

**EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
IN AMERICA**

Church Council

MINUTES

April 8–10, 2011

**Prepared by the
Office of the Secretary**

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**EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
CHURCH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES
April 8–10, 2011
Lutheran Center
Chicago, Illinois**

The sixty-ninth meeting of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) was convened in the Council Room of the Lutheran Center at Chicago, Illinois. On Friday, April 8, 2011, the Executive Committee met at 10:30 A.M., preceded by meetings of the Program and Services Committee and the Planning and Evaluation Committee. That afternoon, Mr. John J. Hessian III, executive administrative assistant, Office of the Presiding Bishop, provided an update for Net Community users, followed by meetings of the council's Budget and Finance, Legal and Constitutional Review, Planning and Evaluation, and Program and Services committees. Evening Prayer began at 5:30 P.M. in the Lutheran Center Chapel. The Rev. Michael L. Burk, bishop of the Southeastern Iowa Synod, served as leader, and Ms. Rebecca D. Carlson was lector. Café Conversations were held in closed session that evening for all Church Council members to hear from those council members whose terms end in 2011.

ORGANIZATION OF MEETING
(Agenda, Participants)

The following persons were present for all or part of the meeting:

Voting Members

Officers:

Pr. Mark S. Hanson, presiding bishop
Mr. Carlos E. Peña, vice president
Mr. David D. Swartling, secretary
Ms. Christina Jackson-Skelton, treasurer

Church Council:

Pr. David P. Anderson
Mr. Baron Blanchard
Ms. Rebecca Jo Brakke
Ms. Rebecca D. Carlson
Ms. Deborah L. Chenoweth
Pr. Rachel L. Connelly
Mr. John R. Emery
Pr. Amsalu T. Geleta
Ms. Karin Lynn Graddy
Mr. Mark S. Helmke
Ms. Louise A. Hemstead
Mr. William B. Horne II
Pr. Keith A. Hunsinger
Mr. Mark E. Johnson
Pr. Susan Langhauser
Pr. Steven P. Loy
Pr. Heather S. Lubold

Ms. Susan W. McArver
Pr. Raymond A. Miller
Mr. John S. Munday
Mr. Mark W. Myers (*excused*)
Ms. Ann F. Niedringhaus
Pr. J. Pablo Obregon
Mr. Iván A. Pérez
Ms. Feronika A. Raming
Ms. Lynette M. Reitz
Ms. Sandra Schlesinger
Pr. Michael J. Schmidt (*excused*)
Mr. Blaire P. Smith
Pr. Jeffrey "Jeff" B. Sorenson
Pr. Kathryn A. Tiede
Mr. David Truland
Pr. Philip R. Wold

Representatives of the Conference of Bishops

Bp. Allan C. Bjornberg (*excused*)
Bp. Michael L. Burk
Bp. Elizabeth Eaton
Bp. Murray D. Finck
Bp. Ralph E. Jones

Bp. Gerald L. Mansholt
Bp. Margaret G. Payne
Bp. Harold L. Usgaard
Bp. Martin D. Wells
Bp. Herman R. Yoos III

Advisory Members

Pr. Jaime Dubon, president, Association of Latino Ministries in the ELCA
Ms. Elizabeth Gaskins, president, American Indian and Alaska Native Lutheran Association (*excused*)
Pr. David J. Keller, Lutheran Services in America (*excused*)
Ms. Katherine Long, president, European American Association
Ms. Arielle R. Mastellar, youth advisor
Pr. O. Dennis Mims, president, African American Lutheran Association (*excused*)
Mr. Fuad Nijim, president, Arab and Middle Eastern Association (*excused*)
Mr. Wayne B. Powell, colleges and universities (*excused*)
Pr. Mark R. Ramseth, ELCA seminaries (*excused*)
Pr. Arthur C. “Chris” Repp, chair, Global Mission program committee
Mr. Kyle Teague, youth advisor
Pr. Edmond Yee, president, Asian and Pacific Islander Association

Resource Persons

Office of the Presiding Bishop:

Pr. M. Wyvetta Bullock, executive for administration
Mr. Kenneth W. Inskeep, executive for research and evaluation
Pr. Marcus R. Kunz, executive for discernment of contextual and theological issues
Pr. Walter S. May, executive for synodical and constituent relations
Pr. Donald J. McCoid, executive for ecumenical and inter-religious relations
Pr. Darrell D. Morton, assistant to the presiding bishop for federal chaplaincy ministries
Ms. Myrna J. Sheie, executive for governance and institutional relations
Ms. Else B. Thompson, executive for human resources

Office of the Secretary:

Pr. Ruth E. Hamilton, executive for Office of the Secretary administration
Mr. Phillip H. Harris, general counsel
Mr. Frank F. Imhoff, director for official documentation
Ms. Mary Beth Nowak, executive assistant to the secretary
Mr. David A. Ullrich, associate general counsel

Units:

Pr. Stephen P. Bouman, executive director, Congregational and Synodical Mission (*excused*)
 Represented by Ms. Evelyn Soto, director for synodical partners for mission
Pr. Rafael Malpica Padilla, executive director, Global Mission

Separately Incorporated Ministries:

Ms. Linda Post Bushkofsky, executive director, Women of the ELCA
Mr. Douglas Haugen, director, Lutheran Men in Mission (*excused*)
Mr. John G. Kapanke, president and chief executive officer, ELCA Board of Pensions
Ms. Beth A. Lewis, president and chief executive officer, Augsburg Fortress, Publishers
Ms. Eva M. Roby, executive vice president for administration, Mission Investment Fund

Press:

Mr. John R. Brooks, director, ELCA News Service
Ms. Elizabeth M. Hunter, *The Lutheran* magazine
Mr. Daniel J. Lehmann, editor, *The Lutheran* magazine

Ecumenical Guests:

Pr. André Lavergne, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada
Ms. Lelanda Lee, The Episcopal Church
Pr. Mary Ann Neevel, United Church of Christ
Moravian Church in America [position vacant]
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) [position vacant]
Reformed Church in America [position vacant]
The United Methodist Church [position vacant]

Registered Guests:

Pr. Kim L. Beckmann, legislative team, Goodsoil
Mr. Tim Fisher, legislative assistant, Lutherans Concerned/North America
Mr. Eric Peterson, legislative team, Goodsoil
Ms. Amalia Vagts, executive director, Extraordinary Lutheran Ministries

**Saturday, April 9, 2011
Plenary Session I**

The first plenary session of the sixty-ninth meeting of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America was called to order by Mr. Carlos E. Peña, vice president of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and chair of the Church Council, at 8:17 A.M. Morning Prayer, which was led by the Rev. Jeffrey “Jeff” B. Sorenson, preceded the session.

Vice President Peña welcomed those present, including visitors, and noted those who were excused for various reasons. At the invitation of the chair, Ms. Rebecca Jo Brakke introduced Ms. Feronika A. Raming, whom the Church Council had elected in January 2011 to complete the unexpired term of Ms. Judith Barlow-Roberts.

Vice President Peña described the new layout of the Church Council’s agenda. He also identified the prayer team, requested “joys and concerns” to be presented at various points in the meeting, and asked that evaluations be completed for the committee meetings.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

(Agenda 1.1)

Background:

Agenda items had been distributed electronically and by mail. Additional items were distributed at the meeting to the members of the Church Council, representatives of the Conference of Bishops, advisory members, and resource people.

Church Council Action:

Vice President Peña called attention to the first item on the agenda, the adoption of the agenda.

Mr. David D. Swartling, secretary of the ELCA, moved the following action.

Moved;

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

There being no discussion, Vice President Peña called for a vote.

VOTED:

CC11.04.04 To adopt the agenda and to permit the chair to call for consideration of agenda items in the order the chair deems most appropriate.

Vice President Peña declared the motion was approved.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

(Agenda 1.2)

Background:

The minutes of the November 12–14, 2010, and January 14, 2011, meetings of the Church Council had been distributed to council members electronically. Minutes for meetings held in executive session had been added to the protocol file in the Office of the Secretary.

The minutes of the council’s Executive Committee meetings on November 12, 2010, and January 14, 2011, were distributed electronically to members. Minutes for meetings held in executive session had been added to the protocol file in the Office of the Secretary.

Council members were given opportunity to submit written notations on typographical errors in the distributed text of the minutes to the executive for Office of the Secretary administration. Corrections were entered into the protocol copies of the minutes.

Church Council Action:

Vice President Carlos E. Peña noted that minutes of several previous meetings had been distributed electronically and were available to the council members on Net Community.

Secretary David D. Swartling made the following motion.

Moved;

Seconded: To approve the minutes of the November 12–14, 2010, and January 14, 2011, meetings of the Church Council; and

To ratify actions of the council's Executive Committee as indicated in the minutes of the November 12, 2010, and January 14, 2011, meetings.

There being no discussion, Vice President Peña called for a vote.

VOTED:

**CC11.04.05 To approve the minutes of the November 12–14, 2010, and January 14, 2011, meetings of the Church Council; and
To ratify actions of the council's Executive Committee as indicated in the minutes of the November 12, 2010, and January 14, 2011, meetings.**

Vice President Peña declared the motion approved.

The chair called on the presiding bishop for his report.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDING BISHOP

(Agenda 1.3; Agenda/MINUTES Exhibit A, Part 1)

The Rev. Mark S. Hanson, presiding bishop of the ELCA, reported:

“Ruins and rubble are everywhere. Thousands and thousands—and I heard once—about a million Haitians still live in tent cities over a year after the earthquake. In one morning we visited four tent cities that are coordinated by the Lutheran World Federation. This tent city [photo on screen] is built on the rubble of what was the Italian Embassy, a beautiful villa. I was told everyone that was working in the embassy that day died. Now, on the ruins and the rubble of that embassy, 400 tents holding over 1,000 people have become home. It's easy to define Haiti on the basis of its rubble and its ruins. Yet, as Pastor Livenson Lauvanus, who is president of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Haiti and who will be one of the preachers at our Churchwide Assembly in August, walked with me. He kept saying so clearly, ‘We Haitians will not be defined by rubble, but by restoration, for we are a people of the resurrection.’

“‘We Haitians will not be defined by rubble, but by restoration, because we are a people of the resurrection.’ That was a gospel proclamation. That was a clear declaration of self-definition. One certainly can describe cholera as defining Haiti today. Thousands of Haitians have contracted cholera and have died. But for the people of Redemption Lutheran Church, which was destroyed in the earthquake and has now been rebuilt, is growing in numbers of people in worship and engaged in mission extending into the community so that on a Monday afternoon people are standing outside because they couldn't all get in the church just to gather and tell their story of faith. The people of Redemption Lutheran see cholera as an opportunity to witness to what people of the resurrection do in response to disease. Organized medical teams [photo on screen], under Dr. Marcella, get people in the community to medical clinics and on IVs as soon as they show signs of cholera. They don't just treat the infected person, however. They go back and clean the house. It doesn't just stop there, however, because they begin to provide education around water purification and how to live responsibly

in the midst of this almost epidemic. A people defined by Christ's resurrection will be about God's work of restoration, the medical teams and Dr. Marcella.

"What do you see there? [photo on screen of ruined building] Turn to the person next you and say, 'What do you see, first impression?' Well, when we pulled into this yard, I saw the twisted frame of an abandoned building that I learned was once, long ago, a sugar factory. Anybody else see something similar? To people of the resurrection of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Haiti, they saw not the twisted frame of a once-abandoned sugar factory but the frame of what will become a vocational training school. So, with help from you and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America partnering with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Haiti, the plans are well on the way for this structure to become a vocational training school. In fact, the day we were there, the first 40 young people came to apply to be the first class to be trained in specialties such as masonry, carpentry, pipefitting and heavy machinery [photo on screen]. That first class literally will build the school around that frame. They will be paid a daily wage. They will not only become skilled laborers in an economy and environment that needs skilled workers, but they will begin to form a knowledge-based Haitian society because, while being trained in their specialization skills, they also will be trained in citizenship and the vocation of building a whole country.

"'We Haitians,' Pastor Livenson Lauvanus kept saying, 'will not be defined by rubble, disease or poverty, but by restoration, because we are people of the resurrection.' That's the witness of the people of the congregation at Violet-Petit Goave, who are restoring community and, with your help, have received hunger grants that have enabled a chicken cooperative to be developed among 200 families. Not just buying the chickens, but housing them in high-rise coops made in Haiti. Why is that significant? So the chickens are not eating feces and contaminated food on the ground but are kept sanitized by these 200 cooperative chicken farmers.

"'We will be defined by restoration because we are people of the resurrection.' But the ELCA's accompaniment of the people of Haiti began long before the earthquake. In fact, one of the early grants in 1999 through World Hunger funds enabled Louis Duvalier—I hope you know that name—to start a coffee cooperative with a friend. Louis is a Global Mission staff person and Haitian, who is now secunded to LWF [the Lutheran World Federation] in Haiti. But because of that concept of starting a cooperative, his friend was killed by government forces for being subversive and a socialist. This coffee cooperative, again seeded by World Hunger money in 1999, is now a flourishing coffee cooperative contributing \$1 million a year to the Haitian economy. The beans grown are regarded as gourmet beans in Europe.

"Jesus Joseph and his wife, Esther, had a coffee plantation before the cooperative but were consistently underpriced by the coffee bean buyers and kept in poverty. Now, because they're part of a cooperative, they are not only making a living wage but also making a profit that's contributed to the cooperative that is then invested in the Haitian economy.

"Yes, you can describe Haiti on the basis of ruins, rubble, disease and poverty, but when you are defined as people of the resurrection, you will be—as we are with the Haitian people—engaged in restoration. So I think we as the ELCA are clearly defined by Christ's death and resurrection, as is the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Haiti. Through Christ's death and resurrection, we are freed in Christ to serve. That means to be about God's work of restoration. *Freed in Christ to Serve* will be the theme of the Churchwide Assembly in August. As I hope you know by now, it will be the focus of the churchwide report to the synod assemblies. The video this year, done by our Mission Advancement team, will focus on three areas of ministry. First, Journey Lutheran Church, an emerging congregation in Phoenix, Ariz., birthed from a group of people whose congregation voted to leave the ELCA. This is a story that's being told over and over throughout this church. The second congregation is in Grand Forks, North Dakota. It is a congregation of 3,200—vibrant and growing. Finally, we will focus on Haiti as I have done here.

"*Freed in Christ to Serve*. We intentionally chose the past tense of that word—freed—because it's a done deal. A past event, accomplished through Christ's death and resurrection into which you and I have been baptized. We live each day into that promise. Freed in Christ serve—to be people of the resurrection engaged in restoration as we serve the whole creation.

"I was watching the Bears-Packers playoff game in a Los Angeles airport in my collar on a Sunday afternoon. A woman across the room blurted out, 'What church are you bishop in?' I had on a purple shirt. 'Are you Episcopal?' I said, 'No, I'm Lutheran.' She burst out, 'We love Lutherans!' That is not something I hear most Sunday afternoons in airports. So I was curious. I said, 'Well, who are the WE?' She said, 'I worked for FEMA, and we love Lutherans

because Lutherans show up when the disaster occurs and stay until the restoration is done.’ Isn’t that what people of the resurrection do? So when an earthquake and tsunami hits Japan, we don’t pull up stakes in Haiti and say, ‘Now our focus is on Japan.’ We sustained the commitment to accompanying the Haitian people and Evangelical Lutheran Church in Haiti through the long-haul process of restoration, and we join with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Japan, ecumenical partners Church World Services, the Lutheran World Federation and say, ‘Now we will be about accompanying the people of Japan in their restoration of their communities.’

“As people of the resurrection, we are freed in Christ to do God’s work in the world. I think maybe we need to be just a little more proud that there simply are things we are doing together in the process of God’s restoration, on a scale and scope that no single congregation, agency or synod can do and that we couldn’t do without partners globally, ecumenically and in agencies. Like that woman from FEMA—I hear it all the time—the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and Lutherans in the world are known as people who roll up their sleeves and solve problems. We are known as a church that’s a catalyst, a convener, a bridge builder. Why wouldn’t we be when we are defined by Christ’s death and resurrection?

“Some people want to continue to describe us on the basis of our differences and even divisions, particularly over human sexuality. But as people defined by Christ’s death and resurrection, we are freed in Christ to work together. There is a power in our collective voice, in working for the common good, in striving for justice, in being advocates for peace. As people defined by Christ’s death and resurrection, we are freed in Christ to serve by being at the intersections where faith and life come together in the most complex ways today. We believe that dialogue at those intersections is possible and that differences don’t need to divide us. They can even enrich us. That’s why we have before us this social statement, *Genetics, Faith and Responsibility*.

“I was recently at Grace Lutheran Church in McCluskey, North Dakota. Bishop Mark Narum thought the presiding bishop needed to experience what synod bishops have been experiencing fairly often: that is to come to the consultation between the congregation’s first vote to leave and their second vote to leave. It was a marvelous experience. It began with a potluck. I sat at a table with six farmers. We had a great conversation, mostly me listening to how farming has changed for most of these men, now in their late ‘60s to late ‘70s. The advancement in machinery, the changes in the value of land, the size of the farm. But mostly they talked about the increases in yield that have come by virtue of genetically modified organisms.

“We know as a church that God is active through the vocation of farming—47 percent, I think, of our congregations are in rural areas, open country or communities of 10,000 persons or less. We know that God is at work through the vocation of farming, feeding the hungry of the world, caring for the creation and future generations, producing incomes that not only sustain families, communities and congregations, but support this whole church. Isn’t it wonderful that as people freed in Christ to serve, we now can engage together in a conversation—not telling farmers how to farm, not telling scientists how to go about genetic research—but together asking: how do we steward the powerful tools that genetic science has given us so that they might be used for the flourishing of life? How do we use genetic science and the powerful capacity it gives to respect and promote the community of life for the sake of justice and wisdom? Just because we can do something, as people of faith we will always pause and say, ‘But is it right to do and for whose sake?’

“As I was leaving the town hall forum the next day in Minot, a pastor grabbed my sleeve and said, ‘Bishop, thank you for this proposed social statement on genetics.’ He said, ‘I serve a congregation of mostly farmers. The vast majority are traditional farmers who have gone heavily to GMOs but I have a couple of organic farmers who are placed in the midst of those farmers using GMOs. Everyone knows about the difference and everyone knows even the winds impact one farm in relationship to another. But now the church has given us occasion to come together and talk, which we otherwise probably wouldn’t have done.’

“I’m curious how some of you would describe your communities, congregations, or synods. It is understandable how we today could become defensive about how some are describing the ELCA. But as people of faith defined by Christ’s death and resurrection, we have a powerful moment to give a different kind of witness. So in a culture and a church where voices are continually pointing out who cannot be trusted and why not, we have a moment to share the good news of a God who can be trusted, a God who is faithful to God’s people and God’s promises. We witness to a God who has bent low to meet us in our humanity, in our brokenness, in our struggles, in our sinfulness—yes, in our death—in Jesus’ death and resurrection, in a culture, in a church where some voices at least are shouting about what’s wrong and

who's to blame. People of the resurrection have an opportunity to bear witness to what God does to make things right. To restore us in Christ to a new creation. To reconcile the whole creation to God's self. We have a moment to bear witness to the central narrative of our faith and our life together, the Paschal mystery of Christ's death and resurrection: Good Friday's aching loss, Holy Saturday's forsaken absence and Easter Sunday's astonishing newness in Jesus Christ. As people defined by Christ's death and resurrection, I pray we always will do the countercultural thing of defining ourselves first on our relatedness and not our over-againstness.

"You have before you in this council agenda actions to approve the mission statement of the discourse between the ELCA and the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church. That discourse, going on now for several years, probably hasn't gotten the light shined upon it of our full communion relationships. Participating in that dialogue has been a most formative experience for us to accompany a historic Black church that can speak of its identity grounded in Christ's liberating work and what that means in the struggle for full dignity and participation in society. To begin to imagine together how we can shape each other's development of leaders through theological education, how we can respond together to HIV and AIDS, how we can together confront poverty in this land, is a rich testimony to defining ourselves on the basis of our relatedness, not what sets us apart. Just yesterday, the Lutheran-Methodist Coordinating Committee was meeting to finalize a three-year strategic plan for mission together.

"Earlier this week, a delegation of Muslims from Qatar—not a place where there are plenty of Lutherans from my last analysis—came from the International Center for Interfaith Dialogue in Qatar. Why did they come and spend two hours in dialogue with us at the ELCA and then go to LSTC to talk to Dr. Mark Swanson in the Center of Christian-Muslim Engagement for Peace and Justice? Because, they said, 'Lutherans are known throughout the world for our deep commitment to continuing the dialogue with Muslims, not only for mutual understanding, but so that together we might find ways to witness to the world how people of faith can build a world of peace with justice and not use religion as grounds for destroying one another and communities.'

"Some may want to describe the ELCA on the basis of number of congregations that have left and the loss of members and income. Certainly we need to pay attention to those statistics. But as people of the resurrection, defined by Christ's death and resurrection, we will be about planting the church. So in this room this week, churchwide staff, directors for evangelical mission, and bishops gathered to approve 29 new starts, 17 of them in multicultural communities. Because of the attentiveness to the placement of leadership, there's money left to consider additional new starts as the year unfolds.

"Last Saturday at Stan Olson's installation, a young man offered to give us a ride from the dinner back to get our car. His name was Clint Sniglaff, a senior at Wartburg. This guy was pumped. He had about six minutes with the presiding bishop and he wasn't going to waste a second. He said, 'I am so excited.'

"I said, 'About what?'

"He said, 'About my first call.'

"I said, 'Where are you assigned?'

"He said, 'Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod.'

"I said, 'What congregation?'

"He said, 'No, not to a congregation—well yes, to a congregation in Fayetteville—but they want to birth a university congregation out of their congregation, and I am going to be the pastor developer of this new congregation. I had four different chances to go to four different places in the country to plant the church. It was really a hard struggle with the Holy Spirit, but I am convinced I did the right thing. Pray for me, Bishop.' Do you realize how many of our seminarians have that passion? Bishops call them signs of hope. Our first call pastors are being formed by our seminaries to be these kinds of mission leaders.

"You have a chance, through the Fund for Leaders, to have your gift matched by the Mission Development Fund of MIF [the Mission Investment Fund] so that seminaries can provide scholarships for people like Clint, who have a passion to go out and plant the church. So it is appropriate that when we describe the churchwide organization on the basis of the reduction of budgets and the loss of personnel, we are attentive to giving thanks for those colleagues who no longer serve with us. But as people defined by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, we will continue to be engaged in mission.

“I want to say a huge thank you, on your behalf, to our churchwide colleagues represented by some of their leaders here, but I hope you will find ways to express gratitude to them for the way, as we continue to live through this transition, they steward the gifts of this church for the sake of the gospel and the life of the world. As I told the Planning and Evaluation Committee yesterday, we are going through huge infrastructure changes while we continue to live into the new organizational design. I won’t list them all, but they are of quite a magnitude. So a people of the resurrection, defined by Christ’s death and resurrection, freed in Christ to serve, will be about the proclamation of the gospel, will be engaged together in God’s work of restoration. I think that’s been the defining call of this Council and for you and for your leadership, I give thanks to God. Thanks.”

The council responded with applause.

Vice President Peña thanked the presiding bishop for his report.

GREETING FROM THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN CANADA

(Agenda 1.4)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña introduced the Rev. André Lavergne, pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, New Hamburg, Ontario, and assistant to the national bishop for ecumenical and interfaith relations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC). Pr. Lavergne brought a greeting from the ELCIC and reported on that church’s activities and plans for 2011.

DWELLING IN THE WORD

(Agenda 1.5)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on Ms. Arielle R. Mastellar to reflect on “Dwelling in the Word.” Ms. Mastellar related her faith experiences as a college student to the Parable of the Sower (Mark 4:1–20, Matthew 13:1–23, and Luke 8:1–15). Vice President Peña thanked Ms. Mastellar for her meditation and for her service as an advisory member of the Church Council.

REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

(Agenda 1.6; Agenda/MINUTES Exhibit A, Part 2; Exhibit P, Part 2c)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña relinquished the chair to Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson, who called for the report of the vice president.

Vice President Peña read excerpts from Psalm 103, contemplated the Easter season, and led the council in prayer. He referred to his written report and highlighted several items. He announced that Ms. Kathryn M. Lohre had been named president-elect of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA.

The vice president also directed the attention of the Church Council to a supplemental report of the Board of Pensions regarding one-time payments to eligible annuity recipients, indicating it was the concluding work of the council’s *Ad Hoc* Committee.

Vice President Peña reminded Church Council members of their responsibilities regarding upcoming Synod Assemblies. He also asked the members to return completed evaluation forms for various meetings.

The vice president expressed his gratitude to the Church Council members whose terms end in 2011, the other officers of this church, and staff of the churchwide organization. The council responded with applause.

There being no questions for Vice President Peña, Presiding Bishop Hanson thanked the vice president for his leadership. Vice President Peña returned to the chair.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
CHURCH COUNCIL COMMITTEES FOR THE 2011–2013 BIENNIUM
(Agenda 1.7.A)

Background:

The Executive Committee recommends and the Church Council ratifies committee assignments for continuing members at its August meeting prior to Churchwide Assemblies. This ensures efficiency as the council prepares for the following November meeting and ensures that there are continuing members assigned to committees prior to that meeting. Members elected at the Churchwide Assembly indicate their committee assignment preferences prior to the November meeting, where the assignments will be ratified.

Each member of the Church Council serves on one of four Church Council committees—Budget and Finance, Legal and Constitutional Review, Planning and Evaluation, or Program and Services—and has the option to indicate interest in other committees.

Additional information about the committees:

1. The committees review various aspects of churchwide work and develop recommendations in their areas of responsibility for consideration by the Council.
2. The committees normally convene the day before the Church Council begins its plenary sessions. For the initial organizing meeting of the biennium, however, the committees will meet on Saturday morning, November 12.
3. The committee assignments, including newly elected members, will be reported in the first Church Council mailing for the November meeting.

Church Council members were provided with a form on which to indicate their committee assignment preferences.

Church Council Discussion:

Vice President Carlos E. Peña announced that the Executive Committee had no action items for the council. As information, the chair explained the committee assignment process.

CHURCH COUNCIL JOYS AND CONCERNS
(Agenda 1.8)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña stated that no one had requested to share joys or concerns.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER
(Agenda 1.9; Agenda/MINUTES Exhibit A, Part 4; Exhibit F, Part 1)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña requested the report of Ms. Christina Jackson-Skelton, treasurer of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, noting the location of exhibits related to her report.

Treasurer Jackson-Skelton mentioned a number of projects in the Office of the Treasurer associated with the reorganization of the churchwide organization.

The treasurer elaborated on fiscal management and oversight results for 2010, comparing figures to those of previous years. She remarked that all grant money held in contingency was released by the end of the 2010 fiscal year.

Treasurer Jackson-Skelton described this church's sources of income, analyzing income expectations for coming years. She outlined the churchwide organization's expenses, financial commitments, and cash management policies.

The treasurer described actions to set budgets for 2012 and 2013 and to revise spending authorizations.

Treasurer Jackson-Skelton thanked Ms. Ann F. Niedringhaus for her service as chair of the Budget and Finance Committee.

Vice President Peña asked the Church Council members for questions.

Ms. Sandra Schlesinger stated that entities of this church that had received funding from the churchwide organization through mission support from congregations to synods were appealing directly to congregation members for donations. She expressed the view that this shift in funding was confusing for congregation members, who questioned the roles of the synod and the churchwide organization.

Treasurer Jackson-Skelton agreed that the funding realities were complex, encouraging personal stewardship without devolving into competition.

The Rev. M. Wyvetta Bullock, executive for administration, said the Living into the Future Together (LIFT): Renewing the Ecology of the ELCA task force had recommended that the Conference of Bishops host conversations about funding question.

Ms. Rebecca Jo Brakke added that she had received several appeals and asked that they be coordinated to reduce the number of mailings sent.

