

**EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
IN AMERICA**

**Church Council**

**MINUTES**

**May 23, 2011**

**Prepared by the  
Office of the Secretary**

**EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA  
CHURCH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES  
May 23, 2011  
Lutheran Center  
Chicago, Illinois**

The seventieth meeting of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) was convened on Monday, May 23, 2011, in the Council Room of the Lutheran Center at Chicago, Illinois, and by conference call.

**ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING**

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

***Voting Members***

**Officers:**

Bp. 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 ( <i>excused</i> )	Pr. Yvonne I. Marshall
Mr. Baron Blanchard ( <i>excused</i> )	Ms. Susan W. McArver
Ms. Rebecca Jo Brakke	Pr. Raymond A. Miller
Ms. Rebecca D. Carlson	Mr. John S. Munday
Ms. Deborah L. Chenoweth	Mr. Mark W. Myers
Pr. Rachel L. Connelly	Ms. Ann F. Niedringhaus
Mr. John R. Emery	Pr. J. Pablo Obregon ( <i>excused</i> )
Pr. Amsalu T. Geleta	Mr. Iván A. Pérez
Ms. Karin Lynn Graddy	Ms. Feronika Raming ( <i>excused</i> )
Mr. Mark S. Helmke	Ms. Lynette M. Reitz
Ms. Louise A. Hemstead	Ms. Sandra Schlesinger
Mr. William B. Horne II	Mr. Blaire P. Smith
Pr. Keith A. Hunsinger	Pr. Jeffrey "Jeff" B. Sorenson
Mr. Mark E. Johnson	Pr. Kathryn A. Tiede
Pr. Susan Langhauser	Mr. David Truland ( <i>excused</i> )
Pr. Steven P. Loy	Pr. Philip R. Wold
Pr. Heather S. Lubold ( <i>excused</i> )	

***Representatives of the Conference of Bishops***

Bp. Allan C. Bjornberg ( <i>excused</i> )	Bp. Gerald L. Mansholt
Bp. Michael L. Burk	Bp. Margaret G. Payne
Bp. Elizabeth Eaton ( <i>excused</i> )	Bp. Harold L. Usgaard
Bp. Murray D. Finck ( <i>excused</i> )	Bp. Martin D. Wells
Bp. Ralph E. Jones ( <i>excused</i> )	Bp. Herman R. Yoos III ( <i>excused</i> )

***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  
Ms. Katherine Long, president, European American Association (*excused*)  
Ms. Arielle Mastellar, youth advisor (*excused*)

**Advisory Members** *(continued)*

Pr. O. Dennis Mims, president, African American Lutheran Association *(excused)*  
Mr. Fuad Nijim, president, Arab and Middle Eastern Association *(excused)*  
Mr. Wayne B. Powell, ELCA colleges and universities  
Pr. Mark R. Ramseth, ELCA seminaries *(excused)*  
Pr. Arthur C. "Chris" Repp, chair, Global Mission program committee *(excused)*  
Mr. Kyle Teague, youth advisor *(excused)*  
Pr. Edmond Yee, Asian and Pacific Islander Association, president, Asian and Pacific Islander Association  
*(excused)*

**Resource People**

**Office of the Presiding Bishop:**

Pr. M. Wyvetta Bullock, executive for administration  
Mr. Kenneth W. Inskeep, executive for research and evaluation *(excused)*  
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 *(excused)*  
Pr. H. Karl Reko, coordinator for the Living Into the Future (LIFT) project  
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  
Mr. David A. Ullrich, associate general counsel

**Unit Executives:**

Pr. Stephen P. Bouman, executive director, Congregational and Synodical Mission *(excused)*  
Pr. Rafael Malpica Padilla, executive director, Global Mission  
[Ms. Christina Jackson-Skelton, acting executive director, Mission Advancement]

**Separately Incorporated Ministries:**

Ms. Linda Post Bushkofsky, executive director, Women of the ELCA  
Mr. Douglas Haugen, director, Lutheran Men in Mission  
Mr. John G. Kapanke, president and chief executive officer, 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 *(excused)*

**Press:**

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

**Ecumenical Guests:**

Ms. Lelanda Lee, The Episcopal Church *(excused)*  
Pr. Mary Ann Neevel, United Church of Christ *(excused)*  
*Vacant positions:* Moravian Church in America, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.),  
Reformed Church in America, and The United Methodist Church

---

## CALL TO ORDER AND ADOPTION OF AGENDA

(Agenda I.A)

*Background:*

Agenda items had been distributed by mail and electronically.

