

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
CHURCH COUNCIL
July 11, 2013
2:00 – 3:30 PM Central Time
Chicago, Illinois
AGENDA

To join the online meeting

1. <https://elcaorg.webex.com/elcaorg/j.php?ED=207042592&UID=492221612&RT=MiM3>
2. Enter your name and email address.
3. Click "Join".

To join the audio conference

1. Toll-free: 1-877-820-7831
2. After the prompt, please enter the following access code: 4980612#

For assistance

1. Go to <https://elcaorg.webex.com/elcaorg/mc>
2. On the left navigation bar, click "Support".

If you have any other issues, please contact John Hessian at john.hessian@elca.org or call 1-800-638-3522 ext. 2607

Participants

Voting Members

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

Liaison Bishops

Bp. William C "Chris" Boerger	Bp. Gerald Mansholt
Bp. Michael Burk	Bp. Stephen Talmage
Bp. Elizabeth Eaton	Bp. Harold Usgaard (<i>excused</i>)
Bp. Ralph Jones	Bp. Herman Yoos (<i>excused</i>)
Bp. Wilma Kucharek	

Youth and Young Adult Advisors

Ms. Amanda Briggs
Mr. Jacob Halsor
Mr. Tony 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 (*excused*)
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 (*excused*)
Mr. Frank F. Imhoff, Manager, Official Documentation
Ms. Sue Rothmeyer, Assistant to the Secretary
Mr. David A. Ullrich, Associate General Counsel

Unit Executives

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 (*excused*)

Congregational and Synodical Mission Staff

Pr. Jonathan Strandjord, Program Director for Seminaries
Pr. Mark Wilhelm, Program Director for Schools

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

Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

Pr. Phyllis Anderson, President

Press

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

PLENARY SESSION ONE

July 11, 2013
2:00 – 3:30 p.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 Updates from the Officers

I.B.1 Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson

I.B.2 Vice President Carlos Peña

I.B.3 Secretary David Swartling

I.B.4 Treasurer Linda Norman

I.C Report of the Executive Committee

I.C.1 Election of Church Council member

The Northwest Synod of Wisconsin (5H) has nominated Ms. Marit Bakken, Black River Falls, Wisconsin, to replace the resignation of Ms. Rebecca Carlson (5H), to a term ending in 2015. This nomination also is in keeping with the representation principles of this church in the specified category of a young adult. Biographical information is provided in [Exhibit A](#).

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To elect Ms. Marit Bakken, Black River Falls, Wisconsin (5H) to the Church Council for a term ending in 2015.

I.C.2 Book of Faith Initiative

Background

The Book of Faith Initiative began life in response to a memorial from the North Carolina Synod in 2005 and many other voices calling on the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to renew its engagement with Scripture and to renew teaching and use of Lutheran approaches to the Bible. The 2007 churchwide assembly action which formally established the Book of Faith Initiative called on the ELCA both to acknowledge that we are joyfully and intentionally subject to God's Word and invited the whole of the ELCA into broad and deep engagement with the Bible. From the beginning the goal of the initiative has been to meet the continuing challenge of wide spread biblical illiteracy by inviting people across the church to be more deeply engaged with Scripture for the sake of the world.

The Book of Faith Initiative has operated using a de-centralized, grass-roots approach centered on a common vision in which all are invited to open Scripture and join the conversation. The initiative has emphasized that biblical engagement is greatly enriched by the use of "multiple methods" in conversation with the text and other persons. The suggested "methods" have centered on [four different ways of reading the Bible](#) and asking questions: devotional, historical, literary and Lutheran theological reading. The initiative has also emphasized the many rich Lutheran insights that have been helpful in understanding the myriad ways that God engages us through the Bible.

Over the last five years, Book of Faith sponsored activities have happened in a variety of venues:

Book of Faith in Congregations

The Book of Faith Initiative has helped increase and enrich engagement with Scripture in a number of congregations. Although tracking congregational participation has proven difficult owing to changes in the churchwide ministries, more than 1300 congregations have officially self-identified as Book of Faith congregations through the sign-up page on the Book of Faith website, and 2,962 congregations indicated that they had participated in the initiative (2009 Congregational Report Form C) These congregations and many others as well have reported such practices as adopting long-term initiative practices (e.g., *Dwelling in the Word* at meetings; new ways of engaging Scripture in homes and group studies) and hosting creative events. For example, St. Paul Lutheran Church in Wheaton Illinois hosted in 2013 a [Book of Faith Family Celebration](#) that involved many people from both the congregation and its community.

