

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
CHURCH COUNCIL
Conference Call
May 23, 2011

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 or 800-638-3522, ext. 2607.

AGENDA

Participants

Voting Members

Pr. David Anderson (<i>excused</i>)	Pr. Yvonne Marshall
Mr. Baron Blanchard (<i>excused</i>)	Ms. Susan McArver
Ms. Rebecca Jo Brakke	Pr. Raymond Miller
Ms. Rebecca Carlson	Mr. John Munday
Ms. Deborah Chenoweth	Mr. Mark Myers
Pr. Rachel L. Connelly	Ms. Ann Niedringhaus
Mr. John R. Emery	Pr. Pablo Obregon
Pr. Amsalu Geleta	Mr. Carlos Peña, Vice President
Ms. Karin Graddy	Mr. Ivan Perez
Bp. Mark S. Hanson, Presiding Bishop	Ms. Feronika Raming
Mr. Mark S. Helmke	Ms. Lynette Reitz
Ms. Louise Hemstead	Ms. Sandra Schlesinger
Mr. Bill Horne	Mr. Blaire Smith
Pr. Keith A. Hunsinger	Pr. Jeff Sorenson
Ms. Christina Jackson-Skelton, Treasurer	Mr. David D. Swartling, Secretary
Mr. Mark E. Johnson	Pr. Kathryn Tiede
Pr. Susan Langhauser	Mr. David Truland
Pr. Steven Loy (<i>excused</i>)	Pr. Phil Wold
Pr. Heather Lubold	

Liaison Bishops

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

Advisory Members

Pr. Jaime Dubon, Latino Community Association
Ms. Elizabeth Gaskins, American Indian and Alaska Native Association
Pr. David Keller, Lutheran Services in America
Ms. Katherine Long, president, European American Association
Ms. Arielle Mastellar, youth advisor
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
Pr. Arthur C. (Chris) Repp, chair, Global Mission program committee
Mr. Kyle Teague, youth advisor
Pr. Edmond Yee, Asian and Pacific Islander Association

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
Pr. Donald J. McCoid, Assistant to the Bishop for Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Affairs
Pr. Darrell D. Morton, Assistant to the Presiding Bishop for Chaplaincy
Pr. Walter May, Assistant to the Bishop for the Conference of Bishops
Pr. Karl Reko, Coordinator for LIFT
Ms. Myrna J. Sheie, Assistant to the Bishop for Governance
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

Unit Executives

Program Units

Pr. Stephen P. Bouman, Executive Director, Congregational and Synodical Mission
Pr. Rafael Malpica-Padilla, Executive Director, Global Mission

Separately Incorporated Ministries

Ms. Linda Post Bushkofsky, Executive Director, Women of the ELCA
Mr. Doug Haugen, Director for Lutheran Men in Mission
Mr. John G. Kapanke, President, Board of Pensions
Ms. Beth A. Lewis, President, Augsburg Fortress, Publishers
Ms. Eva M. Roby, Executive Vice President for Administration, MIF

Press

Mr. John R. Brooks, ELCA Media Relations and News
Ms. Elizabeth M. Hunter, *The Lutheran* magazine
Mr. Daniel Lehmann, *The Lutheran* magazine

Ecumenical Guests

Pr. Mary Ann Neevel, United Church of Christ
Ms. Lelanda Lee, The Episcopal Church

Guest Resource

Pr. Diane "Dee" Pederson, Chair, LIFT Task Force

PLENARY SESSION
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

1.1 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.

1.2 Updates from the Officers

1.2A Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson

1.2B Vice President Carlos Peña

1.2C Secretary David Swartling

1.2D Treasurer Christina Jackson-Skelton

1.3 Update on ELCA Malaria Campaign Leadership Circle from the Treasurer

1.4 Report of the Living Into the Future Together (LIFT) Writing Team

At its April 2011 meeting the Church Council reviewed the report of the “Living into the Future Together: Renewing the Ecology of the ELCA” (LIFT) task force. The Church Council voted [CC11.04.16]

To receive with gratitude the report and recommendations of the Living into the Future Together (LIFT) task force in response to its call to “study the evolving societal and economic changes that have occurred in the twenty years since the formation of this church and to evaluate the organization, governance and interrelationships among this church’s expressions in the light of those changes”;

To recognize the vital input provided by ELCA members, congregations, synods and related agencies and institutions in the development of the report and recommendations;

To acknowledge with deep appreciation the work of the LIFT task force and its significant and comprehensive documentation in response to the questions that have guided their work: What is God calling this church to be and to do in the future? What changes are in order to help us respond most faithfully?; and

To anticipate joyful response by the 2011 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to the LIFT task force recommendations as this church and its various expressions participate in carrying out God’s mission in this changing world.