*Church Council Action:*

Mr. Carlos E. Peña, vice president of the ELCA and chair of the Church Council, called the meeting to order at 10:02 A.M. At the invitation of the chair, the Rev. Mark S. Hanson, presiding bishop of the ELCA, read Exodus 13:17–22 and opened the meeting with prayer.

Vice President Peña called the roll and reminded those present of protocols used during conference calls. He also welcomed the Rev. Yvonne I. Marshall, who had been elected to the Church Council at its April 2011 meeting.

The vice president called on Mr. David D. Swartling, secretary of the ELCA, to make the following motion.

**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:**

**CC11.05.37 To adopt the agenda and to permit the chair to call for consideration of agenda items in the order the chair deems most appropriate.**

The chair declared the motion had been approved.

## UPDATES FROM THE OFFICERS

(Agenda I.B)

**PRESIDING BISHOP MARK HANSON**

(Agenda I.B1)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson, who reported:

“We are well into the synod assembly season, and though we do not have data about the evaluations, the word coming back—at least from the churchwide representatives, and some of my conversations with synod bishops—and my own experience has been that these assemblies are exactly what we have been praying and hoping they would become.

“They are celebrations of our unity in Christ. They are looking forward. They are not, by and large, calling us back to decisions that we have made, but they are much more saying, *‘This is the church that God has called us to be. What does it mean to be in Christ going forward into the future?’*

“I can say from the assemblies I have been at that the spirit is absolutely one of great hope. The challenges financially are real, but they are not overwhelming and incapacitating. And our prayer has always been that we would come out of the synod assemblies into a churchwide assembly that would build upon that momentum for this church, and I believe that is, in fact, what is happening.

“This churchwide assembly, we are working very hard to communicate clearly who we are as a church, and our identity as inseparable from our vocational mission. We are going to be doing that creatively. We will be doing that in a way that invites people in. Worship will continue to be the centerpiece of our life.

“We will spend time in the Word. This will be different this time because we will have a mission encounter at the early stages of the assembly, when the participants at the assembly will experience our life together in mission, both globally and locally. So, I am extremely hopeful in terms of where we are as this church body.

“We have had a consultation here with the campus ministry folks, as well as regional coordinators and bishops. You know that the most significant percentage of reduction in the grant reduction phase was in relationship to campus ministry that raised both concerns but also creative engagement. That consultation in May resulted in recommendations—nine recommendations— as well as some strong imagining. It will be followed by a broader conversation and consultation in June. We want to be participants in that conversation as the churchwide organization, and also believe we’re living into new models of doing campus ministry.

“We are at a particularly important time in our relationship with the Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod (LCMS) and our shared ministries in Lutheran World Relief (LWR), Lutheran Immigration Refugee Service (LIRS), Lutheran Services in America, Lutheran Disaster Response, and military chaplaincy. We will be meeting this week in Missouri with the leadership of LCMS, our semi-annual regular meeting.

“The LIRS board met last weekend. The LWR board met the weekend before that. Everyone is in deep conversation about how to continue to both serve Lutherans, but on behalf of Lutherans, respond to the world. We will have more to report to you in August, but I also anticipate that we’ll have reports to you via email in coming weeks.

“This has also been an important time for our relationships in the Middle East. Bishop Munib Younan, the president of LWF (Lutheran World Federation), was here last week. It was an important time with Prime Minister Netanyahu in the country and President Obama speaking. We hope that you are being attentive to our responses and our continued commitment to the process of peace there, as well.

“I think, one other thing—we are very engaged in searches here. We have a number of vacancies. Those provide opportunities for new leadership to come. We have spent a lot of time in recent weeks with the reduction of workforce. Now we’re adding to the workforce, and that also brings a sense of anticipation and energy.

“The LWF Council will be meeting in two weeks. It is involved in strategic planning, as are we, and the Rev. Wyvetta Bullock will be reporting on our strategic planning process later in this agenda.”

Vice President Peña called for questions. There being none, he thanked the presiding bishop for his report.

**VICE PRESIDENT CARLOS PEÑA**  
(Agenda I.B2)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña announced that he would provide his complete report at the Church Council’s meeting in August 2011.

**SECRETARY DAVID SWARTLING**  
(Agenda I.B3)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña asked Secretary David D. Swartling for an update.

Secretary Swartling stated that more than 50 percent of the voting members had registered for the 2011 Churchwide Assembly. He clarified this church’s policies regarding the sharing of the names of the voting members and their contact information. The secretary served notice that additional constitutional amendments would be presented to the Church Council at its August 2011 meeting for recommendation to the 2011 Churchwide Assembly. He withdrew the slate of nominees for election to the Nominating Committee, which appeared in the agenda as item 1.6, citing an imbalance in the number of nominees by region. Secretary Swartling said a revised slate would be shared electronically with the council members for their review and for possible ratification at the August 2011 meeting.

