

**EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA**  
**CHURCH COUNCIL**  
**November 9-11, 2012**  
**Chicago, Illinois**

**AGENDA**

**Participants**

**Voting Members**

Mr. Paul G. Archer	Mr. Mark E. Johnson
Ms. Rebecca Jo Brakke	Pr. Susan Langhauser
Ms. Rebecca D. Carlson	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 ( <i>excused</i> )
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	Mr. Ivan A. Pérez ( <i>excused</i> )
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
Mr. William B. "Bill" Horne II	

**Liaison Bishops**

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

**Youth and Young Adult Advisors**

Ms. Amanda Briggs	Mr. Anthony Rhodes
Mr. Jacob Halsor	

**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 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  
Pr. Cherlyne Beck, Program Director, Disability Ministries and Support of Lay Rostered Leaders  
Ms. Antoinette "Toni" Daniels, Director for Relationships and Unit Operations, Global Mission  
Ms. Christina Jackson-Skelton, Executive Director, Mission Advancement  
Pr. Rafael Malpica-Padilla, Executive Director, Global Mission  
Pr. Peter Perella, Director for Worship Formation & Liturgical Resources  
Ms. Evelyn Soto, Director for CSM Operations and Programs  
Pr. Gregory Villalon, Director for Leadership for Mission/Candidacy

**Separately Incorporated Ministries**

Ms. Linda Post Bushkofsky, Executive Director, Women of the ELCA (*excused*)  
Represented by Deb Calvert, Associate 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  
Mr. Martin Seltz, Publisher, Worship & Music, Augsburg Fortress, Publishers  
Pr. Jeffrey D. Thiemann, President and CEO, Portico Benefit Services

**Press**

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

**Ecumenical Guests**

Pr. Scott Anderson, Presbyterian Church (USA) (*excused*)  
Ms. Stephanie Cheney, The Episcopal Church  
Bp. Sharon Rader, United Methodist Church (*excused*)  
Pr. Christopher Thore, Moravian Church in America  
Pr. Lisa Vander Wal, The Reformed Church in America

**Thursday, November 8, 2012**

- 4:00 p.m.      Audit Committee, Pentecost
- 6:30 p.m.      Dinner for Audit Committee and Executive Committee, Easter
- 7:30 p.m.      Executive Committee, Pentecost

**Friday, November 9, 2012**

- 6:30 a.m.      **Breakfast**, Marriott Hotel (Buffet opens at 6:30 a.m.)
- 8:00 a.m.      Executive Committee, Pentecost
- 9:45 a.m.      Committees meet  
                    Budget and Finance, Epiphany  
                    Legal and Constitutional Review, Advent  
                    Program and Services, Pentecost  
                    Planning and Evaluation, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor Training Room
- 12:00 noon     **Working Lunch** (Committees continue to meet until 2:15 p.m.)
- 2:30 p.m.      **BREAK**  
                    Church Council Choir Rehearsal, Chapel
- 3:30 p.m.      **PLENARY ONE**

**PLENARY SESSION ONE**

November 9, 2012  
3:30 p.m. – 5:30 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 Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the April 13-15, 2012, and September 18, 2012 meetings of the Church Council have been distributed to council members electronically on Net Community. Minutes for meetings held in executive session have been added to the protocol file in the Office of the Secretary.

The minutes of the council's Executive Committee meetings on March 26, 2012, April 13, 2012, May 23, 2012, June 27, 2012, July 27, 2012, August 20, 2012, September 26, 2012 and October 24, 2012 have been distributed electronically to members. Minutes for meetings held in executive session have been added to the protocol file in the Office of the Secretary.

Please provide in writing for the Executive for Office of the Secretary Administration any notations or typographical errors in the distributed text of the minutes. Proper corrections will be entered into the protocol copies of the minutes. Such corrections need not be raised in the plenary session in connection with the approval of the minutes.

**CC ACTION**

**Recommended:**

**To approve the minutes of the April 13-15, 2012, and September 18, 2012 meetings of the Church Council; and**

**To ratify actions of the council's Executive Committee as indicated in the minutes of the March 26, 2012, April 13, 2012, May 23, 2012, June 27, 2012, July 27, 2012, August 20, 2012, September 26, 2012 and October 24, 2012 meetings.**

**I.C Report of the Presiding Bishop ([Exhibit A, Part 1](#))**

**I.D Report of the Vice President ([Exhibit A, Part 2](#))**

**I.E Report of the Executive Committee**

**I.E.1. Election of Church Council member**

The Northwestern Pennsylvania Synod (8A) has nominated Mr. Nick Barber, Erie, Pennsylvania, to replace the resignation of Mr. Blaire Smith (8A), 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 C](#).

### **CC ACTION**

#### **Recommended:**

**To elect Mr. Nick Barber, Erie, Penn. (8A) to the Church Council for a term ending in 2015.**

#### **1.E.2. 2013 Churchwide Assembly Process for Churchwide Officer Elections**

At the April 2012 meeting of the Church Council, the Executive Committee (excluding the Presiding Bishop and Secretary), together with the chair of the Conference of Bishops, was delegated the authority for:

- “...1. review and evaluation of and recommendations for Part 16 of the draft Rules of Organization and Procedure for the 2013 Churchwide Assembly, particularly the assembly discernment process, and
2. consideration of a potential pre-assembly process to facilitate discernment throughout this church in anticipation of officer elections at the assembly...”

For the past several months, the Committee reviewed and evaluated past practices and processes from previous assembly years when the election of an officer occurred in order to make possible recommendations for Part 16 of the draft Rules of Organization and Procedure for the 2013 Churchwide Assembly. Part 16 of the Rules can also provide opportunities during the balloting process for voting members to hear nominees' views on matters relevant to this church and the office for which they have been nominated.

The Committee's recommendations to Part 16 of the Rules of Organization and Procedure were incorporated into the complete version of rules for the 2013 Churchwide Assembly that the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee is responsible for reviewing. The Church Council will be voting on the rules at a later time during the November 2012 meeting.

[Exhibit H, Part 1b](#) is the draft “Rules of Organization and Procedure for the 2013 Churchwide Assembly.” The Rules of Organization and Procedure are established in the ELCA constitution, specifically in bylaw 19.31.01. and continuing resolutions 19.31.A09. and 19.61.A94. Other relevant information is contained in Chapter 13.

The Committee also considered “a potential pre-assembly process to facilitate discernment throughout this church in anticipation of officer elections at the assembly.” In a May meeting of the Communal Discernment Task Force, members discussed possibilities for such a discernment process. The task force presented a report to the Committee of some of their ideas. The Committee considered those ideas in the course of their numerous discussions on the issue of facilitating discernment throughout the church.

Some of the ideas from the task force included preparing video clips to solicit general questions and concerns of churchwide assembly voting members; utilizing ELCA.org, Facebook, and other forms of social media to gather discernment questions and concerns; encouraging prayer and Bible studies as the church prepares for possible leadership changes; and creating a way to foster deeper conversations within the church regarding the election of a churchwide officer.

One of the documents that received considerable discussion was based on a proposed agenda for fall conference or cluster meetings in the election of a synod bishop. “A

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Conversation Regarding the Election of Churchwide Officers” is a revised version of the agenda to help facilitate a conversation regarding the election of churchwide officers. Vice President Carlos Peña shared this document with the Conference of Bishops as well as the synod vice presidents when they met in October and solicited their advice. The Committee appreciated the feedback they provided and have amended the document to reflect the suggestions. A proposed agenda can be found in [Exhibit G, Part 2](#).

The Committee was asked to bring recommendations for a potential pre-assembly discernment process to the November 2012 meeting.

The Committee also discussed the process used to conduct the background checks and screening for churchwide officers during an election per continuing resolution 19.31.A.09. stated in the ELCA Constitution.

### **CC ACTION**

#### **Recommended:**

**To approve the Protocol for Churchwide Officer Background Checks and Screening, Biographical Nomination Forms for Churchwide Officers, and the Disclosure Forms found in Exhibit G.**

### **CC ACTION**

#### **Recommended:**

**To encourage conversation and discernment throughout this church regarding the churchwide officer elections at the 2013 ELCA Churchwide Assembly;**

**To affirm the use of the proposed agenda found in Exhibit G, Part 2 to facilitate conversations regarding the election of churchwide officers during orientation meetings with voting members to the 2013 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, and for use in other contexts as deemed appropriate;**

**To request the Executive for Synodical Relations to share the document in Exhibit G, Part 2, with the Conference of Bishops and synod vice presidents, and other networks as appropriate.**

## **I.F Update on the ELCA Malaria Campaign**

The ELCA is working to contain malaria - a preventable disease that claims the lives of over 650,000 people each year, most of them women and children in Africa. The ELCA Malaria Campaign was approved at the 2011 Churchwide Assembly with a goal of \$15 million by 2015.

Through this effort, the ELCA is building upon its commitments to companion churches in other countries as they develop and implement strategies for preventing and treating malaria in Africa. Companion churches of the ELCA have continued to mobilize their congregations, women's and youth groups, and service organizations to contain malaria community by community, family by family. More about this work can be found in the report from Global Mission ([Exhibit K, Part 2](#)) and in the report from Mission Advancement ([Exhibit K, Part 3](#)).

