will conclude on Monday, November 12 at 12:00 noon.

CC INFORMATION

C. Church Council Photo

The Church Council will gather on Monday morning, August 6 for a group photo following the orientation to the Churchwide Assembly at Navy Pier. Specific information about time and location will be provided.

CC INFORMATION