Vice President Peña noted the change in the agenda and asked the council for questions. There being none, he thanked the secretary for his update.

**TREASURER CHRISTINA JACKSON-SKELTON**  
(Agenda I.B4)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on Ms. Christina Jackson-Skelton, treasurer of the ELCA, for a report.

Treasurer Jackson-Skelton drew the Church Council's attention to financial reports that had been shared on the Net Community site. She outlined the income and expenses of February and March 2011, compared to the same months of the previous year and to the budget. The treasurer added that April figures were being finalized.

There being no questions, Vice President Peña thanked the officers for their updates.

### **UPDATE ON ELCA MALARIA CAMPAIGN LEADERSHIP CIRCLE**

(Agenda I.C)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on Ms. Christina Jackson-Skelton, in her role as acting executive director for the Mission Advancement unit, to provide an update on the Leadership Circle of the ELCA Malaria Campaign.

Ms. Jackson-Skelton announced that the campaign had received commitments of \$150,000 or 1 percent of the \$15 million goal. She noted that the Leadership Circle had been extended to include the Church Council, Conference of Bishops, and the executive staff of the churchwide organization. The acting executive director said that most bishops and most council members had made their commitments to the campaign. She added that the campaign plans to ask voting members of the Churchwide Assembly to make commitments.

Vice President Peña thanked those who had made commitments to the ELCA Malaria Campaign and urged others to take the opportunity to do so. There being no questions, he thanked Ms. Jackson-Skelton for the report.

### **REPORT OF THE LIVING INTO THE FUTURE TOGETHER (LIFT) WRITING TEAM**

(Agenda I.D; Agenda/MINUTES Exhibit A, Parts 1a–1b and 2)

*Background:*

At its April 2011 meeting the Church Council reviewed the report of the "Living into the Future Together (LIFT): Renewing the Ecology of the ELCA" task force. The Church Council 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 Church Council provided guidance for perfecting both the recommendations of the LIFT task force and the implementing resolutions for consideration by the 2011 Churchwide Assembly. The Church Council voted [CC11.04.36]:

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

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

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

The writing team was established, including: Pr. Diane “Dee” H. Pederson, chair of the LIFT task force; Pr. Susan Langhauser, chair of the Planning and Evaluation Committee; Mr. William B. Horne II, member of the Planning and Evaluation Committee; Ms. Deborah L. Chenoweth, Church Council liaison to the LIFT task force; Pr. Ruth E. Hamilton, Office of the Secretary; Ms. Myrna J. Sheie, Office of the Presiding Bishop; Pr. M. Wyvetta Bullock, Office of the Presiding Bishop and staff to the LIFT task force; and Pr. H. Karl Reko, coordinator for the LIFT project.

The writing team established a charter and time line:

Writing team charter

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

Writing team time line

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

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

**LIFT TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS**

(Agenda I.D1; Agenda/MINUTES Exhibit A, Parts 1a–1b)

The proposed revisions to the recommendations in the LIFT task force report were provided in Exhibit A, Parts 1a–1b. Exhibit A, Part 1a was “marked up” and included proposed revisions, both those detailed in an April 29 version of the documents and those included based on input from the Church Council and Conference of Bishops. Exhibit A, Part 1b, presented the recommendations with changes accepted.

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

Assembly voting members will have an opportunity to debate the amendments before voting on them.

*Church Council Action:*

Vice President Carlos E. Peña reviewed the background information. He announced that the Rev. Diane “Dee” H. Pederson, chair of the Living into the Future Together (LIFT): Renewing the Ecology of the ELCA task force, had intended to participate in the meeting but was out of the country and unable to join the conference call. He called on the Rev. M. Wyvetta Bullock, executive for administration, to present the work of the writing team.

Pr. Bullock introduced Ms. Deborah L. Chenoweth, who described the process the writing team used to prepare the recommended actions for the Church Council.

Pr. Bullock put forward the proposed amendments to the LIFT task force recommendations section by section.

Vice President Peña called for questions and discussion on the amendments after each section was submitted.

Secretary David D. Swartling noted an editorial correction that would be made and reminded the council that editorial corrections would be made if needed.

There were no other comments until Pr. Bullock read the recommended amendments for the LIFT task force recommendations on communal discernment.

Ms. Susan W. McArver asked whether the fifth and sixth recommendations in that section would preclude the Churchwide Assembly considering the proposed social statement on genetics.

Pr. Bullock replied that an implementing resolution later in the meeting's agenda would address that question as did an action the Church Council took at its April 2011 meeting.