Many congregations have centered adult Bible study around the excellent [Book of Faith Resources](#) from Augsburg Fortress. Approximately 3000 congregations have purchased some Book of Faith resources including Lutheran Study Bibles.

Book of Faith Partnership with Augsburg Fortress

Since 2008, Augsburg Fortress has published over 160 [Book of Faith Resources](#) in seven categories: Foundational Courses, Seasonal Courses (Advent & Lenten

Journeys), Books of Faith, Together in Faith, People of Faith, Making Sense of... Series, and the Lutheran Study Bible.

In addition, Augsburg Fortress publishes other Bible-centered resources under the Augsburg Fortress, Sparkhouse, and Fortress Press imprints that were designed to align well with the Book of Faith initiative.

Book of Faith on the Web

The Book of Faith Initiative has developed an ongoing web presence. The bookoffaith.org page is regularly visited (12,993 unique visitors in the recent 12 month period) and updated. The Book of Faith Initiative is active on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) as people continue share ideas, resources and successes.

In 2010 the Book of Faith Initiative launched a publicity campaign with a goal of giving people a non-threatening way to engage the Bible. The campaign featured a thoughtful [Bible quiz](#) that is still available on the Book of Faith website and on mobile devices. Our latest report is that over 70,000 visitors have engaged this site.

Book of Faith at Churchwide Events

The Book of Faith Initiative has had a significant presence at various churchwide events. At the 2012 New Orleans Youth Gathering, the Book of Faith Initiative partnered in the training of Bible Study leaders, participated in the hot spot challenges, and sponsored a “Road to Shalom” room that explored the deeper meanings of the word “shalom” throughout the Bible. One young woman was so moved by the encounter that she started her own work in bringing peace to others. This script and supply list for [Road to Shalom](#) has now been made available for synods, congregations, and other gatherings.

“Dwelling in the Word” sessions have regularly been included in ELCA Conference of Bishops & Church Council meetings.

Under the leadership of The Book of Faith Initiative, the 2011 churchwide assembly began the practice of inviting the whole assembly to engage in Bible studies through small group discussions utilizing the four-fold method of asking questions. This pattern of doing Bible study has been picked up in other event venues and is being used again at the 2013 churchwide assembly. This year the wider church has been invited into these biblical conversations.

Book of Faith in Synods

Synods are vital partners in the Book of Faith Initiative and provide significant leadership. Designated Book of Faith synod advocates have continued working within their synod ministries on behalf of the initiative. Some have hosted Book of Faith events, bringing in speakers and creating their own events. Many synods have a Book of Faith presence on their synodical website. See, for example, [Oregon Synod](#) which features an invitation from advocate Tonia Linqvist and some audio/visual Bible Studies by Bishop Dave Brauer-Rieke. Synods have adopted regular “Dwelling in the Word” moments at council meetings, synodical assemblies, and elsewhere.

Book of Faith in Higher Education

ELCA colleges and universities and campus ministries have sponsored Book of Faith groups and events. At present there is a move to propose partnerships between colleges lifelong learning programs/ campus ministries and synods to offer Congregational Leadership Training for Book of Faith and mission conversations.

Book of Faith in Lay Schools

Some lay schools have used the Book of Faith Initiative material or centered their curriculum on exploring ways of engaging the initiative. For example in 2012-2013, Northwest Synod of Wisconsin's Lay School of Ministry has centered on the overall topic of [*Book of Faith Meets Missional Church*](#).

Lifelong learning at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN has partnered with area synods to sponsor two [*Book of Faith Jubilees*](#).

Book of Faith with Other Churchwide Ministries

The Book of Faith Initiative has collaborated with a variety of other partners to support programs and to help develop materials for use in various ELCA ministry settings.

In partnership with Faith Practices and Mission Development Leaders, a resource called *Story Matters: Claiming our Biblical Identity for the Sake of the World* has been developed which is currently being piloted by a number of congregations. [*Story Matters*](#) is designed to help congregations discover and articulate, in a deep and biblically based conversation, their unique identity and mission so that each congregation might discern their congregational story, explore and live into their story, engage together in missional planning, and be challenged by this engagement to live out their mission.

With [*Select Learning*](#), several Book of Faith resources have been developed including: *How Lutherans Interpret the Bible, Teaching the Bible; Hosting the Conversation; Teaching the Bible with Children, Youth and Families: Equipping Households of Faith; Teaching the Bible with Children, Youth and Families: Service and Learning*.

With stewardship leaders, a [*Rediscovering Macedonia*](#) resource was developed for congregational use using the fourfold method to study 2 Corinthians 7:16-8:7.