As a leader of the ELCA, you have been invited to be a part of the ELCA Malaria Campaign Leadership Circle. Leadership Circle members include members of the ELCA Church Council, Churchwide executive leadership and the Conference of Bishops, and

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they have already given and pledged over \$160,000. Our strong commitment to this health work is a continuation and expansion of ELCA Global Mission and World Hunger relationships and funding priorities.

Jessica Nipp Hacker, ELCA Malaria Campaign Coordinator, will be reporting on the fundraising aspects of the campaign. Lucas Owuor-Omondi, the Malaria Programme Officer for the Lutheran Communion in Southern Africa, will be sharing some stories about on-the-ground programming. Lucas oversees the malaria work in five of the countries that we're partnering with: Angola, Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

## **I.G Announcements**

- 5:45 p.m.      **EVENING PRAYER**, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Chapel  
                    Leader: Pr. Philip Wold
- 6:30 p.m.      **DINNER**, Augsburg Room  
                    *Wine and beer available (\$5.00 donation)*
- 7:30 p.m.      **Café Conversation**, Augsburg Room ([Exhibit I, Part 1](#))

## **Saturday, November 10, 2012**

- 6:30 a.m.      **BREAKFAST**, Marriott Hotel (Buffet opens at 6:30 a.m.)  
                    Board Development Committee meeting, Marriott Hotel
- 8:00 a.m.      **MORNING DEVOTION**, Church Council Room

The staff of the Book of Faith Initiative has partnered with the ELCA Churchwide Office Faith Practices Team to develop a resource titled "Story Matters." This resource combines the Book of Faith Initiative, the newest Faith Practice Initiative, which is based upon our baptismal promises and Congregational Mission Planning into one resource.

"Story Matters," written by Diane Jacobson in consultation with the Faith Practices Team and other ministry leaders, calls upon congregations to take time to share stories together and eventually arrive at a Biblical story that best captures who the congregation is and what God is calling the congregation to be. Once that story is identified the congregation asks the question, "How might our biblical story gather us together and help us to form as a community of disciples?" And after dwelling in their selected passage and implementing strategic discipleship goals, the congregation will explore how they can live out their Biblical story. For example, the congregation will develop missional plans as they answer the question, "How is God calling us through our biblical story into mission in God's world?"

For this devotion the Church Council is asked to participate in a very "abbreviated version" of what a congregation using the "Story Matters" resource might do. Brenda Smith, program director for Faith Practices and Missional Leadership, will lead us in this morning devotion.

## PLENARY SESSION TWO

November 10, 2012  
8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

### II.A Primer on Budget and Financial Management

#### Led by Pr. Linda Norman, Treasurer, and Pr. Wyvetta Bullock, Executive for Administration

The Board Development Committee occasionally recommends primers so that Church Council members will have a better understanding of a particular matter. At this November meeting of the Church Council, Wyvetta Bullock, Executive for Administration, and Linda Norman, Treasurer, will lead us through a presentation on the budget process and the financial management aspects of the church, which the Church Council has responsibilities for overseeing and approving (ELCA Constitution, 8.15, 10.71 and 14.21.05.).

### II.B Report of the Treasurer ([Exhibit A, Part 4](#))

### II.C Report of the Budget and Finance Committee ([Exhibit F](#))

The following report is provided by the Budget and Finance Committee. *En Bloc* items can be found in [Exhibit D](#) and will be acted upon later in the meeting.

#### II.C1 2013 Income Estimate and Expenditure Authorization Current Fund and World Hunger

[Exhibit F, Part 2a](#) reflects income estimates that have been revised since the August 2011 churchwide assembly. Current income is projected to be \$ 66,291,150, an increase of \$4.4 million, or 7.0 percent higher than the budget approved by the 2011 churchwide assembly. An additional ~~\$2.7~~ \$8.2 million in funds released from ~~designation and~~ restriction, as described below, is anticipated to be available making the total current funds available of ~~\$69,006,305~~ \$74,449,400.

The 2013 budget introduces a change as to how we account for designated and restricted funds used in support of our operating budget. Previously, management had included these funds as a negative expense, or transfer. Audited financial statement preparation requires a re-class of these transactions to reflect them as release from ~~designated and~~ restricted funds. The re-class increases both the reported expenses and income. In order to bring consistency to our management reports and our audited financial statements, we are now representing releases of ~~designated and~~ restricted funds in a new category of “other fund sources.” The change adds over ~~\$2.7~~ \$8.1 million to our total funds available and increases expenditure budgets by an equal amount. The effect of this change on net income is zero.



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Mission Support is anticipated to increase from the 2011 assembly-approved income budget of \$47.0 million to \$49.0 million, an increase of \$2.0 million or 4.3 percent. This Mission Support income estimate is based on early, rough estimates from ELCA synods and will be revisited in February 2013.

Other significant positive income changes since the churchwide assembly include anticipation of income from mineral rights of nearly \$1.6 million. This increased income is expected to decline significantly over the 2014-2016 triennium unless current leases are renewed or new leases are written. Another increase is in 'other' unrestricted income resulting from the signing of Service Level Agreements begun in 2012.

Significant budgeted revenue decreases are in the areas of Missionary Sponsorship and Grants. Missionary Sponsorship has been a declining source of income for a number of years. The 2013 budgeted amount of \$3.4 million is lower than the \$3.7 million included in the current fund income proposal approved by the 2011 churchwide assembly. However, the 2013 budgeted amount reflects an increase from the revised 2012 level in anticipation of support for the Young Adults in Global Mission program being added to the proposed Global Church Sponsorship appeal effort. The budget for Grants is reduced by \$700 thousand in anticipation of a reduction in the support from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, the impact of which is partially offset by an increased grant commitment of \$500 thousand by the Mission Investment Fund.

The World Hunger Appeal estimate is \$19.0 million.

The ELCA Malaria Campaign is anticipating income in 2013 of \$4.0 million and expenses of \$4.5 million for the third year of the campaign.

[Exhibit F, Part 2b](#) reflects revised 2013 unit allocations proposed by the Office of the Presiding Bishop. The revised allocations include distribution for average salary increases of 3.0 percent, as well as adjustments for missionary compensation increases, adjustments in the level of unit allocations for copier and phones, increases in fixed expenses such as software maintenance contracts, and an increase in support for time allocation for directors for evangelical mission in specific synods.

### CC ACTION

#### **Recommended:**

**To approve an initial 2013 fiscal year current fund spending authorization of \$69,006,305 ~~\$74,449,400~~; and**

**To approve an initial 2013 fiscal year World Hunger spending authorization of \$19,000,000.**

### **II.C2 Revisions to 2012 Synod Mission Support Plans**

Since the April 2012 Church Council meeting, we have received revisions for 2012 mission support plans from 12 synods.

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### **CC ACTION**

#### **Recommended:**

To affirm the revised 2012 mission support dollar estimates for the sharing of mission support contributions by congregations for synodical and churchwide ministries of the following synods: **Alaska**; Pacifica; Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast; Metropolitan Chicago; Central/Southern Illinois; Greater Milwaukee; Upstate New York; Northeastern Pennsylvania; Southeastern Pennsylvania; and Metropolitan Washington, D.C. synods.

To acknowledge with sadness that circumstances in the following synods have led to decisions to seek a decrease from prior levels in the percentage of sharing of 2012 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: **Alaska**, Southern Ohio and North Carolina synods.

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.C3 Revisions to 2013 Synod Mission Support Plans**

Since the April 2012 Church Council meeting we have received notice from 18 synods including the original plans for 2013 mission support plans from the four outstanding synods.

### **CC ACTION**

#### **Recommended:**

To affirm with sincere appreciation the increases in the percentage for the sharing of 2013 mission support contributions by congregations for synodical and churchwide ministries of the following synods: **Montana**; South Dakota; **Northeastern Ohio**; **Metropolitan New York**; Upstate New York; ~~Northeastern Pennsylvania~~; and, Florida-Bahamas synods;

To affirm the revised 2013 mission support dollar estimates for the sharing of mission support contributions by congregations for synodical and churchwide ministries of the following synods: **Alaska**; **Montana**; Eastern North Dakota; Northwestern Minnesota; Saint Paul Area; Metropolitan Chicago; Northern Illinois; Central/Southern Illinois; Northeastern Ohio; Southeastern Pennsylvania; Allegheny; and, Upper Susquehanna synods;

To acknowledge with sadness that circumstances in the following synods have led to decisions to seek a decrease from prior levels in the percentage of sharing of 2012 mission support contributions by congregations for synodical and churchwide ministries; to encourage each synod to continue to work to grow mission support in

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**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: Alaska; West Virginia-Western Maryland and North Carolina 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.C4 Presentation of a churchwide appeal to recognize the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

In 2013, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America will celebrate its 25th anniversary. This significant milestone provides the occasion both to reflect on the people and events that shaped the life of this church and to seek new opportunities to expand its mission and ministry. A comprehensive campaign for the ELCA is an opportunity to have a transformational impact on the shared ministries of this church so that together we can develop and expand ministries both locally and globally.