Secretary Swartling stated that the previous action was a recommendation that the Churchwide Assembly would consider before the proposed social statement or LIFT recommendations to eliminate any ambiguity.

Mr. John S. Munday asked whether the recommendations would preclude the 2013 Churchwide Assembly considering a proposed social statement on criminal justice.

Pr. Bullock and Secretary Swartling responded that the council's action in April 2011 recommended that the Churchwide Assembly authorize a review process for future social statements but did not preclude those in process.

Pr. Bullock continued to lay out the writing team's proposed amendments to the LIFT task force recommendations section by section.

Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson cited a LIFT task force recommendation in the section on mission support: "the goal of synods sharing 55 percent of the undesignated receipts for churchwide ministries has been successful in some synods, but not sustainable or workable in others." He requested an explanation for using the words "not sustainable or workable."

Pr. Bullock responded that the task force had used the word "workable," basing that opinion on input from the synods, and the writing team did not propose an amendment.

There being no further discussion, Vice President Peña called on Secretary Swartling.

The secretary made the following motion.

**Moved;**

**Seconded:** To approve the revisions to the recommendations in the report of the task force on Living into the Future Together (LIFT): Renewing the Ecology of the ELCA for inclusion as information in the final report, which will be included in the 2011 Churchwide Assembly *Pre-Assembly Report*.

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

**VOTED:**

**CC11.05.38** To approve the revisions to the recommendations in the report of the task force on Living into the Future Together (LIFT): Renewing the Ecology of the ELCA for inclusion as information in the final report, which will be included in the 2011 Churchwide Assembly *Pre-Assembly Report*.

**LIFT Task Force Recommendation: Congregations**

1. Congregations begin where they are to develop a mission plan that will strengthen the congregation for witness and mission. As congregations work in collaboration with the synod bishop and the director for evangelical mission and in partnership with other congregations, 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 the congregation's life. Congregations are asked to discern how the following characteristics are realistic for their life together and part of the vision to which God is leading them:

- fostering mature faith and discipleship in members.
- understanding God's grace as the foundation of restored relationships with God, one another and the world.
- worshiping 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.

Following action by the 2011 Churchwide Assembly, congregations are invited to be engaged in such planning by December 31, 2012, toward the goal that collaborative mission planning will become a regular process within each congregation.

#### **LIFT Task Force Recommendation: 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 (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, women and people of color or language other than English.
  - 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.

**LIFT Task Force Recommendation: Regions**

1. Synods work together in their regional settings, continuing to use regions as centers for exploring cooperative mission and ministry. Specific recommendations are included in revisions to constitutional provisions ELCA 10.61 and †S.12.01.

**LIFT Task Force Recommendation: The Churchwide Organization**

1. A primary role for the churchwide organization is to support and build the capacity of synods, which are best positioned to work directly with congregations in planning and carrying out God's mission.
2. The churchwide organization continue the strategic priorities of
  - Accompanying congregations as growing centers for evangelical mission.
  - Building the capacity of this church for evangelical witness and service in the world to alleviate poverty and to work for justice and peace.
3. The churchwide organization maintain its commitment to build and strengthen mutual and interdependent relationships among congregations, synods, the churchwide organization, agencies, institutions, partners and developing networks. These relationships are gifts of the triune God given to create the community of this church.
4. The churchwide organization continue to deploy directors for evangelical mission (DEMs) in synods. In this way the churchwide organization will continue to assist synods to accompany congregations and will serve as a catalyst for renewing evangelizing congregations as mission centers. The DEMs will encourage missional plans that focus on starting new evangelizing congregations, renewing evangelizing congregations, mission support and stewardship education and missional strategies that are attentive to the presence of the diverse peoples God has sent to each local community.
5. In many places in this nation, the vision of a multicultural, multi-ethnic church which reflects the reality of the whole people of God will require synodical and local leaders to recognize the power and privilege held by a majority culture and work to dismantle the barriers that continue to divide

communities. The ELCA churchwide organization can provide support and resources for this endeavor.

6. The churchwide organization support and strengthen the capacity of this church for global mission. The churchwide organization should provide both for the support of this church's work in other countries and the means through which churches in other countries engage in God's mission to this church and society. Stronger relationships with congregations working through synods are critical to increasing the global capacity of this church. The global partners of the ELCA depend upon the Global Mission unit to coordinate the work of the whole church. Global partners also depend upon congregations and synods to undertake global relationships in consultation with the Global Mission unit and in keeping with commonly recognized methods of accompaniment.
7. The churchwide organization continue its long term commitment to international development and disaster relief.
8. The responsibility for this church's theological discernment be located in the Office of the Presiding Bishop, which will assist this church in better understanding its identity, recognizing the theological, relational and educational gifts God has given this church and the power of these gifts to provide Christian faith formation, leadership and partnership in today's rapidly changing world.