The treasurer responded that the merging of constituent databases was meant to improve that situation.

The Rev. Steven P. Loy asked how much of the \$8.3 million allocated for relief work in Haiti had been distributed.

The Rev. Rafael Malpica Padilla, executive director of the Global Mission unit, replied that more than \$3 million had been disbursed to address cholera and to construct housing in Haiti as part of a long-term plan with the Lutheran World Federation, Lutheran World Relief, and companion churches.

Pr. Loy referred to the treasurer's report regarding income adjusted for inflation and asked whether a reason could be given for income being level from 1994 to 2000.

Treasurer Jackson-Skelton responded that several factors driven by the economy of that time may have had an effect.

Mr. Kenneth W. Inskeep, executive for research and evaluation, added that attitudes toward religion were different at the that time but he agreed that the economy problem played a larger role.

Pr. Loy also inquired about the mortgage on the Lutheran Center.

The treasurer replied that the mortgage would be paid off in February 2012. Much of the payments near the end of the loan are on principal, so paying it off will not result in huge savings.

Vice President Peña thanked Treasurer Jackson-Skelton for her report, noting that the treasurer was also serving as interim executive director of the Mission Advancement unit. The council responded with applause.

REPORT OF THE BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

(Agenda 1.10; Agenda/MINUTES Exhibit F, Parts 2–5)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on Ms. Ann F. Niedringhaus, chair of the Budget and Finance Committee, for the committee's report.

2010 CURRENT FUND AND WORLD HUNGER

(Agenda 1.10.A; Agenda/MINUTES Exhibit F, Parts 1a–1d)

Background:

Exhibits provided the Church Council with a summary of the 2010 fiscal year financial results, current fund operating results for the period, operating results for the World Hunger program, and statements of financial position for the year ended January 31, 2011.

2011 INCOME ESTIMATE AND EXPENDITURE AUTHORIZATION

(Agenda 1.10.B; Agenda/MINUTES Exhibit F, Parts 2a–2b)

Background:

No change was proposed for the unrestricted current fund income estimate, although continued refinement of expense allocations to better support plans in the new design involved minor changes in specific unit allocations.

The stronger end-of-year performance in World Hunger resulted in an increase in the estimated 2011 World Hunger Appeal budget to \$18,500,000. The increase in gifts received through direct giving from individuals and congregations was the primary reason for the positive variance in fourth quarter World Hunger income. Planned expenditures of World Hunger fund balances in excess of required reserves, resulting from underspending of the 2010 budget, total \$500,000, bring total anticipated expenditures in fiscal 2011 to \$19,000,000.

Church Council Action:

Ms. Ann F. Niedringhaus made the following motion on behalf of the committee.

Moved;

Seconded: To approve a revised total World Hunger spending authorization for fiscal year 2011 of \$19,000,000.

The chair called for discussion of the motion.

Ms. Niedringhaus mentioned that the proposed increase in spending authorization was due in part to increased giving to World Hunger in late 2010.

Ms. Susan W. McArver asked whether the proposed spending authorization was related to materials distributed to the Church Council regarding grant reductions.

Ms. Niedringhaus replied that the materials were related to the next agenda item.

There being no further discussion, Vice President Peña called for the vote.

VOTED:

CC11.04.06 To approve a revised total World Hunger spending authorization for fiscal year 2011 of \$19,000,000.

The chair declared the motion approved.

PROPOSED 2012–2013 BIENNIUM BUDGET

(Agenda 1.10.C; Agenda/MINUTES Exhibit F, Parts 3a–3b)

Background:

The Church Council was to propose 2012–2013 budgets to the 2011 Churchwide Assembly. Mission support of \$47,000,000 was anticipated for each year of the biennium. Increases were anticipated in Vision for Mission (\$100,000 each year), building on the renewed focus and success of 2010. Rental income was projected to increase over the biennium due to the potential for lease income from vacated space in the Lutheran Center. Efforts to increase gifts received in support of unit programs were expected to produce modest annual increases. Decreases in distribution of endowment income were due to a lowered five-year average market value, producing modestly lowered annual pay-outs.

The expenditure proposal for 2012 was a net decrease of \$821,600 from the 2011 revised expenditure authorization. Changes in the Office of the Presiding Bishop and Office of the Treasurer were due to slight revisions in the mapping of expenses into the new organizational structure and some adjustments for fixed costs. A compensation pool had been included as a separate line to account for the costs of normal increases in compensation and benefits for staff.

Large adjustments in the allocations for Congregational and Synodical Mission and Global Mission reflected the impact of grant reductions anticipated in 2012. The new organizational design and staffing reductions implemented in 2011 made it possible to leave most grants to partner organizations untouched in the 2011 budget, but it has been expected that flat or decreased income estimates beyond 2011 would result in the need to decrease grant support to partners. Since mid-2010, the Office of the Bishop had been in conversation with the Conference of Bishops to consider, together, the best options for making the required reductions. The Conference of Bishops provided advice to the Office of the Presiding Bishop regarding the reductions that had been incorporated in the 2012 expense proposal.

World Hunger income was anticipated to remain at \$18,500,000.

Church Council Action:

Ms. Ann F. Niedringhaus drew the Church Council's attention to the 2012–2013 budget proposals and a recommendation for authorization of the council to review and revise spending in 2013. She suggested the council act

first on recommendations for 2012, and she asked the Rev. M. Wyvetta Bullock to present materials distributed to the Church Council regarding grant reductions.

Pr. Bullock reminded the council that it considered grant reductions during discussions of the new organizational design and had postponed decisions until after consultation with the Conference of Bishops and grant recipients. She said the 2012 proposal was a result of those consultations, and she reported on plans for each grant category. She clarified that grants for the work of directors for evangelical mission do not include the directors' salaries or much synod support but only the logistical funds that were available for synods.

Vice President Carlos E. Peña asked the council members for questions.

Mr. Mark E. Johnson noted that decreased mission support resulted in reductions in grants for campus ministries, campus ministries increased their reliance on synod support, and synods were likely to increase support for campus ministries by decreasing mission support.

Pr. Bullock acknowledged that the consultations and ongoing discussions included that point.

The Rev. Margaret G. Payne, bishop of the New England Synod, said that campus ministry was closely related to the evangelism and young adult ministries of the synod and that resting accountability for campus ministry more with the synods and congregations was a positive step toward making the funding struggle more local.

The Rev. Harold L. Usgaard, bishop of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod, reported that two full-time campus ministries had become part-time ministries. Raising additional funds for those ministries from nearby congregations had involved the synod more in those ministries and increased local ownership in them.

The Rev. Gerald L. Mansholt, bishop of the Central States Synod, described several models of campus ministry and emphasized that the reduction in grants from the churchwide organization not detract from those ministries but inspire exploration of new models.

The Rev. Philip R. Wold asked whether this church was simply "borrowing from Peter to pay Paul," especially when Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service will receive money from World Hunger.

Pr. Bullock reported that policy determined how World Hunger funds were allotted, and the restructured churchwide organization changes how things are done but does not change the integrity of that policy.

Ms. Rebecca D. Carlson asked whether reducing grants intentionally made their ministries more locally owned and that the reductions be reevaluated when funding increases.

Pr. Bullock replied that the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit had prepared a transition plan that included those ongoing conversations and research.

Ms. Evelyn Soto, director for synodical partners for mission, described the transition plan and continuing discussions regarding several ministry settings of this church.

The Rev. Jeffrey "Jeff" B. Sorenson asked whether reductions in grants to new ministries would result in this church not meeting its commitments to ministries recently begun.

Pr. Bullock responded with an explanation of how a review table determined the amounts of grants allocated for new ministry starts in 2011 and the level of commitment for the ministries begun in 2010, while exploring new methods of combining ongoing support with continuing review.

Pr. Sorenson was reassured that the Church Council was not to vote on reducing past commitments.

Ms. Susan W. McArver asked whether Pr. Bullock would report back to the council on the effects of the proposed grant reductions, specifically on campus ministry.

Pr. Bullock replied that the Planning and Evaluation Committee would receive a follow-up report, possibly in November 2011. She also thanked the council for its questions and discussion.

Ms. Niedringhaus made the following motion on behalf of the committee.

Moved;

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

To approve a 2012 current fund spending authorization of \$61,792,900;
To approve a 2012 World Hunger income proposal of \$18,500,000;

To approve a 2013 current fund income proposal of \$61,939,400;
To approve a 2013 World Hunger income proposal of \$18,500,000; and
To authorize the Church Council to establish a spending authorization after periodic review of revised income estimates.

There being no further discussion, Vice President Peña called for the vote.

VOTED:

CC11.04.07 *To recommend the following for adoption by the 2011 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:*

To approve a 2012 current fund spending authorization of \$61,792,900;
To approve a 2012 World Hunger income proposal of \$18,500,000;
To approve a 2013 current fund income proposal of \$61,939,400;
To approve a 2013 World Hunger income proposal of \$18,500,000; and
To authorize the Church Council to establish a spending authorization after periodic review of revised income estimates.

The chair declared the motion had been approved.

REVISIONS TO 2011 SYNOD MISSION-SUPPORT PLANS

(Agenda 1.10.D; Agenda/MINUTES Exhibit F, Parts 5a–5b)

Background:

The Church Council has responsibility for reviewing and taking action on synod mission support plans as an interdependent partner with congregations and synods in implementing and strengthening the financial support for the work of this church (constitutional provisions 8.15. and 10.71.). Council materials included the report of the director for mission support and a report of the actual mission support received from each synod for 2010, with plans and any revisions for the 2011 and 2012 fiscal years.

Revisions in synod plans following the November 2010 meeting of the Church Council were received and reviewed by the Conference of Bishops at its March 2011 meeting.

Since the November 2010 Church Council meeting, revisions for 2011 mission-support plans were received from 30 synods. Five synods increased their percentage share, and five synods decreased their percentage share. The other 20 synods remained at their previous percentage sharing plans.

Church Council Action:

Ms. Ann F. Niedringhaus presented the revisions to mission-support plans received since the Church Council's November 2010 meeting. She made the following motion on behalf of the committee.

Moved;

Seconded:

To acknowledge with sadness that circumstances in the following synods have led to decisions to seek a decrease in the percentage of sharing of 2011 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: Pacifica; Central States; Western Iowa; Upstate New York; and Florida-Bahamas synods;

To acknowledge with thanksgiving the decision of the following synods to increase the percentage of sharing of 2011 mission support contributions by congregations for synodical and churchwide ministries: Alaska; Eastern Washington-Idaho; Northeastern Iowa; North Carolina; and South Carolina synods;

To acknowledge with thanksgiving the decision of the following synods to maintain the percentage of sharing of 2011 mission support contributions by congregations for synodical and churchwide ministries but estimating an adjustment in the estimated amount to be shared: Sierra Pacific; Grand Canyon; Eastern North Dakota; South Dakota; Northwestern Minnesota; Saint Paul Area; Southeastern Minnesota; Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana; Metropolitan Chicago; Northern Illinois; Central/Southern Illinois; Northern Great Lakes; Northwest Synod of Wisconsin; La Crosse Area; North/West Lower Michigan; Indiana-Kentucky; Northwestern Ohio; Metropolitan New York; Northwestern Pennsylvania; Delaware-Maryland; and Southeastern 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.

There being no discussion, Vice President Carlos E. Peña called for the vote.

VOTED:

CC11.04.08

To acknowledge with sadness that circumstances in the following synods have led to decisions to seek a decrease in the percentage of sharing of 2011 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: Pacifica; Central States; Western Iowa; Upstate New York; and Florida-Bahamas synods;

To acknowledge with thanksgiving the decision of the following synods to increase the percentage of sharing of 2011 mission support contributions by congregations for synodical and churchwide ministries: Alaska; Eastern Washington-Idaho; Northeastern Iowa; North Carolina; and South Carolina synods;

To acknowledge with thanksgiving the decision of the following synods to maintain the percentage of sharing of 2011 mission support contributions by congregations for synodical and churchwide ministries but estimating an adjustment in the estimated amount to be shared: Sierra Pacific; Grand Canyon; Eastern North Dakota; South Dakota; Northwestern Minnesota; Saint Paul Area; Southeastern Minnesota; Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana; Metropolitan Chicago; Northern Illinois; Central/Southern Illinois; Northern Great Lakes; Northwest Synod of Wisconsin; La Crosse Area; North/West Lower Michigan; Indiana-Kentucky; Northwestern Ohio; Metropolitan New York; Northwestern Pennsylvania; Delaware-Maryland; and Southeastern 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.

The chair declared the motion had been approved.

SYNOD MISSION-SUPPORT PLANS FOR 2012

(Agenda 1.10.E)

Ms. Ann F. Niedringhaus reported that 35 synods had submitted mission-support plans for 2012. She made the following motion on behalf of the committee.

Moved;

Seconded:

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: Oregon and North Carolina synods;

To acknowledge with thanksgiving the decision of the following synods to increase the percentage of sharing of 2012 mission support contributions by congregations for synodical and churchwide ministries: Southwestern Washington; Montana; South Dakota; Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana; Indiana-Kentucky; Upstate New York; Lower Susquehanna; West Virginia-Western Maryland; South Carolina; and New England synods; and

To acknowledge with thanksgiving the decision of the following synods to maintain the percentage of sharing of 2012 mission support contributions by congregations for synodical and churchwide ministries: Rocky Mountain; Eastern North Dakota; Northeastern Minnesota; Southeastern Minnesota; Nebraska; Central States; Southwestern Texas; Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast; Northern Illinois; Central/Southern Illinois; Northeastern Iowa; Northern Great Lakes; Northwest Synod of Wisconsin; East-Central Synod of Wisconsin; South-Central Synod of Wisconsin; La Crosse Area; North/West Lower Michigan; New Jersey; Slovak Zion; Northwestern Pennsylvania; Southwestern Pennsylvania; Metropolitan Washington, D.C.; and Southeastern 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; and

To request that all synods submit their 2012 mission support plans prior to their 2011 synod assemblies.

There being no discussion, Vice President Carlos E. Peña called for the vote.

VOTED:

CC11.04.09

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: Oregon and North Carolina synods;

To acknowledge with thanksgiving the decision of the following synods to increase the percentage of sharing of 2012 mission support contributions by congregations for synodical and churchwide ministries: Southwestern Washington; Montana; South

Dakota; Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana; Indiana-Kentucky; Upstate New York; Lower Susquehanna; West Virginia-Western Maryland; South Carolina; and New England synods;

To acknowledge with thanksgiving the decision of the following synods to maintain the percentage of sharing of 2012 mission support contributions by congregations for synodical and churchwide ministries: Rocky Mountain; Eastern North Dakota; Northeastern Minnesota; Southeastern Minnesota; Nebraska; Central States; Southwestern Texas; Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast; Northern Illinois; Central/Southern Illinois; Northeastern Iowa; Northern Great Lakes; Northwest Synod of Wisconsin; East-Central Synod of Wisconsin; South-Central Synod of Wisconsin; La Crosse Area; North/West Lower Michigan; New Jersey; Slovak Zion; Northwestern Pennsylvania; Southwestern Pennsylvania; Metropolitan Washington, D.C.; and Southeastern 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; and

To request that all synods submit their 2012 mission support plans prior to their 2011 synod assemblies.

The chair declared that the motion had been approved.

CHURCH COUNCIL DESIGNATED FUNDS

(Agenda 1.10.F; Agenda/MINUTES Exhibit F, Parts 4a–4e)

Background:

The mission plans of the churchwide organization are funded through the operating budget. The operating budget, developed after review of potential income sources, is used to establish approved spending levels for the various units of the churchwide organization as they provide programs or support outlined in the governing documents.

The Church Council is asked occasionally to establish designated funds for support of certain specific programs or events that may not be included in the “normal” yearly operations of the churchwide organization. Approved requests may be managed in two different ways.

The first way designated funds are managed is through investment in the ELCA Endowment Fund Pooled Trust as Church Council designated funds “functioning as endowment.” They are reported annually to the Church Council in the spring through the Budget and Finance Committee.

The second way designated funds are managed is through the ELCA treasury as designated funds to be used for a specific activity within a given time frame.

Church Council Information:

Ms. Ann F. Niedringhaus concluded the committee’s report by inviting the Church Council to review the exhibits summarizing the designated funds managed both through investment in the ELCA Endowment Fund Pooled Trust and through the ELCA treasury.

RECESS

The first plenary session of the April 2011 meeting of the Church Council recessed at 10:40 A.M.

Saturday, April 9, 2011
Plenary Session II

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called Plenary Session Two to order at 10:56 A.M.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

(Agenda 2.1; Agenda/MINUTES Exhibit A, Part 3)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña asked Secretary David D. Swartling to present his report.

Secretary Swartling described a recent meeting of assistants to synod bishops, where Ms. Susan W. McArver had been a speaker and underscored the value of congregational reports. He also highlighted several topics covered in his written report.

The secretary recalled promising to provide the Church Council with more details about the congregations and members who had voted to leave the ELCA since the 2009 Churchwide Assembly. As of April 5, 2011, 771 congregations had taken a total of 820 first votes, of which 573 passed and 247 failed. There had been 469 second votes, of which 444 passed and 25 failed. He noted the disparity in voting among synods—some synods have had no congregations vote to leave this church, while others have had as many as 30 congregations vote to disaffiliate. He provided comparative data by predecessor church bodies, regions, the new affiliations of the congregations, size of membership, worship attendance, income, assets, and benevolence. He thanked research and evaluation staff of the churchwide organization for analyzing the data.

Ms. Deborah L. Chenoweth asked whether data was available on members who left congregations that remain in the ELCA.

Secretary Swartling replied that the congregational reports of 2010 may provide some information, but those reports were still being analyzed, and it would probably not be possible to determine the reasons for members leaving.

Pr. Keith A. Hunsinger noted a drop in the number of ELCA congregations after 2001.

Secretary Swartling responded that some congregational disaffiliations prior to 2009 may have been related to this church's decision to enter into full communion with The Episcopal Church.

The secretary presented some of the planning for the 2011 Churchwide Assembly, especially preparations for the Church Council members. He emphasized the availability of information on the assembly's Web site, especially because of efforts to reduce the amount of paper to be used. He reported on a pilot program with voting members from five synods to experience the assembly without paper in preparation for the 2013 Churchwide Assembly, which hopes to be paperless. The assembly theme—Freed in Christ to Serve—has been incorporated into materials for the 2011 Synod Assemblies. He described the unique nature of the nominations process for the 2011 assembly, given the redesigned churchwide organization and consolidated constituent database, and he requested contact information for possible nominees. He also outlined demographic information about the voting members.

Secretary Swartling talked about preparations for the 2011 Synod Assemblies. He reported fewer issues for the churchwide organization this year than previous years being discussed at synod assemblies. He asked that information about possible memorials or resolutions be shared with the Office of the Secretary.

The secretary expressed appreciation for the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee and its chair, Mr. Mark S. Helmke, for work it did in preparation for the Churchwide Assembly, particularly regarding proposed amendments to the constitution.

Secretary Swartling shared archive photos of flooding along the Red River, pointing out the presence of Lutheran Disaster Response.

Vice President Peña thanked the secretary for his report.

REPORT OF THE LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL REVIEW COMMITTEE

(Agenda 2.2)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on Mr. Mark S. Helmke, chair of the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee, for the report of the committee.

2011 CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY RULES OF ORGANIZATION AND PROCEDURE

(Agenda 2.2.A; Agenda/MINUTES Exhibit H, Part 1)

Background:

In each biennium, the Church Council submits a recommendation to the Churchwide Assembly on proposed rules of organization and procedure. Voting members of the assembly act on the rules in the first plenary session of the assembly. A two-thirds vote of the assembly is required for adoption of the rules. The proposed rules were developed and refined as a result of the experiences of the eleven previous Churchwide Assemblies as well as the experience of predecessor church bodies.

Church Council Action:

Mr. Mark S. Helmke introduced the proposed “Rules of Organization and Procedure” for the 2011 Churchwide Assembly, noting some of the changes from previous rules—use of personal privilege, length of speeches, closing debate on all matters before the house, and the use of electronic devices. He pointed out that a new rule was being proposed to incorporate existing policies of this church regarding reconsideration of social statements. The sequencing of proposed amendments to the governing documents is addressed in Part Eighteen of the rules to avoid conflicting actions, he said.

Mr. Helmke made the following motion on behalf of the committee.

Moved;

Seconded: *To recommend adoption of the following resolution by the voting members of the 2011 Churchwide Assembly:*

To adopt the “Rules of Organization and Procedure” for the 2011 Churchwide Assembly (exclusive of quoted and highlighted constitutional provisions and bylaws that are already in force).

The Rev. Philip R. Wold expressed his concern with speeches being limited to two minutes instead of three minutes.

Mr. Helmke responded that a perception had been that most Churchwide Assembly speakers had made their points after two minutes and used the third minute to restate them. He added that at most assemblies there have been motions to limit speeches to two minutes.

The Rev. Steven P. Loy asked for an explanation of prohibiting a motion to close debate on all matters before the house.

Mr. Helmke mentioned that the Communal Discernment Task Force recommended the amended rule, because it had been questioned whether participants understood that the motion involved more than just the previous question.

Pr. Loy responded that the Program and Services Committee had also discussed task force recommendations. He suggested that changes to the rules be explained based on a clear set of values for operating in new ways rather than changes being made piecemeal.

Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson answered that the parliamentary move to call all matters before the house had contributed to a sense of distrust in assemblies as a clever technique to silence those with minority viewpoints. He said the loss in trust was greater than the need for parliamentary adherence to *Robert’s Rules*.

The Rev. Susan Langhauser added that the task force was not speaking to parliamentary procedure but discouraging anything that abruptly stopped conversation.

The Rev. Marcus R. Kunz, executive for discernment of contextual and theological issues, remarked that the task force was concerned that time and place be created for discernment in assemblies. He mentioned that *Robert’s Rules*

addressed a wide variety of assemblies and that the Churchwide Assembly is unique in that its voting members gather rarely and may never see each other again, placing a greater emphasis on creating a culture of trust.

Pr. Loy repeated the concern that the task force recommendations were being received piecemeal and not as a conscious commitment to communal discernment.

Pr. Kunz replied that the work of the Communal Discernment Task Force continued, and it had been asked to make suggestions from learnings along the way, not comprehensive formal recommendations.

There being no further discussion, Vice President Peña called for the vote.

VOTED:

CC11.04.10 *To recommend adoption of the following resolution by the voting members of the 2011 Churchwide Assembly:*

To adopt the “Rules of Organization and Procedure” for the 2011 Churchwide Assembly (exclusive of quoted and highlighted constitutional provisions and bylaws that are already in force).

The chair declared the motion had been approved.

Mr. Helmke made the following motion on behalf of the committee.

Moved;

Seconded: To authorize the presiding bishop and secretary of this church to prepare further editing and scheduling revisions that may be found necessary for the Rules of Organization and Procedure prior to their publication in the *Pre-Assembly Report*; and
 To report any changes to the Church Council at its August 2011 meeting.

There being no discussion, Vice President Peña called for the vote.

VOTED:

CC11.04.11 **To authorize the presiding bishop and secretary of this church to prepare further editing and scheduling revisions that may be found necessary for the Rules of Organization and Procedure prior to their publication in the *Pre-Assembly Report*; and To report any changes to the Church Council at its August 2011 meeting.**

The chair declared the motion had been approved.

CONTINUING RESOLUTIONS RELATED TO THE REDESIGN OF THE CHURCHWIDE ORGANIZATION

(Agenda 2.2.B)

Background:

“Continuing resolutions not in conflict with the constitution or bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America may be adopted or amended by a majority vote of the Churchwide Assembly or by a two-thirds vote of the Church Council. Such continuing resolutions become effective immediately upon adoption. Matters related to the administrative functions of this church shall be set forth in the continuing resolutions” (ELCA 22.31.).

Amended continuing resolutions were proposed to allow for the work for justice for women and for changes to the relationship of some separately incorporated ministries with the churchwide organization.

Church Council Action:

Mr. Mark S. Helmke described the proposed amendments and made the following motion on behalf of the committee.

Moved;

Two-Thirds Vote Required

Seconded:

To adopt the following amendments to the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*:

15.12.G10. Responsibility for Theological Discernment

Responsibility shall be exercised in the Office of the Presiding Bishop for serving the Church's theological work by promoting, coordinating, and facilitating theological discernment of the Church's message and its theological foundations in collaboration with all who share in the responsibilities to be teachers of the faith in the Church, including the Conference of Bishops, the seminary faculties, the association of teaching theologians, networks such as Lutheran ethicists and women theologians, the editorial staff of the ELCA publishing ministry and publications, and all rostered leaders. This responsibility for serving the Church's theological work also shall encompass theological work in and commitment to discern, understand, and respond to racism, classism, and sexism and issues of justice for women in the Church and in society in order to advance full participation, equal opportunity, and justice for all. To fulfill these responsibilities the presiding bishop shall appoint an executive for theological discernment, who will assist the presiding bishop and coordinate the service of staff groups that provide theological resources and assistance in programmatic implementation.

~~15.12.H10. Responsibilities for Relationships with Separately Incorporated Ministries~~

~~*—The Office of the Presiding Bishop shall be the primary liaison between the churchwide organization and Women of the ELCA, the Publishing House of the ELCA, the Deaconess Community of the ELCA, Lutheran Men in Mission, and National Lutheran Campus Ministry, Inc. The Office of the Secretary shall be the primary liaison between the churchwide organization and ELCA Risk Management, Inc. The Office of the Treasurer shall be the primary liaison between the churchwide organization and the Mission Investment Fund, the Endowment Fund of the ELCA, and the Board of Pensions of the ELCA.*~~

16.12.A10. Congregational and Synodical Mission Unit

The Congregational and Synodical Mission unit shall foster and facilitate the work of synods, congregations, and partners in making congregations vital centers for mission and in creating coalitions and networks to promote justice and peace. Its work 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. The Congregational and Synodical Mission unit shall relate to the Deaconess Community, Lutheran Men in Mission, National Lutheran Campus Ministry, Inc, and ELCA Risk Management, Inc.

a. The Deaconess Community of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is a separately incorporated ministry of theologically trained, professionally prepared women called to ministry and service by congregations, synods, and agencies of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada. Its mission is "Compelled by the love of the Christ and sustained by community, we devote our lives to proclaiming the Gospel through ministries of mercy and servant leadership." Deaconesses are consecrated by the ELCA and the ELCIC.

- b. Lutheran Men in Mission is a separately incorporated, self-supporting ministry whose vision is for every man to have a growing relationship with Jesus Christ through an effective men's ministry in every congregation. The purpose of Lutheran Men in Mission is, by God's grace, to build men's faith, relationships, and ministry through events, resources, and ongoing leadership development.
- c. National Lutheran Campus Ministry, Inc. is a separately incorporated ministry that helps to provide and support suitable facilities to carry out ELCA campus ministry at state-supported and non-ELCA-related colleges and universities.
- d. Risk Management, Inc. (ELCARM) is a separately incorporated ministry that provides risk management and insurance services to colleges, universities, and seminaries related to the ELCA.

Ms. Susan W. McArver noted that the organization referred to in continuing resolution 15.12.G10. as the "association of teaching theologians" was the "Convocation of Teaching Theologians."

Vice President Carlos E. Peña asked for and received consensus that the name of the organization be edited in the continuing resolution. There being no further discussion, he called for a vote by show of hands.

VOTED:

Two-Thirds Vote Required

CC11.04.12

To adopt the following amendments to the Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:

15.12.G10. Responsibility for Theological Discernment

Responsibility shall be exercised in the Office of the Presiding Bishop for serving the Church's theological work by promoting, coordinating, and facilitating theological discernment of the Church's message and its theological foundations in collaboration with all who share in the responsibilities to be teachers of the faith in the Church, including the Conference of Bishops, the seminary faculties, the Convocation association of Teaching Theologians, networks such as Lutheran ethicists and women theologians, the editorial staff of the ELCA publishing ministry and publications, and all rostered leaders. This responsibility for serving the Church's theological work also shall encompass theological work in and commitment to discern, understand, and respond to racism, classism, and sexism and issues of justice for women in the Church and in society in order to advance full participation, equal opportunity, and justice for all. To fulfill these responsibilities the presiding bishop shall appoint an executive for theological discernment, who will assist the presiding bishop and coordinate the service of staff groups that provide theological resources and assistance in programmatic implementation.

