

**EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA**  
**CHURCH COUNCIL**  
**January 14, 2011**  
**10:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon**

Please note the following information to access the conference calls:

- Dial (866) 311-1127 and use room number \*1312262\*. The star key must be entered before and after the room number.
- If there are problems during the call, please contact John Hessian at [john.hessian@elca.org](mailto:john.hessian@elca.org) or 800-638-3522, ext. 2607.

**AGENDA**

**I. ORGANIZATION OF MEETING**

**A. Voting Members**

**Officers**

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

**Church Council**

Pr. David P. Anderson	Pr. Heather Lubold
Mr. Baron Blanchard ( <i>excused</i> )	Ms. Susan McArver
Ms. Rebecca Jo Brakke	Pr. Raymond Miller
Ms. Rebecca Carlson	Mr. John Munday
Ms. Deborah L. Chenoweth	Mr. Mark Myers
Pr. Rachel L. Connelly	Ms. Ann Niedringhaus
Mr. John R. Emery	Pr. Pablo Obregon
Pr. Amsalu Geleta	Mr. Ivan Perez
Ms. Karin Graddy	Ms. Lynette Reitz
Mr. Mark S. Helmke	Ms. Sandra Schlesinger
Ms. Louise Hemstead	Pr. Michael Schmidt
Mr. William Horne	Mr. Blaire Smith
Pr. Keith A. Hunsinger	Pr. Jeff Sorenson
Mr. Mark E. Johnson	Pr. Kathryn Tiede
Pr. Susan Langhauser	Mr. David Truland
Pr. Steven P. Loy	Pr. Philip Wold

**B. Liaison Bishops**

Bp. Allan Bjornberg	Bp. Gerald Mansholt
Bp. Michael Burk	Bp. Margaret Payne
Bp. Elizabeth Eaton	Bp. Harold Usgard
Bp. Murray D. Finck	Bp. Martin D. Wells
Bp. Ralph Jones	Bp. Herman Yoos

**C. Advisory Members**

**Youth**

Ms. Arielle Mastellar	Mr. Kyle Teague
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**Advisors**

Pr. Jaime Dubon, Latino Community Association  
Ms. Elizabeth Gaskins, president, American Indian and Alaska Native Association  
Pr. David Keller, Lutheran Services in America  
Ms. Katherine Long, president, European American Association  
Pr. O. Dennis Mims, president, African-American Association  
Mr. Fuad Nijim, president, Arab and Middle Eastern Association  
Mr. Wayne Powell, ELCA colleges and universities  
Pr. Mark Ramseth, ELCA seminaries (*excused*)  
Pr. Arthur C. (Chris) Repp, chair, Global Mission program committee  
Pr. Edmond Yee, Asian and Pacific Islander Association (*excused*)

**D. Resource People**

**Office of the Presiding Bishop**

Pr. M. Wyvetta Bullock, Executive for Administration  
Pr. Marcus Kunz, Executive for Discernment of Theological and Contextual Issues (*excused*)  
Pr. Walter May, Executive for Synodical and Constituent Relations  
Ms. Myrna J. Sheie, Executive for Governance and Institutional Relations

**Related Executives**

Mr. Kenneth W. Inskeep, Executive for Research and Evaluation  
Pr. Donald J. McCoid, Executive for Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations  
Pr. Darrell D. Morton, Assistant to the Presiding Bishop for Federal Chaplaincy Ministries  
Ms. Else B. Thompson, Executive for Human Resources

**Office of the Secretary**

Pr. Ruth E. Hamilton, Executive for Office of the Secretary Administration  
Mr. Phillip H. Harris, General Counsel  
Mr. Frank F. Imhoff, Director for Official Documentation  
Mr. David A. Ullrich, Associate General Counsel

**Program Unit Executives**

Pr. Stephen P. Bouman, Executive Director, Congregational and Synodical Mission  
Ms. Linda Post Bushkofsky, Executive Director, Women of the ELCA  
Ms. Cynthia Halverson, Foundation of the ELCA and Executive Director for Development Services  
Mr. John G. Kapanke, President, Board of Pensions  
Ms. Beth A. Lewis, President, Augsburg Fortress, Publishers  
Pr. Rafael Malpica-Padilla, Executive Director, Global Mission  
Ms. Eva M. Roby, Executive Vice President for Administration, Mission Investment Fund  
Pr. Howie Wennes, interim Executive Director, Mission Advancement

**E. Press**

Mr. John R. Brooks, Director, ELCA News Service  
Ms. Elizabeth M. Hunter, *The Lutheran* magazine  
Mr. Daniel Lehmann, Editor, *The Lutheran* magazine  
Ms. Melissa Ramirez-Cooper, Associate Director, ELCA News Service

**F. Ecumenical Guests**

Ms. Lelanda Lee, The Episcopal Church

Pr. Mary Ann Neevel, United Church of Christ

Vacant positions: Moravian Church, Presbyterian Church U.S.A., Reformed Church

**II. Adoption of Agenda**

Agenda items have been distributed to the members of the Church Council either by mail or by electronic distribution.