**LIFT Task Force Recommendation: Leadership for Mission and Education in the Faith**

1. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America strengthen faith formation and integrate its network of leadership development and theological education, including seminaries, colleges and universities, campus and outdoor ministries, lifelong learning programs, schools, congregations, synods and the churchwide organization. Each institution in this network can and should seek new ways to contribute to the network's effectiveness.
2. Congregations recommit to identifying people with the potential to lead in the congregations of this church, both as members and/or as staff, and strongly support these leaders in their theological education.
3. The Conference of Bishops include consultations as part of its review of funding for the mission of this whole church to accomplish increased support from congregations for the necessary funding of theological education for leadership. All ministries providing this education can and should renew creative efforts for efficiency and effectiveness, including possible ELCA and ecumenical collaborations.
4. ELCA colleges, universities and seminaries be encouraged to continue their individual and common efforts to collaboratively, faithfully, effectively and efficiently carry out their mission(s) within this church's commitments to a system-wide network of theological education and leadership development, respecting each institution's integrity while honoring the commitments and needs of the ELCA and the larger church.
5. ELCA colleges, universities and seminaries strongly pursue many of the tasks, outcomes and expectations for colleges, universities and seminaries identified in the documents (see Exhibit 1F) with the support of the larger church. The strong alignment of these tasks and outcomes with the values of the ELCA as discovered in the task force's research supports the emerging recommendations for developing evangelical missional congregations led by lay and rostered people of evangelical, missional imagination.
6. ELCA colleges, universities and seminaries collaborate with the ELCA churchwide organization, synods and other theological education providers in the development of lay mission schools and that programs, courses, workshops and faculty already utilized for equipping missional leaders

- be drawn upon as synods develop these schools and the teaching and learning developed in the lay mission schools be fed back into the preparation of candidates for ordination (See Exhibit 1F).
7. ELCA colleges and universities continue to promote the Lutheran concept of vocation as the sense of life as “calling” among its faculty, staff and students with the affirmation and support of the whole church.
  8. The ELCA churchwide organization convene a group of ELCA colleges and university presidents for the purpose of formulating new models of governance and ways for ELCA colleges and universities to relate to and support congregations, synods and the churchwide organization.
  9. Congregations, synods and the churchwide organization, in concert with colleges and universities, develop strategies to share Lutheran youth prospects with Lutheran colleges and universities.
  10. Synods, the churchwide organization and the ELCA network of ministry partners stand ready to join the seminaries in the essential equipping of evangelical public leaders for congregations and other faith communities.
  11. ELCA seminaries and synods prepare a variety of candidates of missional imagination and serve as catalysts for opening congregational imaginations to missional leaders who are examples of differing pathways of preparation for ministries in a variety of contexts, and who have been supported by differing types of financing.

**LIFT Task Force Recommendation: Global and Ecumenical Partnerships**

1. Build and strengthen relationships with this church’s global companions and ecumenical partners, focusing on accompaniment, mutual growth, capacity building and the sustainability of relationships.
2. Celebrate the high regard for the global mission and ecumenical activities of the ELCA within and beyond this church.
3. Affirm the consistent use of plans for ministry in a particular country (i.e., country plans) to help the Global Mission unit and global companion churches prioritize mission activities together.
4. Encourage congregations and synods of this church, in their global mission work, to draw on the resources of the Global Mission unit in keeping with the commonly recognized methods of participation in the style of accompaniment.
5. Continue conversation and reflection about evolving relationships between the expressions of this church and global Christianity, including those with companion synods.
6. Explore stronger relationships with ecumenical partners in every expression of the church, including the sharing of administrative staff and facilities and shared program work.

**LIFT Task Force Recommendation: Agencies, Institutions and Other Ministries**

1. The vital agencies, institutions and ministries related to the ELCA:
  - seek to sustain mutually beneficial relationships with this church; and
  - continue to give attention to networking as an organizational principle and practice that can enhance our shared mission of service to the world.
2. Congregations, synods and the churchwide organization be attentive to these ministries, seek in diverse ways to be supportive partners and be aware of the complementary nature of mission.

**LIFT Task Force Recommendation: Communal Discernment**

1. Nurture a culture of faithful discernment in all its expressions, assemblies and councils, the churchwide organization, synods, congregations, institutions and small groups. This culture will contribute to healthier decision-making and stewardship of mission and build relationships of greater trust and respect for one another.