~~**15.12.H10. Responsibilities for Relationships with Separately Incorporated Ministries**~~

~~*The Office of the Presiding Bishop shall be the primary liaison between the churchwide organization and Women of the ELCA, the Publishing House of the ELCA, the Deaconess Community of the ELCA, Lutheran Men in Mission, and National Lutheran Campus Ministry, Inc. The Office of the Secretary shall be the primary liaison between the churchwide organization and ELCA Risk Management, Inc. The Office of the Treasurer shall be the primary liaison between the churchwide organization and the Mission Investment Fund, the Endowment Fund of the ELCA, and the Board of Pensions of the ELCA.*~~

16.12.A10. Congregational and Synodical Mission Unit

The Congregational and Synodical Mission unit shall foster and facilitate the work of synods, congregations, and partners in making congregations vital centers for mission and in creating coalitions and networks to promote justice and peace. Its work 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. The Congregational and Synodical Mission unit shall relate to the Deaconess Community, Lutheran Men in Mission, National Lutheran Campus Ministry, Inc, and ELCA Risk Management, Inc.

- a. The Deaconess Community of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is a separately incorporated ministry of theologically trained, professionally prepared women called to ministry and service by congregations, synods, and agencies of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada. Its mission is “Compelled by the love of the Christ and sustained by community, we devote our lives to proclaiming the Gospel through ministries of mercy and servant leadership.” Deaconesses are consecrated by the ELCA and the ELCIC.*
- b. Lutheran Men in Mission is a separately incorporated, self-supporting ministry whose vision is for every man to have a growing relationship with Jesus Christ through an effective men’s ministry in every congregation. The purpose of Lutheran Men in Mission is, by God’s grace, to build men’s faith, relationships, and ministry through events, resources, and ongoing leadership development.*
- c. National Lutheran Campus Ministry, Inc. is a separately incorporated ministry that helps to provide and support suitable facilities to carry out ELCA campus ministry at state-supported and non-ELCA-related colleges and universities.*
- d. Risk Management, Inc. (ELCARM) is a separately incorporated ministry that provides risk management and insurance services to colleges, universities, and seminaries related to the ELCA.*

The chair declared that the motion had been approved.

CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY RECOMMENDATIONS: GOVERNING DOCUMENTS

(Agenda 2.2.C1–C2)

Background:

The Church Council has the responsibility for submitting recommendations for action by the 2011 Churchwide Assembly. While amendments to provisions of the constitutions of this church require a six-month notice to synods, amendments to bylaws and continuing resolutions do not require such notice. The following proposed amendments to bylaws and continuing resolutions, if recommended by the Church Council, will be distributed to the voting members of the Churchwide Assembly in the *Pre-Assembly Report*.

The following amendment to a continuing resolution (striking paragraph “m”) was proposed because the publishing house was no longer doing the work specified. At its November 2010 meeting, the Church Council proposed that the Churchwide Assembly renumber continuing resolution 16.31.A05. as 17.40.A11.

A second proposal would remove continuing resolutions regarding separately incorporated ministries addressed in the previous action from a recommendation the Church Council approved in November 2010. And a third proposal would recommend other constitutional amendments to the assembly.

Church Council Action:

Mr. Mark S. Helmke described the first amendment to a continuing resolution for recommendation to the Churchwide Assembly and made the following motion on behalf of the committee.

Moved;

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

To adopt the following amendment to the Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:

16.31.A05.17.40.A11. Responsibilities of the Publishing House of the ELCA

The Publishing House of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America— also known as Augsburg Fortress, Publishers—shall:

- a. be responsible for the publishing, production, and distribution of publications to be sold to accomplish the mission of this church.*
- b. work in close cooperation with congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization to provide a diversity of published resources.*
- c. relate to other churchwide units through resource planning groups. Materials published to assist congregations in fulfilling their life in mission shall be developed in coordination with other appropriate churchwide units. Development costs will be paid by the unit developing the publication.*
- d. develop, produce, and distribute materials required to carry out its functions.*
- e. be financed from the distribution of materials, not from the budget of this church.*
- f. create, develop, and publish a diversity of resources in various media; make available other publications, materials, and church supplies; produce the official documents and publications of this church; and produce materials in a manner that assures their ready availability.*
- g. establish a distribution center, as well as utilize other means for the wide distribution of resources within and beyond this church.*
- h. manage its finances and other resources in a manner that assures the continuity and extension of its activities. This publishing house shall maintain its own accounting, data processing, personnel, pension, and other functions essential to a cohesive, efficient, and effective operation.*
- i. identify and nurture talented authors, composers, artists, and others involved in creating various media.*
- j. produce and distribute the church periodical in accord with provisions of this church's constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions.*
- k. determine its necessary financial reserves, appropriations, and publishing subsidies.*
- l. make available resources to meet unique language and cultural needs.*
- ~~*m. provide for production and distribution services for materials that originate in churchwide units, including the option of providing for competitive printing costs and delivery from independent printers, with costs for these services paid by the originating unit.*~~

There being no discussion, Vice President Carlos E. Peña called for the vote.

VOTED:
CC11.04.13

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

To adopt the following amendment to the Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:

16.31.A05.17.40.A11. *Responsibilities of the Publishing House of the ELCA
The Publishing House of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America— also known as
Augsburg Fortress, Publishers—shall:*

- a. be responsible for the publishing, production, and distribution of publications to be sold to accomplish the mission of this church.*
- b. work in close cooperation with congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization to provide a diversity of published resources.*
- c. relate to other churchwide units through resource planning groups. Materials published to assist congregations in fulfilling their life in mission shall be developed in coordination with other appropriate churchwide units. Development costs will be paid by the unit developing the publication.*
- d. develop, produce, and distribute materials required to carry out its functions.*
- e. be financed from the distribution of materials, not from the budget of this church.*
- f. create, develop, and publish a diversity of resources in various media; make available other publications, materials, and church supplies; produce the official documents and publications of this church; and produce materials in a manner that assures their ready availability.*
- g. establish a distribution center, as well as utilize other means for the wide distribution of resources within and beyond this church.*
- h. manage its finances and other resources in a manner that assures the continuity and extension of its activities. This publishing house shall maintain its own accounting, data processing, personnel, pension, and other functions essential to a cohesive, efficient, and effective operation.*
- i. identify and nurture talented authors, composers, artists, and others involved in creating various media.*
- j. produce and distribute the church periodical in accord with provisions of this church's constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions.*
- k. determine its necessary financial reserves, appropriations, and publishing subsidies.*
- l. make available resources to meet unique language and cultural needs.*
- ~~*m. provide for production and distribution services for materials that originate in churchwide units, including the option of providing for competitive printing costs and delivery from independent printers, with costs for these services paid by the originating unit.*~~

The chair declared that the motion had been approved.

Mr. Helmke explained that the Church Council had previously recommended, as part of the redesign of the churchwide organization, that the Churchwide Assembly adopt changes to the constitution redefining the relationships

of four separately incorporated ministries. In order to implement the next phase of the redesign, the four separately incorporated ministries would be under the auspices of the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit, and continuing resolutions recommended for adoption in November 2010 needed to be amended.

Mr. Helmke made the following motion on behalf of the committee.

Moved;

Seconded:

To delete the following proposed amendments to the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* from the Church Council's recommendation to the 2011 Churchwide Assembly concerning amendments to the governing documents concerning the reorganization of the churchwide organization:

- ~~17.70.A11. *The Deaconess Community of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is a separately incorporated ministry of theologically trained, professionally prepared women called to ministry and service by congregations, synods, and agencies of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada. Its mission is "Compelled by the love of the Christ and sustained by community, we devote our lives to proclaiming the Gospel through ministries of mercy and servant leadership." Deaconesses are consecrated by the ELCA and the ELCIC.*~~
- ~~17.70.B11. *Lutheran Men in Mission is a separately incorporated self-supporting ministry whose vision is for every man to have a growing relationship with Jesus Christ through an effective men's ministry in every congregation. The purpose of Lutheran Men in Mission is, by God's grace, to build men's faith, relationships, and ministry through events, resources, and ongoing leadership development.*~~
- ~~17.70.C11. *National Lutheran Campus Ministry, Inc. is a separately incorporated ministry that helps to provide and support suitable facilities to carry out ELCA campus ministry at state-supported and non-ELCA-related colleges and universities.*~~
- ~~17.70.D11. *Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Risk Management, Inc. (ELCARM) is a separately incorporated ministry that provides risk management and insurance services to colleges, universities, and seminaries related to the ELCA.*~~

There being no discussion, Vice President Peña called for the vote.

VOTED:

CC11.04.14

To delete the following proposed amendments to the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* from the Church Council's recommendation to the 2011 Churchwide Assembly concerning amendments to the governing documents concerning the reorganization of the churchwide organization:

- ~~17.70.A11. *The Deaconess Community of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is a separately incorporated ministry of theologically trained, professionally prepared women called to ministry and service by congregations, synods, and agencies of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada. Its mission is "Compelled by the love of the Christ and sustained by community, we devote our lives to proclaiming the Gospel through ministries of mercy and servant leadership." Deaconesses are consecrated by the ELCA and the ELCIC.*~~

- ~~17.70.B11. *Lutheran Men in Mission is a separately incorporated self-supporting ministry whose vision is for every man to have a growing relationship with Jesus Christ through an effective men's ministry in every congregation. The purpose of Lutheran Men in Mission is, by God's grace, to build men's faith, relationships, and ministry through events, resources, and ongoing leadership development.*~~
- ~~17.70.C11. *National Lutheran Campus Ministry, Inc. is a separately incorporated ministry that helps to provide and support suitable facilities to carry out ELCA campus ministry at state-supported and non-ELCA-related colleges and universities.*~~
- ~~17.70.D11. *Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Risk Management, Inc. (ELCARM) is a separately incorporated ministry that provides risk management and insurance services to colleges, universities, and seminaries related to the ELCA.*~~

The chair declared that the motion had been approved.

Mr. Helmke drew attention to three proposed bylaw amendments that the council had not considered at its November 2010 meeting, which would make the ELCA constitution consistent with recommended changes in the *Constitution for Synods* regarding the selection of a synod treasurer, the allocation of voting members, and representation of synods in various groups.

Moved;

Seconded:

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

To adopt the following amendments to the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*:

- 10.31.04.** The treasurer ~~may shall~~ be elected by the Synod Assembly or may be appointed by the Synod Council. The treasurer may be either a layperson or an ordained minister.
- 12.41.11.** Each synod shall elect one voting member of the Churchwide Assembly for every 5,800 baptized members in the synod. In addition, each synod shall elect one voting member for every 50 congregations in the synod. The synodical bishop, who is *ex officio* a member of the Churchwide Assembly, shall be included in the number of voting members so determined. There shall be at least two voting members from each synod. The Church Council may allocate up to ten additional voting members among synods in order to further the principles of organization, commitment to inclusiveness, and interdependence as specified in Chapter 5 of this constitution, but no single synod may be allocated more than two additional voting members. The secretary shall notify each synod of the number of assembly members it is to elect.
- 19.21.04.** ~~It shall be the responsibility of the~~ The Church Council to make certain shall endeavor to ensure that every synod has at least one person serving on the Church Council or churchwide boards, or committees, task forces, or other groups. Among those persons elected by the assembly, no more than two persons from any one synod shall serve on the Church Council or any one board, or committee, task force, or other group.

There being no discussion, Vice President Peña called for the vote.

VOTED:

CC11.04.15 *To recommend the following for adoption by the 2011 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:*

To adopt the following amendments to the Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:

- 10.31.04.** The treasurer may ~~shall~~ be elected by the Synod Assembly or may be appointed by the Synod Council. The treasurer may be either a layperson or an ordained minister.
- 12.41.11.** Each synod shall elect one voting member of the Churchwide Assembly for every 5,800 baptized members in the synod. In addition, each synod shall elect one voting member for every 50 congregations in the synod. The synodical bishop, who is *ex officio* a member of the Churchwide Assembly, shall be included in the number of voting members so determined. There shall be at least two voting members from each synod. The Church Council may allocate up to ten additional voting members among synods in order to further the principles of organization, commitment to inclusiveness, and interdependence as specified in Chapter 5 of this constitution, but no single synod may be allocated more than two additional voting members. The secretary shall notify each synod of the number of assembly members it is to elect.
- 19.21.04.** ~~It shall be the responsibility of the~~ The Church Council to make certain shall endeavor to ensure that every synod has at least one person serving on the Church Council or churchwide boards, or committees, task forces, or other groups. Among those persons elected by the assembly, no more than two persons from any one synod shall serve on the Church Council or any one board, or committee, task force, or other group.

The chair declared that the motion had been approved.

REPORT OF CHANGES IN PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

RECOMMENDED BY THE CHURCH COUNCIL TO THE 2011 CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY

(Agenda 2.2.D; Agenda/MINUTES Exhibit H, Part 3)

Mr. Mark S. Helmke recalled that actions the Church Council took at its meeting in November 2010 to recommend constitutional amendments to the 2011 Churchwide Assembly included authorization for the secretary to make editorial changes, include the changes in the official notice to synods, and report the changes to the council. He drew attention to the exhibit that included the report of editorial changes. He pointed out that the last change in the report was not included in the official notice to synods, and he explained that two changes had been transposed in the notice. He also

reported that an additional series of changes will appear in the bulletin of reports to the assembly, restoring a cross-reference to bylaw 16.12.14. regarding proxy voting for the Board of Pensions, Publishing House, Mission Investment Fund, Women of the ELCA, and the Endowment Fund.

PROPOSED 2011 AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTIONS

(Agenda 2.2.E; Agenda/MINUTES Exhibit H, Part 2)

Background:

The Church Council is responsible for recommendations for action by the 2011 Churchwide Assembly. The Church Council—in preparation for the twelfth Churchwide Assembly, to be held in Orlando, Florida, August 15–19, 2011—recommended adoption of amendments to the *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* at its November 2011 meeting. A report of those recommendations was provided for information.

Church Council Information:

Mr. Mark S. Helmke concluded the report of the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee by drawing attention to matters the committee addressed and the council will act on *en bloc*.

DWELLING IN THE WORD

(Agenda 2.4)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña invited the Rev. Jeffrey “Jeff” B. Sorenson to reflect on “Dwelling in the Word.” Pr. Sorenson introduced a video, “A Thousand Questions,” which he described as expressing his hope for the ELCA as it carries out its authentic ministry.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Agenda 2.5)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on Secretary David D. Swartling, who announced details for several events scheduled for between plenary sessions.

The chair said that an election scheduled for the second plenary session would be held during the third plenary.

TABLE GRACE

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on Ms. Rebecca Jo Brakke, who led those present in table grace.

RECESS

The April 2011 meeting of the Church Council recessed at 12:06 P.M.

**Saturday, April 9, 2011
Plenary Session III**

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called Plenary Session Three to order at 1:33 P.M.

BIBLE STUDY

(Agenda 3.1)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña introduced the Rev. Diane “Dee” H. Pederson, chair of the Living into the Future Together (LIFT): Renewing the Ecology of the ELCA task force, who led the Church Council in a Bible study related to the work of the task force and its biblical bases.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE FOR ADMINISTRATION

(Agenda 3.2, Agenda/MINUTES Exhibit A, Part 5)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña asked the Rev. M. Wyvetta Bullock for her report.

Pr. Bullock commented on the status of the transition into the new churchwide organization based on the goals of the redesign of the organization:

1. Work with ministry partners to respond nimbly to the local and global needs of the world.
2. Work with ministry partners to build the capacity of this church for local and global mission.
3. Maximize stewardship of this church’s resources by creating a more efficient operational infrastructure.
4. Create new financial resources.
5. Create better communication and interpretation of this church’s mission.
6. Increase collaboration and accountability within the churchwide organization and with mission partners.
7. Reflect core values as presented in the ELCA Constitution and the “Commitments for Implementation” of the ELCA Plan for Mission.

Pr. Bullock shared illustrations of the staffing for the new organizational design and plans to work with partner church bodies and organizations to compensate for some staffing reductions. She described a “five star organizational model” for internal decision-making and ongoing strategic planning. She expressed appreciation for the work of the staff of the churchwide organization, the LIFT task force, and members of the Church Council.

Vice President Peña returned the appreciation of the council for Pr. Bullock’s leadership during the transition and the work of the LIFT task force.

REPORT ON NOMINATIONS, APPOINTMENTS, AND ELECTIONS

CHURCH COUNCIL NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

(Agenda 2.3 and 3.3, Agenda/MINUTES Exhibit C, Part 1)

Background:

Between meetings of the Churchwide Assembly, the Church Council has the responsibility of electing people to fill unexpired terms on churchwide boards, steering committees, and certain advisory committees. Council members were provided biographical information on two nominees to complete the unexpired term of the Rev. Michael J. Schmidt who had announced plans to accept a call to a different synod.

Church Council Action:

Secretary David D. Swartling described the circumstances and procedures for the election of a member to the Church Council. Ballots were distributed.

Church Council

Clergy [Term 2015] – to replace resignation of Pr. Michael J. Schmidt, Sioux City, Iowa (5E)

a. Pr. Yvonne I. Marshall, Council Bluffs, Iowa (5E)

b. Pr. Vance Lee Toivonen, Armstrong, Iowa (5E)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña invited Ms. Rebecca D. Carlson to lead the council in prayer. Then the chair called for the ballots to be cast. Vice President Peña declared the balloting closed and indicated the results would be announced later in the meeting.

REPORT OF THE PLANNING AND EVALUATION COMMITTEE
(Agenda 3.4)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on the Rev. Susan Langhauser, chair of the Planning and Evaluation Committee, for the committee's report.

REPORT OF THE LIVING INTO THE FUTURE TOGETHER: RENEWING THE ECOLOGY OF THE ELCA (LIFT) TASK FORCE
(Agenda 3.4.A; Agenda/MINUTES Exhibit I, Parts 1a–1h)

Background:

At its March 2009 meeting, the Church Council authorized Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson, in collaboration with the Executive Committee of the Church Council and the Conference of Bishops, to appoint a study design group. The task of the study design group was to design a charter for a task force "...to evaluate the organization and governance of this church and the interrelationships among its expressions and partner agencies and institutions for the purpose of bringing a comprehensive report and recommendations to the 2011 Churchwide Assembly."

The study design group was formed and met three times from June through September 2009. In fulfillment of the Church Council's assignment, the study design group created a charter to describe the context, scope, membership, budget, time line, and process for the work of the ELCA Ecology Study Task Force.

The task force for "Living into the Future Together: Renewing the Ecology of the ELCA" (LIFT) was formed and met the first time in January 2010. The task force's purpose was stated in its charter: "The ELCA Ecology Study task force intends to study the evolving societal and economic changes that have occurred in the twenty years since the formation of this church and to evaluate the organization, governance and interrelationships among this church's expressions in the light of those changes. The result of the Ecology Study task force's work will be a report and recommendations that will position this church for the future and explore new possibilities for participating in God's mission."

The LIFT progress report submitted to the Church Council in November 2010 indicated that "...the task force has been engaged in prayerful study and conversation about both the relationships and interdependence that characterize the ELCA and its partners, and the context, or environment, in which we live today. The LIFT study has responded to questions prompted by increasingly evident changes in the cultural, religious, financial and global environment in which ELCA congregations and its partners seek to carry out God's mission. The task force was charged with asking how this church, in its various expressions, can participate most effectively in carrying out God's mission in the world. The two overarching questions guided the LIFT task force in its work:

What is God calling this church to be and to do in the future?

What changes are in order to help us respond most faithfully?"

The task force intentionally titled its task "renewing the ecology." The phrase first was used by Dr. Craig Dykstra, vice president for religion at the Lilly Endowment, to describe the ELCA as a living organism with its own interrelated ecosystems. Presiding Bishop Hanson further elaborated on the term when he said, at the 2005 Churchwide Assembly, "We are a community in Christ of vitality and life. And within this vitality and this community, there is rich diversity and there's complexity that can't be described or captured or understood in a kind of flat, one-dimensional way. So we talk about each the three expressions of this church as one part of that interdependent ecosystem."

Within their changing environment, the systems of the ELCA find themselves in the midst of dramatic changes resulting from influences at work in the history of the last twenty years. The change is not peculiar to the ELCA, but permeates both U.S. and global secular and religious cultures. In her popular book, *The Great Emergence*, Phyllis Tickle describes the historically significant change in which the church finds itself and describes it as The Great Emergence:

Like every “new season,” this one we recognize as the Great Emergence affects every part of our lives.

In its totality, it interfaces with, and is the context for, everything we do socially, culturally, intellectually, politically, economically. (Tickle, Phyllis, *The Great Emergence: How Christianity is Changing and Why*, Baker Books, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 2008, p. 14.)

The factors promoting change contribute to trends evident to observers of Christianity in the United States. Trends of the times that dictate change in the churches include:

- Declining participation in Christian churches;
- Growth in “no religious affiliation;”
- Becoming more “spiritual” and less “religious;”
- Influence of individualism on Christian identity and community life;
- Increasing social, cultural and religious diversity in the U.S.;
- Growing influence of Hispanic/Latino religious faith;
- Identifying a new stage of life: “Emerging Adulthood;”
- The rise of a distinctive post-boomer faith and spirituality;
- Changing structures and patterns of family life in the United States;
- Rediscovering the impact of parents and families on faith practice;
- Living in a digital world;
- Educating in new ways; and
- Increasing numbers of adults 65 and older. (Lifelong Faith Journal, summer 2009. www.lifelongfaith.com)

In an address to the LIFT task force, Dr. Ozan Sevimli of the World Bank office in Washington, D.C., spoke to the global situation. His purpose was to clarify how the economic situation in transition poses a challenge for the ELCA. He said, “This global crisis has left us with a global landscape that has been transformed.... The ELCA is a fantastic organization, which is doing great work in many different areas. But it needs to design a new approach to how it lives out the Gospel. It needs a vision for the future and a clear strategy needs to be developed, well articulated and executed.”

The breadth and depth of change is daunting, but the task force report recognized that the current situation offered both opportunities and challenges. It pointed to specific strengths within the ecology of the ELCA:

- The ELCA’s history and practice equip it to offer its distinctive gifts to the world.
- The various interrelated constituencies within this church possess a tradition of active and effective worship and service.
- The tradition shows itself in an active posture that seeks to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ in all its rich dimensions.
- The church’s service agencies reach one in 55 American households annually.
- Partnership activities have produced a reputation for leadership in ecumenism and inter-faith dialogue.
- The ELCA seeks to be a public church as it speaks to the issues of its day while remaining faithful to its confessional heritage.

The most compelling challenge for the LIFT project was to recommend ways to renew the ecology of this church so that it can give its gifts most effectively today. The two questions noted above demonstrate the desire of this church to give its distinctive gifts to the environment in which it finds itself.

While the new environment provided opportunities, it also brought challenges. They include declining membership in the ELCA and lower attendance at worship. The ethnic diversity of the U.S. population was not reflected adequately in this church. Membership was aging. While individual contributions increased, overall financial giving was lower in both designated and undesignated contributions. As a result, there was decreased support for regional and national expressions of the church. The most recent national and global recession also was reflected in church finances.

The LIFT project was not a process peculiar to the ELCA. Nearly every mainline church (including the African Methodist Episcopal Church, Christian Church [Disciples of Christ], Seventh-day Adventist, Southern Baptist

Convention, The United Methodist Church) in the United States had been or was examining what changes were necessary as they confronted a radically changing environment. In addition, many religious groups formerly seen as prospering in the current environment also were finding that circumstances were leading them to reexamine their institutions.

In order to do its work, LIFT recruited representatives from across the ELCA for the task force. It also brought in participants as it consulted with other groups. Its planning team exchanged information with the churchwide organization's design team, which was working on reconfiguration. It worked closely with the Conference of Bishops and submitted periodic updates to the Church Council. It presented its final report to the Conference of Bishops at the conference's March 2011 meeting.

At its November 2010 meeting, the Church Council received and voted to transmit to the 2011 Churchwide Assembly recommendations from the LIFT task force related to structure and governance. At its April 2011 meeting the Church Council was to review the full report of the LIFT task force and consider the task force's recommendations for possible transmission to the 2011 Churchwide Assembly for action.

Church Council Action:

The Rev. Susan Langhauser described the method that the Planning and Evaluation Committee used to review the recommendations included in the LIFT task force report. She suggested the council consider the recommendations, section by section, rather than consider the full report.

Pr. Langhauser invited the Rev. Diane "Dee" Pederson, chair of the LIFT task force, and the Rev. M. Wyvetta Bullock, who had served as resource staff for the task force, to present the task force report to the Church Council.

Pr. Pederson illustrated the scope of the study and its time frame. She expressed appreciation for everyone involved in the study, especially the Rev. H. Karl Reko, who had served as project coordinator. She said the study identified a number of commitments for this church—Lutheran understandings, interdependence, transparency, accompaniment, and participation. She emphasized the research done for the study and its findings. She outlined the themes of the task force report—culture of discernment, congregations in context, synods as catalysts, connections and collaboration, and continuity, change, and sustainability—and shared some hopes for how it could influence the future of the ELCA.

Pr. Langhauser made the following motion on behalf of the committee.

Moved;

Seconded:

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

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

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

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

To accept the LIFT recommendations as amended.

Ms. Sandra Schlesinger asked whether the final point of the motion meant that the Church Council would be approving the recommendations in the report.

Pr. Langhauser replied that it was the committee's intent to present the recommendations by section for council action.

Secretary David D. Swartling explained the distinctions in *Robert's Rules* between receiving a report and accepting its recommendations. He made the following motion.

Moved;

Seconded: *To amend the motion by striking the last sentence:*

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

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

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

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

—~~To accept the LIFT recommendations as amended.~~

There being no further discussion on the motion to amend, Vice President Carlos E. Peña called for the vote.

Moved;

Seconded;

Carried: *To amend the motion by striking the last sentence:*

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

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

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

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

—~~To accept the LIFT recommendations as amended.~~

The chair declared the motion to amend was approved and the last sentence had been deleted from the main motion. There being no further discussion, Vice President Peña called for the vote on the motion as amended.

VOTED:

CC11.04.16 **To receive with gratitude the report and recommendations of the Living into the Future Together (LIFT) task force in response to its call to “study the evolving societal**

and economic changes that have occurred in the twenty years since the formation of this church and to evaluate the organization, governance, and interrelationships among this church's expressions in the light of those changes";

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

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

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

The chair declared that the motion had been approved. [*Note:* This action was subsequently rescinded by action of the Church Council (CC11.04.33).]

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE LIFT TASK FORCE

(Agenda 3.4.B; Agenda/MINUTES Exhibit I, Part 1)

The Rev. Susan Langhauser presented the recommendations included in each section of the report by the task force for "Living into the Future Together (LIFT): Renewing the Ecology of the ELCA."

LIFT TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATION: CONGREGATIONS

(Agenda 3.4.B.1; Agenda/MINUTES Exhibit I, Part 1)

The Rev. Susan Langhauser made the following motion on behalf of the committee.

Moved;

Seconded:

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

To adopt the recommendations of the Living into the Future Together (LIFT) task force related to congregations:

1. Congregations and synods in partnership develop a mission plan that will strengthen the congregation. We recommend that, in concert with their synod bishop and the director for evangelical mission, the congregation develop a plan to achieve as many of the following characteristics of vital congregations as are realistic for their life together. These plans will vary from congregation to congregation as leaders take seriously the context in which God has placed them (e.g., rural, urban, suburban) and as congregations discern the leading of the Spirit at various stages in a congregation's life. Characteristics of vital congregations include:
 - fostering mature faith and discipleship in members.
 - understanding God's grace as the foundation of restored relationships with God, one another and the world.
 - worshipping God in word and sacrament.
 - strengthening evangelical outreach.
 - supporting lay, lay rostered and clergy leaders.