In response to the proposal of the Mission Funding Task Force that the ELCA consider a comprehensive campaign to coincide with its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and in consultation with fundraising advisers and churchwide leadership, the Mission Advancement unit has undertaken preliminary work on a campaign.

A presentation on the proposed campaign was made to the Conference of Bishops and synod vice presidents with time for questions and feedback, including the collection of written comments. The proposal for a comprehensive campaign for the ELCA was strongly supported by the Conference of Bishops.

In order to refine and finalize the specific proposal, further analysis and consultation is desired. The Church Council is requested to authorize further work in anticipation of an action at the April 2013 Church Council meeting forwarding a recommendation to the Churchwide Assembly, in accordance with ELCA bylaw 11.41.06 which states a churchwide appeal must be approved by the Churchwide Assembly.

Mission Advancement, Office of the Treasurer, and Office of the Presiding Bishop are in preliminary discussions creating a campaign budget. Over the next several months, the feasibility and advisability of these various options will be further explored. We anticipate bringing funding recommendations to the April 2013 Church Council meeting.

Consideration of this proposed campaign on the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ELCA will occur later in this November 2012 meeting. A preliminary and draft case statement for the campaign can be found in [Exhibit F, Part 13](#).

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**II.D Update from Mission Investment Fund**

In past meetings of the Church Council, the council has received periodic reports from our church's separately incorporated ministries. At this meeting, Ms. Eva Roby, President of the Mission Investment Fund, will give a presentation of this financial ministry of the ELCA. (ELCA 17.30.)

The Mission Investment Fund (MIF) offers a variety of investments for congregations, their members and ELCA-related ministries to purchase. MIF uses these investments to make low-interest loans to established ELCA congregations, new-start congregations and ELCA-related ministries for important capital projects. Loans by the Mission Investment Fund fuel growth of our church. For more information about this ministry, please visit their website at <http://www.mif.elca.org/>.

**II.E Executive Session – Legal Briefing, Phil Harris**



## **PLENARY SESSION FOUR**

November 10, 2012  
1:15 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

### **IV.A Dwelling in the Word with Pr. Vicki Garber**

### **IV.B Update from Congregational and Synodical Mission ([Exhibit K, Part 1](#)) Pr. Stephen Bouman, Executive Director**

The work of the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit includes “creating and revitalizing congregations; leadership development; providing worship and liturgical resources; enhancing discipleship; supporting multicultural ministries and the commitment of this church to inclusivity, fostering relationships with educational partners; facilitating the engagement of this church in advocacy; and related activities that serve the evangelical mission of synods and congregations.” (ELCA 16.12.A10.)

### **IV.C Consideration of unfinished items from the Executive Committee**

#### **IV.C1 Mission Funding Task Force Report ([Exhibit G, Part 4](#))**

##### **Background**

Since the beginning of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) the Mission Support shared by congregations for the work of synods and the churchwide organization has declined both as a percent of total giving (designated and undesignated) and in actual dollars. In 1990, total Mission Support was \$119 million. In 2011, Mission Support was \$103 million. Over the years, more Mission Support has remained in synods. Adjusted for inflation, from 1990 to 2011, Mission Support has declined 43 percent for synods and 56 percent for the churchwide organization.

At its November 15, 2009, meeting, the ELCA Church Council authorized the creation of a task force to examine the whole ecology of the ELCA (congregations, synods, the churchwide organization, agencies and institutions). The LIFT Task Force (Living into the Future Together) first met in January 2010 and concluded its work with a report to the Church Council in March 2011. Based on the LIFT report, the Church Council proposed implementing resolutions to the 2011 Churchwide Assembly. Among those resolutions was the following action passed by the 2011 Churchwide Assembly (CA11.03.07).

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 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 for 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.

In response to this resolution, the Executive Committee of the Conference of Bishops appointed nine bishops (one from each region of the ELCA) to meet on behalf of the Conference and to bring recommendations to the March 2012 meeting of the Conference of Bishops. While the Group of Nine was successful in identifying important issues critical to the future of this church, it did not make a specific proposal with regard to a pattern or set of patterns that will allow synods to receive and distribute financial resources to support the whole ministry of this church. The group did propose the appointment of a small group including the officers of the ELCA (the presiding bishop, secretary, treasurer and vice-president) and representatives of the Conference of Bishops for further discussion of the issue.

In April 2012, the Church Council took the following action (CC12.04.08).

To thank the Conference of Bishops and its Group of Nine for the work it has accomplished in response to the 2011 Churchwide Assembly action [CA11.03.07] related to the report and recommendations of the task force on Living into the Future Together: Renewing the Ecology of the ELCA;

To appoint Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson and Vice President Carlos E. Peña to a task force on funding the mission of the ELCA<sup>1</sup>;

To authorize Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson, in consultation with Bishop Jessica R. Crist, chair of the Conference of Bishops, to appoint the following people to the task force: a synodical bishop, a synodical vice president, a parish pastor, a Church Council member, and a churchwide organization Administrative Team member;

To affirm the Churchwide Assembly's request that the task force address the following issues:

1. propose a pattern or a set of patterns that will allow synods to receive and share financial resources to support the whole ministry of this church; and
2. build on the Blue Ribbon Committee report of 2007 and include recommendations for renewed, sustainable financial support for the mission and ministries of this church, including funding for theological education.

To request that a report and recommendations be brought to the October 2012 meeting of the Conference of Bishops to facilitate the Conference's fulfilling of the request of the 2011 Churchwide Assembly to bring a report and recommendations to the November 2012 meeting of the ELCA Church Council.

### **The work of the Mission Funding Task Force**

The Mission Funding Task Force reviewed a significant volume of materials, including a report on trends in Mission Support (and related reports on synodical and churchwide expenditures), the Blue Ribbon Committee Report on Mission Funding

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<sup>1</sup>The following individuals were appointed to the Mission Funding Task Force (agreeing to serve): Diana Haywood (Vice President, North Carolina Synod), Louise Hemstead (Chair of the Committee and member of the ELCA Church Council), Christina Jackson-Skelton (Executive Director, Mission Advancement, ELCA), the Rev. Sonja Pancost (Zion Lutheran Church, Loveland, Colorado), Bishop Duane Pederson (Northwest Synod of Wisconsin), Carlos Peña (Vice President of the ELCA). Bishop Jessica Crist (Montana Synod, Chair of the Conference of Bishops) joined the Task Force after its first meeting. The Task Force meetings were facilitated by Christine Grumm.



(2007), the Church Council Actions on LIFT (2011), the Churchwide Assembly Actions on LIFT (2011), and the Group of Nine Proposals to the Conference of Bishops (2012).

**I. Building on the 2007 Blue Ribbon Committee Report and the 2011 LIFT Report, Recommendations and Implementing Resolutions**

The Task Force discussed possible ways to build on the 2007 Blue Ribbon Committee report. The discussion was wide-ranging and included the following four areas of emphasis.

1. The Task Force felt it is important to build a case for the support of a church that shares a living, daring confidence in God's grace, including defining responsibilities regarding that identity. The following points were identified as meriting further attention:
  - Define the essential roles of synods and the churchwide organization in increasing the engagement of members in the life of this church
  - Identify ways in which synods provide a connection between individuals in the pew and the mission of the larger church, both domestically and globally
  - Identify ways the churchwide organization can accompany synods and congregations as growing centers for evangelical mission
  - Build on the familiarity with our tagline "God's work. Our hands."
  - Increase utilization of web-based media and continue efforts to link congregational, synodical and churchwide websites
  - Utilize multiple touch points to train and educate
  - Create a comprehensive strategy across the three expressions, including a strong emphasis on stewardship and focus on primary identity
2. The Task Force discussed the issue of sustainability and how important it is to identify what will not be sustainable in the next decade and to make decisions that will release assets held in property and endowment for the future mission and ministry of this church. Unless these issues are addressed, funding will continue to weaken and the ability of the whole church to respond to God's mission will suffer. The churchwide organization, the Conference of Bishops and the Church Council should respond to the diverse reality of ELCA communities of faith, including:
  - the growing number of small-membership congregations and the financial challenges facing these congregations
  - the changing definition of church for those in the emerging church
  - the optimal size and number of synods
  - the optimal number of ELCA seminaries
  - the role and function of the churchwide organization
  - the role and function of synods
3. The Task Force emphasized identifying and leveraging the networks of this church to assist in the interpretation of and support for ELCA ministries. The Task Force said that this church, across its expressions, should be connecting with 25 percent of its members every day. The Task Force made the following suggestions:

- Use existing development staff in ELCA-related institutions and agencies, including ELCA seminaries, for interpretation and to develop individual donors for ELCA designated giving funds.
  - Build new networks, such as female philanthropists, to creatively increase support for ELCA ministries.
  - Frame the mission of the church in personal, relational ways.
  - Become more of a headline church.
  - Make good use of congregational websites.
4. The Task Force encouraged greater emphasis on asking ELCA members and congregations to give toward the mission and ministries of the ELCA. The phrase “Give every day, every way” was lifted up and associated with an acknowledgment that if we do not invite our own members to give, other organizations will. Specific recommendations include:
- Consider a major campaign on the 25th anniversary of the ELCA to provide for the next quarter century. The campaign should be focused on giving to mission and ministry and include specific opportunities such as missionary sponsorship, Young Adults in Global Mission, new and renewing ministries, campus ministry, global relationships, the Fund for Leaders, and ELCA World Hunger.
  - Use existing development staff in ELCA-related institutions and agencies to identify and develop individual donors for ELCA ministries beyond their institution.
  - Grow the ELCA Foundation and the Endowment Fund.
  - Affirm our grounding in biblical confessional understanding of stewardship.
  - Train volunteers and staff in fundraising.
  - Have a churchwide focus on legacy planning.
  - Change the conversation to one that is asset-based and abundance focused.