From the beginning, the Book of Faith Initiative was envisioned to be more than a theme or emphasis that would be succeeded by other emphases. Rather, the intent was and is to form culture and customs in this church that will open it to a new level of valuing and being shaped by the power of the Word. While much has been accomplished, much work remains. Productive and lasting change in cultures and customs takes time. Old challenges had deepened, and new challenges have arisen.

Following is the Church Council action from the April 2013 meeting and recommendations for Churchwide Assembly action that will meet these continuing challenges and opportunities.

Church Council Action (CC13.04.03)

To request the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit, in consultation with Augsburg Fortress Publishers, review and engage in further discussions on the work

of the “Book of Faith” initiative and consider how this church can build upon that work and engage in other ways in which God’s Word will continually renew this church; and

To request a report with possible recommendations for the 2013 Churchwide Assembly regarding the “Book of Faith” initiative to be considered at a special Church Council meeting at a time to be determined.

CC ACTION

Recommended: *To recommend the following action for approval by the 2013 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:*

To affirm the Book of Faith Initiative as a continuing emphasis and priority in this church, and to request that the presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America—who ‘as its pastor, shall be a teacher of the faith of this church and shall provide leadership for the life and witness of this church’ (ELCA constitutional provision 13.21.)—continue to lead this initiative personally and in collaboration with the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit, other appropriate churchwide units, and the Conference of Bishops;

To reaffirm the overall goal of the Book of Faith Initiative to help individuals and congregations throughout the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to open Scripture and join the conversation;

To call on congregations, synods, the churchwide organization, and other ministries of this church to continue to promote deep biblical engagement that approaches the Bible as the written Word of God, using “multiple methods” to engage persons individually and in community with others;;

To call upon Augsburg Fortress, Publishers, as the publishing ministry of this church, to consult with all expressions of this church and its related institutions and agencies as appropriate to undergird and support the Book of Faith Initiative in order to enhance the biblical literacy of all members of this church as well as those seeking a better understanding of the Gospel of Jesus Christ;

To encourage engagement of the Book of Faith Initiative by colleges, universities, and seminaries of this church, recognizing the continuing challenge of assisting pastoral and lay leaders in taking up their roles as teachers of the Bible in ways that engage and inspire the current and future members and seekers in this church;

To encourage the Book of Faith Initiative leadership in conversation with its many partners to continue implementation of the Initiative so as to respond to such challenges as: biblical illiteracy, Bible and mission outreach, addressing the great variety of cultures that make up this church and world, appealing to the growing number of persons in society claiming to be “spiritual but not religious”,, creative use of social media, and the importance of family and home as centers of faith development; and

To give thanks to God for all of the individuals, congregations, synods and churchwide ministries for their deep and abiding commitment to the centrality of God’s transforming Word in Christ, in proclamation and in Scripture.

I.D Report of the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee

I.D.1 Merger of CLU and PLTS

In 2011, the Churchwide Assembly adopted amendments to Chapter 8 of the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*. These amendments made it possible for a merger of a seminary and university. Such a merger occurred for the first time in 2011 between Lenoir-Rhyne University (LRU), Hickory, N.C., and Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary (LTSS), Columbia, S.C.

Over the past several years the ELCA seminaries have been working with each other and with other partners to organize their educational and administrative work in ways that advance a strong, wide-reaching, and sustainable theological education network that meets the leadership needs of a church in mission. In this work, ELCA colleges and universities have emerged as particularly important partners.

In conversations over the past several months, California Lutheran University (CLU), Thousand Oaks, Calif., and Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary (PLTS), Berkeley, Calif., have come to an agreement that the two schools can best serve the ELCA's work of theological education by moving toward merger, with PLTS becoming part of CLU. In accordance with bylaw 8.31.02. of the ELCA Constitution, amendments to governing documents of each separately incorporated seminary as well as amendments to the governing documents of a college or university of this church need approval by the Church Council. The Legal and Constitutional Review Committee and the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit have worked with the two schools in review of this merger.

The background material for the PLTS and CLU merger consist of working documents for the Agreement and Plan of Merger and relevant exhibits to the action of the ELCA Church Council. These documents are in substantially final form but are subject to some additions as final due diligence is done. Background information, including the Agreement and Plan of Merger document and its relevant attachments being the new CLU corporation amended bylaws and the Principles Regarding the Proposed Merger, can be found in [Exhibit C](#).