- serving others in the way the congregation uses its resources.
 - learning about the congregation’s surrounding community, including its racial and ethnic diversity and how this context might inform ministries.
 - building and maintaining relationships and partnerships with other ELCA congregations, the synod and the wider church for the sake of God’s mission in the world.
 - building and maintaining relationships and partnerships with other religious and non-religious groups in the congregation’s area and globally for the sake of God’s mission in the world.
 - supporting people in their daily vocations of work, family life and relationships.
 - discerning what should be celebrated, engaged, tweaked or relinquished for the sake of God’s mission.
 - sustaining the congregation’s mission plan and determining how it will be carried out.
2. Congregation mission plans be completed by December 31, 2012, and become a regular process within each congregation.

The Rev. Kathryn A. Tiede asked whether the assembly action would commit her congregation to develop and mission plan in consultation with the synod’s director for evangelical mission and to have that plan on file somewhere by the end of the year.

The Rev. Diane “Dee” Pederson replied that the action would give congregations an opportunity to “begin where they are,” enter into conversation with congregational and synodical leadership, and develop a plan. The process will be different in each community, she said.

Pr. Tiede inquired further about the given deadline and the implication that a document is to be completed.

Pr. Pederson responded that the purpose of the deadline is to provide accountability, and the completed mission plan can take on a variety of forms.

The Rev. David P. Anderson stated that developing a mission plan can be a lengthy process and December 31, 2012, may be an unreasonable deadline.

The Rev. Amsalu T. Geleta asked whether the task force is recommending a single mission plan or an ongoing process of analyzing the congregation’s mission.

Pr. Pederson answered that the task force hoped congregations would develop mission plans regularly.

The Rev. Harold L. Usgaard, bishop of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod, asked whether directors for evangelical mission were aware of the recommended time frame.

Pr. Pederson replied that the report was being presented first to the Church Council.

Bp. Usgaard added that it may be unreasonable for the 175 congregations of his synod to consult with him or the synod’s director for evangelical mission in 16 months.

Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson expressed the concern that the number 2 of the motion was being separated from the number 1 of the motion, which described a process already underway. Rather than a mandate that mission plans be developed, he said the motion was to support the congregations’ missions plans.

The Rev. Rachel L. Connelly stated that the action did seem like a mandate and an unreasonable request for large synods and for small congregations.

Ms. Susan W. McArver remarked that many of the task force recommendations, not only in this section, require much of the directors for evangelical mission.

The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton, bishop of the Northeastern Ohio Synod, commented that the significance of the recommendation was that congregations were being asked to work together on their mission plans, which she described would be a culture change. She suggested that, instead of a deadline, the recommendation be framed in terms of demonstrated progress.

The Rev. Philip R. Wold asked that the recommendation be that planning commence in the next 12 months.

Ms. Deborah L. Chenoweth made the following motion.

Moved;

Seconded: *To amend number 2 of the motion by deletion and addition:*

2. ~~Congregation mission plans be completed~~ Congregation mission planning process be initiated by December 31, 2012, and become a regular process within each congregation.

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called for discussion of the proposed amendment.

Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson repeated his concern that, separated from number 1 of the main motion, number 2 seemed like an autonomous directive rather than a collaborative invitation.

The Rev. Keith A. Hunsinger spoke against the amendment, saying the motion was an awkward mix of descriptive and prescriptive language.

Ms. Karin Lynn Graddy made a motion to amend the amendment.

Moved;

Seconded: *To amend the amendment of number 2 of the motion by deletion and addition:*

2. ~~Congregation mission plans be completed~~ Such cCongregation mission planning process be initiated by December 31, 2012, and become a regular process within each congregation.

The chair called for discussion of the motion to amend the amendment. Discussion ensued about the exact wording of the amendment to amend, and Ms. Graddy agreed to withdraw the motion and redraft it. Vice President Peña then asked for discussion of Ms. Chenoweth's motion to amend.

The Rev. Michael L. Burk, bishop of the Southeastern Iowa Synod, expressed the view that attempts to amend the recommendation failed to capture the intent of the LIFT task force or the concern expressed by the presiding bishop. He suggested, rather than initiating plans as late as December 31, 2012, set that date as a point to assess mission plans.

Presiding Bishop Hanson said the intent of the original motion seemed to describe a process and then recommend that congregations undertake that process with a measurable goal, flowing from a supportive methodology.

The Rev. Ruth E. Hamilton, executive for Office of the Secretary administration, read Ms. Graddy's redrafted motion.

Moved;

Seconded: *To amend the amendment of number 2 of the motion by deletion and addition:*

2. ~~Congregation mission plans be completed~~ Such cCongregation mission planning process be initiated by December 31, 2012, and become a regular process within each congregation.

Pr. Tiede asked whether it may be better to refer the issue to the Planning and Evaluation Committee.

Secretary David D. Swartling made the following motion.

Moved;

Seconded: To refer this recommendation to the Planning and Evaluation Committee for a report in due course.

Vice President Peña called for a vote on the motion to refer.

Moved;

Seconded;

Carried: To refer this recommendation to the Planning and Evaluation Committee for a report in due course.

The chair declared the motion had been approved and explained that "due course" would be later in the meeting.

LIFT TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATION: SYNODS

(Agenda 3.4.B.2; Agenda/MINUTES Exhibit I, Part 1)

The Rev. Susan Langhauser made the following motion on behalf of the committee.

Moved;

Seconded:

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

To adopt the recommendations of the Living into the Future Together (LIFT) task force related to synods:

1. The Conference of Bishops, in consultation with synod leaders and the churchwide organization, prepare a report to the Church Council for recommendations to the 2013 Churchwide Assembly that includes:
 - a description of the current pattern or patterns of synodical life in the ELCA that effectively supports vital congregations, mission growth and outreach.
 - a proposal to establish a pattern or a set of patterns that will allow synods to receive and distribute financial resources to support the whole ministry of this church in all its forms and expressions.
 - strategies for increased mission vitality that may include consideration of redrawing synod boundaries.
 - recommendations for revising and reordering the constitutional responsibilities of bishops and synods to emphasize synods as agents of mission in the changing context and culture. Revising functions previously considered responsibilities of the bishop may involve identifying tasks to let go or do differently (e.g., conflict management in congregations or full involvement in candidacy and placement processes. See ELCA 8.13. and 10.21. and †S6.02. and †S6.03.).
2. Synods, through their bishops, assemblies, councils, staffs and committees prioritize the responsibilities in their constitutions to reflect a focus on equipping congregations and leaders. (†S6.03.).
3. The synod bishop take steps to ensure that the priority of the synod is building and supporting the ability of congregations to make disciples of Jesus Christ and follow his call to serve others. The steps include:
 - Developing and supporting lay, rostered lay and clergy leadership for serving and witnessing.
 - Advocating for mutual relationships and partnerships with youth and young adults, people of color or language other than English and women.
 - Calling congregations to discern God's leading in their particular context for the sake of the gospel.
4. Synod leadership, in partnership with the churchwide organization, devote at least one full or part-time staff person, usually the director for evangelical mission, who is dedicated to building and supporting the ability of existing and emerging ministries and congregations within the territory of the synod to do evangelical outreach and serve others.
5. Mutual accountability and joint planning for mission be emphasized as synods, congregations, the churchwide organization and other ministry partners work together.
6. The churchwide organization assist synods in their work to build and support the ability of the congregations in their territory to serve others as a witness to the gospel. The priority includes supporting the positions of directors for evangelical mission and ensuring the availability of consultation and expertise to support the directors and synod leadership in the areas of community organizing, leadership development, multicultural ministry, youth ministry, evangelism and stewardship.

Ms. Susan W. McArver asked for clarification of the fourth item under number 1 in the recommendation, for revising and reordering the constitutional responsibilities of bishops and synods.

The Rev. Diane “Dee” Pederson replied that synod constitutions have lengthy lists of responsibilities for the synod and bishop and this recommendation would encourage prioritizing those lists and possibly referring responsibilities to others in the synod who may be qualified to assist the synod and bishop in carrying them out.

Mr. Mark S. Helmke expressed concern with the wording of this recommendation and other recommendations in the report, noting that the Church Council’s recommendation would be that the Churchwide Assembly “adopt” the recommendations of the task force. If the assembly adopted the recommendations, he held, the invitations to engage in processes become mandates. Using number four of this motion as an example, he asked whether the recommendation to devote staff to a specific task would become a direction if “adopted” by the assembly.

Pr. Pederson responded that directors for evangelical mission were deployed staff of the churchwide organization and the work was already being done, although it was being done differently in each synod.

Ms. Deborah L. Chenoweth asked whether a word other than “adopt” could be used.

Mr. Helmke noted that, within the task force’s recommendation regarding congregations, the assembly would adopt “We recommend that, in concert with their synod bishop and the director for evangelical mission...” which allows for discretion.

Secretary David D. Swartling made the following motion.

Moved;

Seconded: *To amend the first sentence of the recommended action by deletion and insertion:*

To ~~adopt~~ commend the recommendations of the Living into the Future Together (LIFT) task force related to synods:

Secretary Swartling explained that “commend” could replace “adopt” in each Church Council transmission of task force recommendations to clarify that it is meant as guidance rather than one expression of this church giving direction to another.

The Rev. Kathryn A. Tiede pointed out that amending all of the task force recommendations individually could be a lengthy process.

Secretary Swartling responded that this particular motion was on the floor, and after it is dealt with the council could discuss how to handle the other recommendations.

Mr. Helmke remarked that there may be places in the recommendations where mandates were intended, and they may be weakened by simply commending them.

Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson spoke against the amendment, saying the assembly had the right to ask the Conference of Bishops for a report as stated in recommendation number one in this motion. He expressed the view that the task force was asked to offer such directions.

There being no further discussion, Vice President Peña called for a vote on the amendment.

Moved;

Seconded;

Carried: *To amend the first sentence of the recommended action by deletion and insertion:*

To ~~adopt~~ commend the recommendations of the Living into the Future Together (LIFT) task force related to synods:

The chair declared that the motion to amend had been approved and asked that discussion return to the main motion as amended.

The Rev. Herman R. Yoos III, bishop of the South Carolina Synod, said the task force recommendations were realistic expectations. He commented that the task force had presented a vision and expectations for this church, and the urgency of the recommendations would be clear from the report and not from the assembly commending or adopting them.

The Rev. J. Pablo Obregon recognized the intent of the task force to address multicultural ministry, justice for women, and similar issues, but he was disappointed that there was no clear direction how to address them.

Pr. Pederson drew the council's attention to the fourth section of recommendations which dealt with the churchwide organization and the emphasis there on meeting the multicultural goals of this church.

The Rev. Michael L. Burk, bishop of the Southeastern Iowa Synod, remarked that the final recommendation in the motion presented ongoing work that he felt needed more than the assembly's commendation.

There being no further discussion, Vice President Peña called for a vote on the main motion as amended.

VOTED:

CC11.04.17 *To recommend the following for adoption by the 2011 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:*

To commend the recommendations of the Living into the Future Together (LIFT) task force related to synods:

- 1. The Conference of Bishops, in consultation with synod leaders and the churchwide organization, prepare a report to the Church Council for recommendations to the 2013 Churchwide Assembly that includes:**
 - a description of the current pattern or patterns of synodical life in the ELCA that effectively supports vital congregations, mission growth and outreach.
 - a proposal to establish a pattern or a set of patterns that will allow synods to receive and distribute financial resources to support the whole ministry of this church in all its forms and expressions.
 - strategies for increased mission vitality that may include consideration of redrawing synod boundaries.
 - recommendations for revising and reordering the constitutional responsibilities of bishops and synods to emphasize synods as agents of mission in the changing context and culture. Revising functions previously considered responsibilities of the bishop may involve identifying tasks to let go or do differently (e.g., conflict management in congregations or full involvement in candidacy and placement processes. See ELCA 8.13. and 10.21. and †S6.02. and †S6.03.).
- 2. Synods, through their bishops, assemblies, councils, staffs and committees prioritize the responsibilities in their constitutions to reflect a focus on equipping congregations and leaders. (†S6.03.).**
- 3. The synod bishop take steps to ensure that the priority of the synod is building and supporting the ability of congregations to make disciples of Jesus Christ and follow his call to serve others. The steps include:**
 - Developing and supporting lay, rostered lay and clergy leadership for serving and witnessing.
 - Advocating for mutual relationships and partnerships with youth and young adults, people of color or language other than English and women.

- **Calling congregations to discern God’s leading in their particular context for the sake of the gospel.**
- 4. **Synod leadership, in partnership with the churchwide organization, devote at least one full or part-time staff person, usually the director for evangelical mission, who is dedicated to building and supporting the ability of existing and emerging ministries and congregations within the territory of the synod to do evangelical outreach and serve others.**
- 5. **Mutual accountability and joint planning for mission be emphasized as synods, congregations, the churchwide organization and other ministry partners work together.**
- 6. **The churchwide organization assist synods in their work to build and support the ability of the congregations in their territory to serve others as a witness to the gospel. The priority includes supporting the positions of directors for evangelical mission and ensuring the availability of consultation and expertise to support the directors and synod leadership in the areas of community organizing, leadership development, multicultural ministry, youth ministry, evangelism and stewardship.**

The chair declared the motion as amended had been approved. [*Note:* This action was subsequently rescinded by action of the Church Council (CC11.04.34).]

DWELLING IN THE WORD (Agenda 3.4)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called for the orders of the day and invited Mr. Mark E. Johnson to reflect on “Dwelling in the Word.” Mr. Johnson sang a song based on John 15:16 that he learned at a 1960 youth gathering.

RECESS

The third plenary session of the April 2011 meeting of the Church Council recessed at 3:19 P.M.

**Saturday, April 9, 2011
Plenary Session IV**

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called Plenary Session Four to order at 3:52 P.M.

REPORT OF THE PLANNING AND EVALUATION COMMITTEE (Continued)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on the Rev. Susan Langhauser, chair of the Planning and Evaluation Committee, to continue with the committee's report.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE LIFT TASK FORCE (Continued)

LIFT TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATION: CONGREGATIONS (Continued)
(Agenda 3.4.B.1; Agenda/MINUTES Exhibit I, Part 1)

The Rev. Susan Langhauser presented a series of amendments the Planning and Evaluation Committee had developed for the recommendations included in the report by the task force for "Living into the Future Together: Renewing the Ecology of the ELCA" (LIFT). She made the following motion on behalf of the committee.

Moved;

Seconded: *To amend the referred amendment to "LIFT Task Force Recommendation: Congregations" by substitution:*

- ~~2. Congregation mission plans be completed by December 31, 2012 and become a regular process within each congregation.~~
Congregations will be invited into and engaged in such planning by December 31, 2012, toward the goal that collaborative mission planning will become a regular process within each congregation.

Vice President Carlos E. Peña asked for discussion of the motion.

The Rev. Kathryn A. Tiede asked who will be doing the inviting.

Pr. Langhauser reminded the Church Council that the amended sentence followed a section regarding collaboration between congregations and synods.

The Rev. Steven P. Loy expressed the view that the council was having difficulty with the wording because it was to make the vision of the task force a reality.

Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson added that the vision was already in process of becoming reality in the new design of the churchwide organization and in other ways.

The Rev. Gerald L. Mansholt, bishop of the Central States Synod, said it was important to see the LIFT task force report as a vision of a new reality for this church and the recommendations as invitations to take the first steps on a journey into that new reality.

There being no further discussion, Vice President Peña called for a vote on the motion to amend by substitution.

Moved;

Carried: *To amend the referred amendment to "LIFT Task Force Recommendation: Congregations" by substitution:*

- ~~2. Congregation mission plans be completed by December 31, 2012 and become a regular process within each congregation.~~
Congregations will be invited into and engaged in such planning by December 31, 2012, toward the goal that collaborative mission planning will become a regular process within each congregation.

The chair declared that the motion to amend by substitution had been approved and asked that discussion return to the main motion as amended.

Ms. Ann F. Niedringhaus asked whether the Church Council would recommend the Churchwide Assembly either “adopt” or “commend” these task force recommendations.

Secretary David D. Swartling noted there had been no amendment of the word “adopt” in this motion.

Pr. Langhauser told the council that the Planning and Evaluation Committee had compared the recommendations to those of the recommended action for the 2007 Churchwide Assembly regarding the report of the Blue Ribbon Committee on Mission Funding, which was “to commend the content of the report for study and reflection throughout this church.” It expressed a willingness to work as a committee on the wording of all LIFT task force recommendations.

Ms. Susan W. McArver spoke in favor of the council discussing the recommendations, then the committee working with that information, and the committee reporting to the council the next day.

The Rev. Philip R. Wold complimented the task force report as an inspirational invitation for this church to engage in mission together, yet he expressed concern that others saw unfunded mandates. He raised a concern that directors for evangelical mission were overworked, having their budgets cut, and invited to do more.

The Rev. Michael L. Burk, bishop of the Southeastern Iowa Synod, mentioned that the recommendations often said “in concert with the bishop and the director for evangelical mission,” which implied that the director was a catalyst for this work and not that the director is responsible for it.

Ms. McArver asked that the recommendation clarify that every congregation does not need to meet with either the bishop or director for evangelical mission.

The Rev. Keith A. Hunsinger reiterated his concerns about prescriptive and descriptive language in the recommendations. He suggested framing the recommendations as “best practices.”

Mr. Mark S. Helmke suggested leading into all the recommendations with an explanation of the intent of the recommendation.

Secretary Swartling outlined some of the options available to the council for dealing with the current motion.

The Rev. Jeffrey “Jeff” B. Sorenson made the following motion.

Moved;

Seconded: To refer the motion to a committee named by the chair.

Mr. Helmke asked whether the motion to refer included all recommendations of the LIFT task force.

Secretary Swartling replied that it only involved the first set of recommendations, which addressed congregations.

There being no further discussion on the motion to refer, Vice President Peña called for the vote.

Moved;

Seconded;

Carried: To refer the motion to a committee named by the chair.

The chair declared that the motion to refer had been approved. He noted that the second set of recommendations regarding synods had already been approved. He asked for discussion of the third set of recommendations regarding regions with the goal of discussing all remaining recommendations without taking an action on each set.

LIFT TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATION: REGIONS

(Agenda 3.4.B.3; Agenda/MINUTES Exhibit I, Part 1)

The Rev. Susan Langhauser introduced the task force recommendation regarding regions.

The Rev. Steven P. Loy asked to hear from the synod bishops present their views on working within regions.

The Rev. Michael L. Burk, bishop of the Southeastern Iowa Synod, replied that each region is different but synod bishops had expressed overwhelming support to preserve regions with regional coordinators.

The Rev. Ralph E. Jones, bishop of the Northwestern Pennsylvania Synod, responded that synods would continue to work regionally even without regions.

Ms. Susan W. McArver asked whether some word other than “laboratories” could be used to describe a concept that this church has had since its beginning.

The chair noted there was no further discussion on the third set of task force recommendations.

LIFT TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATION: THE CHURCHWIDE ORGANIZATION

(Agenda 3.4.B.4; Agenda/MINUTES Exhibit I, Part 1)

The Rev. Susan Langhauser introduced the task force recommendations regarding the churchwide organization.

Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson expressed his view that the Churchwide Assembly had the authority to adopt the recommendations in this section and that he would like the stronger action of adopting whenever possible.

Ms. Susan W. McArver pointed out that the recommendations did not include faith formation, especially through ministries with children, youth, young adults.

The chair noted there was no further discussion on the fourth set of task force recommendations.

LIFT TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATION: LEADERSHIP FOR MISSION AND EDUCATION IN THE FAITH

(Agenda 3.4.B.5; Agenda/MINUTES Exhibit I, Part 1)

The Rev. Susan Langhauser introduced the task force recommendations regarding leadership for mission and education in the faith.

The Rev. Keith A. Hunsinger asked how the recommendations were different from current practice in this church.

The Rev. Diane “Dee” Pederson replied that the recommendations were based on research presented to the task force, which was affirming that work with the recommendation that it continue.

The Rev. Kathryn A. Tiede pointed out that some recommendations included the word “continue” with the implication was that this church was not already doing other work mentioned.

Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson said that, as funding became less of a connection between education and this church, a greater emphasis was being placed on the understanding of vocation. He added that a purpose of the task force recommendations was to signal this church’s support for its partners.

The chair noted there was no further discussion on the fifth set of task force recommendations.

LIFT TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATION: GLOBAL AND ECUMENICAL PARTNERSHIPS

(Agenda 3.4.B.6; Agenda/MINUTES Exhibit I, Part 1)

The Rev. Susan Langhauser introduced the task force recommendations regarding global and ecumenical partnerships.

The Rev. Keith A. Hunsinger praised this section of the task force recommendations as being clear and effective.

The chair noted there was no further discussion on the sixth set of task force recommendations.

LIFT TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATION: AGENCIES, INSTITUTIONS, AND OTHER MINISTRIES

(Agenda 3.4.B.7; Agenda/MINUTES Exhibit I, Part 1)

The Rev. Susan Langhauser introduced the task force recommendations regarding agencies, institutions, and other ministries.

The Rev. Kathryn A. Tiede asked whether an example of what this seventh section of the task force report would be the array of Lutheran agencies working together to address malaria.

The Rev. Diane “Dee” Pederson replied that the task force attempted to commend all of this church’s partnerships without being specific.

Ms. Ann F. Niedringhaus mentioned that Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota may be an example of what the task force was describing in that the agency partnered with its surrounding community to build housing, a community center, and space for a congregation.

The chair noted that there was no further discussion on the seventh set of task force recommendations.

LIFT TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATION: COMMUNAL DISCERNMENT

(Agenda 3.4.B.8; Agenda/MINUTES Exhibit I, Part 1)

The Rev. Susan Langhauser introduced the task force recommendation regarding communal discernment. She noted that the Planning and Evaluation Committee had amended the fourth recommendation in this set to delete the word “new” from “Affirm the new responsibility of the presiding bishop....”

The Rev. Steven P. Loy stated that the Program and Services Committee had proposed a replacement to the fifth recommendation in this set.

Vice President Carlos E. Peña asked that the Church Council consider the proposed substitution as information and open for discussion.

Pr. Loy remarked that the Program and Services Committee discussed the recommendation, especially its effect on the genetics social statement that was ready for consideration at the 2011 Churchwide Assembly. He said the committee wanted the work on that statement seen to completion. He added that the proposed substitution had a possible effect on the criminal justice social statement, which was in process, including new methods of communal discernment.

Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson suggested that the Church Council decide whether to commend the proposed social statement on genetics to the Churchwide Assembly and not leave that decision until a writing team reports.

Pr. Loy made the following motion.

Moved;

Seconded:

To substitute the fifth and sixth recommendations of the LIFT task force regarding communal discernment with the following:

- ~~5. Bring no social statements to churchwide assemblies until a review process is completed. This review of current procedures for the development and adoption of social statements, established by the Church Council in consultation with the Conference of Bishops, should reflect the spirit and culture of communal discernment.~~
- ~~6. Continue work on current social statements.~~

Authorize the Church Council, in consultation with the Conference of Bishops and Communal Discernment Task Force, to establish a review process of current procedures for the development and adoption of social statements including those scheduled for consideration following the 2011 Churchwide Assembly. This review should reflect the spirit and culture of communal discernment.

Secretary David D. Swartling replied that, if the intent of the motion was to proceed with the genetics social statement for consideration by the 2011 Churchwide Assembly, a separate motion to take that action should be made.

Presiding Bishop Hanson stated that a separate motion would disconnect the proposed social statement from efforts related to the communal discernment review process.

Pr. Loy responded that the second part of the LIFT task force report regarding communal discernment acknowledges that this church will do things differently in the years ahead. He repeated his concern that LIFT task force recommendations were being applied piecemeal rather than agreeing first on the underlying principles.

The Rev. Michael L. Burk, bishop of the Southeastern Iowa Synod, stated that the Planning and Evaluation Committee devoted more discussion to this recommendation than any other, trying to determine the intent of the LIFT task force.

The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton, bishop of the Northeastern Ohio Synod, expressed the view that the motion undid the recommendation of the task force, questioned whether it would be possible to review something already under review, and reported that some bishops were saying that some congregations would leave the ELCA because of the genetics social statement.

Secretary Swartling suggested that the motion unambiguously exclude the proposed social statement on genetics and that the Church Council decide whether or not to transmit the social statement to the 2011 Churchwide Assembly.

The Rev. Kathryn A. Tiede recalled that Churchwide Assemblies mandated proposed social statements on genetics and on criminal justice and said it would be contrary to creating a culture of trust and accountability for the Church Council to refuse. She recommended the amendment state that the proposed social statements on genetics and on criminal justice be allowed to proceed on schedule and that all future social statements would be subject to some review process.

Ms. Susan W. McArver made the following motion to amend the motion.

Moved;

Seconded:

To amend the proposed substitution by striking and adding:

Authorize the Church Council, in consultation with the Conference of Bishops and Communal Discernment Task Force, to establish a review process of current procedures for the development and adoption of social statements ~~including those scheduled for consideration~~ following presentation of the genetics social statement at the 2011 Churchwide Assembly. This review should reflect the spirit and culture of communal discernment.

Ms. Lynette M. Reitz asked to which body the Communal Discernment Task Force reported if it were to offer recommendations.

Pr. Langhauser replied that the Communal Discernment Task Force was empaneled by the council at the request of the presiding bishop and that it brought some recommendations to the November 2010 meeting of the Church Council and intended to bring more recommendations to its November 2011 meeting.

The Rev. Marcus R. Kunz, executive for discernment of contextual and theological issues, remarked that the Communal Discernment Task Force was the council's response to a resolution from the Southwestern Minnesota Synod Council and the task force had been providing updates to the council's Planning and Evaluation Committee.

Mr. John S. Munday, the Church Council liaison member of the Criminal Justice Task Force, pointed out that a study guide was distributed with responses due by October 15, 2011. He suggested that any review process permit the proposed social statement on criminal justice to be presented to the 2013 Churchwide Assembly, emphasizing the amount of work already done and the significance of the topic.

Bp. Eaton responded that implementing a review process will not preclude social statements on genetics, criminal justice, or justice for women. She expressed the view that the succession of social statements had created an atmosphere of fatigue about social statements regardless of their topics.

The Rev. Jeffrey "Jeff" B. Sorenson asked whether the Rev. Diane "Dee" Pederson would explain why the LIFT task force had made these recommendations.

Pr. Pederson replied that the task force studied this church's culture of discernment, how it discusses matters, decides which matters to discuss, does theology, and makes decisions. She said the emphasis of the task force shifted toward a review process, while recognizing the work being done on social statements.

Pr. Sorenson noted that bishops provide pastoral care for this church's congregations and that bishops had reported that the steady stream of social statements was making such care difficult to provide, regardless of the quality of the social statements.

Ms. Deborah L. Chenoweth, the Church Council liaison member of the LIFT task force, said the task force and she had wrestled with the fatigue of this church and the urgency of issues related to genetics. She expressed the view that the task force would be satisfied with either direction but wanted to make that tension evident and discussed.

The Rev. Gerald L. Mansholt, bishop of the Central States Synod, stated that the proposed social statement on genetics had been welcomed in some parts of this church and some ELCA members have been longing for this proposal.

Pr. Langhauser, speaking to the motion not as chairman of the Planning and Evaluation Committee, praised the work of the LIFT task force and the Communal Discernment Task Force and added that the mandate of the Church Council from the Churchwide Assembly was to present the proposed social statement on genetics. She said the issues of timing and fatigue were matters of communal discernment for the assembly.

Presiding Bishop Hanson recalled his earlier remarks about describing and defining this church. He remarked that he was caught between the voices of weary members saying the leadership was not listening to them and the voices of those proud of this church's ability to address difficult faith-and-life issues. He asked whether there were other ways to respectfully address the weary while continuing to wrestle with significant issues of the day.