## **II. The current pattern of Mission Support**

The Task Force devoted considerable discussion to the current pattern of Mission Support, which emphasizes a percentage split of the undesignated giving shared by congregations between synods and the churchwide organization. From the beginning of the ELCA, the sharing goal was 45 percent for synods and 55 percent for the churchwide organization. It is clear that:

1. The majority of synods do not achieve this goal.
2. The goal does not take into account significant differences in per capita giving among synods.
3. The goal produces a complex set of dynamics:
  - It places synods and the churchwide organization in a potentially adversarial relationship that is counter-productive.
  - It places synods in a potentially adversarial relationship with each other.
  - It frustrates some synods who have not achieved it.
  - It serves as a significant motivating goal for some synods.

- It has not provided a basis of accountability for synods, the churchwide organization or the Church Council.
- It has not produced an extensive culture of sharing within the ELCA.

The Task Force considered alternatives for “a pattern or set of patterns that will allow synods to receive and distribute financial resources to support the whole ministry of this church.” Five options were identified:

1. To retain the present principle of sharing of Mission Support from congregations, with synods retaining 45 percent and churchwide receiving 55 percent. The difficulties identified with the current arrangement are described in fuller detail elsewhere in this report, but the primary concern was the reality that this principle of sharing, while met by some synods, has not been met by the majority of synods.
2. To change the principle of sharing of Mission Support, with synods retaining 50 percent and the churchwide organization receiving 50 percent. In discussion it was believed that this would still be difficult to attain for a significant number of synods, and would result in an approximate reduction in the churchwide budget of nearly \$10 million, which would have the likely impact of a significant reduction in churchwide grants to synods and other partners. The number of synods that would benefit from this option is very small.
3. To retain the present 55/45 percent sharing while seeking to further clarify the respective roles and responsibilities which are distinctive and shared between synods and the churchwide organization.
4. To reconfigure the ELCA as a federation of synods, with a “mandate” of Mission Support from a synod to be a minimum of 30 percent. This would significantly change the governing documents of the ELCA and would result in a church structure of some synods with strong financial resources and other synods with drastically reduced financial resources, including the loss of churchwide grants and financial support.
5. To change the principle of sharing from a percentage sharing to a dollar allocation on a regional basis. This option would shift the responsibility for determining each synod’s financial commitment for Mission Support to synod leadership within each of the nine regions of the ELCA, and would enhance the accountability of each synod within a region. It would require constitutional changes be made.

After considerable discussion involving the strengths and drawbacks of each of these options, the Task Force concluded that creating any new approach based on a different percent distribution will not significantly address the issues noted above. A much lower percentage would be needed to achieve a significant level of success in meeting the sharing goal; a lower percentage would significantly impact the ability of the churchwide organization to carry out its ministry, including making grants to synods most in need. A lower percentage would potentially produce a federation of synods in the ELCA which

would create greater inequities and limit opportunities by expecting each synod to fend for itself.

The Task Force agreed to recommend option number five for consideration by the Conference of Bishops and ELCA Church Council. Key components of the proposal included but were not limited to the following:

1. A change from a percentage Mission Support structure to a dollar-based structure.
2. A proposal of a dynamic format that includes regional direction, wherein synod representatives in a region will gather in committee to establish their (the synods) Mission Support obligations.
3. Creation of a structure within the Mission Investment Fund which would enable synods at their election to have synodical accounts for receipt of congregational Mission Support and directed gifts. The value of this was to reduce bookkeeping labor in synod offices.

The draft proposal was developed and is included as [Exhibit G, Part 3](#).

### **Feedback from the Conference of Bishops**

The Conference of Bishops received the proposal about a week in advance of their October 4-9, 2012, gathering for review. They spent two full hours discussing the proposal and found that there were significant concerns shared by many to preclude forwarding the proposal to the Church Council.

While the Conference of Bishops deeply appreciated the work undertaken by the Task Force, they declined to endorse it, based on the following factors:

1. The clearest feedback was that there is not enough time to reflect upon a proposal that would bring significant change to the way funds are received and shared. Time to consider all the nuances and consequences of the proposal, and adequate opportunity to build a consensus around anything proposed, would be needed before a proposal could go forward. Even with limited time to reflect upon the proposal, the Conference of Bishops offered the following feedback:
  - While there was significant discontent among some with our 55/45 percent shared Mission Support, proportionate giving was affirmed; the current fixed percentage was identified as problematic and an obstacle to creative thinking about resourcing the ministry of the church.
  - Concerns were expressed about a pattern of receiving and sharing funds that seems to guarantee income for churchwide and not synods, and therefore places synods in a vulnerable position. In addition, decisions made regarding income goals seem too distant from congregations and synod councils.
  - Many indicated that they felt that the mission funding proposal did not align with the direction identified by the LIFT report or demonstrate how congregations would be supported, resourced, encouraged and challenged by the other two expressions of the church when it comes to biblical financial stewardship.
2. There was interest in “lateral accountability.” Lateral accountability is relational in nature and not hierarchical, and even though defining such a relationship is difficult because it is by nature dynamic and fluid, there was enough interest in

the concept that it merits further pursuit.

### **Mission Funding Task Force - Conclusion**

The Mission Funding Task Force thanks the Conference of Bishops for careful consideration and review of the work of the Mission Funding Task Force; and is deeply appreciative of the time churchwide staff spent walking with the committee through the study and analysis of various challenges surrounding mission funding.

The Mission Funding Task Force recognizes the need for and encourages ongoing discussion and analysis among the synods and the churchwide organization to strengthen Mission Support for the benefit of the whole church and to clarify the respective roles and responsibilities which are distinctive and shared between synods and the churchwide organization.

The Mission Funding Task Force advises the Church Council:

1. to encourage and invite synods to partner on a regional basis or in groupings of synods to pilot ways to strengthen and build Mission Support, including development of approaches that emphasize stewardship, promote lateral accountability among synods and their leaders, and enhance collaboration with the churchwide organization;
2. to request that the Mission Investment Fund explore the development of a remittance process system involving synod accounts in order to improve financial controls, accountability and reporting, to strengthen the mission funding system of this church, and to invite synods to participate in such a system; and
3. to develop, with the Conference of Bishops and the churchwide organization, a system for monitoring the pilot programs established by synods and the remittance process system involving synod accounts developed by the Mission Investment Fund for the purpose of making a report and possible recommendations to the 2016 Churchwide Assembly.

The Mission Funding Task Force acknowledges that the current Mission Support system remains.

### **III. Theological education**

The Task Force also discussed the issue of renewed, sustainable financial support for theological education in the ELCA and determined that the question deserved consideration beyond the scope of the current Task Force. The identity of the ELCA is shaped in significant ways by the rostered leaders of this church. The seminaries of this church play a critical role in the education and formation of these leaders. The Task Force believes more attention must be given to actual and desired outcomes and the cost of achieving those outcomes. The Task Force raised the following questions:

1. How do we want to invest in the education and formation of our leadership through the ELCA's system of theological education, including but not being limited to ELCA seminaries?
2. What are the outcomes we seek through our theological education system?

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3. Is the present system achieving the desired outcomes?
4. Is the present system sustainable?
5. What changes are needed and how will they be funded?
6. What are the respective roles of ELCA congregations, synods, the churchwide organization, seminaries and the other agencies and institutions of the ELCA relative to our theological education system?
7. How do we prepare leadership with theological education that is relevant for the church of the future?