The Church Council provided guidance for perfecting both the recommendations of the LIFT task force and the implementing resolutions for consideration by the 2011 Churchwide Assembly. The Church Council voted:

To thank the Living into the Future Together task force and the Planning and Evaluation Committee for their work on the report and recommendations of the task force;

To refer the work of finalizing the recommendations in the LIFT report and the development of proposed implementing resolutions for the task force's report and recommendations to a writing team consisting of members of the Office of the Presiding Bishop, the Office of the Secretary, the Planning and Evaluation Committee, and the LIFT task force; and

To anticipate an electronic meeting of the Church Council in May 2011 to consider the recommendations and proposed implementing resolutions.

The writing team was established, including: Dee Pederson, chair, LIFT task force; Susan Langhauser, chair, Planning and Evaluation (PE) Committee; William Horne, PE; Debby Chenoweth, CC liaison to LIFT task force; Ruth Hamilton, Office of the Secretary; Myrna Sheie, Office of the Presiding Bishop; Wyvetta Bullock, Office of the Presiding Bishop and staff to LIFT task force; and Karl Reko, coordinator, LIFT task force. The writing team established a charter and time line:

Writing team charter

Finalize recommendations in the LIFT report, incorporating the concerns and suggestions from the Church Council, and develop proposed implementing resolutions.

Writing team time line

- April 11, 2011: staff meets to draft working plan and time line
- Recommended writing team conference calls: April 13, April 18, April 26, May 9. In addition to these four conference calls, the writing team shared input by e-mail.
- Updates to LIFT task force teams: LIFT planning team (April 12); LIFT communications team (April 13); LIFT task force (April 19)
- May 2, 2011: Draft to Church Council and Conference of Bishops
- May 6, 2011 (12:00 noon): deadline for responses to draft
- May 10, 2011: Church Council meeting packet (uploaded to Net Community and mailed)
- May 23, 2011: Church Council conference call (10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon)

Responses to the LIFT documents were invited from the Church Council and Conference of Bishops by Friday, May 6, 2011. The writing team received and reviewed carefully responses from seven people, including two members of the Conference of Bishops. The responses included both specific editorial suggestions and general commentary on the documents. Following review by the writing team, some specific revisions have been included in [Exhibit A, Parts 1a-1b](#) (LIFT task force recommendations), and Exhibit A, Part 2 (LIFT task force implementing resolutions).

1.4A LIFT Task Force Recommendations

The proposed revisions to the recommendations in the LIFT task force report are provided in Exhibit A, Parts 1a-1b. Exhibit A, Part 1a is “marked up” and includes proposed revisions, both those detailed in the April 29 version of the documents and those included

based on input from the Church Council and Conference of Bishops. Exhibit A, Part 1b presents the recommendations with changes accepted.

As part of the review process, a concern was raised about the relationship between the LIFT recommendations related to structure and governance. The LIFT recommendations found in Exhibit A, Parts 1a-1b provide only a summary of the proposed amendments to the governing documents of the ELCA related to the LIFT recommendations that were considered and recommended by the Church Council at its November 2010 meeting for adoption by the Churchwide Assembly. All the amendments are included in [Exhibit G, Part 1a](#) from that meeting. They also were contained (as information) in [Exhibit H, Part 2, section I](#), in the materials for the April 2011 meeting.

As with any action recommended by the Church Council, assembly voting members will have an opportunity to debate the amendments before voting on them.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To approve the revisions to the recommendations in the report of the “Living into the Future Together: Renewing the Ecology of the ELCA” for inclusion as information in the final report of the task force in the Pre-Assembly Report.

1.4B LIFT Implementing Resolutions

The proposed implementing resolutions are provided below. Exhibit A, Part 2 is “marked up” and includes proposed revisions following input from the Church Council and Conference of Bishops.

1. LIFT Implementing Resolutions

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To recommend the following action to the 2011 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:

To commend with joy and gratitude the report of the task force on Living into the Future Together: Renewing the Ecology of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (LIFT) for study and action;

To thank the task force and all who contributed to its work for a vision of where God is leading this church;

To endorse the recommendations of the task force, as amended by the Church Council;

To express confidence that God is leading this church into God’s future; and

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

- 1. To make support for the work of congregations one of the highest priorities of this church. To request congregations, in collaboration with synods, to begin, develop, review or redefine their unique mission plans by the end of 2012, so that each congregation strengthens its capabilities and resources for witness and mission;**