The Rev. Rachel L. Connelly commented that she had heard those weary voices while this church was defining itself as a sending, public church. She asked whether the Church Council could constitutionally not present the proposed social statement on genetics to the Churchwide Assembly.

Secretary Swartling replied that the motion needed to be understood as a recommendation to the Churchwide Assembly. He said the Churchwide Assembly called for the social statement and set the timing of it, and only the Churchwide Assembly can change that. He spoke in favor of the amendment that the recommendations of the LIFT task force not preclude the proposed social statement on genetics by implication.

Vice President Peña reminded the council that a report on the ELCA Malaria Campaign was an order of the day at five o'clock and noted that several members had indicated they would like to speak on the current topic. He asked whether the council would prefer to postpone or vote on the motion.

Secretary Swartling responded to several procedural questions.

Pr. Loy made the following motion.

Moved;

Seconded: To postpone action on the pending questions until tomorrow [Sunday, April 10, 2011].

There being no discussion on the motion to postpone, Vice President Peña called for the vote.

Moved;

Seconded;

Carried: To postpone action on the pending questions until tomorrow [Sunday, April 10, 2011].

The chair declared that the motion to had been approved and called for the orders of the day.

REPORT OF THE PROGRAM AND SERVICES COMMITTEE

(Agenda 4.2)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña asked that the Rev. Steven P. Loy, chair of the Program and Services Committee, present the committee's report.

ELCA MALARIA CAMPAIGN

(Agenda 4.2.A)

Background:

The 2009 Churchwide Assembly voted [CA.09.02.06]:

To approve continued development of the Lutheran Malaria Initiative (LMI) by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in partnership with Lutheran World Relief (LWR), The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod (LCMS), and the United Nations Foundation (UNF);

To join with domestic and global partners to address malaria as a disease intensified by poverty within the context of comprehensive and sustainable community development and in close cooperation and partnership with this church's companion churches in Africa and the Lutheran World Federation;

To begin work related to LMI in the next biennium (2009-2011), specifically involving preparation of resources, pilot projects at sites to be determined, solicitation of individual donors, and collaboration with synods and congregations for anticipated LMI fundraising engagement following the 2011 ELCA Churchwide Assembly;

To develop the Lutheran Malaria Initiative in ways that reinforce efforts by the World Hunger Appeal to both achieve its \$25 million goal and continue to raise designated funds to address another disease intensified by poverty: HIV and AIDS;

To authorize continued receipt of designated LMI gifts under the auspices of the World Hunger Appeal, with such funds to be allocated through a specific budget for this initiative;

To request that a report and possible recommendations for a possible churchwide campaign for the Lutheran Malaria Initiative be brought to the 2011 ELCA Churchwide Assembly; and

To anticipate that this whole church—members of every age, congregations, synods, the churchwide organization, agencies and institutions, the Women of the ELCA, Lutheran Men in Mission, the Lutheran Youth Organization, colleges and universities, seminaries, social ministry organizations, camping ministries, and all others will learn about malaria and other diseases intensified by poverty and prayerfully support the Lutheran Malaria Initiative as it grows into readiness for a possible major fundraising campaign in synods and congregations following authorizing action by the 2011 ELCA Churchwide Assembly.

At its October 2010 meeting, the Church Council received a detailed report on the work of this church related to malaria. The council voted [CC10.10.36]:

To focus the commitment of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to address malaria through a re-branded and prioritized ELCA Malaria Campaign throughout this church;

To acknowledge the enthusiasm of this church to meet this commitment, giving thanks to God for:

1. the energy and commitment of the five current pilot synods and the five additional pilot synods eager to begin in 2011;
2. the generous gifts of donors throughout this church;
3. resources prepared and stories told;

To give thanks as well for the enthusiasm with which companion churches in Africa have embraced and have begun to implement a joint effort with the ELCA to roll back malaria, utilizing their personnel, church programs, health ministries and community development programs in this effort;

To focus and expand the work already begun, anticipating an authorizing action to be taken by the 2011 ELCA Churchwide Assembly;

To reaffirm the ongoing core work of ELCA World Hunger and strengthen its capacity through this special giving opportunity that reaches out to new donors and invites current donors to deepen their commitment above and beyond normal World Hunger giving;

To request that, after donors are informed of this church's refocus of its distribution channels for gifts designated for malaria, funds already held by this church and funds to be received with any designation for malaria be distributed to address issues of malaria through Global Mission's ongoing relationships with partner churches;

To authorize continued receipt of designated gifts for malaria under the auspices of the World Hunger appeal in support of malaria work of this church;

To request that a report and recommendations for a churchwide campaign to address malaria be brought to the April 2011 meeting of the ELCA Church Council for referral to the 2011 Churchwide Assembly;

To communicate to The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod and to Lutheran World Relief (LWR), in light of these decisions, the ELCA's continuing desire to work cooperatively on malaria-related efforts with them;

To acknowledge with gratitude the work begun with Lutheran World Relief (LWR), The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod (LCMS), and the United Nations Foundation (UNF) through the Lutheran Malaria Initiative (LMI), and to deepen partnerships with LWR among specific partners and ministries, with the Lutheran World Federation, and with other partners; and

To anticipate that this whole church—members of every age, congregations, synods, the churchwide organization, agencies and institutions, the Women of the ELCA, Lutheran Men in Mission, the Lutheran Youth Organization, colleges and universities, seminaries, social ministry organizations, camping ministries, and all others—will learn about malaria and other diseases intensified by poverty and prayerfully support this commitment as it grows into readiness for a possible major fund-raising campaign in synods and congregations following authorizing action by the 2011 Churchwide Assembly.

The commitment of this church to malaria work continues. The ELCA, encouraged by the vote of the 2009 Churchwide Assembly, has developed a strategy to join the global movement to contain deaths from malaria in Africa by 2015. Some changes have been made to the structure of this project, but the ELCA's commitments to global health and to its companions in Africa remain firm.

Late in 2010, mission support and other funding to the ELCA had declined significantly. In light of this difficult economic situation, ELCA leadership determined that a \$30 million campaign around malaria, which was to be tested in the current biennium, was not feasible at that time. Therefore, the churchwide organization withdrew its grant proposal to the United Nations Foundation, ending this church's involvement in the project called the Lutheran Malaria Initiative.

The ELCA has made commitments to and has continued to engage with companion churches as they develop and implement strategies for preventing and treating malaria in Africa. The new effort will carry forward much of the work that the ELCA had been doing under the rubric of the Lutheran Malaria Initiative. *The ELCA Malaria Campaign*, as it is now known, will direct all of its funds to companion churches in Africa. (The United Nations Foundation-related campaign that had been under consideration required that 30 percent of the funds raised go to the Global Fund, 20 percent to be used for capacity building to encourage companion churches to participate in Global Fund country efforts, and 50 percent to support companions' malaria programming.)

The proposed goal of \$15 million may be a challenge in the current economic environment, but is both achievable and ambitious enough to meet the commitments that the ELCA has made to our companion churches in Africa. The ELCA Malaria Campaign will continue both to work closely with ELCA World Hunger and to underscore the global health connections between malaria containment and ministry with those living with HIV and AIDS.

The ELCA Malaria Campaign is not intended to compete with essential ELCA World Hunger work, but rather to build further capacity. It reaches out to new donors and also provides an exciting opportunity for current donors to deepen their commitment above and beyond normal ELCA World Hunger giving. Through the ELCA Malaria Campaign this church's commitment to health and hope for our sisters and brothers in Africa is strong, focused and prioritized.

Church Council Action:

The Rev. Steven P. Loy introduced the Rev. Andrea DeGroot-Nesdahl, coordinator for the ELCA Malaria Campaign and the HIV and AIDS Strategy, who presented the above background information.

Pr. Loy reflected on the discussion of the Program and Services Committee regarding the campaign. He said that pilot programs associated with the Lutheran Malaria Initiative had already attracted the attention of this church, however the ELCA Malaria Campaign had not officially begun. He noted that funds for the campaign would be received under the auspices of World Hunger. He made the following motion on behalf of the committee.

Moved;

Seconded:

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

To launch the ELCA Malaria Campaign under the auspices of the World Hunger Appeal as a major fundraising effort of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, its synods and congregations, and its affiliated ministries, auxiliaries, and individual members, that will encompass the best efforts of this church to join companion churches in Africa to contain deaths related to malaria by 2015;

To join with domestic and global partners to address malaria as a disease intensified by poverty within the context of comprehensive and sustainable community development and in close cooperation and partnership with this church's companion churches in Africa and the Lutheran World Federation;

To invite every congregation, synod, affiliated ministry, auxiliary, and individual member of this church to make a contribution towards the goal of \$15 million over the next four years (2011–2015);

To develop the ELCA Malaria Campaign in ways that complement efforts of the World Hunger Appeal to achieve and grow beyond its own annual goals;

To authorize continued receipt of designated ELCA Malaria Campaign gifts under the auspices of the World Hunger Appeal, with such funds to be allocated for the purposes of this campaign;

To request that reports be submitted annually to the Church Council and to each Churchwide Assembly during the duration of the campaign and that public announcements of accomplishments be made as appropriate; and

To give thanks that God's work of bringing healing to the nations can continue to be accomplished through our hands as we share the abundance with which God has blessed us.

Vice President Carlos E. Peña opened the floor for discussion of the motion.

The Rev. Amsalu T. Geleta asked whether congregations would send their gifts to the ELCA Malaria Campaign and World Hunger or to one or the other program.

Treasurer Christina Jackson-Skelton replied that the ELCA Malaria Campaign would be a designated appeal under the World Hunger "umbrella." She said that a check to the ELCA with "Malaria Campaign" on the memo line would direct those funds for addressing malaria only, and a check with "World Hunger" on the memo line would go into a more general fund that may address malaria among other programs.

Ms. Rebecca Jo Brakke commented on the number of appeals she had received and expressed concern with this church's capacity to raise \$15 million.

The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton, bishop of the Northeastern Ohio Synod, mentioned that the Northeastern Ohio Synod had been one of the pilot synods and had based its campaign on weekly worship attendance. At \$3 per attendee each year of a five-year campaign, she calculated that the synod could reasonably raise \$250,000.

The Rev. Kathryn A. Tiede spoke in favor of the motion but expressed regret that the ELCA Malaria Campaign would not coordinate its work with other organizations.

Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson explained that this church's decision regarding the Lutheran Malaria Initiative did not preclude its working ecumenically and with partner organizations through the ELCA Malaria Campaign.

Pr. DeGroot-Nesdahl responded that local fund-raising campaigns may be coordinated with ecumenical partners, businesses, and other community organizations.

The Rev. Margaret G. Payne, bishop of the New England Synod, noted that different people respond to different appeals—those who may not donate to a seminary endowment may donate toward containing malaria. She urged those who felt unable to respond to not feel guilty.

Pr. DeGroot-Nesdahl related several examples, including a story about Sunday school students in one congregation who collected enough nickels to buy 17 bed nets and inspired the adults to donate what they were able.

The Rev. J. Pablo Obregon spoke in favor of the motion and the campaign based on the situations of those in need.

The Rev. Keith A. Hunsinger recalled statistics regarding money American Lutherans raised at the end of World War Two and called it a time when the Lutheran church was strong and engaged.

There being no further discussion, Vice President Peña called for the vote.

VOTED:

CC11.04.18 *To recommend the following for adoption by the 2011 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:*

To launch the ELCA Malaria Campaign under the auspices of the World Hunger Appeal as a major fundraising effort of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America,

its synods and congregations, and its affiliated ministries, auxiliaries, and individual members, that will encompass the best efforts of this church to join companion churches in Africa to contain deaths related to malaria by 2015;

To join with domestic and global partners to address malaria as a disease intensified by poverty within the context of comprehensive and sustainable community development and in close cooperation and partnership with this church's companion churches in Africa and the Lutheran World Federation;

To invite every congregation, synod, affiliated ministry, auxiliary, and individual member of this church to make a contribution towards the goal of \$15 million over the next four years (2011–2015);

To develop the ELCA Malaria Campaign in ways that complement efforts of the World Hunger Appeal to achieve and grow beyond its own annual goals;

To authorize continued receipt of designated ELCA Malaria Campaign gifts under the auspices of the World Hunger Appeal, with such funds to be allocated for the purposes of this campaign;

To request that reports be submitted annually to the Church Council and to each Churchwide Assembly during the duration of the campaign and that public announcements of accomplishments be made as appropriate; and

To give thanks that God's work of bringing healing to the nations can continue to be accomplished through our hands as we share the abundance with which God has blessed us.

The chair declared that the motion had been approved. Vice President Peña invited members of the Church Council to join the Conference of Bishops and executive staff of the churchwide organization in becoming part of the Leadership Circle for the ELCA Malaria Campaign.

REPORT OF THE PLANNING AND EVALUATION COMMITTEE (Continued)

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE LIFT TASK FORCE (Continued)

(Agenda 3.4.B; Agenda/MINUTES Exhibit I, Part 1a)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on Secretary David D. Swartling, who made the following motion.

Moved;

Seconded: To refer the Living into the Future Together (LIFT) recommendations in the agenda to a committee to be appointed by the chair.

There being no discussion of the motion, the chair called for the vote.

Moved;

Seconded;

Carried: To refer the Living into the Future Together (LIFT) recommendations in the agenda to a committee to be appointed by the chair.

Vice President Peña declared that the motion had been approved.

PROCESS OBSERVATION

(Agenda 4.3)

Background:

Members of the Racial Justice Working Group are Mr. Baron Blanchard, Ms. Arielle R. Mastellar, Ms. Ann F. Niedringhaus, the Rev. J. Pablo Obregon, Mr. Iván A. Pérez, Ms. Lynette M. Reitz, Mr. David Truland, and Ms. Deborah Wilson. At the invitation of the Board Development Committee, the group observed Church Council meetings and provided periodic reports on:

- Process
- Who was in the room? Who spoke or addressed the plenary? How often? Whose voices were brought into the room?
- Climate: disconnect between advisors and council; comfort in sharing, speaking in plenary

Church Council Information:

Vice President Carlos E. Peña requested that members of the Racial Justice Working Group present their process observations.

Ms. Lynette M. Reitz asked that council members include comments about the process observations in their evaluations of the Church Council meeting. She noted that there was more engagement of the members in the day's discussions than she had previously observed. She praised the Living into the Future Together (LIFT) task force for using available technology to involve more members of this church. She listed points in the meeting when references were made to involving young adults, women, various ethnic groups, and others "not in the room."

The Rev. J. Pablo Obregon reviewed the first two plenary sessions, mentioning that there was an intentional attempt to consider several communities in the discussions. He expressed appreciation for the "Dwelling in the Word" presentations for their age perspectives and for incorporating unfamiliar cultures.

Ms. Ann F. Niedringhaus said she welcomed the attention given to gender balance in the report on staffing following restructuring, the LIFT task force's recognition of "neighbors" when planting new congregations, and the use of other media in major reports to accommodate learning differences.

REPORT ON NOMINATIONS, APPOINTMENTS, AND ELECTIONS (Continued)

CHURCH COUNCIL NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS (Continued)

(Agenda 2.3 and 3.3, Agenda/MINUTES Exhibit C, Part 1)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on Secretary David D. Swartling for announcements.

Secretary Swartling reported the results of the Church Council election.

VOTED:

CC11.04.19 To elect the Rev. Yvonne I. Marshall, Council Bluffs, Iowa, of the Western Iowa Synod (5E) to the Church Council for a term ending in 2015.

Vice President Peña declared Pr. Marshall elected to the Church Council.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Agenda 4.4)

Secretary David D. Swartling detailed plans for events that evening and the next morning. He announced that no matters of new business were reported and nothing was removed from *en bloc* consideration.

Vice President Carlos E. Peña appointed the Rev. Susan Langhauser to chair a committee of Ms. Deborah L. Chenoweth, Ms. Louise A. Hemstead, Mr. William B. Horne II, Ms. Susan W. McArver, and staff to rewrite the Living into the Future Together (LIFT) recommendations, which the Church Council had referred.

PRAYER

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on the Rev. Rachel L. Connelly, who closed the session with prayer.

RECESS

The fourth plenary session of the April 2011 meeting of the Church Council recessed at 5:30 P.M.

**Sunday, April 10, 2011
Plenary Session V**

Prior to the convening of Plenary Session Five of the Church Council meeting on Sunday, April 10, 2011, council members and advisors gathered for a service of Holy Communion in the 1st Floor Chapel. Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson preached; the Rev. Heather S. Lubold served as presiding minister; Vice President Carlos E. Peña was assisting minister; Ms. Arielle R. Mastellar was lector; and the Rev. Twila K. Schock provided music.

Vice President Peña called the fifth plenary session to order at 9:30 A.M., expressing gratitude to those who had led worship.

Treasurer Christina Jackson-Skelton announced that the offering of \$2,126 taken during worship had been designated for World Hunger. She provided information about gathering pledges for the ELCA Malaria Campaign. She also updated the council members on changes in security measures for the Lutheran Center and its adjoining parking garage.

Vice President Peña asked the Rev. Susan Langhauser to report on the work of the committee appointed to rewrite the recommendations of the Living into the Future Together: Renewing the Ecology of the ELCA (LIFT) task force.

Pr. Langhauser replied that the writing team was continuing its work and would be informed by the council's discussion of the proposed social statement on genetics.

**REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE OF BISHOPS
(Agenda 5.1; Agenda/MINUTES Exhibit A, Part 6)**

Vice President Carlos E. Peña asked the Rev. Michael L. Burk, bishop of the Southeastern Iowa Synod, for the report of the Conference of Bishops.

Bp. Burk drew the council's attention to the written report of the Rev. Allan C. Bjornberg, bishop of the Rocky Mountain Synod and chair of the Conference of Bishops. Bp. Burk noted the conference's consideration of the LIFT task force recommendations, support of directors for evangelical mission and their interface of this church's three expressions, response to congregations discerning their relationships with the ELCA, and collaboration with the Church Council through the liaison bishops.

Vice President Peña thanked Bp. Burk and the liaison bishops.

**REPORT OF THE PROGRAM AND SERVICES COMMITTEE (Continued)
(Agenda 5.2)**

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on the Rev. Steven P. Loy, chair of the Program and Services Committee, to continue the committee's report.

**SOCIAL STATEMENT ON GENETICS
(Agenda 5.2.A; Agenda/MINUTES Exhibit J, Parts 1a–1e and 3)**

Background:

Genetics, Faith, and Responsibility is the text of the proposed social statement on genetics. Work on this statement was authorized at the 2005 Churchwide Assembly. If approved by the 2011 Churchwide Assembly, it will be the eleventh social statement of this church.

ELCA social statements are teaching documents that assist members in their thinking about social issues. They are meant to aid in communal and individual moral deliberation and formation. Social statements also set policy for this church and guide its advocacy and work in the public arena. They result from an extensive process of participation and deliberation and are adopted by a two-thirds vote of a Churchwide Assembly.

The initial request for a social statement on genetics came as a memorial from the Northeastern Iowa Synod, which cited concerns about genetic advances, the need for critical issues to be addressed and for “moral guidance in the face of the technological advances.”

The development and adoption of social statements by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America are guided by the document “Policies and Procedures of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for Addressing Social Concerns,” adopted by the 1997 Churchwide Assembly and periodically revised by the Church Council. According to that document (page 10):

The Church Council shall review and act upon the recommendations by the Office of the Presiding Bishop (ELCA 14.21.01., 14.21.03.). The Church Council shall approve the text of proposed social statements and recommend the text to the Churchwide Assembly (ELCA 12.12.01.). Prior to a published deadline before a meeting of the Church Council, any voting member of the council who wishes to suggest an amendment to the proposed social statement shall submit it to the chair of the Program and Services Committee. The Program and Services Committee will make a recommendation concerning the proposed amendment to the Church Council, which will act upon that recommendation.

The process for developing this proposed statement was guided by the ELCA Task Force on Genetics. The task force was composed of members of this church who have different perspectives, backgrounds and competencies related to genetics. To learn more about those members please visit: www.elca.org/genetics.

The ELCA Task Force on Genetics has written the current document after several years of study and after receiving input from across the ELCA. The proposed social statement was to be considered first by the Church Council at its April 2011 meeting, with the final text of the social statement to be determined by the Churchwide Assembly in August 2011.

Church Council Action:

The Rev. Steven P. Loy made the following motion on behalf of the committee.

Moved;

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

*To adopt **Genetics, Faith, and Responsibility** as a social statement of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in accordance with the “Policies and Procedures of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for Addressing Social Concerns” (2011).*

Pr. Loy said Mr. Per Anderson and Ms. Janet L. Williams, co-chairs of the Task Force on Genetics, would be joining the conversation by telephone, and he invited the Rev. Roger A. Willer, director for studies, to also join the discussion. Pr. Loy estimated that about 25 percent of the proposed social statement had been changed between its draft and proposed versions. Mr. Anderson and Ms. Williams joined the meeting.

Vice President Carlos E. Peña asked for discussion.

The Rev. Michael L. Burk, bishop of the Southeastern Iowa Synod, served notice that he would support alternate wording for the eighth implementing resolution associated with the proposed social statement.

Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson asked whether someone would summarize the changes between the document’s draft and proposed versions.

Pr. Willer recalled that the Church Council had reviewed the draft version at its March 2010 meeting. The proposed version was issued in January 2011 and revised to address concerns of the Conference of Bishops and others. He mentioned that the document was restructured, shortened, and given a glossary and implementing resolutions. He described several points that were expanded and clarified in the proposed version.

The Rev. Keith A. Hunsinger raised some concerns with the proposed social statement that he had heard from ELCA members in farming communities.

Pr. Willer responded that the proposed social statement was not intended to be a manual on farming practices. He remarked that the document raises the importance of bio-diversity and affirms genetics to support diversity.

Pr. Hunsinger asked whether that point addressed a report that 90 percent of dairy cattle in the United States were genetically almost the same animal.

Mr. Anderson replied that the question touched on the ethical point of the proposed social statement—the Christian relationship with the community of life—understanding genetics in concert with the ELCA’s *Caring for Creation: Vision, Hope, and Justice* social statement. “Humans are involved, either intentionally or unintentionally, in the transformation and even in the extinction species,” he said. Those are things to consider, but there is no policy imbedded in the proposed social statement, he added.

Pr. Willer remarked that the fact that 90 percent of dairy cattle in the United States were genetically similar was a thing to consider (for example, a more diverse food supply is secure against blight), but the proposed social statement does not characterize that as good or bad.

Presiding Bishop Hanson asked whether the sidebars could be included in the proposed social statement.

Pr. Willer responded that the sidebars were originally not be included, because the Churchwide Assembly will not be asked to adopt them with the social statement and adding them may cause confusion.

Pr. Loy commented that a concern had been one of durability, that the illustrations would not be as timely as the social statement, so the Program and Services Committee had considered making the sidebars available to the Churchwide Assembly as an addendum to the proposal and including the sidebars in the study guide to be developed once the social statement was adopted.

Ms. Susan W. McArver and Pr. Willer said the committee discussed several methods for including the sidebars in the presentation to the Churchwide Assembly voting members.

Ms. Rebecca Jo Brakke asked whether the synodical bishops present thought that the sidebars would help with the document’s reception.

The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton, bishop of the Northeastern Ohio Synod, responded that difficulties with the reception of the document had little to do with the content of the document but with misinformation about the document and the emotional reaction to that misinformation.

The Rev. Harold L. Usgaard, bishop of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod, replied that the sidebars made statements more welcoming and accessible to the average reader.

The Rev. Jeffrey “Jeff” B. Sorenson made the following motion.

Moved;

Seconded: To include the sidebars in the proposed social statement for purposes of illustration.

The Rev. David P. Anderson asked whether the sidebars could remain in the proposal with the disclaimer that sidebars are not part of the adopted social statement.

Pr. Willer suggested that the disclaimer would need to be included in each sidebar. He asked whether the Church Council action would direct that the sidebars appear in the printed social statement as adopted.

Pr. Sorenson replied that the disclaimer could go in each sidebar and asked that it not say they will not appear in the adopted social statement.

Ms. Louise A. Hemstead stated that the sidebars were helpful even to those who are familiar with the issues.

Ms. Rebecca D. Carlson spoke in favor of keeping the sidebars in the social statement as way to let the reader know the issues involved.

There being no further discussion, Vice President Peña called for the vote.

Moved;

Seconded;

Carried: To include the sidebars in the proposed social statement for purposes of illustration.

The chair declared that the motion had been approved.

Pr. Hunsinger asked whether a section of the proposed social statement that questioned research that “knowingly and unduly endangering plant and animal species, microflora or fauna, or the existence of biodiversity” would be in conflict with the ELCA Malaria Campaign and efforts to make malaria protozoa extinct.

Pr. Willer replied that the proposed social statement listed policies to pursue, policies to reject, and policies to question.

Ms. Williams answered that, whenever humans attempt to eliminate an organism, every attempt must be made to research all the possible repercussions. She said that it could not be assumed that eliminating the malaria protozoa would not come without consequences that may be more tragic than malaria.

Mr. Anderson remarked that the proposed social statement was meant to raise questions holding in tension the human interest and that of the wider community of life.

The Rev. J. Pablo Obregon asked whether there had been any reaction to the draft social statement from this church’s global or ecumenical partners.

The Rev. Rafael Malpica Padilla, executive director, Global Mission, replied that no reactions were received from global companions.

The Rev. Donald J. McCoid, executive for ecumenical and inter-religious relations, responded that ecumenical partners were aware of the draft statement but had not been asked for responses.

Presiding Bishop Hanson suggested that the proposed social statement could be shared with global and ecumenical partners and responses could be requested.

Pr. Hunsinger asked that the proposed statement be shared with ecumenical and global partners for feedback, because sustainable agriculture means different things in other parts of the world.

Presiding Bishop Hanson answered that he assumed the proposed social statement would be shared with ecumenical and global partners for their feedback.

Ms. Lelanda Lee, liaison member of The Episcopal Church Executive Council, stated that the Episcopal council had discussed issues related to genetically modified organisms and watched the ELCA study on genetics with interest.

Ms. Deborah L. Chenoweth recalled sharing the draft social statement with a plant scientist and an “organic purist” in Oregon and both praised the glossary.

There being no further discussion, Vice President Peña called on Mr. John R. Emery, who led the council in prayer.

The chair asked for the vote.

VOTED:

CC11.04.20

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

To adopt *Genetics, Faith, and Responsibility* as a social statement of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in accordance with the “Policies and Procedures of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for Addressing Social Concerns” (2011).

Vice President Peña declared that the motion had been approved.

The Rev. Murray D. Finck, bishop of the Pacifica Synod, requested that the recommended proposed social statement be made available for the voting members of Synod Assemblies.

Pr. Willer replied that the text that voting members of the Churchwide Assembly will see will be available within the week at www.elca.org/genetics on the Web.

Secretary Swartling noted that the policies require that the text is sent to the synods.

Vice President Peña asked Pr. Loy to continue with the Program and Services Committee report.

Pr. Loy made the following motion.