### **CC ACTION**

#### **Recommended:**

**To receive with gratitude the Mission Funding Task Force Report and to express appreciation for the diligent and thoughtful work of the members of the task force;**

**To thank the Conference of Bishops for careful consideration and review of the work of the Mission Funding Task Force in the fulfillment of its consultative role;**

**To recognize the need for and encourage ongoing discussion and analysis among synods and the churchwide organization on strengthening mission support for the benefit of this whole church;**

**To encourage and invite synods to partner on a regional basis or in groupings of synods to pilot ways to strengthen and build mission support, including development of approaches that emphasize stewardship, promote lateral accountability among synods and their leaders, and enhance collaboration with the churchwide organization;**

**To request that the Mission Investment Fund explore the development of a remittance process system that would improve the process for transmitting mission support and other funds designated for synod and churchwide ministries, strengthen financial controls, enhance financial reporting and access to timely information, and to invite and encourage synods to explore the possibility of participating in such a system; and**

**To request that the Conference of Bishops and the Church Council monitor the pilot programs established by synods and the development of a remittance process system for synods by the Mission Investment Fund for the purpose of making a report and possible recommendations to the 2016 Churchwide Assembly.**

### **CC ACTION**

#### **Recommended:**

**To encourage the churchwide organization and synods to continue to build on Mission Flowing from God's Abundance, the 2007 Report of the Blue Ribbon Committee on Mission Funding, and the 2011 LIFT report, recommendations, and implementing resolutions;**

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**To request that the churchwide organization, in consultation with the Conference of Bishops, continue to build the case for the support of a church that shares a living, daring confidence in God's grace, including creating a comprehensive strategy for growing stewardship and increasing awareness of all the ministries of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America;**

**To encourage this church in all its expressions to identify and leverage all networks within the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to assist in the interpretation of and financial support for its ministries, and to endorse the proposal to develop a major comprehensive campaign on the 25th anniversary of the ELCA, focused on giving to mission and ministry; and**

**To request that the churchwide organization, the Conference of Bishops, and the Church Council continue to evaluate and respond to the diverse realities of this church's communities of faith, including the following: the growing number of small-membership congregations, the financial challenges facing these congregations, and the need for releasing assets for ministry; the optimal size, number, role and function of synods and ELCA seminaries; and the role and function of the churchwide organization and its relationship to synods; and to further request that the Office of the Presiding Bishop in consultation with the Conference of Bishops and the Church Council to bring a progress report to the November 2013 meeting of the Church Council addressing these subjects.**

#### **CC ACTION**

##### **Recommended:**

**To request the Office of the Presiding Bishop, in response to the recommendations of the Mission Funding Task Force relating to theological education and in recognition of the changing landscape in this church regarding leadership development, theological education, candidacy and call, and the rosters of this church, to consult with seminary presidents, the Conference of Bishops, the Word and Service Task Force, and other leaders and to bring a report and recommendations to the Church Council at its April 2013 meeting regarding next steps to address these issues in a holistic manner.**

#### **IV.C2 Philosophy of Benefits**

As part of its evaluation of the impact of potential health care reform and the changing environment for benefits, Portico Benefit Services convened a task force to evaluate its "Philosophy of Benefits." The Philosophy of Benefits document was developed by the Board of Pensions in 2004 to articulate the underlying philosophy of the ELCA Pension and Other Benefits Program and to identify guiding principles. Because of the importance of this work, two Church Council members (John Emery and Marjorie Ellis) were appointed to participate in the task force, which consists of Portico staff, the ELCA Secretary and Treasurer, four bishops, and staff from the churchwide organization. The original plan was to prepare a report and recommendations for the November 2012 Church Council meeting. Portico's work with the seminaries in the development of an alternative pilot health insurance plan, as well as uncertainties regarding health care

reform, makes the original timetable unrealistic. In addition, experience in developing the seminary pilot demonstrated the need to include other stakeholders in the task force.

### **CC ACTION**

#### **Recommended:**

**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, 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.**

#### **IV.D Update from Global Mission ([Exhibit K, Part 2](#))**

##### **Pr. Rafael Malpica Padilla, Executive Director**

“The Global Mission unit shall build capacity and provide support for mission in the following areas:

- a. Global Community: maintaining church-to-church relationships and mutual endeavors for evangelical witness, leadership development, sharing of mission personnel, and collaborative work;
- b. Mission Formation and Relationships: mutual learning and growth with companion churches and ELCA synods and congregations in the accompaniment model for mission, companion synod relationships, young adults in global mission, relationships with independent Lutheran organizations related to global mission, and mission efforts for full communion partners;



c. Diakonia: meeting human need and working collaboratively with partners toward the flourishing of human community through engagement in international development and disaster response.” (ELCA 16.12.B10.)

**IV.E Consideration of unfinished items from the Budget and Finance Committee**  
**IV.E1 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Campaign**

**CC ACTION**

**Recommended:**

**To receive with appreciation the report of the Mission Funding Task Force and the proposal of the Mission Advancement unit regarding a potential campaign for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America on the occasion of its 25th anniversary;**

**To thank the Conference of Bishops, the Bishop's Advisory Council, and synod vice presidents for their feedback and suggestions on the specific opportunities lifted up in the campaign and for their advice on the scope, process and possibilities for the campaign;**

**To endorse in concept a 25th anniversary campaign for the ELCA, subject to finalizing a proposal and budget, further consultation with the Conference of Bishops, recommendation by the Church Council, and approval of the Churchwide Assembly in 2013;**

**To authorize the Mission Advancement unit to continue development and finalization of a comprehensive campaign proposal and to begin work related to the campaign, specifically the preparation of resources, hiring of staff, solicitation of individual donors for leadership gifts, and collaboration with synods for anticipated fundraising engagement following the 2013 assembly;**

**To encourage conversations among members and in congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization regarding ways that an ELCA campaign can be developed and implemented to take advantage of synergies among all expressions of this church;**

**To request that a refined proposal be brought to the Conference of Bishops at its March 2013 meeting and a final proposal be considered by the Church Council at its April 2013 meeting, in order for a recommendation to be forwarded to the Churchwide Assembly in August 2013.**

**IV.F Update from Mission Advancement ([Exhibit K, Part 3](#))**

**Ms. Christina Jackson-Skelton, Executive Director**

“The Mission Advancement unit shall be responsible for coordinating this church’s communication, marketing, public relations, mission funding, major gifts, planned gifts, and constituent data management.” It also oversees the work of *The Lutheran* magazine and the ELCA Foundation. (ELCA 16.12.C11.)

**IV.G Announcements**

**3:15 p.m. Health and Wellness Break**

## **PLENARY SESSION FIVE**

November 10, 2012  
4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

### **V.A Report of the Program and Services Committee**

The following report is provided by the Program and Services Committee. Action items related to the November 9, 2012 meeting of the Program and Services Committee are detailed below. *En Bloc* items recommended by the Program and Services Committee for *En Bloc* approval are found in [Exhibit D](#) and background information for the *En Bloc* items are found in [Exhibit J](#). *En Bloc* items will be acted upon later in the meeting. Additional items or revised actions may be distributed following the committee's meeting.

#### **V.A1 Public Ministry Consultations Planning Team (Word and Service Task Force)**

In January 2007, a consultation on the ministries of deaconesses, diaconal ministers, and associates in ministry was convened by the Vocation and Education unit with funding from the ELCA Deaconess Community. From that gathering grew a Public Ministry Consultations planning team that worked for three years, fostered similar gatherings in eight regions of the ELCA, and developed a DVD resource. The team submitted a report early in 2010 to the executive director of Vocation and Education, the secretary of the ELCA, the regional coordinators, and the leadership teams of the diaconal ministry community and the Deaconess Community. The report included the nine recommendations detailed below.

The first six recommendations were specifically related to the rosters for deaconesses, diaconal ministers, and associates in ministry:

1. Address the ELCA Constitution and other governing documents to remove the word "lay" to describe all three of these rosters in public ministry.
2. Articulate a common theological foundation for ministry, reclaiming "diakonia" as the foundation for all three rosters.
3. While recognizing and valuing the differences in tradition and history of these three rosters, we recommend that they become one roster with three expressions.
4. Require basic theological preparation for all three rosters while maintaining flexibility toward goals of effective and diverse mission and ministry.
5. For the sake of good order, examine the titles, symbols and visible signs of each of the three rosters.
6. Vigorously encourage synods, bishops, and churchwide staff to communicate more effectively the value of and variety of gifts of these three rosters (e.g., advocate with congregations and agencies as they consider staffing).

The final recommendations related to all four of the current rosters, including those ordained to Word and Sacrament ministry:

7. Develop standards that are fair and consistent for procedures for call, salary guidelines and related issues.
8. Develop unified ongoing formation and discernment tools and events.
9. Continue the momentum of the work of this consultation so that dialogue may continue among rosters. The next step in this dialogue needs to include all four rosters.

*Church Council Action (CC10.11.64)*

To express the appreciation for the work of the Public Ministry Consultations planning team, acknowledging that their work has assisted the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to deepen its understanding both of the diaconal work shared by all members and of the public ministries of Word and service;

To call upon this church to name these Word and service ministries, to affirm their vital roles, to recruit individuals to explore these callings, and to assist people in preparing for and being called to specific ministries in the ELCA and in the world we serve;

To request that the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit, with the appropriate committee of the Conference of Bishops, constitute a small task force on ministries of service (diakonia), including at least one teaching theologian, one bishop, and one member from each of the four rosters, with this mandate:

1. To suggest ways that the leaders and expressions of the ELCA can continue to undergird the ministries of members of the three Word and service rosters and their communities and to facilitate the use of their gifts and called service in ELCA congregations and other ministries, including non-profit, government, and public entities;
2. To articulate for the ELCA a fuller theology of Word and service ministry that builds upon:
  - a. This church's diaconal tradition and its complementarity to the theology of Word and Sacrament ministry, grounding both in the baptismal call to all God's people to serve within the institutional church and in the world;
  - b. The ELCA's "Together for Ministry" report (1993), the Lutheran World Federation report "Diakonia in Context" (2009), the report and recommendations of Public Ministry Consultations planning team (2010) and other Lutheran and ecumenical studies;
3. To consider whether this Word and service ministry would be better expressed and the present ELCA mission and ecumenical mission better served by the formation of one new ELCA Word and service roster that incorporates the members and heritage of the three present rosters into a diversified whole with a common entrance rite; and  
To request that a report and possible recommendations be brought to the April 2012 meeting of the ELCA Church Council.