2. Shape churchwide meetings and gatherings, including churchwide assemblies to include a focus on identity and mission in order that participants gain a deeper understanding of what God is calling this church to be and do.
3. Undertake sustained, ongoing conversations and deliberation regarding this church's identity and its implications for our participation in God's mission. Link mission and identity rather than seeing mission as one more activity of the church.
4. Affirm the responsibility of the presiding bishop (see ELCA 15.12.G10) to be the prime catalyst in this church's conversations and deliberations on identity and mission. This would include working with:
  - The Conference of Bishops, the presidents of the seminaries and the Convocation of Teaching Theologians to fully address this church's discourse on identity and mission.
  - The churchwide organization and synods in developing their ability to engage congregations and their members deeply and expansively in ongoing critical conversations and deliberations.
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.

**LIFT Task Force Recommendation: Structure and Governance**

1. The ELCA Churchwide Assembly
  - Move to a triennial cycle for the Churchwide Assembly after 2013.
  - Explore opportunities for synodical, regional and leadership gatherings.
  - Reduce the number of advisory members paid by the churchwide organization to attend the Churchwide Assembly and request that other organizations provide expenses for their leaders who attend.
2. The ELCA Church Council
  - Enlarge the Church Council to a range of 33-45 members (plus officers), with the added members nominated by the Nominating Committee based upon demographics, experience, and expertise in Church Council responsibilities.
  - Reduce the number of advisory members paid by the churchwide organization to attend Church Council meetings.
3. The Conference of Bishops
  - Provide voice and vote on the Church Council to the chair of the Conference of Bishops.
  - Expand the role of the Conference of Bishops in its consultative capacity with the Church Council and strengthen the interdependent relationships in this church.
4. Program committees
  - Eliminate program committees for churchwide units and develop new strategies for obtaining input from constituencies.
5. Interrelationships and Networks
  - Develop intra-synodical and inter-synodical networks that organize for unified and specific purposes, have fluid and flexible structures and serve to strengthen relationships among congregations and synods.

**LIFT Task Force Recommendation: Mission Support**

1. The ELCA as a whole celebrate the financial interdependence of all its ministries, calling each to careful stewardship and faithful sharing.
2. In recognition of the interdependence of congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization, the ELCA affirms that all share in the responsibility to develop, implement, and strengthen the financial support ministry of this church.
3. The Conference of Bishops, synod vice presidents, the Church Council and the churchwide organization collaborate to ensure that work on a proposal for renewed, sustainable mission support for this church begin in the fall of 2011 and be brought to the 2013 Churchwide Assembly. That work, should acknowledge that:
  - the ELCA as a whole has great capacity and abundant financial resources;
  - the support from congregations has been and is critical to the vitality and interdependence of this church;
  - while the economic health and sustainability of many congregations and synods has changed since the Blue Ribbon Committee recommendations were adopted in 2007, the understanding of mission funding articulated in the report remains foundational for the ELCA;
  - the goal of synods sharing 55 percent of the undesignated receipts for churchwide ministries has been successful in some synods, but not sustainable or workable in others;
  - synods that maintain or increase their sharing at this time are providing a valuable opportunity for this church to review its plans while sustaining its mission.
4. The churchwide organization, in collaboration with the Conference of Bishops, synod vice presidents and Church Council, lead this church in exploring new opportunities for growing in financial faithfulness, including direct appeals, designated giving, planned giving and endowment management.
5. The churchwide organization, synods and congregations prioritize their spending to emphasize congregational outreach, leadership development, global mission and new communication strategies, while discerning how to constructively withdraw from other tasks.
6. Financial self-sufficiency never be the only criterion used to evaluate the work of congregations, synods or ministry partners, but that resources be sought and shared with joy where this is necessary to sustain strategic missional opportunities.

**LIFT Task Force Recommendation: Collaboration and Connection**

1. The implementation of the recommendations in this report include plans and strategies for all parts of this church to utilize global digital media as new opportunities for the Spirit's work among us. These communications methodologies will be both digital and relational; neither is successful without the other.
2. The churchwide organization
  - initiate ways to encourage congregations, synods and partners to develop flexible networks for varying purposes, recognizing that these networks can increase collaboration and connections across this church and include emerging leaders from all parts of the ecology.
  - encourage congregations, synods, the churchwide organization and institutions and agencies of this church to work together to explore new communication strategies and techniques and share them throughout this church.
3. The Mission Advancement unit of the churchwide organization continue to develop and update a communications plan that offers nimble strategies and practices for new forms of technology and communication.