Moved;

Seconded:

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

1. To call upon members of this church to pray, work, advocate, and apply genetic knowledge and technology in ways that respect and promote the community of life justly and wisely;
2. To call upon congregations and other sites of ministry to give renewed attention to becoming places of *koinonia* in Christ that foster a deepened understanding of and commitment to baptismal vocation, everyday callings, and moral formation and discernment;
3. To encourage leaders in conferences, synods, or other appropriate bodies to compile lists of resources for their jurisdictions to which pastors, counselors, and individuals can turn for help when seeking information or guidance in dealing with genetic issues;
4. To call upon this church's advocacy ministries to support and advocate for measures consistent with this social statement;
5. To affirm the study document "Genetics and Faith: Power, Choice and Responsibility" as a resource for ongoing deliberation and discernment, and to direct the Theological Discernment team of the Office of the Presiding Bishop to maintain its availability as long as demand continues;
6. To affirm the 2004 ELCA social policy resolution "Genetically Modified Organisms in the Food Supply" and its continuing value for the mission and ministry of the ELCA;
7. To encourage the Theological Discernment section of the Office of the Bishop to maintain a database of ELCA members with expertise related to genetic science and technology that can serve as a primary resource for consultation;
8. To direct the Theological Discernment team of the Office of the Presiding Bishop to assess the feasibility of developing a social message on regenerative medicine, including, but not limited to, a range of stem cell technologies, and to bring to the Church Council in November 2013 a report and possible recommendations, in accordance with "Policies and Procedures of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for Addressing Social Concerns" (2011); and
9. To call upon the Office of the Presiding Bishop to establish and oversee a process of implementation and accountability for *Genetics, Faith, and Responsibility* and to report on implementation to the Church Council in November 2015.

Pr. Loy noted changes that the Program and Services Committee was recommending in the eighth implementing resolution from an earlier version distributed to the council.

Presiding Bishop Hanson made the following motion.

Moved;

Seconded:

To amend the seventh implementing resolution by insertion and deletion:

7. To encourage the churchwide organization ~~Theological Discernment section of the Office of the Bishop~~ to maintain a database of ELCA members with expertise related to genetic science and technology that can serve as a primary resource for consultation;

Presiding Bishop Hanson remarked that the churchwide organization was consolidating its databases into the ELCA Constituent Information System (ECIS).

There being no further discussion, Vice President Peña called for the vote.

Moved;
Seconded;
Carried:

To amend the seventh implementing resolution by addition and deletion:

7. To encourage the ~~churchwide organization~~ Theological Discernment section of the Office of the Bishop to maintain a database of ELCA members with expertise related to genetic science and technology that can serve as a primary resource for consultation;

The chair declared that the motion to amend was approved.

There being no further discussion on the main motion as amended, Vice President Peña called for the vote.

VOTED:
CC11.04.21

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

1. To call upon members of this church to pray, work, advocate, and apply genetic knowledge and technology in ways that respect and promote the community of life justly and wisely;
2. To call upon congregations and other sites of ministry to give renewed attention to becoming places of *koinonia* in Christ that foster a deepened understanding of and commitment to baptismal vocation, everyday callings, and moral formation and discernment;
3. To encourage leaders in conferences, synods, or other appropriate bodies to compile lists of resources for their jurisdictions to which pastors, counselors, and individuals can turn for help when seeking information or guidance in dealing with genetic issues;
4. To call upon this church's advocacy ministries to support and advocate for measures consistent with this social statement;
5. To affirm the study document "Genetics and Faith: Power, Choice and Responsibility" as a resource for ongoing deliberation and discernment, and to direct the Theological Discernment team of the Office of the Presiding Bishop to maintain its availability as long as demand continues;
6. To affirm the 2004 ELCA social policy resolution "Genetically Modified Organisms in the Food Supply" and its continuing value for the mission and ministry of the ELCA;
7. To encourage the churchwide organization to maintain a database of ELCA members with expertise related to genetic science and technology that can serve as a primary resource for consultation;
8. To direct the Theological Discernment team of the Office of the Presiding Bishop to assess the feasibility of developing a social message on regenerative medicine, including, but not limited to, a range of stem cell technologies, and to bring to the Church Council in November 2013 a report and possible recommendations, in accordance with "Policies and Procedures of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for Addressing Social Concerns" (2011); and

9. To call upon the Office of the Presiding Bishop to establish and oversee a process of implementation and accountability for *Genetics, Faith, and Responsibility* and to report on implementation to the Church Council in November 2015.

The chair declared that the motion was approved as amended.

Pr. Loy expressed gratitude for the Task Force on Genetics and everyone who worked on the proposed social statement on genetics. The Church Council responded with applause.

Ms. Williams thanked the council for its careful consideration of the proposal.

Mr. Anderson added that he looked forward to the continuing consideration through the Churchwide Assembly.

Ms. Myrna J. Sheie, executive for governance and institutional relations, noted that Ms. Sandra Schlesinger had served as the Church Council's liaison to the task force.

Vice President Peña thanked everyone asked that Pr. Loy continue with the report of the Program and Services Committee.

JOINT MISSION STATEMENT OF THE ELCA AND AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH
(Agenda 5.2.B; Agenda/MINUTES Exhibit J, Part 2)

Background:

“The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) is an active participant in the ecumenical movement because of its desire for Christian unity” (Ecumenism: The Vision of the ELCA, p. 13). The ELCA seeks in its faith and life “to manifest the unity given to the people of God by living together in the love of Christ and by joining with other Christians in prayer and action to express and preserve the unity which the Spirit gives” (ELCA Constitution 4.02.f).

Ecumenism: The Vision of the ELCA, this church's official policy statement adopted by the 1991 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, provides the foundation for this church's daily ministry and mission we seek with other Christians. Since 1991, the ELCA has pursued many agreements with other communions, which have led to relationships of full communion. We likewise pursue additional ministry opportunities by affirming other ecumenical models that open this church to enhanced understanding and missional cooperation. This opportunity is evident in a unique approach titled “ecumenical discourse.”

Whereas an ecumenical “bilateral dialogue” often is focused on the aim of reaching full communion, an “ecumenical discourse” is a model for ecumenical engagement that is focused on seeking cooperative and effective efforts in ministry. An “ecumenical discourse” for cooperative ministry is based on a common commitment in the Gospel to a shared vision of missional service through the life of the church in the world (*Ecumenism: The Vision of the ELCA* pp. 11-12).

After four years of conversation, participants in the ELCA-African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Zion Church discourse have provided a Statement of Mission for the consideration of both churches. The statement is a reflection of this common commitment, where both communions are called to be “restorative agents of God's redeeming work in the world.”

After more than three years of commitment to relationship, the ELCA-AME Zion Church discourse has created a statement of mission that draws these two churches closer together. The statement of mission was approved unanimously by the AME Zion Church Board of Bishops in July 2010. At the October 2010 meeting of the ELCA Conference of Bishops, a copy of the statement of mission was read aloud, and initial planning and commensurate enthusiasm for local missional efforts between AME Zion and ELCA congregations was underway in key synods, including the Metropolitan Chicago, North Carolina, and South Carolina Synods.

What it means for these communions

- This bilateral is a “discourse” between two churches (AME Zion and ELCA) that are not at this time moving toward full communion. This is by no means a diminished state. AME Zion friends in ministry have underscored that relationships of trust and cooperation are key to any future opportunities for ministry together;

in short, the bishops of these two communions received one another well, and this reception of relationship was the fulcrum for collective ministry.

- The statement of mission was drafted by bishops in the ELCA and AME Zion. The structure of executive and legislative oversight in the AME Zion resides with bishops first; alternatively, for the ELCA, the Church Council or Churchwide Assembly serve an analogous and complementary function. This relationship will be reported to the 2011 Churchwide Assembly because it is a true and historic cause for celebration in the church as an example of a bilateral conversation that has led to a shared statement of mission and future collaboration between a historically White and a historically Black communion in U.S. history. Our collective conversation on how predominantly White and Black ecclesiologies are shaped by race in this country was a formative moment between these bishops.
- Among multiple lessons learned from this discourse, one predominates: this was and continues as a series of conversations between friends in ministry who bear the tremendous responsibility of ecclesial oversight (i.e., bishops). This is a relationship between bishops who also yearn for their clergy and congregations to engage cooperatively together.
- The AME Zion and ELCA bishops who have formed and shaped these relationships are a signal strength of the greater ecclesial relationship. Where AME Zion bishops instruct their clergy to work with ELCA clergy, such directive is followed. Patience, speaking about common burdens and joys around oversight, respectful pause for reflection and clarity, not allowing ‘White’ privileged expectations to steer the course of this discourse and hearing one another in the fullness of our respective experiences remain fundamental to these relationships today.

Action and Next Steps

At its March 2011 meeting, the Conference of Bishops received and affirmed both the statement of mission and the AME Zion Board of Bishops’ action and encouraged action by the Church Council. The Conference of Bishops will respond directly to the AME Zion Board of Bishops in a manner it feels embodies the importance of these matters.

Following the meeting, Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson sent a formal letter to Bishop George W.C. Walker Sr. to inform him of the Conference of Bishops’ action. He also invited Bishop Walker to bring a greeting to the 2011 Churchwide Assembly in celebration of these new relationships. In addition, cooperative planning for local missional work has been planned between the AME Zion and the ELCA’s Metropolitan Chicago, North Carolina, and South Carolina Synods.

Church Council Action:

The Rev. Steven P. Loy made the following motion on behalf of the committee.

Moved;

Seconded:

To receive and affirm the AME Zion-ELCA Statement of Mission as approved by the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Board of Bishops and affirmed by the ELCA Conference of Bishops:

We, the Board of Bishops of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church and the Conference of Bishops of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, are called to one another as brothers and sisters in Christ. This calling is shared in trust by all Christians who profess an abiding faith in our Risen Lord. The calling of these churches, and indeed of all Christians, is to be restorative agents of God’s redeeming work in the world. We are called to be about the reconciling efforts of Christ’s command to draw all people unto himself so that we might be transformed by His word and the efforts of His ministry of grace, in us.

We, these two expressions of the one Body of Christ, believe it is time that our churches to come together as communities of faith and to know each other in order that we might be more effective as people of God.

We invite you to gather in your regions and communities, to listen and speak our stories of faith, and to create and enhance communities of hope where our ministries may be enriched by one another. Our vision requires that we adhere to the movement of God's Spirit, and that we demonstrate the love of God, so that we identify the tapestry of God's vision for us in our communities of faith. Therefore, we encourage you to respond to this invitation by partnering with us as we share the witness of God's vision throughout the world.

Pr. Loy asked that the Rev. Donald J. McCoid, executive for ecumenical and inter-religious relations, introduce the topic.

Pr. McCoid emphasized that the ELCA and AME Zion Church were involved in discourse and not working toward a relationship of full communion. He described the contents of the discourse and the building of trust between the two church bodies. He called it a historic occasion for the ELCA and AME Zion Church to engage in ministries together.

Ms. Ann F. Niedringhaus mentioned that her ELCA congregation in Duluth, Minn., had exchanged preachers and choirs with the neighboring AME congregation and had helped that congregation build a ramp for its church building.

Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson noted that Ms. Niedringhaus referred to a congregation of the AME (African Methodist Episcopal) Church, which is different from the AME Zion Church.

Pr. McCoid responded that the ELCA also has a growing relationship with the AME Church, and that church was interested in seeing the AME Zion-ELCA Statement of Mission.

Presiding Bishop Hanson stated that the ELCA's vision of ecumenism called for this church's adapting to the needs of the partner, especially with historic Black churches that have lived with the dominance of White churches. He thanked those involved in the discourse.

Ms. Rebecca Jo Brakke asked whether the ELCA or AME Zion Church began this discourse.

Pr. McCoid said ecumenism is relationships, and this agreement grew from grassroots relationships between bishops, seminaries, and congregations. He also credited the involvement of the presiding bishop.

There being no further discussion, Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on Ms. Karin Lynn Graddy, who led the council in prayer. The chair then asked for the vote.

VOTED:

CC11.04.22

To receive and affirm the AME Zion-ELCA Statement of Mission as approved by the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Board of Bishops and affirmed by the ELCA Conference of Bishops:

We, the Board of Bishops of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church and the Conference of Bishops of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, are called to one another as brothers and sisters in Christ. This calling is shared in trust by all Christians who profess an abiding faith in our Risen Lord. The calling of these churches, and indeed of all Christians, is to be restorative agents of God's redeeming work in the world. We are called to be about the reconciling efforts of Christ's command to draw all people unto himself so that we might be transformed by His word and the efforts of His ministry of grace, in us.

We, these two expressions of the one Body of Christ, believe it is time that our churches to come together as communities of faith and to know each other in order that we might be more effective as people of God.

We invite you to gather in your regions and communities, to listen and speak our stories of faith, and to create and enhance communities of hope where our ministries may be enriched by one another.

Our vision requires that we adhere to the movement of God’s Spirit, and that we demonstrate the love of God, so that we identify the tapestry of God’s vision for us in our communities of faith.

Therefore, we encourage you to respond to this invitation by partnering with us as we share the witness of God’s vision throughout the world.

Vice President Peña declared that the motion had been approved.

CHURCH COUNCIL JOYS AND CONCERNS
(Agenda 5.3)

At the request of Vice President Carlos E. Peña, joys and concerns were offered by the Rev. Susan Langhauser, Ms. Ann F. Niedringhaus, the Rev. J. Pablo Obregon, and Ms. Myrna J. Sheie, executive for governance and institutional relations.

RECESS

The fifth plenary session of the April 2011 meeting of the Church Council recessed at 10:49 A.M.

Sunday, April 10, 2011
Plenary Session VI

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called the sixth plenary session to order at 11:04 A.M.

REPORT OF THE PLANNING AND EVALUATION COMMITTEE (Continued)
LIFT TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATION: COMMUNAL DISCERNMENT (Continued)
(Agenda 3.4.B.8; Agenda/MINUTES Exhibit I, Part 1)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña asked the Church Council to return to the motion that was postponed from the previous day.

The Rev. Susan Langhauser had introduced the recommendation of the Living into the Future Together (LIFT): Renewing the Ecology of the ELCA task force regarding communal discernment.

The Rev. Steven P. Loy had made the following motion.

Moved;

Seconded: *To substitute the fifth and sixth recommendations of the LIFT task force regarding communal discernment with the following:*

5. ~~Bring no social statements to churchwide assemblies until a review process is completed. This review of current procedures for the development and adoption of social statements, established by the Church Council in consultation with the Conference of Bishops, should reflect the spirit and culture of communal discernment.~~
6. ~~Continue work on current social statements.~~

Authorize the Church Council, in consultation with the Conference of Bishops and Communal Discernment Task Force, to establish a review process of current procedures for the development and adoption of social statements including those scheduled for consideration following the 2011 Churchwide Assembly. This review should reflect the spirit and culture of communal discernment.

Ms. Susan W. McArver had made the following motion to amend the amendment.

Moved;

Seconded: *To amend the proposed substitution by striking and adding:*

Authorize the Church Council, in consultation with the Conference of Bishops and Communal Discernment Task Force, to establish a review process of current procedures for the development and adoption of social statements ~~including those scheduled for consideration, following presentation of the genetics social statement at the 2011 Churchwide Assembly.~~ This review should reflect the spirit and culture of communal discernment.

Vice President Peña asked Secretary David D. Swartling to explain the parliamentary status of the motions.

Secretary Swartling described the motion to amend as a “stand alone” motion. It could be addressed separate from the LIFT recommendations and the proposed social statement on genetics.

The chair called for discussion of the motion to amend.

The Rev. Kathryn A. Tiede asked whether the amendment would preclude proceeding with the possible social statement on criminal justice.

Secretary Swartling replied that the motion, as phrased, would request a review process and the possible social statement on criminal justice would be subject to review.

Pr. Tiede asked whether the amendment should also name the criminal justice social statement.

Secretary Swartling responded that the addition would be appropriate but would prejudice the results of the review of that social statement.

Pr. Loy expressed the view that the work of the Communal Discernment Task Force would affect the development of the criminal justice social statement, but it would not necessarily preclude it.

Ms. McArver asked that the edited version of her amendment include the full name of the proposed social statement.

Mr. John S. Munday noted that “Hearing the Cries: Faith and Criminal Justice,” a study written by the Criminal Justice Task Force of the ELCA, was already available and responses were being requested.

The Rev. Philip R. Wold said he believed that the Program and Services Committee wanted work on the criminal justice social statement to continue.

Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson stated that, if the criminal justice social statement is not named in the motion, work will proceed with the statement but may be affected by the recommended review process.

There being no further discussion, Vice President Peña called for a vote on the motion to amend.

Moved;

Seconded;

Carried:

To amend the proposed substitution by striking and adding:

Authorize the Church Council, in consultation with the Conference of Bishops and Communal Discernment Task Force, to establish a review process of current procedures for the development and adoption of social statements ~~including those scheduled for consideration~~, following presentation of the genetics social statement at the 2011 Churchwide Assembly. This review should reflect the spirit and culture of communal discernment.

The chair declared that the motion to amend had been approved.

Pr. Loy made the following motion.

Moved;

Seconded:

To amend the motion to amend by deletion:

Authorize the Church Council, in consultation with the Conference of Bishops and Communal Discernment Task Force, to establish a review process of current procedures for the development and adoption of social statements, following presentation of the genetics social statement at the 2011 Churchwide Assembly. ~~This review should reflect the spirit and culture of communal discernment.~~

Pr. Loy said “communal discernment” was already mentioned in the first sentence of the recommendation. He also expressed the opinion that there is no agreement on what is meant by “the spirit and culture of communal discernment.”

The Rev. Jeffrey “Jeff” B. Sorenson spoke against the amendment, suggesting that in setting the goals of the Communal Discernment Task Force there was a given understand of the spirit and culture it was to explore.

Mr. Munday suggested either the sentence be removed or something be added about the involvement of the Conference of Bishops.

Pr. Langhauser, a member of the Communal Discernment Task Force, stated that the task force was honored to be named in the recommendation. She said she felt that, with the task force’s involvement, the review would reflect the spirit and culture of communal discernment without needing to put it in the recommendation.

There being no further discussion, Vice President Peña called for the vote on the motion to amend.

Moved;

Seconded;

Carried: *To amend the motion to amend by deletion:*

Authorize the Church Council, in consultation with the Conference of Bishops and Communal Discernment Task Force, to establish a review process of current procedures for the development and adoption of social statements, following presentation of the genetics social statement at the 2011 Churchwide Assembly. ~~This review should reflect the spirit and culture of communal discernment.~~

The chair declared that the motion to amend had been approved, and he asked for discussion on the main motion. There being no further discussion, Vice President Peña called for the vote.

VOTED:

CC11.04.23 *To recommend the following for adoption by the 2011 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:*

Authorize the Church Council, in consultation with the Conference of Bishops and Communal Discernment Task Force, to establish a review process of current procedures for the development and adoption of social statements, following presentation of the genetics social statement at the 2011 Churchwide Assembly.

The chair declared that the motion had been approved. Vice President Peña announced that the writing team was still working with the LIFT task force recommendations, and the Church Council would return to those topics later.

BOARD ORIENTATION: ROLE OF THE CHURCH COUNCIL AT THE CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY (Agenda 6.1; Agenda/MINUTES Exhibit Q, Part 1)

Background:

The Board Development Committee had requested that a primer on the role of Church Council members at the Churchwide Assembly be presented by Secretary David D. Swartling and Ms. Myrna J. Sheie, executive assistant to the presiding bishop and chair of the Churchwide Assembly Planning Committee. A summary of the information to be shared is printed below.

The Church Council is comprised of 37 members, including the four officers of this church. The 33 elected members of the Church Council serve as advisory members of the assembly, with voice but not vote, unless they are elected by their respective synods to serve as a voting member of the assembly. The four ELCA officers are voting members by virtue of the offices held.

In accord with the ELCA constitution and bylaws, the Church Council serves as the “interim legislative authority” between meetings of the Churchwide Assembly. In this role, the Church Council reviews recommendations from churchwide units for consideration by the Churchwide Assembly, arranges for appropriate elections, and submits a budget proposal for Churchwide Assembly action.

At the Churchwide Assembly, members of the Church Council are present to advise voting members on council actions related to these responsibilities. In addition to its advisory function, the Church Council appoints members of the Memorials Committee and the Committee of Reference and Counsel. Council members chair these committees and make up a portion of their membership. Church Council members also provide leadership by facilitating the hearings, participating as members of *ad hoc* committees, and leading prayer during plenary sessions. Members will be notified by the Vice President of specific assignments early in the summer.

Information about the draft schedule for the 2011 Churchwide Assembly was provided in the meeting exhibits, including an overview of the 2011 Churchwide Assembly theme, “Freed in Christ to Serve,” which was prepared by Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson for his article in the April 2011 issue of *The Lutheran* magazine.

Church Council Information:

Vice President Carlos E. Peña asked Secretary David D. Swartling and Ms. Myrna J. Sheie, executive for governance and institutional relations, to brief the Church Council on plans for the Churchwide Assembly, August 15–19, 2011, at the Orlando World Center Marriott, Orlando, Florida.

Secretary Swartling described the facilities and compared them to the 2005 Churchwide Assembly, which was also held at the Orlando World Center Marriott. He also discussed the role of the council members who will not be serving as voting members of the assembly.

Ms. Sheie presented the tentative schedule for the 2011 Churchwide Assembly, especially as applied to the Church Council members. She outlined some of the issues anticipated for the agenda of the August 2011 and November 2011 meetings of the Church Council.

The Rev. Philip R. Wold asked whether council members would have opportunities similar to past Church Council retreats.

Ms. Sheie suggested that the Board Development Committee consider that question. She pointed out receptions and a Mission Encounter Event on the schedule.

Mr. Iván A. Pérez asked whether council members could be included in the pilot project to experience a paperless Churchwide Assembly.

Mr. Jonathan H. Beyer, executive for information technology, replied that the project is focused on the current 80 participants.

The Rev. Steven P. Loy asked whether those who brought laptops could receive documents electronically.

Mr. Beyer responded that it would be possible, but electrical outlets will not be available in the assembly hall.

Ms. Sheie added that the expense of providing electricity to the whole assembly hall was a consideration for the 2013 Churchwide Assembly, which was planned to be entirely paperless.

The Rev. Susan Langhauser noted that Church Council members were to facilitate hearings and asked to receive assignments and materials in advance.

Secretary Swartling stated that Church Council members may be involved in committees of the assembly. He announced that online registration information would be distributed in the coming week. He reminded council members that many synods plan meetings of their voting members in advance of the Churchwide Assembly, and he asked that they consider attending those meetings.

Ms. Sheie pointed out that the Church Council had reviewed reports and prepared recommendations for the Churchwide Assembly, and she encouraged them to recognize their roles as resources and ambassadors for this church.

The Rev. Keith A. Hunsinger mentioned that council members usually have a uniquely colored name badge at Churchwide Assemblies, and that makes council members identifiable.

Ms. Rebecca Jo Brakke suggested that voting members have access to a photo of the Church Council.

The Rev. Jeffrey “Jeff” B. Sorenson requested and received details about the assembly’s prayer team.

Vice President Peña thanked Ms. Sheie and Secretary Swartling for the briefing.

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS REMOVED FROM *EN BLOC*
(Agenda 6.6)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on Secretary David D. Swartling, who reported that no requests were received to remove items from the *en bloc* resolution for separate consideration.

EN BLOC APPROVAL OF CERTAIN ITEMS

(Agenda 6.7; Agenda/MINUTES Exhibit B and Exhibit D)

Background:

The *en bloc* resolution includes agenda items that were 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 was noted as being in the *en bloc* action in the agenda. On the first day of the council meeting, the chair provided an opportunity for members to indicate whether they wished to discuss separately any of the items listed in the *en bloc* resolution; any such item would have been removed from the *en bloc* resolution and discussed at the appropriate point in the agenda.

Church Council Action:

At the request of the chair, Secretary David D. Swartling moved the recommended action.

Moved;

Seconded: To take action *en bloc* on the items listed in Exhibit B and Exhibit D.

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called for a vote. After the vote, the chair declared the *en bloc* resolution approved.

VOTED:

CC11.04.24 To take action *en bloc* on the items listed below, the full texts of which are found in the body of the agenda or in the exhibit as noted:

VOTED: *EN BLOC*
CC11.04.24a Acknowledgment and response to Nebraska Synod Council resolution on the proposed social statement on genetics, p. 69;

VOTED: *EN BLOC*
CC11.04.24b Response to the South Central Synod of Wisconsin resolution on accessibility, p. 71;

VOTED: *EN BLOC*
CC11.04.24c Postponement of response to the Southwest California Synod resolution on The Decade of Women, p. 73;

VOTED: *EN BLOC*
CC11.04.24d Response to the Central States Synod resolution for a message on mental illness, p. 74;

VOTED: *EN BLOC*
CC11.04.25 Approval of Amendments to Seminary Governing Documents, p. 77;

VOTED: *EN BLOC*
CC11.04.26 Acknowledgment of an Independent Lutheran Organization, p. 77;

VOTED: *EN BLOC*
CC11.04.27 Approval of a Purpose Statement for the North American Regional Committee of the Lutheran World Federation, p. 78;

VOTED: *EN BLOC*
CC11.04.28 Revision of “Policies and Procedures of the ELCA for Addressing Social Concerns,” p. 79;

VOTED: *EN BLOC*
CC11.04.29 Elections to Boards of Certain Social Ministry Organizations, p. 79;

VOTED: *EN BLOC*
CC11.04.30 Elections to Boards of Certain ELCA Seminaries, p. 80;

VOTED: *EN BLOC*
CC11.04.31 Authorization to Settle Claims in a Class-Action Suit, p. 80;

VOTED: *EN BLOC*
CC11.04.32 Authorization for the Communal Discernment Task Force to Continue, p. 81;

GENETICS SOCIAL STATEMENT

Nebraska Synod (4A)

WHEREAS, a proposed Social Statement on Genetics has been developed and is scheduled for consideration by the 2011 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA); and

WHEREAS, the time and effort to study issues related to genetics has resulted in valuable discussion among people of faith; and

WHEREAS, the Nebraska Synod Council is genuinely appreciative of the work of all those involved in the study and development of the proposed Social Statement on Genetics; and

WHEREAS, the Nebraska Synod Council believes that the length of the proposed Social Statement on Genetics, combined with the complexity of its language, has led reasonable people to disagree as to its meaning and impact; and

WHEREAS, the Nebraska Synod Council believes that more time is needed to prayerfully discuss and reflect on the proposed Social Statement on Genetics; and

WHEREAS, the Nebraska Synod Council believes that this church needs more time to heal and focus on unity following the 2009 adoption of new ministry rostering policies; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Nebraska Synod Council request that the proposed Social Statement on Genetics be received as a study document for more time for further, deeper conversation within this church; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Nebraska Synod Council request that the ELCA Church Council take necessary and appropriate actions to postpone consideration of the proposed Social Statement on Genetics to give members more time to prayerfully discuss and digest its language and its impact; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Nebraska Synod Council request that the ELCA Church Council take necessary and appropriate actions to lengthen the time period between consideration of upcoming and future proposed social statements; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the secretary of the Nebraska Synod Council be directed to transmit a copy of this resolution to the secretary of the ELCA for consideration and possible action by the ELCA Church Council.

Response from the Office of the Presiding Bishop:

The Church Council is scheduled at its April 2011 meeting to consider the proposed social statement on genetics, *Genetics, Faith and Responsibility*, for recommendation to the 2011 Churchwide Assembly. The 2005 Churchwide Assembly called for the development of a social statement on the topic of genetics in response to a memorial from the Northeastern Iowa Synod [CA05.06.25]. In accordance with the ELCA's "Policy and Procedures for Addressing Social Concerns," a task force of members of this church who have different perspectives, backgrounds and experience related to genetics was assembled. The task force spent several years studying the topic. It produced educational materials and generated a draft social statement. Input on the topic in general and these resources was received from across the ELCA. Updates on the work regularly have been received by the Conference of Bishops and the Church Council.

Church Council Action, November 2010 [CC10.11.61]:

At its November 2010 meeting, the Church Council, acting in response both to concerns that had been expressed about the time tables for social statements and to the diminished capacity of the churchwide organization in the wake of budget and personnel cuts, approved the following action:

To request that future social documents be scheduled with sensitivity to the time demands involving elected churchwide leadership, including bishops, Church Council members and synodical leaders;

To acknowledge the preference that only one major document be in process at any one time;

To adopt the schedule provided [below]. . . ; and

To request that the Program and Services Committee, at its November 2011 meeting and considering the actions of the 2011 Churchwide Assembly, reassess the revised time line and question of capacity.