*Church Council Action (CC.12.04.19j)*

To acknowledge and affirm the ongoing work of the Public Ministry Consultations Planning Team; and

To anticipate a report and possible recommendations to the November 2012 meeting of the ELCA Church Council.

*Background from the Public Ministry Consultations Planning Team*

In response to Church Council action CC10.11.64, staff from the Leadership for Mission team in the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit, in collaboration with the Office of the Secretary, convened a table of representatives from the three Word and Service rosters on October 26 – 27, 2011, to receive their input about how to move forward with the task assigned. The group recommended that representatives from each of the diaconal rosters name two people identified by their executive committees, two representatives from the Associates in Ministry roster, and two ordained clergy identified by staff, be invited to participate as members of the task force. In addition to the representatives from the rosters, one teaching theologian, and a bishop named by the Conference of Bishops were invited to the table. The first meeting of the task force was held May 14-15, 2012.

Staff transitions in the CSM Mission Leadership team have slowed down progress, but we are back on track and the work of the task force continues to move forward. One obstacle that the task force faces is the absence of funds for this work. In spite of the lack of funds, the task force has had two face-to-face meetings at the Lutheran Center, and have scheduled monthly conference call meetings to move the work forward.

Summary of the conversations to date:

1. The members of task force reviewed the ELCA's "Together for Ministry" report (1993), the Lutheran World Federation report "Diakonia in Context" (2009), and the report and recommendations from the Public Ministry Consultations planning team (2010) prior to their first meeting.
2. Each member of the task force expressed a commitment to the important work that has been assigned to the group.
3. The work began by identifying what is distinctive and what is held in common in the current Word and Service rosters. After considerable conversation and theological reflection, the task force reached the decision that there are many similarities in the mission work of all of the Word and Service rosters. It was also agreed that now is an appropriate time to review what is needed to face the current mission challenges and opportunities in today's context for mission.
4. The task force believes that the more challenging conversation that must take place will be to clarify the roles and interdependence of the leaders on the Word and Service rosters, leaders on the Ordained Word and Sacrament roster and the leadership of all of the Baptized.
5. Discussion led the task force to recommend that the ELCA will be better served by a distinctively diaconal thrust with focused preparation and service on one new roster. This would not only serve the church's mission, but relieve confusion and provide clarification and leadership for the church's call to diakonia.
6. The members of the task force agree that the possibility for further in-depth conversation about the pros and cons regarding the ordination of people into the diaconate may be helpful as we move forward.

*Revised November 2, 2012*

[Exhibit J, Part 6](#) presents the theological foundation for the proposed action. It is a draft document and not for public dissemination. The lead author is the Rev. Dr. Duane Larson, who composed the draft with the collaboration and approval of the task force. At the end of the document is a listing of the task force members.

### **CC ACTION**

#### **Recommended:**

**To receive with gratitude and thanks the interim report of the Word and Service Task Force, convened in response to Church Council action 10.11.64, taken in November 2010;**

**To offer profound appreciation and thanks to persons who serve as associates in ministry, deaconesses, and diaconal ministers on the lay rosters of this church;**

**To affirm the preliminary conclusion of the Word and Service Task Force that this church should move towards creation of a single, unified lay roster of Word and Service ministry, subject to further review and recommendation by the Conference of Bishops and the Church Council and approval of the Churchwide Assembly;**

**To authorize the Word and Service Task Force to continue its work in order to facilitate the creation of such a unified roster, to develop a process outlining how the existing lay rosters would be closed, and to provide a process for transition of existing associates in ministry, diaconal ministers, and deaconesses into such a new roster, and, in collaboration with the Office of the Secretary, to consider and propose possible amendments to the Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to accomplish its recommendations;**

**To authorize the Executive Committee of the Church Council to expand the membership of the Word and Service Task Force;**

**To acknowledge the recommendation to form a task force to review the study "Together in Ministry" and to recognize that the subject of this request will be addressed by the Office of the Presiding Bishop in conjunction with the report and recommendations on theological education that respond to the report of the Mission Funding Task Force; and**

**To authorize the Executive Committee of the Church Council to act as necessary to facilitate the work of the Word and Service Task Force, including the authority to authorize additional expenditures.**

*Revised November 9, 2012*

### **V.A2 Social Message on Mental Illness**

At its November 2009 meeting, the Church Council voted (CC09.11.86c) in response to a resolution from the Central States Synod:

To thank the Central States Synod for its concern for people with mental illness and their families;

To authorize staff of the program unit for Church in Society, in accordance with "Policies and Procedures of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for Addressing Social Concerns," to initiate the development of an ELCA message on mental illness to be brought to the Church Council for adoption in April 2011; and

To request that the secretary of this church inform the synod of this action.

The full background from the Church in Society unit can be found in the [November 2009 Church Council minutes](#).

At its November 2010 meeting, the Church Council voted (CC10.11.61) to approve an updated timeline for the development of social statements and messages. The timeline was updated to reflect capacity issues due to staff reductions and the feelings of being burdened by the rapid succession, overlapping timelines and controversial aspects of developing documents. The background and timeline can be found in the [November 2010 Church Council minutes](#).

An update was provided at the April 2012 Church Council meeting that postponed the Social Message on Mental Illness to the November 2012 meeting.

According to "[Policies and Procedures of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for Addressing Social Concerns](#)": "3. The Church Council shall act upon the recommendations from the Office of the Presiding Bishop and adopt, modify, or reject the message." The proposed message "The Body of Christ and Mental Illness" is provided in [Exhibit J, Part 1](#).

### **CC ACTION**

#### **Recommended:**

**To adopt "The Body of Christ and Mental Illness" **as amended** as a message of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.**

### **V.A3 Update on 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Proposal**

At the April 2012 meeting of Church Council, Marcus Kunz reported on a proposal that staff of the churchwide organization had been developing to observe the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation. He also shared information at that meeting about plans to observe October 31, 1517, by the Lutheran World Federation, Germany, the Evangelical Church in Germany, and the ELCA.

A more formal proposal was presented to the Program and Services Committee for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to observe the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Evangelical (Lutheran) Reformation of Christian teaching and practice in sixteenth-century Europe. The proposal can be found in [Exhibit J, Part 8](#).

*Revised November 9, 2012*

**CC ACTION**

**Recommended:**

**To receive with appreciation the proposal from the staff of the churchwide organization to observe the 500th anniversary of the evangelical (Lutheran) Reformation;**

**To endorse the proposal detailed in Exhibit J, Part 8, and to authorize the Executive Committee to appoint a steering committee, in consultation with the Conference of Bishops, to continue planning; and**

**To request that a progress report be brought to the Conference of Bishops at its March 2013 meeting and to the Church Council at its April 2013 meeting, in order for a report to be forwarded to the ELCA Churchwide Assembly in August 2013.**

**V.B Stewardship Conversations**

**V.C Process Observation**

**V.D Bible Study**

**Led by Bishop Jessica Crist, Montana Synod, and chair of the Conference of Bishops**

**V.E Announcements**

*Revised November 2, 2012*

**Sunday, November 11, 2012**

6:30 a.m.      **Breakfast**, Marriott Hotel (Buffet opens at 6:30 a.m.)

8:30 a.m.      **Holy Communion, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Chapel**

Presiding Minister: Bishop Mark Hanson  
Preaching Minister: Pr. Laurie Skow-Anderson  
Assisting Minister: Ms. Deborah Chenoweth  
Lector:                      Mr. Jacob Halsor

The Executive Committee has recommended that the offering taken at this worship service support **ELCA Disaster Response** in light of the recent devastation brought by Hurricane Sandy and the superstorm in its aftermath. Please make checks payable to the ELCA with the notation "**ELCA Disaster Response.**"

9:30 a.m.      Break



**PLENARY SESSION SIX**

November 11, 2012  
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 Noon

**VI.A Report of the Executive for Administration ([Exhibit A, Part 5](#))**

**VI.B Report of the Planning and Evaluation Committee**

The following report is provided by the Planning and Evaluation Committee. Action items related to the November 9, 2012, meeting of the Planning and Evaluation Committee are detailed below. Additional items or revised actions may be distributed following the committee's meeting.

**VI.B.1. Living into the Future Together (LIFT) Advisory Committee Progress Report ([Exhibit I, Part 2](#))**

**Purpose Statement**

The purpose of the LIFT Advisory Committee was established at the November 2011 Church Council meeting (CC.11.77): 1) to assist the Office of the Presiding Bishop in its collaboration with the Church Council and the Conference of Bishops to continue the work assigned to the LIFT task force, and 2) to plan the future implementation of the LIFT Implementing Resolutions passed by the 2011 Churchwide Assembly.