Church Council Action (CC.13.04.09)

To receive with appreciation the report and draft documents relating to the proposed merger of California Lutheran University (CLU) and Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary (PLTS);

To thank the administrations and trustees of CLU and PLTS for engaging in thoughtful, forward-looking, spirit-filled discussions about the future of these institutions within the ecology of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America;

To acknowledge that the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is the sole corporate member of PLTS and that merger actions involving these schools must comply with the requirements in the Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of this church;

To endorse in concept the proposed merger of CLU and PLTS, and to encourage the leadership of these institutions to continue their discussions and to prepare the appropriate documentation to effectuate the merger; and

To authorize the Executive Committee of the Church Council, in collaboration with the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee and the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit, to engage in further discussions and document review with CLU and with PLTS, as necessary, for the purpose of finalizing the proposed merger and to bring a recommended action regarding the merger and the final documents to implement it at a special Church Council meeting at a time to be determined.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To receive with appreciation the report and documents relating to the proposed merger of California Lutheran University (CLU) and Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary (PLTS);

To thank the administrations and trustees of CLU and PLTS for engaging in thoughtful, forward-looking, spirit-filled discussions about the future of these institutions within the ecology of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America;

To state that merger actions involving these schools must comply with the requirements in the Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and that this merger is in compliance;

To acknowledge that the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is the sole corporate member of PLTS and the Church Council must pass resolutions approving the merger; and

To adopt the following resolutions that are in conformity with the resolutions of the PLTS board and the CLU board, approving the merger.

Approval of Merger with California Lutheran University

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary (“PLTS”) has determined that it is advisable and in the best interests of PLTS that PLTS enter into an Agreement and Plan of Merger (the “Merger Agreement”), in substantially the form attached hereto as set forth in the background material, with California Lutheran University, a California nonprofit public benefit corporation (“CLU”), and consummate the business combination and other transactions provided for in the Merger Agreement;

WHEREAS, pursuant to the terms of the Merger Agreement, PLTS shall be merged with and into CLU (the “Merger”), and CLU shall continue as the surviving corporation (the “Surviving Corporation”);

WHEREAS, the bylaws of the Surviving Corporation shall be amended in their entirety to read substantially in the form attached as set forth in the background material to the Merger Agreement, until thereafter amended in accordance with California law, the articles of incorporation of the Surviving Corporation, and such bylaws;

WHEREAS, after the Merger, all the assets, property, rights, privileges, powers and franchises of PLTS shall vest in the Surviving Corporation, all debts, liabilities and duties of PLTS shall become the debts, liabilities and duties of the Surviving Corporation, and the separate existence of PLTS shall cease;

WHEREAS, the Merger will become effective following the satisfaction of the conditions contemplated by the Merger Agreement at such time as an agreement of merger and officer's certificates are filed with the Secretary of State of the State of California in accordance with the Merger Agreement and the California Nonprofit Corporation Law (the "CNCL"); and

WHEREAS, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, a Minnesota nonprofit corporation (the "ELCA"), is the sole member of PLTS.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the ELCA hereby determines that the Merger Agreement and the transactions contemplated thereby, including the Merger, are advisable and in the best interests of PLTS and the ELCA.

RESOLVED FURTHER: That the Merger Agreement (including all the terms, provisions and exhibits thereto), substantially in the form delivered to the ELCA and approved by the Board of PLTS, and the Merger and the other transactions provided for in the Merger Agreement, are hereby approved and authorized in all respects, with such changes, additions, deletions, supplements and amendments as the proper officers of PLTS may deem necessary or advisable with the advice of legal counsel, such determination to be conclusively evidenced by the President's execution thereof.

RESOLVED FURTHER: That the other agreements and certificates to be executed by PLTS pursuant to, or as contemplated by, the Merger Agreement (collectively, the "Ancillary Documents") and approved by the Board of PLTS and the transactions contemplated thereby are hereby approved and authorized in all respects with such changes, additions, deletions, supplements and amendments thereto, as the proper officers of PLTS may deem necessary or advisable with the advice of legal counsel, such determination to be conclusively evidenced by such officer's execution thereof.

Omnibus Resolutions

RESOLVED FURTHER: That the omnibus resolution previously approved by the PLTS Board is approved and therefore that the proper officers of PLTS be, and each of them hereby is, authorized and directed to execute and deliver to any person deemed appropriate by any such officer, any and all certificates, agreements, instruments, documents or undertakings of any kind and nature whatsoever to evidence the obligations contemplated by the Merger Agreement and these resolutions, to establish, facilitate or comply with the terms and conditions of the Merger Agreement, as may be amended from time to time, and these resolutions, such certificates, agreements, instruments, documents or undertakings to be in such form and to contain the signature of such officers executing the same, the authorization and approval of PLTS to be conclusively evidenced by any such officer's execution thereof, and to do and perform or cause to be done and performed all acts, deeds and things, in the name and on behalf of PLTS or otherwise as such officers may deem necessary or appropriate for the foregoing purposes.