**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.**

**III. Items for Information and Discussion**

**A. Updates from the Officers**

- 1. Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson**
- 2. Vice President Carlos Peña**
- 3. Secretary David Swartling**
- 4. Treasurer Christina Jackson-Skelton**

**CC INFORMATION**

**B. Update on the Redesign of the Churchwide Organization**

Executive for Administration M. Wyvetta Bullock will provide an update on the redesign of the churchwide organization. This is available in [Exhibit A](#).

**CC INFORMATION**

**C. Update on Churchwide Assembly Recommendation: Governing Documents**

Secretary David Swartling will provide an update on amendments to the governing documents of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The update will include information about discussion by the Conference of Bishops related to proposed revisions to the termination process for congregations described in bylaw 9.62. and a preview of possible additional bylaw amendments for consideration by the Church Council at its April 2011 meeting.

**CC INFORMATION**

**D. Update from the Ad Hoc Committee**

At its November 2010 meeting, the Church Council received the report of the Ad Hoc Committee and voted [CC.10.11.63]:

To receive with gratitude the report and recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee in response to the resolutions of the Minneapolis Area, Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast, Southwestern Minnesota, South Dakota, Upstate New York, La Crosse Area, Greater Milwaukee, New Jersey, and Northern Illinois synods related to the ELCA Board of Pensions annuity funding;

To authorize one-time payments from the Special Needs Retirement Fund (SNRF) as soon as realistically possible in 2011 to those most adversely affected by the reduction in annuity payments, drawing both from Church Council funds already designated for SNRF and undesignated funds received by the BOP and allocated to SNRF

To request that, in order to make these payments, the BOP, in consultation with the Managing Committee of SNRF, develop criteria based on need and a process for distribution of available funds to those most adversely affected by the reduction of annuity payments;

To provide for the expansion of the criteria for eligibility to SNRF and make provision for the possibility of more frequent reviews of eligibility, including periodic comprehensive reviews, to address the needs of plan members in light of economic realities;

To authorize that the membership of the SNRF Managing Committee be increased to include one representative from the Conference of Bishops and one from the Church Council;

To authorize periodic offerings and appeals designated for SNRF;

To anticipate the development of a process for regular review of SNRF by the Church Council;

To authorize the Ad Hoc Committee to continue its work, to monitor the implementation of these recommendations and to bring a report and possible recommendations to the April 2011 Church Council meeting;

To request that the Board of Pensions:

1. Enhance communications to and the education of annuitants and prospective annuitants regarding the ELCA Participating Annuity and Bridge Fund (PABF) and any new annuity products. In so doing:
  - a. Consider and develop additional ways to be proactive in such communication and education efforts; and
  - b. Continue and increase emphasis on assisting members in understanding the aspects of a defined contribution retirement plan, including members' responsibilities and role in decision-making;
2. Consider developing a fund, within SNRF or separate from it, to make available payments to plan members in situations of extraordinary economic distress and develop a process to authorize payments in such cases and to make recommendations, as appropriate, to the Church Council;
3. Enhance communications to and the education of members and sponsors regarding SNRF; work to ensure that synodical bishops and staff are knowledgeable about SNRF and make recommendations, as appropriate, to the Church Council;
4. Explore possibilities for voluntary regular contributions by sponsors and members to SNRF, in addition to special gifts from members and sponsors; make recommendations, as appropriate, to the Church Council;
5. Explore other options for providing funds to SNRF and make recommendations, as appropriate, to the Church Council;
6. Consider amending the name of the BOP to reflect that it is providing retirement income through annuity payments and investment fund(s) distributions, not providing pension payments, and to reflect more accurately the other services it provides; make recommendations, as appropriate, to the Church Council.; and

To request the secretary of this church to inform the synods of the report of the Ad Hoc Committee and this action.

At this meeting, updates about the implementation of the Church Council's action will be provided by Vice President Carlos Peña, chair of the Ad Hoc Committee and the Rev. Robert Berg, Board of Pensions.

### **CC INFORMATION**

#### **E. Post-Church Council Commitments**

At its November 2010 meeting, the Church Council participated in several Café Conversations and discussions that Presiding Bishop Hanson described as “deep, honest and clarifying.” In response, the Administrative Team identified a series of commitments that grew out of the conversations. The Church Council will discuss the commitments during the conference call.