The schedule adopted is as follows:

Social Statement on Genetics

Fall 2010: Hearings

Winter 2011: Proposed Statement

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Spring 2011: Church Council consideration
Summer 2011: Churchwide Assembly consideration
Fall 2011: Publication, if adopted

Social Statement on Criminal Justice

Winter 2011: Study
Spring 2011: Study
Summer 2011: Study
Fall 2011: Study
Spring 2012: Hearings on draft statement
Summer 2012: Hearings on draft statement
Fall 2012: Hearings on draft statement
Winter 2013: Proposed statement
Spring 2013: Church Council consideration
Summer 2013: Churchwide Assembly consideration
Fall 2013: Publication, if adopted

Social Statement on Justice for Women

Fall 2012: Formation of Task Force
Fall 2014: Study
Winter 2015: Study
Spring 2015: Study
Summer 2017: Churchwide Assembly consideration

Message on Persons Living with Disabilities

Fall 2010: Proposed Message
Church Council consideration
Winter 2011: Publication

Message on Mental Health Issues

Fall 2011: Consultation
Winter 2012: Proposed Message
Spring 2012: Church Council consideration
Publication, if adopted

Recommendations from the Living into the Future Task Force

Another entity concerned about the development and time tables for social statements is the Living Into the Future Together (LIFT) task force, which has been studying the interdependent ecology of the whole Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to prepare it for mission in the twenty-first century. The task force is bringing a report and recommendations to the April 2011 meeting of the Church Council. The Church Council will consider whether to recommend the proposals to the 2011 Churchwide Assembly.

Concerning social statements, the LIFT task force is recommending to the Church Council the following: “Bring no social statements to churchwide assemblies until a review process is completed. This review of current procedures for the development and adoption of social statements, established by the Church Council in consultation with the Conference of Bishops, should reflect the spirit and culture of communal discernment” and “Continue work on current social statements.”

Future Actions

The Church Council has acted on one of the requests of the Nebraska Synod Council already. In its November 2010 action, it has increased the time between upcoming social statements as well as messages of concern, and it has called for a further review of the time tables after the 2011 Churchwide Assembly. The actions that the Church Council takes at the April 2011 meeting concerning the proposed social statement on genetics and the recommendations of the LIFT task force will constitute a response to the Nebraska Synod Council concerning its other requests.

Regardless of the actions of the Church Council at its April 2011 meeting, a memorial from the Nebraska Synod Assembly to the 2011 Churchwide Assembly concerning postponement of consideration of the genetics social statement would be in order and would be received by the Memorials Committee at its June 2011 meeting.

VOTED:

EN BLOC

CC11.04.24a To receive with gratitude the resolution from the Nebraska Synod Council concerning the proposed social statement on genetics;

To acknowledge as the council's response to the resolution from the Nebraska Synod Council both the action of the Church Council at its November 2010 meeting on the time tables for social statements and the actions of the Church Council at its April 2011 meeting regarding the proposed social statement on genetics and the recommendations of the Living Into the Future Together (LIFT) task force regarding social statements; and

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

ACCESSIBILITY IN THE ELCA AND SOUTH-CENTRAL SYNOD OF WISCONSIN

South-Central Synod of Wisconsin (5K)

WHEREAS, Jesus commissions his followers to gather disciples everywhere, and the ELCA seeks to follow this call by welcoming diversity in its communities of faith and also by continuing a healthy tradition of self-examination and change when it discovers bias in its words or actions; and

WHEREAS, liturgical and scriptural literacy is highly valued among the people of the ELCA and the ELCA has chosen the NRSV translation of the Scriptures as its accepted translation and embarked on a churchwide biblical literacy program—the Book of Faith Initiative; and

WHEREAS, Augsburg Fortress is the designated publishing house of the ELCA that provides pastors, educators, worship planners, and other members of the ELCA with products and services that communicate the Gospel, enhance faith, and enrich the life of the Christian community from a Lutheran perspective; and

WHEREAS, printed resources produced by the ELCA and Augsburg Fortress are rarely published in accessible formats, i.e., formats other than small-size print; and further, it is understood that the ELCA and Augsburg Fortress have no plans to expand the selection; and

WHEREAS, people with most kinds of vision impairment, people with certain learning disabilities, and people with other disabilities affecting the activity of reading are not able to use most of the ELCA or Augsburg Fortress materials in the available format; and

WHEREAS, individuals and congregations must spend large amounts of money and time to create or re-create materials so that people with disabilities affecting the activity of reading are able to participate fully in worship, spiritual development, and educational activities at home, school, or church; and

WHEREAS, people who are blind or otherwise visually impaired are currently involved in a struggle for basic civil rights like access to education, employment, and voting, and the ELCA ignores this struggle by promoting worship and educational materials that are available only in small-size print and by allowing inaccessible features on their Web sites thus further marginalizing many children and adults with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, in spite of these barriers, people with vision impairments and other disabilities, through their commitment to the Gospel, are already active as worshipers and leaders in ELCA congregations, schools, colleges, and seminaries; and

WHEREAS, modern technology makes production and distribution of accessible format materials easier than ever, and centralizing these functions would allow congregations across the ELCA to have more convenient and less expensive access to such materials; and

WHEREAS, the resurrection of a comprehensive ministry to provide accessible format materials to ELCA congregations would benefit and uplift the entire body of Christ; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin memorialize the Church Council to direct Augsburg Fortress to report to the 2011 Churchwide Assembly a plan to implement in its own publishing, partnership publishing, or other contracted manufacturing a way to make available at reasonable cost its printed materials (books and other forms) upon request in an appropriate accessible format that maintains the structural integrity of the original material; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin requests the Church Council at its November 2010 meeting to direct all churchwide units and encourage auxiliary organizations to design their Web sites in ways that respect the accessibility needs of people with vision impairment by using high-contrast, following W3C standards, and incorporating feedback from users with disabilities; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin requests the Church Council to direct all churchwide units of the ELCA to include information on plans to implement the accessibility to the April 2011 Church Council meeting; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the 2010 Synod Assembly of the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin requests the Synod Council to examine synodically created materials and policies on accessibility for those with disabilities and order changes to said materials and policies in the spirit of this resolution and as the Synod Council directs; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the 2010 Synod Assembly of the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin encourages all congregations within this synod to review their internal policies and materials and to make changes as needed in the spirit of this resolution; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Bishop of this Synod shall report to the 2011 Synod Assembly any actions taken on this subject by the Church Council and the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin Synod Council; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the 2010 Synod Assembly of the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin directs the Synod Secretary to forward this resolution to the Church Council and the ELCA Secretary, for consideration and possible action, and to each congregation within this synod.

Church Council Action, November 2010 [CC10.11.66c]

To receive the resolution of the South Central Synod of Wisconsin related to accessibility in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the South Central Synod of Wisconsin;

To refer the resolution to the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit in consultation with the Office of the Presiding Bishop and Augsburg Fortress, Publishers, especially as a Message on Disabilities is drafted as requested by the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly;

To request that a report and possible recommendations be brought to the April 2011 meeting of the Church Council; and

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

Response from the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit

The resolution “Accessibility in the ELCA” from the South Central Synod of Wisconsin (5K) calls for a report to the April 2011 Church Council meeting from the Congregational and Synodical Mission (CSM) unit in consultation with the Office of the Presiding Bishop and Augsburg Fortress Publishers. Please consider this a progress report, anticipating a more complete report from Augsburg Fortress to the 2011 Churchwide Assembly.

The CSM unit is responsible for overseeing the churchwide organization’s work with disability ministries. Because of reductions in the general budget these past years, all programming work and much of the limited staff support are funded through restricted endowments and a small accumulated reserve. The endowments, which aggregate many gifts and bequests, generate about \$24,000 annually for disability ministries in general and an additional \$6,000 for Braille and tape ministries. No large additions have been made to principle of the endowments in recent years, but there are occasional smaller donations. Within these funding limits, CSM will determine the future use of these funds to create more accessibility. CSM’s payroll includes part-time staff consultants in Braille, audio and large print ministries and in Deaf ministries. The director for leadership for mission portfolio includes oversight of these responsibilities. We

anticipate that endowment income can continue to assist with the production and distribution of Braille, large print and audio ELW hymns and worship settings.

The social message “People Living With Disabilities,” adopted by the Church Council in November, is being prepared for publication online, in print (including Spanish) and possibly in Braille or a comparable media. The Lutheran Services in America Disability Network (LSA-DN) has discussed the possibility of shared distribution and publicity.

The redesign of the churchwide organization has necessitated a change in the website design; standards addressing accessibility will be considered by Information Technology. In addition, with the formation of new units in the churchwide organization, each unit will be asked to consider accessibility in their unit planning and to include them as part of their unit updates for each meeting of the Church Council.

VOTED:

EN BLOC

CC11.04.24b To thank the South Central Synod of Wisconsin for its resolution related to accessibility in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the South Central Synod of Wisconsin;

To receive the report of the Congregational and Synodical Ministries unit prepared in consultation with the Office of the Presiding Bishop and Augsburg Fortress, Publishers, and to anticipate additional updates related to accessibility planning by the publishing house and the churchwide organization;

To acknowledge with gratitude the ongoing work to make the ELCA social message, “People Living with Disabilities” broadly available; and

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

THE DECADE OF WOMEN—GENDER EQUALITY: THEOLOGICAL REFLECTIONS AND CONGREGATIONAL ACTION STRATEGIES

Southwest California Synod (2B)

WHEREAS, we celebrate this church’s ordination of women as a clear public witness of the equality of women and men intended by Jesus and the early Christian community; and

WHEREAS, we globally profess to love our wives, mothers, sisters and daughters, yet leave millions of women and children displaced in the wilderness, or homeless on highways and streets, ignoring their cries for help, and remaining blind to their bruises and wounds from the violence they suffer; and

WHEREAS, a global study on the discrimination and disempowerment women face throughout their lives and how that impacts children’s lives entitled the *UNICEF 2007 Report on the State of the World’s Children* concluded the following:

- Gender equality is not only morally right, it is pivotal to human progress and sustainable development;
- Gender equality furthers the cause of child survival and development;
- Gender equality will not only empower women to overcome poverty and live full and productive lives, but will better the lives of children, families and countries as well;
- Women’s equal rights and influence in the key decisions that shape their lives and those of children must be enhanced in three distinct arenas: the household, the workplace and the political sphere; and

WHEREAS, the 2009 Churchwide Assembly approved the creation of a Social Statement on Justice for Women (which was memorialized by this Synod); and

WHEREAS, the ELCA’s implementation of “The Decade for a Culture of Peace and Nonviolence” and the “Stand With Africa” formats successfully highlighted ministry opportunities and can be readily adapted to focus directly on the obstacles and challenges faced by women around the world; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Southwest California Synod Assembly direct the Synod Council to forward this resolution to the Church Council for timely consideration and possible action to adopt 2011–2020 as “The Decade of Women” within our denomination by incorporating those successful strategies as exhibited in “The Decade for a Culture of Peace and Nonviolence,” and “Stand With Africa” and other gender-equality action strategies for congregations, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Southwest California Synod lend its voice and efforts in promoting gender equality which contributes to achieving the goals of reducing poverty and hunger, saving children’s lives, improving maternal health, ensuring universal education, combating HIV and AIDS, malaria, and other diseases, and ensuring environmental sustainability, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Southwest California Synod Assembly commend and enhance the efforts of this church’s Global Mission unit, the ELCA World Hunger Program, Lutheran World Relief, Women of the ELCA, and other ecumenical and interfaith advocacy efforts by raising awareness and funds for their important work in honoring women by faithfully addressing issues critical to their survival, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Southwest California Synod, through its staff, conferences, congregations and members, exercise intentional efforts to labor for real change on women’s issues, especially in the areas of sexual violence, domestic violence, healthcare, human rights, displaced refugees, reproductive rights, poverty, economic and property rights, among others.

Church Council Action, November 2010 [CC10.11.66e]

To receive the resolution of the Southwest California Synod requesting consideration of a “The Decade of Women” (2011–2020) within the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America;

To refer the resolution to the Office of the Presiding Bishop in consultation with the Administrative Team with a request that a report and possible recommendations be brought to the April 2011 meeting of the Church Council; and

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

Response from the Office of the Presiding Bishop

The justice for women program, on behalf of the Office of the Presiding Bishop, is pleased to respond to the resolution that calls for “The Decade of Women” 2011–2020. At the heart of this resolution is a grassroots call to advocacy, both legislative and social, for justice for women. Implicit in this resolution are the urgent demands that the church not shy away from its role to see gender-based disparity, injustice and violence as ecclesiological issues; to see the unjustly interrelated ways that life in the United States influences the well-being of people, especially women and children, in other nations; and to do something about these problems. In shorthand, this resolution calls for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to be engaged in gender analysis and action globally.

The justice for women program is grateful for this grassroots calling to the church’s responsibility to take the global effects of sexism and patriarchy seriously. This resolution reflects the central message of the program’s call to the church at the 2007 Churchwide Assembly when it invited and urged the church to educate for justice, advocate for change and lead into the future to make justice for women and girls a reality.

On behalf of the Office of the Presiding Bishop, the justice for women program recommends a delay in church council action until November 2011. In the intervening time, staff members will consider options related to this resolution.

VOTED:

EN BLOC

CC11.04.24c

To receive the background information provided by the justice for women program in response to the resolution of the Southwest California Synod related to “The Decade of Women—Gender Equality: Theological Reflections and Congregational Action Strategies”;

To authorize a delay until the November 2011 meeting of the Church Council; and

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

INCREASING CHURCH INVOLVEMENT IN MENTAL ILLNESS

Central States Synod (4B)

WHEREAS, in Matthew 14:14 we read, “When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick” (NIV), and in Luke 4:40 we read, “When the sun was setting, the people brought to Jesus all who had various kinds of sickness, and laying his hands on each, he healed them” (NIV), which shows that Jesus had compassion on the sick and healed them—the blind,

the deaf, the lepers, the lame, and many other sicknesses, even those who were possessed with demons, who would likely today have their illnesses diagnosed as schizophrenia or companion brain disorders; and

WHEREAS, one of five families cope with mental illness, and individuals and families affected by mental illness are members of our congregations; and

WHEREAS, mental illness is a disease of the brain, similar to and yet unique compared to many physical illnesses; and

WHEREAS, mental illness is often a sickness that is no fault of the patient, yet the stigma associated with mental illness continues to deter individuals and their families from seeking timely treatment; and

WHEREAS, persons suffering from mental illness sense being shunned by society and thus tend to isolate themselves from social contacts, which results in the loss of a support system that can be an essential part of a treatment plan; and

WHEREAS, health care professionals may treat the physical and psychological aspects of mental illness but are ill prepared to treat the spiritual or to be available outside of scheduled structured appointments; and

WHEREAS, a 2008 study by the Rand Corporation shows that nearly 20 percent of military service members who have returned from Iraq and Afghanistan—300,000 in all—report symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) or major depression; and

WHEREAS, this same report states if PTSD and despair go untreated or are undertreated, there is a cascading set of consequences—drug use, suicide, marital problems, and unemployment—which affect a widening circle of people in our congregations and communities; and

WHEREAS, the Healthcare Clinicians Network of the National Healthcare for the Homeless Council states, “It is an outrage that here in America—the wealthiest country on earth in the year 2000—so many people who suffer from mental illness remain homeless. . . . These individuals are among the most vulnerable, not only to multiple co-morbidities including substance abuse, but also to stigmatization, exploitation, and brutal victimization. Consequently, they are at highest risk for prolonged homelessness”; and

WHEREAS, great progress to improve the quality of life has been made in treatment of persons afflicted with mental illness and even more can be made; and

WHEREAS, Jesus has directed us to care for the sick and homeless and all of the “least of these”; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Central States Synod in assembly recommend to its congregations:

1. That they become “the rod and the staff” that “comfort” all persons who suffer from illnesses, including the individuals and families who cope with mental illness;
2. That they designate and make known to the congregation a member (preferably a volunteer) to be the liaison for the congregation on matters related to mental illness who will help members understand mental illness and be a source of information on where individuals and families who cope with the illness can get treatment and find a support group;
3. That they seek opportunities for pastors, pastoral ministry associates, parish nurses, and other interested members to receive training for their unique role in providing spiritual guidance to individuals even as they are being treated by mental health professionals who might not recognize that the patient’s faith is important to the patient and should be considered when developing a treatment plan;
4. That the church provide a non-judgmental meeting place for persons who avoid being seen in public places because of their illness;
5. That the congregation in its role of supporting members with mental illness communicate to its legislative representative the need for increased funds and resources that will help people access mental health services; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Central States Synod in assembly

1. memorialize the 2009 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) to direct development of a social statement on mental illness to serve as a companion to “Caring for Health: Our Shared Endeavor,” a 2003 social statement on health, healing, and health care; and
2. direct the Central States Synod Council to refer this resolution to the ELCA Church Council, requesting that it direct development of congregational resources for use in ministry to those afflicted with mental illness, in addition to those resources currently available from the Lutheran Network for Mental Illness/Brain Disorders.

NOTE: The Central States Synod requests that this action be treated as a resolution since the social statement Caring for Health: Our Shared Endeavor addresses issues of mental illness.

Executive Committee Action, August 2010 [EC08.10.22a]

To receive the resolution of the Central States Synod requesting increasing ELCA involvement in mental illness through the development of a social statement on mental illness;

To refer the resolution to the Church in Society unit in accordance with the “Policies and Procedures of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for Addressing Social Concerns” and to request that a report and possible recommendations be brought to the November 2009 meeting of the ELCA Church Council; and

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

Response from the Church in Society unit

The medical understanding of mental illness as a disease of the brain has made immense strides since the 1990s (often called the Decade of the Brain) and new means of treatment show hopeful signs. At the same time, it now is estimated that as many as one out of five families cope with mental illness and that members of the military returning from war zones may suffer post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) at a rate as high as 20 percent. Despite the possibilities of better medical response and new awareness of the widespread presence of mental illness in our society, individuals with mental illness and their families continue to experience considerable suffering—including homelessness and victimization for some—and isolation. The social stigma, lack of access to health care, reduction of social services in this economic climate, and especially the general lack of understanding, deter individuals and their families from seeking treatment or experiencing appropriate support and care, both in society and in ELCA congregations and at other ministry sites.

Biblical injunctions and Jesus’ example of care for the mentally ill, as well as the ELCA’s social statement on health care, *Caring for Health: Our Shared Endeavor*, provide firm grounding for the development of a message on mental illness. Such a message should provide a focus for teaching, deliberation, engagement, and action within this church that will enable a deeper understanding of current needs and issues, as well as the means to address mental illness for individuals and as a social concern.

Cost and timeline

The development of an ELCA message requires approximately \$17,000 in order to hold a small consultation, provide for miscellaneous expenses, and print and mail the document. It requires the quarter-time commitment of a studies staff member for about six months. Staff time and dollars should become available for such work in the middle of 2010, permitting a proposed message to be brought to the spring 2011 meeting of the Church Council. It is anticipated that it would be formatted for both Web and print distribution by late spring of that year.

Church Council Action, November 2009 [CC09.11.86c]

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.

Response from Office of the Presiding Bishop

Concerns about the ELCA’s capacity to process a high volume of social teaching and policy documents led to action by the Church Council (CC10.11.61) that urged a rescheduling of the work on authorized but pending social documents. The initiation of work on a social message regarding mental health, therefore, was delayed until the fall of 2011.

As of April 2011, the studies team in the Office of the Presiding Bishop has plans for keeping that timeline and anticipates consideration of a message by Church Council at its spring 2012 meeting.

It should be noted, however, that adoption by the 2011 CWA of the recommendations of the “Living into the Future Together” (LIFT) task force concerning social documents would place on hold initiation of pending social documents and further delay the message’s initiation, since the recommendation on social documents calls for a delay until completion of a review of the process.

VOTED:

EN BLOC

CC11.04.24d To receive the response of the Office of the Presiding Bishop to the resolution of the Central States Synod requesting the development of an ELCA message on mental illness;

To thank the synod for its concern for people with mental illness and their families and receive the response provided by the studies team in the Office of the Presiding Bishop;

To acknowledge that the decisions of the 2011 Churchwide Assembly related to the recommendations of the “Living into the Future Together” (LIFT) task force may affect the initial planning for a possible social message on mental health; and

To request the secretary of this church to inform the synod of this action and response.

AMENDMENTS TO SEMINARY GOVERNING DOCUMENTS

Background:

Bylaw 8.31.01. provides both for the independent incorporation of ELCA seminaries and for a churchwide role in the approval of their governing documents: “Each seminary shall be a seminary of this church, shall be incorporated, and shall be governed by its board of directors consistent with policies established by the Church Council. Amendments to the governing documents of each seminary and each seminary cluster shall be submitted, upon recommendation of the appropriate unit of the churchwide organization, to the Church Council for approval.” This process of approval is accomplished by the following steps:

1. The appropriate seminary president notifies the director for theological education that the seminary board has taken action to amend its governing documents.
2. The director for theological education consults with the president on the content and intent of the amendment(s).
3. The director for theological education consults with the executive director of Congregational and Synodical Mission and ELCA legal counsel.
4. The executive director of Congregational and Synodical Mission and the director for theological education recommend appropriate amendments to the Church Council at its next meeting.
5. The Office of the Secretary notifies the seminary president and the executive director of Congregational and Synodical Mission of the action taken by the Church Council on the recommendation.
6. The amendment(s) become(s) effective upon approval of the Church Council.

The amendments were detailed in Exhibit M, Parts 1a-1b.

VOTED:

EN BLOC

CC11.04.25 To approve the amended bylaws and continuing resolutions of the Eastern Cluster of Lutheran Seminaries as detailed in Exhibit M, Parts 1a–1b.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF INDEPENDENT LUTHERAN ORGANIZATIONS

Background:

Bylaw 14.21.16. in the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* states:

The Church Council shall establish the criteria and policies for the relationship between this church and independent, cooperative, and related Lutheran organizations. The policies adopted by the Church Council shall be administered by the appropriate unit of the churchwide organization. The determination of which organization shall relate to a specific unit of the churchwide organization shall be made by the Church Council.

At its April 2006 meeting, the Church Council voted [CC06.04.27] to approve a revised “Policy on Relationships of Churchwide Units with Independent Lutheran Organizations.” The revision was made necessary by changes in structure, governance, and the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*.

In accordance with the revised policy, the Rev. Stephen P. Bouman, executive director of the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit, recommended that the Fellowship of Recovering Lutheran Clergy be acknowledged as an Independent Lutheran Organization in relationship to the ELCA through the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit.

VOTED:

EN BLOC

CC11.04.26 **To acknowledge, in accordance with bylaw 14.21.16. of the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* and the “Policy on Relationships of Churchwide Units with Independent Lutheran Organizations,” the Fellowship of Recovering Lutheran Clergy, which will relate to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America through the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit.**

LUTHERAN WORLD FEDERATION NORTH AMERICAN REGIONAL COMMITTEE

Background:

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is part of the North American Region of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF). As indicated by the Rev. Donald J. McCoid, assistant to the presiding bishop for ecumenical and inter-religious relations, “Since we have moved to a region without an LWF staff member and as we look toward a new approach to regions with the LWF, the attached ‘Purpose of the North American Regional Committee’ requires the approval of the ELCA Church Council. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada will be requesting the same approval from the ELCIC National Council.”

VOTED:

EN BLOC

CC11.04.27 **To approve the following purpose statement for the North American Regional Committee of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF):**

The Purpose of the North American Regional Committee is to strengthen the Lutheran Communion by bearing witness to the fullness of Christ’s body for and with the world as a global community exercising visible solidarity among member churches. This solidarity is expressed in altar and pulpit fellowship among all member churches.

- **We are to be “brokers” of what actions are decided at LWF Council and Assemblies and ongoing communications. This will be done in our region and respective churches. We will coordinate decisions and actions of the LWF to entities within our church bodies, as well as monitor reception.**
- **We are to creatively imagine ongoing ways for the work in conversations and connections to unfold.**
- **We commit to ongoing conversations to recognize our mutual giftedness and mutual poverty so that we receive the witness, gifts, prayers, and expertise from the Communion.**
- **We commit to revitalize and strengthen our connectivity in order to participate more full in the life of the Communion.**
- **We need to pay attention to furthering our identity, as member churches of the LWF and this needs to be shared at all levels (congregations, synods, national church bodies).**

Members of the North American Regional Committee will include: Members of the LWF Council; two (2) appointees from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada; three (3) appointees from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; and one (1) appointee from the Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church Abroad. The LWF will designate a representative to the North American Regional Committee.

The committee will have one face-to-face meeting per year. There will also be a conference call prior to the LWF Council meetings. An ongoing email meeting group needs to be formed.

The North American Regional Committee will review actions from the LWF Assembly and determine what needs to be done.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES OF THE ELCA FOR ADDRESSING SOCIAL CONCERNS

Background:

The Church Council last revised the “Policies and Procedures of the ELCA for Addressing Social Concerns” in 2006. The document in Exhibit J, Part 3, was revised by the Office of the Secretary and reviewed by the Administrative Team and the Theological Discernment team. The principal changes involved deleting references to the “Church in Society unit” and replacing them with “Office of the Presiding Bishop,” “Congregational and Synodical Mission unit,” or “Theological Discernment team.”

After the 2011 Churchwide Assembly considers implementing resolutions related to the report and recommendations of the “Living into the Future Together: Renewing the Ecology of the ELCA” task force, another revision of the document will be anticipated in November 2011.

VOTED:

EN BLOC

**CC11.04.28 To approve revisions to “Policies and Procedures of the ELCA for Addressing Social Concerns” as provided in Exhibit J, Part 3; and
To anticipate further revision of the document at the Church Council’s November 2011 meeting to reflect action by the Churchwide Assembly on the recommendations of the Living into the Future Together (LIFT) task force.**

ELECTIONS: SOCIAL MINISTRY ORGANIZATIONS

Background:

The ELCA serves as a corporate member of certain inter-Lutheran organizations and affiliated social ministry organizations. The role of corporate members includes the responsibility to elect representatives to the organization’s board of directors as prescribed in the organization’s governing documents. The relationship of the ELCA to certain inter-Lutheran organizations and affiliated social ministry organizations is expressed through the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit.

The ELCA serves as a corporate member of Lutheran Medical Center, Brooklyn, New York; the Evangelical Lutheran Good Samaritan Society, Sioux Falls, S.D.; Lutheran Services in America, Baltimore, Md.; Mosaic, Inc., Omaha, Neb.; and Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, Baltimore, Md. In the case of Lutheran Medical Center, this church’s annual election of board members complies with the center’s constitutional requirement that this action constitute an annual meeting of the corporate member. The Congregational and Synodical Mission unit has forwarded to the Church Council the following nominations for positions on the boards of these organizations.

VOTED:

EN BLOC

CC11.04.29

To elect to the board of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service to three-year terms expiring in 2014: The Rev. Stephen P. Bouman, Ms. Betty Boyd, Ms. Judith Diers, and Mr. Richmond Appleton;

To elect to the board of trustees of Lutheran Medical Center to a three-year term expiring in 2014: Mr. Richard J. Novak;

To re-elect to the board of trustees of Lutheran Medical Center to three-year terms expiring in 2014: Ms. Lynda Anderson, Ms. Martha Bakos Dietz, Mr. Joseph Lodato, Ms. Carol Knuth Sakoian, Ms. Martha Wolfgang, and the Rev. Samuel Fook Wong.

ELECTIONS: BOARDS OF CERTAIN ELCA SEMINARIES

Background:

Bylaw 8.31.02. outlines basic parameters for the election of members to the boards of ELCA seminaries. Subsection 8.31.02.a. provides for churchwide representation: “At least one-fifth nominated, in consultation with the seminaries, by the appropriate churchwide unit and elected by the Church Council.” The following names were submitted for election based on a protocol between the seminary and the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit.

VOTED:

EN BLOC

CC11.04.30

To elect as members of the board of directors of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to three-year terms expiring in 2014: Ms. Emma Porter, Ms. Amanda Smoot, Pr. John Richter, and Mr. Nelvin Vos.