**LIFT Task Force Recommendation: Ongoing Work for Further Study and Future Action**

1. The Office of the Presiding Bishop, in consultation with the Conference of Bishops and Church Council, provide for the continuation of the functions assigned to the task force as this church continues to discern what God is calling it to be and to do in order to serve God's mission most faithfully. The task force identified the following items for immediate attention, further study and future action:
  - Review of the constitutional responsibilities of synods.
  - Facilitation by the Church Council of a broad-based process addressing legislative decision-making in this church.
  - Exploration, including legal implications, of the use of social media and technology options to allow greater participation of ELCA members in the Churchwide Assembly and in meetings of the Church Council.
  - Collaborative work by congregations, synods, the churchwide organization and others to facilitate diverse non-legislative forums and events that bring together rostered leaders and lay persons to address missional issues, theological study and reflection and foster leadership development and enhanced interdependence in this church. Guidelines and resources for such forums and events should be collaboratively developed and shared widely.
  - Proposals to the Church Council by the units of the churchwide organization to generate and foster broadly participatory conversations and communicate their work. These proposals should include commitments to those engaged in multicultural and ethnic-specific ministries, ethnic-specific associations, young adult networks, justice for women, ministry partners, various constituents as well as those outside of this church. They also should include strategies for using emerging forms of communication and social media to obtain grassroots input and to communicate and engage in dialogue about these ministries.
  - Expand the consultative role of the Conference of Bishops by developing practices and procedures that allow the Church Council to refer issues to it and for the Conference of Bishops to make recommendations to the Church Council.

The chair declared the motion had been approved.

The Rev. Kathryn A. Tiede asked that her abstention from the vote be noted.

Vice President Peña thanked the writing team for its work on the amendments and the council members for their input.

**LIFT IMPLEMENTING RESOLUTIONS**

(Agenda I.D2; Agenda/MINUTES Exhibit A, Part 2)

*Background:*

The writing team considered input from the Church Council and Conference of Bishops in drafting proposed implementing resolutions for the 2011 Churchwide Assembly.

*Church Council Action:*

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on the Rev. M. Wyvetta Bullock, executive for administration, to present the implementing resolutions that the writing team had drafted as a recommendation for the Churchwide Assembly.

Pr. Bullock suggested that the Church Council discuss each implementing resolution as written in its agenda.

Vice President Peña asked for general comments about all the implementing resolutions.

Mr. John S. Munday expressed the view that the implementing resolutions would preclude the 2013 Churchwide Assembly considering a social statement on criminal justice.

Pr. Bullock pointed out that the tenth implementing resolution would call for a review process consistent with the council's April 2011 action.

The Rev. Philip R. Wold expressed the opinion that the implementing resolution was not consistent with the council action, and he asked whether work on the criminal justice social statement would be reviewed and proceed.

Pr. Bullock replied that the writing team felt the review process would address such questions.

Secretary Swartling read the Church Council action [CC11.04.23] to recommend the following for adoption by the 2011 Churchwide Assembly: "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." As a recommendation to the assembly, the secretary pointed out that the voting members will decide if the criminal justice social statement will need to be reviewed before it may be considered in 2013.

The Rev. Rachel L. Connelly asked whether the Churchwide Assembly or the Church Council would establish the time line for the review process.

Secretary Swartling responded that the Church Council would need to establish the review process.

There being no further discussion, Vice President Peña called on the secretary, who made the following motion.

**Moved;**

**Seconded:**

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

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

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

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

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

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

1. To make support for the work of congregations one of the highest priorities of this church. To request congregations, in collaboration with synods, to begin, develop, review or redefine their unique mission plans by the end of 2012, so that each congregation strengthens its capabilities and resources for witness and mission;
2. To support and strengthen synods so that they become catalysts for mission planning;
3. To request the Conference of Bishops, in consultation with synod leaders and the churchwide organization, to prepare a report and recommendations for the November 2012 meeting of the Church Council for consideration by the 2013 Churchwide Assembly that:
  - describes patterns of synodical life in the ELCA that effectively support vital congregations, mission growth and outreach;
  - proposes a pattern or a set of patterns that will allow synods to receive and distribute financial resources to support the whole ministry of this church;
  - builds on the Blue Ribbon Committee report of 2007 and includes recommendations for renewed, sustainable financial support for the mission and ministries of this church, including funding for theological education;
  - includes strategies for increased mission vitality that may include consideration of redrawing synod boundaries; and
  - recommends revision of the constitutional responsibilities of bishops and synods to emphasize synods as catalysts for mission in the changing context and culture.