2. To support and strengthen synods so that they become catalysts for mission planning;
3. To request the Conference of Bishops, in consultation with synod leaders and the churchwide organization, to prepare a report and recommendations for the November 2012 meeting of the Church Council for consideration by the 2013 Churchwide Assembly that:
 - describes patterns of synodical life in the ELCA that effectively support vital congregations, mission growth and outreach;
 - proposes a pattern or a set of patterns that will allow synods to receive and distribute financial resources to support the whole ministry of this church;
 - builds on the Blue Ribbon Committee report of 2007 and includes recommendations for renewed, sustainable financial support for the mission and ministries of this church, including funding for theological education;
 - includes strategies for increased mission vitality that may include consideration of redrawing synod boundaries; and
 - recommends revision of the constitutional responsibilities of bishops and synods to emphasize synods as catalysts for mission in the changing context and culture.
4. To urge regions to expand their roles as centers for exploring the possibilities of cooperative mission and ministry;
5. To affirm the role of the churchwide organization to:
 - accompany congregations and synods;
 - build the capacity of this church for evangelical witness and service;
 - continue to build and strengthen mutual and interdependent relationships;
 - model and promote the vision of a multicultural, multi-ethnic church;
 - coordinate this church's global mission and its international development and relief work;
 - lead its theological reflection and deliberations on identity and mission;
 - lead, in collaboration with the Conference of Bishops, synod leaders, and the Church Council, in exploring opportunities to grow current support, including direct appeals, planned giving, and endowment management.
6. To encourage the development of leaders for this church through increased innovation and collaboration in leadership development, faith formation, and theological education;
7. To build and strengthen relationships with this church's global companions and ecumenical partners, focusing on accompaniment, mutual growth, capacity-building, and sustainability of relationships;
8. To support and utilize networking as an organizational principle and practice that embodies interdependence and enhances increased collaboration and connections across this church;
9. To nurture a culture of faithful discernment that contributes to mutual respect and healthy decision-making in all assemblies, councils, committees, small groups, and meetings in congregations, synods, the churchwide expression, institutions, and agencies;
10. To bring, with the exception of the social statement *Genetics, Faith and Responsibility*, no social statements to Churchwide Assemblies until a review of the

process for addressing social concerns based on a spirit of communal discernment is completed;

11. To adopt the proposed amendments to the *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions* concerning the Churchwide Assembly, Church Council, Conference of Bishops, program committees, and interrelationships and networks.

2. Continuation of the work of LIFT

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To recommend the following for adoption by the 2011 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:

To provide a means to continue the work assigned to the task force on Living into the Future Together: Renewing the Ecology of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (LIFT), the 2011 Churchwide Assembly directs that the Office of the Presiding Bishop, in collaboration with the Church Council and the Conference of Bishops, do the following:

1. To facilitate review of the constitutional responsibilities of synods in order that synods continue and increase their roles as catalysts for missional planning;
2. To facilitate a broad-based process addressing legislative decision-making in this church;
3. To initiate a process to expand the consultative role of the Conference of Bishops that allows the Church Council to refer issues to it and the Conference of Bishops to make recommendations to the Church Council;
4. To explore the use of social media and technology in order to allow greater participation of ELCA members in meetings of the Church Council and the Churchwide Assembly;
5. To initiate collaborative work by congregations, synods, the churchwide organization, and others to create and support diverse non-legislative forums and events that bring together leaders of this church to address missional issues, participate in theological study and reflection, foster leadership development, and enhance the interdependence of this church;
6. To request units of the churchwide organization to propose to the Church Council ways of receiving grassroots input on and disseminating information about their work through the use of emerging forms of communication, taking care to include those engaged in multicultural, ethnic-specific, justice for women ministries, youth and young adult networks, and various ministry partners; and
7. To request that annual reports related to this work be presented to the Church Council through 2013.

1.5 Strategic planning update from Wyvetta Bullock

1.6 Nominating Committee

In preparation for each Churchwide Assembly, the Church Council places in nomination the names of two people for each position on the Nominating Committee to be elected by the Churchwide Assembly.

The list of nominees in this agenda will be uploaded to NetCommunity on Wednesday, May 18, 2011. Biographical information will be provided in Exhibit B at the same time.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

**To recommend that the Church Council receive the written report of the Executive Committee on nominees to fill a vacancy on the Church Council; and
To transmit the nominations to the Church Council as provided in Exhibit B.**

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To receive the written report of the Executive Committee on nominees for the churchwide Nominating Committee;

**To note that bylaw 19.21.01. states in regard to the Nominating Committee:
“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 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”;**

To request, therefore, that the Church Council restrict the tickets to the following:

[Detail to be provided by Wednesday, May 18, 2011]

To request that the Church Council transmit the following slate of nominees to the 2011 Churchwide Assembly:

CHURCHWIDE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

[Detail to be provided by Wednesday, May 18, 2011]

1.7 Adjournment