**Background**

The Task Force for the study, "Living into the Future Together: Renewing the Ecology of the ELCA" (LIFT) came into being as a result of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's (ELCA) pursuit of its mission and vision goals. The ELCA Church Council authorized the appointment of a study design group in March 2009. The work of the study design group then resulted in the Church Council's formation of the LIFT Task Force in November 2009. The task force met for the first time in January 2010 and presented its report to the ELCA Church Council in April 2011. After some revisions, the Church Council formulated recommendations on the basis of the report for the August 2011 Churchwide Assembly (CWA).

At the 2011 Churchwide Assembly in Orlando, Florida, this church referred seven items from the recommendations from the LIFT report to the Office of the Presiding Bishop for implementation, including a request for annual reports related to this work to be presented to the ELCA Church Council through 2013. The ELCA Church Council, at its November 2011 meeting, appointed the LIFT Advisory Committee to assist the Office of the Presiding Bishop in its collaboration with the Church Council and the Conference of Bishops to continue the work assigned to the LIFT task force. (A listing of the LIFT Advisory Committee can be found in [Exhibit I, Part 1a.](#))

The LIFT Advisory Committee submitted an interim report at the ELCA Church Council meeting in April 2012. ELCA Church Council asked the committee to submit a final report and possible recommendations to the November 2012 Church Council meeting (CC11.11.77)

### **Seven Recommendations referred by the 2011 Churchwide Assembly**

- 1. To facilitate review of the constitutional responsibilities of synods in order that synods continue and increase their roles as catalysts for missional planning;*

In response to the LIFT recommendation regarding synod responsibilities, initial evaluative work was undertaken by the Conference of Bishops (CoB). The CoB delegated responsibility to evaluate and make recommendations regarding the role of synods to a task force of nine bishops (based upon a composition which consisted of one bishop from each region). The group of nine bishops undertook a preliminary study of the history and ecclesiology of synods and made preliminary recommendations to the CoB meeting in March 2012. Follow-up on those recommendations was assigned to the Executive Committee of the CoB.

At the same time, the Office of the Secretary, drawing on the structure and governance work of the LIFT Task Force, undertook an evaluation of the provisions in the ELCA governing documents that address synods. In an effort to clarify the role of synods, a proposal was developed to consolidate the list of 17 non-differentiated responsibilities enumerated in the ELCA Constitution (ELCA 10.21) and the Constitution for Synods (+S6.03) into four primary constitutional responsibilities, followed by bylaws that contain the more detailed list. The revised list of foundational responsibilities of synods in the draft proposed amendments are as follows:

Each synod, in partnership with the churchwide organization, shall bear primary responsibility for the oversight of the life and mission of this church in its territory. In fulfillment of this role and consistent with the policies and procedures of this church, the synod shall:

- Provide for pastoral care of congregations and rostered leaders in the synod;
- Plan for, facilitate, and nurture the mission of this church through congregations;
- Strengthen interdependent relationships among congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization, and foster relationships with agencies and institutions affiliated and related with or to this church as well as ecumenical and global partners;
- Interpret the work of this church to congregations and to the public on the territory.

In addition to provisions relating specifically to the role of synods, other proposed governing document amendments relating to synods have been prepared in response to the LIFT task force report and recommendations adopted by the Churchwide Assembly. For example, provisions relating to the CoB will be moved into the chapter of the ELCA constitution on synods, and a mechanism for referrals to and from the CoB and Church Council is proposed. The underlying purpose of these proposals is to enhance governance and the role of the CoB in the ELCA, thereby indirectly supporting the role of synods as catalysts for mission within their territories.

These amendments have been reviewed preliminarily by the CoB and the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee of the Church Council. Subject to approval by the Church Council, they will be submitted to the 2013 Churchwide Assembly for adoption.

Once adopted, along with the accompanying bylaws, it is anticipated that further work will be undertaken and proposals refining the responsibilities of synods brought to the 2016 Churchwide Assembly.

In addition to constitutional changes made by the Office of the Secretary and the work of the CoB, follow-up on the first recommendation regarding congregational missional planning was implemented by the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit (CSM). The CSM worked with synods to facilitate the creation of mission tables to address missional planning. One of the LIFT actions of the 2011 Churchwide Assembly called upon congregations to prepare mission plans. CSM created the resource, [Guiding Principles for Congregational Mission Planning](#), which encourages congregations to work collaboratively with other congregations, ELCA-related organizations, and the synods in order to begin, develop, review, or redefine their unique mission plans by the end of 2012. Local mission tables in many places have been convened to move this process forward. In addition, the Operational Plan of the churchwide organization includes objectives to facilitate congregational missional planning. Also, a CSM implementation team to coordinate congregational missional planning across the unit has been created, consisting of synod bishops, directors for evangelical mission and staff of the churchwide organization.

To help facilitate the work of the CoB and CSM, the Lift Advisory Committee prepared a discussion paper on “Patterns of Synodical Life that Effectively Support Congregational Missional Vitality” ([Exhibit I, Part 1](#)). This paper was discussed at the October meeting of the CoB and Synod Vice Presidents and may be used as a springboard for discussion at synodical councils. It is anticipated that the Church Council will also discuss this paper during its Café Conversation time at this November 2012 meeting.

The implementation of the first recommendation is not complete. Other items that may need further work include the possible redrawing of synod boundaries and the number and size of synods. Recommendations regarding the sharing of financial resources through mission support are being studied by the Mission Funding Task Force.

2. *To facilitate a broad-based process addressing legislative decision-making in this church;*

As part of its work, the Communal Discernment Task Force has been looking at how decisions are made in this church. The process aims at fostering a culture and environment of trust for communal spiritual discernment and decision-making that engage not only rationality but also engage emotions in a positive and constructive way. The Task Force summarized its activities in a report for use in decision-making. Its work is being used by the Office of the Secretary to address legislative decision-making and the conduct of gatherings in this church. It is being modeled by the Church Council and the Conference of Bishops and will be incorporated in the 2013 Churchwide Assembly. It can also be used in the process for electing bishops. ([See the Office of the Secretary – Toolkit for Synod Bishop Elections](#))

The issue of broad-based processes highlighted in the second recommendation has heightened sensitivity to processes already in use in the formulation of social statements.

The social statement process is guided by commitments to being extensive, inclusive, and deliberative throughout the church. (*Policies and Procedures of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for Addressing Social Concerns*) Task forces internally strive toward a consensus model of decision-making and externally operate within the wider church using established practices that include identified means of listening, study and feedback, draft and feedback and consultation with the Conference of Bishops and other leadership groups. Both existing task forces, Criminal Justice and Justice for Women, have discussed ways to use technology and/or broaden established practices. As it begins the process for the development of a new social statement, the Justice for Women task force has discussed some ideas for new or varied means to broaden involvement and will be guided by the suggestions and recommendations of the work of the Addressing Social Concerns Review Task Force.

Other measures to facilitate a broader-based process for legislative decision-making center around increased use of technology for gathering information, more realistic timetables, prioritizing issues on which synods can respond, increased meetings between the Conference of Bishops and the Church Council, and allowing more freedom for decision-making by the Executive Committee of the Church Council. These principles also will be utilized in the ongoing work by the Office of the Secretary as it seeks to continue to improve the process of gathering synodical memorials prior to churchwide assemblies.

- 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;*

The initial step toward implementing the third recommendation is to have the chair of the CoB as a voting member of the Church Council. This is in addition to the presence of liaison bishops at Church Council meetings to offer input and share information from the CoB. In order to facilitate better communication between the CoB and the churchwide offices, the Executive Committee of the CoB has held meetings with the Administrative Team of the churchwide organization. Further communication will be fostered by ongoing meetings among the Executive Committees of the CoB and the Church Council, and the Administrative Team. The initial meeting of the three groups was August 20. They meet again at the beginning of December, 2012.

A proposal is being made to provide for the chair of the CoB to serve as a member of the Executive Committee of the Church Council. The manner in which the CoB advises and consults with the Church Council needs further development and clarification.

- 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;*

New avenues being explored are increased use of technology in setting agendas for meetings and building in interactive times during Church Council meetings. Live streaming and social media are planned for worship and interactive sessions at the 2013

Churchwide Assembly. Research into the demand for particular resources will help determine which resources will be developed further. The increased use of Facebook is a tool to be further explored.

- 5. To initiate collaborative work by congregations, synods, the churchwide organization, institutions of this church, 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;*

Churchwide unit executive directors are currently being asked to prepare a summary of their units' efforts to increase non-legislative forums. In addition, Glocal Events, Youth Gatherings and other large events in this church are excellent examples of gatherings that can be explored as avenues for greater use of non-legislative forums. The Communal Discernment Task Force recommendations can also be helpful in the formation of and discussions within non-legislative forums. (See Recommendation 2 above.)