To elect as members of the board of directors of the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, Columbia, South Carolina, to three-year terms expiring in 2014: The Rev. Lowell G. Almen and the Rev. Robert T. Byrne.

To elect as a member of the board of directors of the Trinity Lutheran Seminary, Columbus, Ohio, to a four-year term expiring in 2015: Mr. John Marr.

To elect as a member of the board of directors of Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, Iowa, to a six-year term expiring in 2017: Ms. Pamela Shellberg.

CHARITY FIRST

Background:

The Office of the Secretary announced the settlement of a class-action suit in the amount of \$64,048.97. The suit involved the ELCA-endorsed synodical and congregational insurance program formerly administered by Charity First and formerly underwritten by Zurich Insurance Company. The churchwide organization is not a member of the class. The settlement was received in one payment, so the proceeds need to be distributed to eligible synods and congregations.

Unfortunately, the settlement involves policies written over an 11-year period, and there are no records to indicate which synods and congregations were covered during that time, nor what their premiums were. Figures exist only for 2005 for approximately 1,260 entities. Charity First, which should have the information, is unable to provide more details. In addition, the settlement was based only on premiums and not on individual participants.

This information has been provided to the Conference of Bishops. Although no vote was taken, no one objected to the distribution approach outlined below.

The 2005 data on participating congregations and synods will be used as a basis for distributing the settlement proceeds. In addition, a three-month notice period will be announced, and a claim form, requiring information on premiums that were paid, will be provided to other congregations and synods that were part of the program in the relevant years. This process is intended to be the most equitable approach to distribution, given the data constraints.

After expiration of the notice period, a distribution formula will be developed that will take into account the total number and value of the claims submitted. Since this process will require significant time and expense, the churchwide

organization proposes to charge a 10 percent administrative fee (approximately \$6,400). The net amount available for distribution, therefore, will be \$57,648.97.

The distribution formula will be based on the total amount of premiums that were paid in 2005, plus the average annual premium of all other claimants that have submitted a form. For example, given \$10 million in 2005 premiums and \$500,000 in additional synodical and congregational claims, the formula to determine each claimant's share would be determined by multiplying each claimant's one-year premium by \$57,648.97, then dividing by \$10,500,000. Using this formula, a \$15,000 premium, for example, would yield a settlement payment of approximately \$81.00.

This approach is recommended as an appropriate and fair formula, given the circumstances.

VOTED:

EN BLOC

CC11.04.31

WHEREAS, a settlement of \$64,048.97 from an insurance class-action suit related to funds paid by participating synods and congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) has been received; and

WHEREAS, the settlement covers 11 years of premiums paid by as many as 2,000 entities; and

WHEREAS, the identities of the participating congregations and synods cannot be determined by the insurance broker or carrier with any degree of certainty; and

WHEREAS, significant churchwide staff time and expense will be required to determine the recipients of the settlement; and

WHEREAS, the fairest way to distribute the settlement is to use such information on participating congregations and synods as exists and to provide an opportunity for other congregations and synods to submit claims; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Office of the Secretary and the Office of the Treasurer develop both a process that provides notice of this settlement to congregations and synods and a claim form for congregations and synods to submit proof of participation in the insurance program during the relevant period; and be it further

RESOLVED, that after a three-month notice period, the settlement be distributed in an equitable and proportional manner to those congregations and synods that are known, either through existing records or submitted claim forms, to have participated; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the churchwide organization receive 10 percent (approximately \$6,400) of the settlement to reimburse it for expenses and staff time involved in administration of the settlement process.

COMMUNAL DISCERNMENT TASK FORCE

VOTED:

EN BLOC

CC11.04.32

To authorize the Communal Discernment Task Force to continue its work through 2013 or as funds permit.

TABLE GRACE

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on the Rev. Keith A. Hunsinger, who led the council in table grace.

RECESS

The April 2011 meeting of the Church Council recessed at 11:41 A.M.

**Sunday, April 10, 2011
Plenary Session VII**

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called Plenary Session Seven to order at 12:39 P.M.

CHURCH COUNCIL JOYS AND CONCERNS
(Agenda 6.8)

At the request of Vice President Carlos E. Peña, joys and concerns were offered by Mr. John R. Emery and the Rev. Philip R. Wold. Church Council members and advisors viewed a music video, “Roll the Stone Away,” by Mr. Peder Eide.

REPORT OF THE PLANNING AND EVALUATION COMMITTEE (Continued)
LIFT TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATION: COMMUNAL DISCERNMENT (Continued)
(Agenda 3.4.B; Agenda/MINUTES Exhibit I, Part 1)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña asked the Rev. Susan Langhauser, chair of the Planning and Evaluation Committee, to report on the work of the writing team to which the Living into the Future Together: Renewing the Ecology of the ELCA (LIFT) report and recommendations had been referred.

Pr. Langhauser said the writing team had tried to capture the essence and themes of the report in drafting implementing resolutions the Church Council could recommend that the 2011 Churchwide Assembly adopt. She directed the council’s attention to agenda pages that had been revised April 10, 2011. She described the revisions of the writing team and the recommended procedure for addressing the LIFT task force report and recommendations—rescind the acceptance of the report and recommendations previously adopted, consider amending the recommendations in the report, transmit the report and recommendations to the assembly, and refer the recommendations to the writing team so that it may prepare implementing resolutions for the assembly.

Secretary David D. Swartling explained the parliamentary steps necessary to accomplish the writing team’s recommendation for the council.

Pr. Langhauser added that the council would be working primarily with the revised agenda pages.

Secretary Swartling made the following motion.

Moved;

Seconded: *To rescind the action previously taken:*

VOTED:
CC11.04.16

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

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

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

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

There being no further discussion of the motion, Vice President Peña called for the vote.

VOTED:

CC11.04.33

To rescind the action previously taken:

VOTED:

CC11.04.16

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

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

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

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

The chair declared that the motion to rescind had been approved.
Secretary Swartling made the following motion.

Moved;

Seconded:

To rescind the action previously taken:

VOTED:

CC11.04.17

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

To commend the recommendations of the Living into the Future Together (LIFT) task force related to synods:

1. The Conference of Bishops, in consultation with synod leaders and the churchwide organization, prepare a report to the Church Council for recommendations to the 2013 Churchwide Assembly that includes:

- a description of the current pattern or patterns of synodical life in the ELCA that effectively supports vital congregations, mission growth and outreach.
 - a proposal to establish a pattern or a set of patterns that will allow synods to receive and distribute financial resources to support the whole ministry of this church in all its forms and expressions.
 - strategies for increased mission vitality that may include consideration of redrawing synod boundaries.
 - recommendations for revising and reordering the constitutional responsibilities of bishops and synods to emphasize synods as agents of mission in the changing context and culture. Revising functions previously considered responsibilities of the bishop may involve identifying tasks to let go or do differently (e.g., conflict management in congregations or full involvement in candidacy and placement processes. See ELCA 8.13. and 10.21. and †S6.02. and †S6.03.).
2. Synods, through their bishops, assemblies, councils, staffs and committees prioritize the responsibilities in their constitutions to reflect a focus on equipping congregations and leaders. (†S6.03.).
 3. The synod bishop take steps to ensure that the priority of the synod is building and supporting the ability of congregations to make disciples of Jesus Christ and follow his call to serve others. The steps include:
 - Developing and supporting lay, rostered lay and clergy leadership for serving and witnessing.
 - Advocating for mutual relationships and partnerships with youth and young adults, people of color or language other than English and women.
 - Calling congregations to discern God’s leading in their particular context for the sake of the gospel.
 4. Synod leadership, in partnership with the churchwide organization, devote at least one full or part-time staff person, usually the director for evangelical mission, who is dedicated to building and supporting the ability of existing and emerging ministries and congregations within the territory of the synod to do evangelical outreach and serve others.
 5. Mutual accountability and joint planning for mission be emphasized as synods, congregations, the churchwide organization and other ministry partners work together.
 6. The churchwide organization assist synods in their work to build and support the ability of the congregations in their territory to serve others as a witness to the gospel. The priority includes supporting the positions of directors for evangelical mission and ensuring the availability of consultation and expertise to support the directors and synod leadership in the areas of community organizing, leadership development, multicultural ministry, youth ministry, evangelism and stewardship.

There being no further discussion of the motion, Vice President Peña called for the vote.

VOTED:

CC11.04.34

To rescind the action previously taken:

VOTED:

CC11.04.17

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

To commend the recommendations of the Living into the Future Together (LIFT) task force related to synods:

1. **The Conference of Bishops, in consultation with synod leaders and the churchwide organization, prepare a report to the Church Council for recommendations to the 2013 Churchwide Assembly that includes:**
 - a description of the current pattern or patterns of synodical life in the ELCA that effectively supports vital congregations, mission growth and outreach.
 - a proposal to establish a pattern or a set of patterns that will allow synods to receive and distribute financial resources to support the whole ministry of this church in all its forms and expressions.
 - strategies for increased mission vitality that may include consideration of redrawing synod boundaries.
 - recommendations for revising and reordering the constitutional responsibilities of bishops and synods to emphasize synods as agents of mission in the changing context and culture. Revising functions previously considered responsibilities of the bishop may involve identifying tasks to let go or do differently (e.g., conflict management in congregations or full involvement in candidacy and placement processes. See ELCA 8.13. and 10.21. and †S6.02. and †S6.03.).
2. **Synods, through their bishops, assemblies, councils, staffs and committees prioritize the responsibilities in their constitutions to reflect a focus on equipping congregations and leaders. (†S6.03.).**
3. **The synod bishop take steps to ensure that the priority of the synod is building and supporting the ability of congregations to make disciples of Jesus Christ and follow his call to serve others. The steps include:**
 - Developing and supporting lay, rostered lay and clergy leadership for serving and witnessing.
 - Advocating for mutual relationships and partnerships with youth and young adults, people of color or language other than English and women.
 - Calling congregations to discern God’s leading in their particular context for the sake of the gospel.
4. **Synod leadership, in partnership with the churchwide organization, devote at least one full or part-time staff person, usually the director for evangelical mission, who is dedicated to building and supporting the ability of existing and emerging ministries and congregations within the territory of the synod to do evangelical outreach and serve others.**
5. **Mutual accountability and joint planning for mission be emphasized as synods, congregations, the churchwide organization and other ministry partners work together.**

6. **The churchwide organization assist synods in their work to build and support the ability of the congregations in their territory to serve others as a witness to the gospel. The priority includes supporting the positions of directors for evangelical mission and ensuring the availability of consultation and expertise to support the directors and synod leadership in the areas of community organizing, leadership development, multicultural ministry, youth ministry, evangelism and stewardship.**

The chair declared that the motion to rescind had been approved.
Pr. Langhauser made the following motion.

Moved;

Seconded:

*To amend the recommendations in the report of the Living into the Future Together (LIFT):
Renewing the Ecology of the ELCA task force as follows:*

1. LIFT Task Force Recommendation: Congregations

1. Congregations and synods in partnership develop a mission plan that will strengthen the congregation. We recommend that, in concert with their synod bishop and the director for evangelical mission, the congregation develop a plan to achieve as many of the following characteristics of vital congregations as are realistic for their life together. These plans will vary from congregation to congregation as leaders take seriously the context in which God has placed them (e.g., rural, urban, suburban) and as congregations discern the leading of the Spirit at various stages in a congregation's life. Characteristics of vital congregations include:
 - fostering mature faith and discipleship in members.
 - understanding God's grace as the foundation of restored relationships with God, one another and the world.
 - worshipping God in word and sacrament.
 - strengthening evangelical outreach.
 - supporting lay, lay rostered and clergy leaders.
 - serving others in the way the congregation uses its resources.
 - learning about the congregation's surrounding community, including its racial and ethnic diversity and how this context might inform ministries.
 - building and maintaining relationships and partnerships with other ELCA congregations, the synod and the wider church for the sake of God's mission in the world.
 - building and maintaining relationships and partnerships with other religious and non-religious groups in the congregation's area and globally for the sake of God's mission in the world.
 - supporting people in their daily vocations of work, family life and relationships.
 - discerning what should be celebrated, engaged, tweaked or relinquished for the sake of God's mission.
 - sustaining the congregation's mission plan and determining how it will be carried out.
2. ~~Congregation mission plans be completed by December 31, 2012 and become a regular process within each congregation.~~

Congregations will be invited into and engaged in such planning by December 31, 2012, toward the goal that collaborative mission planning will become a regular process within each congregation.

Pr. Langhauser and the Rev. M. Wyvetta Bullock responded to a series of clarifying questions. They explained that the writing team had taken suggestions from the council's earlier discussion about the LIFT task force report and recommendations and incorporated them into amendments that the team was now proposing, section by section, that the council make to the task force recommendations.

Secretary Swartling added that the motion would amend the text of the report.

Ms. Susan W. McArver noted that, during the council's earlier discussion, the possibility was raised that congregations could work together on mission planning, and she asked whether that could be mentioned.

Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson asked whether Ms. McArver's suggestion needed to be made as an amendment to the motion or would be considered as advise to the writing team, which would be editing the task force report and recommendations further.

Secretary Swartling replied that the council could pursue either option.

Mr. David Truland stated that the task force included its recommendations in its report and the Church Council will make its recommendations to the Churchwide Assembly in the implementing resolutions. He argued that the council not change the task force report and recommendations but focus its attention on the implementing resolutions.

Secretary Swartling remarked that the motion would strike what may appear to be a requirement of all congregations, and Ms. McArver's suggestion may be too specific for an implementing resolution but may be added to the report. If it was to be added to the report, he said, either it had to be added by amendment to the motion or the mechanism had to be in place to allow the writing team to add it later.

Mr. Truland expressed the view that the Churchwide Assembly should see the task force recommendations and the Church Council recommendations.

The Rev. Diane "Dee" Pederson commented that the task force had attempted to present the possibility that congregations work together on mission planning, the council was editing the report to clarify that point, and the council will draft implementing resolutions with actionable goals for the Churchwide Assembly to adopt.

Ms. Deborah L. Chenoweth recommended that, in addition to drafting implementing resolutions, the Church Council give the writing team authority to adjust the language in the report and recommendations to make them parallel.

The Rev. Kathryn A. Tiede questioned whether congregations would receive the report and recommendation as being in conflict with the implementing resolutions.

Pr. Bullock responded that a purpose of the implementing resolutions would be to clearly state the recommendations and not be received as a second set of recommendations. Congregations and synods would do mission planning around the implementing resolutions.

Pr. Tiede asked whether it would be possible to put all the recommendations into one document.

Pr. Bullock replied that, once the Churchwide Assembly acts, a resource could be developed to simplify what this church is being called to do.

The Rev. Steven P. Loy suggested the council pursue one of three courses—transmit the task force report to the Churchwide Assembly as the task force issued it, consider the amendments to the report that the writing team was prepared to present, or refer the text of the report to the writing team so it will bring recommended amendments at the same time that it presents implementing resolutions.

Ms. McArver asked whether the purpose of the implementing resolutions was to translate the report into specific actions for this church.

The Rev. Jeffrey "Jeff" B. Sorenson suggested that the Church Council raise remaining concerns with the task force report and refer the text of the report to the writing team so it will bring recommended amendments at the same time that it presents implementing resolutions.

Presiding Bishop Hanson suggested that the writing team make the final sentence of the motion read: Congregations will be invited into and engaged in such planning, preferably with other congregations and partners, by December 31, 2012, toward the goal that collaborative mission planning will become a regular process within each congregation.

Pr. Tiede asked that the recommendations avoid the passive voice.

Secretary Swartling suggested that the motion be withdrawn and that the council continue directing comments toward the writing team.

Pr. Langhauser asked whether the council wanted to leave the task force report as the task force issued it or to edit the report before transmitting it to the Churchwide Assembly.

Vice President Peña asked for and received consensus to withdraw the motion. The motion was withdrawn.

The chair asked the council members for any further discussion of the first section of the task force recommendations. There being no further discussion of the first section of recommendations, the vice president asked for comments about the second set of task force recommendations dealing with synods.

Pr. Langhauser noted that the only concerns the council raised earlier about this section were whether the Churchwide Assembly would “adopt” or “commend” the recommendations of the task force.

The Rev. Michael L. Burk, bishop of the Southeastern Iowa Synod, asked that the parenthetical example of conflict resolution be reconsidered among recommended constitutional revisions to the functions of bishops.

There being no further discussion of the second set of recommendations, the chair called for discussion of the third set of task force recommendations dealing with regions of this church.

Pr. Langhauser mentioned that the writing team had considered replacing “laboratories for” with “centers exploring” in the text.

Ms. McArver remarked that the possible change had not captured her concern that regions were established.

Pr. Bullock said the task force discussion had focused on asking the regions to try new methods of networking and building alliances.

There being no further discussion of the third set of recommendations, the chair called for discussion of the fourth set of task force recommendations dealing with the churchwide organization.

Pr. Langhauser mentioned that the writing team had suggested adding “faith formation” to the text at several points in this section in response to a concern raised earlier by the council.

There being no further discussion of the fourth set of recommendations, the chair called for discussion of the fifth set of task force recommendations dealing with leadership for mission and education in the faith.

Pr. Langhauser noted that the writing team had also suggested adding “faith formation” to the text at one point in this section.

There being no further discussion of the fifth set of recommendations, the chair called for discussion of the sixth set of task force recommendations dealing with global and ecumenical partnerships.

Pr. Langhauser stated that the writing team had not suggested any changes to this section.

Pr. Hunsinger expressed the view that companion synod relationships should be mentioned in this section.

Ms. Chenoweth cited the task force recommendation to “explore stronger relationships with ecumenical partners in every expression of the church,” which would include congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization.

Pr. Hunsinger asked the writing team to consider making that point clearer.

There being no further discussion of the sixth set of recommendations, the chair called for discussion of the seventh set of task force recommendations dealing with agencies, institutions, and other ministries.

Pr. Langhauser reported that the writing team had not suggested any changes to this section.

There being no further discussion of the seventh set of recommendations, the chair called for discussion of the eighth set of task force recommendations dealing with communal discernment.

Pr. Langhauser asked that the council postpone discussion of the section on communal discernment, because the council had dealt with it in a separate motion.

Vice President Peña agreed and called for discussion of the ninth set of task force recommendations dealing with structure and governance.

Pr. Langhauser recalled that the council’s earlier conversation had stopped with its discussion regarding communal discernment, and she asked for conversation that inform the writing team on the remaining task force recommendations.

Pr. Tiede questioned the task force recommendation to enlarge the Church Council to a range of 33 to 45 members.

Pr. Pederson replied that the recommendation would grant voice-and-vote status to those who would otherwise be advisors.

Presiding Bishop Hanson mentioned that, with specific synods nominating members for election to the Church Council, the range in membership would give the Nominating Committee more options for finding candidates.

Ms. Rebecca Jo Brakke remarked that, even with 45 members, there would be up to 20 synods without members on the council.

Secretary Swartling recalled that, at its November 2010 meeting, the Church Council proposed the necessary constitutional amendments to the Churchwide Assembly to adopt this recommendation, and he added that the assembly will decide whether to accept the amendment.

Pr. Sorenson cited the recommendations to expand the role of the Conference of Bishops in the Church Council and asked whether there were other ways for the conference to influence the business of the council.

Pr. Loy suggested wording that would have required a change in the ELCA constitution and withdrew the suggestion.

Pr. Pederson drew the attention of the council to the final section of the LIFT report which recommended further study of the interdependence of the Conference of Bishops and the Church Council.

There being no further discussion of the ninth set of recommendations, Vice President Peña called for discussion of the eighth set of task force recommendations dealing with communal discernment and how the council's separate action on this topic affected it.

Secretary Swartling stated that, if the writing team would be asked to amend the recommendations, any amendment would have to be consistent with the action taken.

Bp. Burk recommended that the writing team make it clear that "bring no social statement" would apply after the assembly has considered the proposed social statement on genetics.

Mr. Mark S. Helmke remarked that the separate Church Council action would preclude the writing team's authority to further amend the related recommendations.

Secretary Swartling agreed and added that only editorial changes would be possible.

There being no further discussion of the eighth set of recommendations, the chair called for discussion of the tenth set of task force recommendations dealing with mission support.

Pr. Langhauser noted that the previous council discussion had not included this section.

Mr. John R. Emery cited the report's point that "the goal of synods sharing 55 percent of the undesignated receipts for churchwide ministries is not sustainable in some synods and not working in others" and remarked that it conflicted with other reports to the Church Council that this church has untapped resources.

Ms. Ann F. Niedringhaus expressed the view that it may be premature to state that mission support is not working. She suggested the Blue Ribbon Report on Mission Funding may provide examples of mission support working that could be built upon.

Bp. Burk recommended removing the specific "55 percent," which suggested an inflexible mark, and recognizing the task force's attempt to draw attention to the systemic issue of redefining proportional sharing.

Pr. Pederson pointed out that the task force recommendations ask for further study of this issue.

Ms. Lynette M. Reitz remarked that the tenth set of recommendations had not included the alternatives in mission support worth studying.

Ms. Sandra Schlesinger commented that only synods were mentioned in the mission support recommendations, and there was no advice for congregations, such as including mission support in their mission planning. She cited the first point in this set of recommendations: "The ELCA as a whole celebrate the financial interdependence of all its ministries, calling each to careful financial stewardship and faithful sharing." She expressed doubt in the interdependence of this church's fund raising efforts.

Treasurer Christina Jackson-Skelton recalled an action of the 2009 Churchwide Assembly regarding the Blue Ribbon Report on Mission Funding, asking for further study of the congregations' roles in mission support. She suggested that happen in the context of the LIFT report. She added that she felt the recommendations had not captured the spirit of shared decision-making between synods and the churchwide organization in mission support.

Mr. Emery said congregation members were often encouraged to tithe as an example of good stewardship but congregations were rarely asked to set that example by tithing toward mission support.

There being no further discussion of the tenth set of recommendations, the chair called for discussion of the eleventh set of task force recommendations dealing with collaboration and connection.

Pr. Langhauser noted again that the previous council discussion had not included this section.

There being no further discussion of the eleventh set of recommendations, the chair called for discussion of the twelfth set of task force recommendations dealing with ongoing work for further study and future action.

Pr. Langhauser pointed out that the writing team had suggested adding “including legal implications” to the point about the study of the use of social media and “ethnic-specific associations” to the point about fostering participatory conversations.

Ms. Myrna J. Sheie, executive for governance and institutional relations, referred again to the eleventh set of task force recommendations and directions for the Office of the Presiding Bishop that may be more appropriately directions for the churchwide organization.

Ms. Niedringhaus asked whether the Blue Ribbon Report on Mission Funding should be included among ongoing work for further study and future action.

Pr. Pederson responded that the LIFT task force studied the Blue Ribbon Report on Mission Funding and based many of its recommendations on that report.

Presiding Bishop Hanson recalled that the 2009 Churchwide Assembly asked that the 2011 Churchwide Assembly receive an update on the Blue Ribbon Report on Mission Funding, and he asked whether the writing team could include specific references to the Blue Ribbon Report on Mission Funding in the LIFT report and recommendations.

There being no further discussion of the twelfth set of recommendations, the chair closed discussion of the LIFT task force recommendations.

Ms. Langhauser reminded the Church Council of the amount of work that the LIFT task force put into its report and recommendations. She made the following motion.

Moved;

Seconded:

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

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

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

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

Secretary Swartling spoke in favor of approving the previously rescinded action to express the Church Council’s gratitude to the LIFT task force before referring its report and recommendations to the writing team.

There being no further discussion, Vice President Peña called for the vote.

VOTED:

CC11.04.35

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

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

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

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

The chair declared that the motion had been approved.
Secretary Swartling made the following motion.

Moved;

Seconded:

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

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

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

There being no discussion, Vice President Peña called for the vote.

VOTED:

CC11.04.36

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

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

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

The chair declared that the motion had been approved.

Secretary Swartling pointed out that a resolution being circulated among the Church Council members was still in draft form and the writing team would continue to work with it to frame the comments of the Rev. Gerald L. Mansholt, bishop of the Central States Synod, regarding the LIFT task force report as a vision of a new reality for this church.

Vice President Peña asked Pr. Langhauser to continue with the report of the Planning and Evaluation Committee.

UPDATE FROM THE COMMUNAL DISCERNMENT TASK FORCE

(Agenda 4.1.B)

Background:

At its November 2010 meeting, the Church Council received the draft report of the Communal Discernment Task Force and voted to “commend [it] to the Churchwide Assembly Planning Team for consideration of its recommendations.” The Rev. Susan Langhauser, chair of the Planning and Evaluation Committee and of the Communal Discernment Task Force, met with the planning team by conference call in January 2011 to provide both an introduction to the task force’s work and an opportunity for discussion.

As work has continued on the report, a revised draft had been provided for review by the Planning and Evaluation Committee and was available under the committee’s section on Net Community.

UPDATE ON MULTICULTURAL MINISTRIES

(Agenda 4.1.C; Agenda/MINUTES Exhibit I, Part 2)

Background:

A biennial report of this church’s multicultural ministries was prepared at the request of the Planning and Evaluation Committee in consultation with the executive for administration.

UPDATE ON JUSTICE FOR WOMEN

(Agenda 4.1.D; Agenda/MINUTES Exhibit I, Part 3)

Background:

A biennial report of this church’s “justice for women” work was prepared at the request of the Planning and Evaluation Committee in consultation with the executive for administration.

Church Council Information:

The Rev. Susan Langhauser said that Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson and the Rev. M. Wyvetta Bullock had provided the Planning and Evaluation Committee with an update on the new churchwide organization design. The committee also received reports from the Rev. Sherman G. Hicks, director for ethnic-specific and multicultural ministries, and Ms. Mary J. Streufert, director for justice for women. Pr. Langhauser mentioned that the committee continued its review of the Global Mission unit with the Rev. Rafael Malpica Padilla, executive director. She noted that the Church Council had approved a resolution to authorize the Communal Discernment Task Force to continue its work through 2013 or as funds permit.

Vice President Carlos E. Peña thanked Pr. Langhauser, the Planning and Evaluation Committee, and the writing team for their work. The council responded with applause.

NEW BUSINESS

(Agenda 6.2 and 6.4)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña announced that there was no new business for the Church Council to consider.

DWELLING IN THE WORD

(Agenda 6.3)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña invited Ms. Louise A. Hemstead to reflect on “Dwelling in the Word.” Ms. Hemstead made contemporary agricultural and ecclesial applications to biblical images of finding lost sheep.

CONSIDERATION OF UNFINISHED AND ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS

(Agenda 6.5)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña announced that there was no unfinished business or additional agenda items for the Church Council to consider.

MEETING EVALUATION AND DEBRIEFING

(Agenda 6.9)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña asked the Church Council members to complete the meeting evaluation forms that were distributed.

PROCESS OBSERVATION

(Agenda 6.10)

Ms. Lynette M. Reitz praised the Church Council for deciding to include sidebars in the recommended proposed social statement on genetics, which she characterized as recognizing the various learning needs of people across this church. She noted that, during discussion of the genetics social statement, it was stated that global partners had not been asked for reactions, and she encouraged consulting with global partners. She also called the mission statement with the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church a clear indication that this church was reaching out in new directions.

Mr. Baron Blanchard added that the council's work with the Living into the Future Together (LIFT): Renewing the Ecology of the ELCA was a sign that this church was also reaching in new directions.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Agenda 6.11)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña invited the Rev. Jeffrey "Jeff" B. Sorenson to announce that the video, "A Thousand Questions," would be made available to council members.

Secretary David D. Swartling told the Church Council that the summary of actions taken at this meeting would be provided electronically. He also provided additional details about the Churchwide Assembly schedule and council meeting arrangements.

CLOSING PRAYER

(Agenda 6.12)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on the Rev. Raymond A. Miller, who closed the meeting with prayer.

ADJOURNMENT

The sixty-ninth meeting of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America adjourned on April 10, 2011, at 2:12 P.M.