- Executive Committee: Church Council members will be notified when Executive Committee materials (agendas and exhibits) are placed on Net Community. Following each meeting, the secretary will distribute a summary of the decisions of each meeting.
- CC Meeting Preview: At least two weeks prior to each Church Council meeting, the presiding bishop will prepare and distribute to you a brief letter highlighting the key actions for the meeting.
- Evaluations: Following each meeting of the Church Council, the Executive Committee will review the evaluations from the meeting and follow up as appropriate.
- Café Conversations Follow Up: The Executive Committee and Board Development Committee are committed to taking the input from the Café Conversations and suggesting positive next steps for our shared life together.
- Use of Technology: Beginning in January 2011, we will use WebEx technology for Executive Committee and Church Council meetings formerly held by conference call. Church Council committees will determine the technology to be used for their meetings.  
[NOTE: subsequent conversation with ELCA Information Technology suggested that use of WebEx begin with the Executive Committee early in 2011 and expand to the full Church Council at a later date.]
- News Releases: John Hessian will provide information to Church Council members about signing on to receive ELCA news releases.

### **CC DISCUSSION**

#### **IV. Items for Action**

##### **A. Board of National Lutheran Campus Ministry, Incorporated**

At the request of Stanley N. Olson, the executive director of the Vocation and Education unit, the Church Council elects members of the board of National Lutheran Campus Ministry, Inc., as described in ELCA bylaw 14.21.22., “The Church Council shall arrange the process for all elections . . . to assure conformity with established criteria.”

The Vocation and Education unit is responsible for relating to and assisting “ministries, organizations, programs and movements that support members of this church in discerning and practicing their callings under the Gospel; and thereby . . . foster, in coordination with synods, campus ministries at public and non-ELCA colleges and universities, in accordance with the established campus ministry policies and procedures. . . .” Nominations to the board are made by the board of National Lutheran Campus Ministry, Inc., in coordination with unit staff.

#### **CC ACTION**

##### **Recommended:**

**To elect to the Board of Directors of National Lutheran Campus Ministry, Inc., in accordance with Article III, Section 3.2 of NLCM’s amended bylaws, “The directors shall be nominated by a nominating committee (consisting of the ELCA Director for Campus Ministry or his or her designee, and two members of the Board of Directors) and elected by the ELCA Church Council...”: Mr. Wayne Hanson to a four-year term ending in 2015.**

##### **B. Election of a Church Council member**

Between meetings of the Churchwide Assembly, the Church Council has the responsibility of electing people to fill unexpired terms on churchwide boards, steering committees of churchwide commissions, and certain advisory committees.

The New England Synod (7B) has nominated Ms. Feronika A. Raming to replace the resignation of Judith Barlow-Roberts, Bloomfield, Connecticut (7B) to a term ending in 2015. Biographical information is provided below.

Ms. Feronika A. Raming  
New England Synod (7B)

- 1) Congregational membership  
Immanuel Indonesian Lutheran Church, Newington, N.H.
- 2) Experience relevant to this position  
I was a pastor in Indonesia for 3 years;  
Worked with women's groups in Indonesia and in Newington, N.H.
- 3) Church-related service  
Christian educator for women and children at Imanuel ILC;  
Asian-Pasific Islander Church Planting team;  
Mission Planning team for pre-organization of Imanuel ILC
- 4) Education  
B.D., Indonesian Ch. Univ. in Tomohon, Indonesia;  
coursework, International Th. Sem, Los Angeles, Calif.  
coursework, University of Indonesia, Indonesia
- 5) Occupation  
Homemaker
- 6) Community service  
Indonesian communities in N.H.;

PEO (Philanthropic, education organization for women) in Maine and NH;  
Librarian in Indonesia

- 7) Year of birth  
1962
- 8) Primary language  
Indonesian

*Why do you believe you would serve well as a member of the Church Council?*

Could work with wider ministerial and racial backgrounds, to make all the procedures and programs more clearly and fully understood by all church members.

*Are there particular perspectives that you would contribute as a Church Council member?*

I am a first-generation immigrant woman from Asia. As first generation immigrants, we usually meet many differences in our practical lives than what we were used to back in our home country. This could lead us to culture shock, especially for the women. These are things that the church does not see more clearly and fully as a problem that the first Asian women generation are facing today. I could be of help for them, as I went through this kind of experience before.

*What, in your judgement, is the most important responsibility of the Church Council?*

The most important responsibility of the Church Council is to review all the procedures and programs, and to make the right decisions concerning them, so the congregations can implement them in their ministries to help members grow physically, emotionally, and faithfully in their new lives here in the US.

#### **CC ACTION**

##### **Recommended:**

**To elect Ms. Feronika A. Rambing, Somersworth, NH, of the New England Synod (7B) to the ELCA Church Council for a term ending in 2015.**

#### **V. Adjournment**