- 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;*

Part of the Operational Plan of the churchwide organization (which itself was informed by the work of LIFT) calls for an inventory of networks in which churchwide staff participate. This inventory has been compiled and is being evaluated from the perspective of effectively messaging and communicating with grassroots constituents. With almost 100 networks identified, it appears that the use of networking is increasing. The networks bridge many parts of the ELCA ecosystem in sharing information and collaborating on tasks. What will follow are ideas and methods to further the process of increased grassroots input.

- 7. To request that annual reports related to this work be presented to the Church Council through 2013.*

The Coordinator for LIFT Advisory Committee has prepared reports on its progress for the April and November 2012 meetings of the Church Council.

### **Ongoing Work of LIFT**

The ELCA Church Council provided for the process that resulted in the LIFT report and recommendations because it recognized that this church consists of "interdependent partners sharing responsibly in God's mission" (ELCA 5.01c). The interrelationships have been described as an "ecology" because the relationships we share are living and

changing. In establishing the LIFT task force, the Church Council defined its purpose in the task force charter as follow:

The purpose of the ELCA Ecology Study Task Force is to recognize the evolving societal and economic changes of 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. The intended result of the Ecology Study Task Force's work is a report and recommendations that will position this church for the future and explore new possibilities for participating in God's mission.

The report of the task force was accepted by the ELCA Church Council, slightly revised and used to form the Church Council's recommendations to the 2011 Churchwide Assembly. Allowing for additional future work to be done, the 2011 Churchwide Assembly adopted the recommendations. The implementation of the seven recommendations described above was provided in CA11.04.21, while some of the recommendations in CA11.03.07 (including the role of regions, leader development, relationships with partner and companions, and increased development of networking across this church) represent additional future work. The Assembly noted its appreciation of LIFT and the Church Council's work. Although not universally known throughout the ELCA, the LIFT report was well received and generated enthusiasm for the missional activity of congregations.

The LIFT Advisory Committee looks forward to continuing to serve the purpose of 1) assisting the Office of the Presiding Bishop in its collaboration with the Church Council and the Conference of Bishops in continuing the work assigned to the LIFT task force, and 2) to plan the future implementation of the LIFT implementing resolutions passed by the 2011 Churchwide Assembly.

While assisting the Office of the Presiding Bishop and serving this church in the ongoing implementation of CWA recommendations, the Lift Advisory Committee urges that key functions identified in the LIFT charter continue to be pursued:

- 1) To tend to the ecology of this church by regularly studying and evaluating the interrelationships among this church's expression in an environment that will continue to undergo rapid change. Tending the ecology may include tracking, analyzing, listening, asking questions, encouraging and connecting.
- 2) To "explore new possibilities for participating in God's Mission" continuing to listen to what is happening throughout the ELCA, asking provocative questions and positing new visions. This final aspect of the LIFT charter remains unfinished business and is not assigned to any specific entity in our ecology, yet it is at the heart of the report and recommendations developed by the LIFT task force. It is an ongoing task that requires continual attention.

The LIFT Advisory Committee submits the following recommendation to the ELCA Church Council for its consideration.

**CC ACTION**

**Recommended:**

To receive with gratitude the progress report of the Living Into the Future Together (LIFT) Advisory Committee and to thank the members of the committee for their conscientious work in providing ongoing advice and evaluation regarding the LIFT report and recommendations and actions taken by the Churchwide Assembly in 2011 regarding LIFT;

To affirm that implementing the actions of the 2011 Churchwide Assembly regarding LIFT remains a work-in-progress and that the LIFT Advisory Committee should continue to provide important consultation and evaluation, as well as serving as a catalyst for missional planning and for conversations across all expressions of this church regarding issues raised by LIFT;

To authorize the LIFT Advisory Committee to continue to fulfill these important roles in moving forward on the LIFT report and recommendations and the implementing resolutions adopted by the 2011 Churchwide Assembly, and to refer to it hereafter as the "LIFT II Committee";

To authorize the Executive Committee of the Church Council to adjust as necessary the size of the LIFT II Committee in order to facilitate its ongoing work; and

To request that the LIFT II Committee continue to provide periodic progress reports to the Church Council regarding the implementation of the LIFT report, recommendations, and implementing resolutions and the work of the committee.

**VI.C Update on the ELCA 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Theme**  
Melissa Ramirez Cooper, Mission Advancement

**VI.D Report of the Conference of Bishops ([Exhibit A, Part 6](#))**  
Bishop Jessica Crist, Chair of the Conference of Bishops

**VI.E Consideration of unfinished items from the Executive Committee**

**VI.E1 Recommendation from the Liaison Committee for Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Relations of the Conference of Bishops**

At the October 2012 meeting of the Conference of Bishops, the Liaison Committee for Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Relations recommended the following that was adopted by the Conference.

To request that the Church Council establish a task force charged with reviewing the governing documents of this church, including but not limited to Chapter Three of the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* and related provisions in the *Constitution for Synods* and the *Model Constitution for Congregations*, for the purpose of addressing how this church can affirm and strengthen its self-understanding as part of the Lutheran World Federation. The work of this task force would include reviewing the nature and ecclesiology of this church in light of the past twenty-five years of significant developments in its ecumenical and global self-understanding and relationships. The task

force should submit its final report and recommendations to the Conference of Bishops and the Church Council in sufficient time for possible action at the 2016 Churchwide Assembly.

### **CC ACTION**

#### **Recommended:**

**To receive with thanks and appreciation the recommendation of the Conference of Bishops regarding the creation of a task force to review the governing documents of this church, including but not limited to Chapter 3 of the ELCA constitution, for the purpose of addressing how this church can affirm and strengthen its self-understanding as part of the Lutheran World Federation;**

**To authorize the creation of a task force to review the governing documents of this church for the purpose of addressing how the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America can affirm and strengthen its ecclesiology and its self-understanding as part of the Lutheran World Federation, and to request that the Office of the Presiding Bishop, in consultation with the Office of the Secretary and the Liaison Committee for Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Relations of the Conference of Bishops, recommend to the Executive Committee of the Church Council persons to serve on such a task force;**

**To authorize the Executive Committee of the Church Council to appoint the members of the task force, which will be known as the Ecclesiology of a Global Church Task Force, and which will undertake the responsibility of reviewing the nature and ecclesiology of this church in light of the past twenty-five years of significant developments in its ecumenical and global self-understanding and relationships;**

**To request that Ecclesiology of a Global Church Task Force submit interim reports on at least a yearly basis to the Conference of Bishops and the Church Council and submit its final report and recommendations to the Conference of Bishops and the Church Council in sufficient time for possible action at the 2016 Churchwide Assembly.**

**VI.F Café Conversation on Board Governance  
Led by David Swartling, Secretary**

**VI.G Announcements**

12:00 noon **Lunch**, Augsburg Room



*Revised November 10, 2012*

## **PLENARY SESSION SEVEN**

November 11, 2012  
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

### **VII.A Report of Board Development Committee**

Action and information items related to the November 10, 2012, meeting of the Board Development Committee will be distributed following the committee's meeting.

#### **VII.A1 Church Council Retreat**

At the April meeting of the Church Council, members discussed the opportunities to organize a retreat for the Church Council. The Board Development Committee has reviewed the information shared at that April meeting and is making the proposed recommendation.

#### **CC ACTION**

##### **Recommended:**

**To authorize the Board Development Committee to plan a retreat for the Church Council in August, 2014;**

**To establish a designated fund of up to \$35,000 for the purposes of the retreat, where the monies would come from current fund income over (in excess) of budget; and**

**To request the Board Development Committee to bring a final plan for the retreat for approval at the April 2013 meeting of the Church Council.**

### **VII.B Dwelling in the Word with Mr. Raymond Miller**

### **VII.C New Business**

#### **VII.C1 Resolution on National Native America Heritage Month**

Whereas, the President of the United States has declared November to be National Native American Heritage Month, and November 23, 2012, as National Native American Heritage Day, and

Whereas, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America has a commitment to justice and inclusion for all peoples, and

Whereas, the ELCA maintains its commitment to American Indian and Alaska Native peoples through congregations, associations and staff, be it therefore

**Resolved, that the ELCA Church Council at its November 2012 meeting join synods and congregations in greeting the tribes who originally inhabited the North American Continent, apologizing for injustices rendered in the past, and pledging to work together in the future; and be it further**

**Resolved, that the Church Council inform the synods and congregations of the ELCA during the month of November, and issue a press release regarding this action.**

**VII.D Consideration of Unfinished and Additional Agenda Items**

**VII.E Consideration of Items Removed from *En Bloc* ([Exhibit B](#) and [Exhibit D](#))**

**VII.F *En Bloc* Approval of Certain Items**

The following en bloc resolution includes agenda items that will be considered on the last day 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](#) and [Exhibit D](#). On the first day 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 and Exhibit D.**

**VII.G Update on 2013 Churchwide Assembly**

**VII.G1 Introduction to Guidebook App for 2013 CWA**

**VII.H Process Observation**

**VII.I Church Council Joys and Concerns**

**VII.J Meeting evaluation and debriefing**

**VII.K Announcements**

**VII.L Closing Prayer**

**3:00 p.m. Adjournment**