RESOLVED FURTHER: That the authority granted to the officers of PLTS under the foregoing resolutions shall be deemed to include, in the case of each such resolution, the authority to perform such further acts and deeds as may be necessary, convenient or appropriate, in the good faith judgment of such officers, to carry out the transactions contemplated thereby and the purposes and intents of the foregoing resolutions, and that all acts and deeds previously performed by such officers or counsel for PLTS prior to the date of these resolutions are ratified, confirmed and approved in all respects.

I.D.2 Amendments to the Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (Two-thirds approval required)

The proposed amendments are regarding the Nominating Committee, Committee on Discipline and Committee on Appeals.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To approve the following amendments to the *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.*

~~19.21.01. There shall be a Nominating Committee consisting of 18 members elected by the Churchwide Assembly. Each member shall be elected to one six-year term and shall not be eligible for consecutive reelection. Six members of the committee shall be elected each biennium.~~ There shall be a Nominating Committee consisting of 12-18 members elected by the Churchwide Assembly. Each member shall be elected to one six-year term and shall serve until a successor is elected. Members of the Nominating Committee shall not be eligible for consecutive reelection. The Church Council shall place in nomination the names of two persons for each position. The committee shall consist of at least one member but no more than three members from any region. Nominations from the floor shall also be permitted, but each floor nomination shall be presented as an alternative to a specific category named by the Church Council and shall therefore meet the same criteria as the persons against whom the nominee is nominated. In the materials provided in advance to each member of the assembly, the Church Council shall set forth the criteria applicable to each category that must be met by persons nominated from the floor.

~~20.21.11. The churchwide Committee on Discipline shall consist of 36 persons, 19 of whom shall be laypersons and 17 of whom shall be ordained ministers, elected by the Churchwide Assembly for a term of six years, each without consecutive reelection, to~~ The Churchwide Committee on Discipline shall consist of 24-36 members, half of whom should be ordained ministers and half of whom should be laypersons, elected by the Churchwide Assembly for a term of six years. Each member will serve until a successor is elected, without consecutive reelection, and will serve as needed on a discipline hearing committee in any of the synods in this church.

20.64. The Committee on Appeals shall be comprised of six ordained ministers and six laypersons, elected by the Churchwide Assembly for a term of six years, without consecutive reelection.

CR 20.64A13. In the event that the term of any member of the Committee on Appeals expires before that member's successor is elected, the Church Council may elect an individual in the same category -- ordained minister or layperson -- to serve on the Committee until the next Churchwide Assembly. A member elected by the Church Council who serves less than one-half of a term shall be eligible for election to a full term by the Churchwide Assembly.

I.D.3 Amendments to the 2013 Churchwide Assembly Rules of Organization and Procedure

In each biennium, the Church Council submits a recommendation to the Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America on proposed rules of organization and procedure. Voting members of the assembly act on the rules in the first plenary session. A two-thirds vote of the assembly is required for adoption of the rules.

The text of the proposed rules is printed in [Exhibit D](#). These rules have been developed and refined as a result of the experiences of the twelve previous Churchwide Assemblies as well as the experience of predecessor church bodies. **Further revisions are being recommended to accommodate the increased use of electronic devices.**

CC ACTION

Recommended: *To recommend adoption of the following resolution by the voting members of the 2013 Churchwide Assembly:*

To adopt the amended “Rules of Organization and Procedure” for the 2013 Churchwide Assembly (exclusive of quoted and highlighted constitutional provisions and bylaws that are already in force).

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To authorize the presiding bishop and secretary of this church to prepare further editing and scheduling revisions that may be found necessary for the Rules prior to their publication in the *Pre-Assembly Report*; and

To report any changes to the Church Council at its August 2013 meeting.

I.E *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.

I.F Items for Discussion

I.F.1. Churchwide Assembly Update

- a. Church Council Assignments ([Exhibit E](#))
- b. Churchwide Assembly Materials and Mailing List Distribution

I.F.2 Churchwide Organization Strategic Planning Update

I.F.3 Update from Portico Benefit Services

I.F.4 Proposal for ELCA Credit Union

[Exhibit F](#) is a letter from Presiding Bishop Hanson describing a proposal to establish a credit union to serve members of the ELCA. The Mission Investment Fund Board of Trustees and staff have led the feasibility study and business exploration for this proposal.

The credit union will be owned by its members; the ELCA will not own or control it. The ELCA will be the sponsor, designating the credit union as a preferred credit union for ELCA members.

Eva Roby, President and CEO of the Mission Investment Fund, will be available during the conference call to answer any questions.

I.G Announcements

Adjournment