4. To urge regions to expand their roles as centers for exploring the possibilities of cooperative mission and ministry;
5. To affirm the role of the churchwide organization to:
  - accompany congregations and synods;
  - build the capacity of this church for evangelical witness and service;
  - continue to build and strengthen mutual and interdependent relationships;
  - model and promote the vision of a multicultural, multi-ethnic church;
  - coordinate this church's global mission and its international development and relief work;
  - lead its theological reflection and deliberations on identity and mission;
  - lead, in collaboration with the Conference of Bishops, synod leaders, and the Church Council, in exploring opportunities to grow current support, including direct appeals, planned giving, and endowment management.
6. To encourage the development of leaders for this church through increased innovation and collaboration in leadership development, faith formation, and theological education;
7. To build and strengthen relationships with this church's global companions and ecumenical partners, focusing on accompaniment, mutual growth, capacity-building, and sustainability of relationships;
8. To support and utilize networking as an organizational principle and practice that embodies interdependence and enhances increased collaboration and connections across this church;
9. To nurture a culture of faithful discernment that contributes to mutual respect and healthy decision-making in all assemblies, councils, committees, small groups, and meetings in congregations, synods, the churchwide expression, institutions, and agencies;
10. To bring, with the exception of the social statement *Genetics, Faith and Responsibility*, no social statements to Churchwide Assemblies until a review of the process for addressing social concerns based on a spirit of communal discernment is completed;
11. To endorse the proposed amendments to the *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions* concerning the Churchwide Assembly, Church Council, Conference of Bishops, program committees, and interrelationships and networks.

Secretary Swartling noted that the eleventh implementing resolution would be to endorse constitutional amendments rather than adopt them, because adoption of the amendments would need to be considered separately.

Vice President Peña called for questions or comments. There being none, he called for the vote.

**VOTED:**

**CC11.05.39**

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

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

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

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

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

**To invite members, congregations, synods, regions, the churchwide organization, colleges and universities, institutions and agencies, networks, and global, ecumenical, and other partners into deep conversation, prayer, and discernment, as, together, this**

church commits itself to the following actions to implement the report and recommendations:

1. To make support for the work of congregations one of the highest priorities of this church. To request congregations, in collaboration with synods, to begin, develop, review or redefine their unique mission plans by the end of 2012, so that each congregation strengthens its capabilities and resources for witness and mission;
2. To support and strengthen synods so that they become catalysts for mission planning;
3. To request the Conference of Bishops, in consultation with synod leaders and the churchwide organization, to prepare a report and recommendations for the November 2012 meeting of the Church Council for consideration by the 2013 Churchwide Assembly that:
  - describes patterns of synodical life in the ELCA that effectively support vital congregations, mission growth and outreach;
  - proposes a pattern or a set of patterns that will allow synods to receive and distribute financial resources to support the whole ministry of this church;
  - builds on the Blue Ribbon Committee report of 2007 and includes recommendations for renewed, sustainable financial support for the mission and ministries of this church, including funding for theological education;
  - includes strategies for increased mission vitality that may include consideration of redrawing synod boundaries; and
  - recommends revision of the constitutional responsibilities of bishops and synods to emphasize synods as catalysts for mission in the changing context and culture.
4. To urge regions to expand their roles as centers for exploring the possibilities of cooperative mission and ministry;
5. To affirm the role of the churchwide organization to:
  - accompany congregations and synods;
  - build the capacity of this church for evangelical witness and service;
  - continue to build and strengthen mutual and interdependent relationships;
  - model and promote the vision of a multicultural, multi-ethnic church;
  - coordinate this church's global mission and its international development and relief work;
  - lead its theological reflection and deliberations on identity and mission;
  - lead, in collaboration with the Conference of Bishops, synod leaders, and the Church Council, in exploring opportunities to grow current support, including direct appeals, planned giving, and endowment management.
6. To encourage the development of leaders for this church through increased innovation and collaboration in leadership development, faith formation, and theological education;
7. To build and strengthen relationships with this church's global companions and ecumenical partners, focusing on accompaniment, mutual growth, capacity-building, and sustainability of relationships;

8. **To support and utilize networking as an organizational principle and practice that embodies interdependence and enhances increased collaboration and connections across this church;**
9. **To nurture a culture of faithful discernment that contributes to mutual respect and healthy decision-making in all assemblies, councils, committees, small groups, and meetings in congregations, synods, the churchwide expression, institutions, and agencies;**
10. **To bring, with the exception of the social statement *Genetics, Faith and Responsibility*, no social statements to Churchwide Assemblies until a review of the process for addressing social concerns based on a spirit of communal discernment is completed;**
11. **To endorse the proposed amendments to the *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions* concerning the Churchwide Assembly, Church Council, Conference of Bishops, program committees, and interrelationships and networks.**

The chair declared the motion had been approved.

The Rev. Kathryn A. Tiede asked that her abstention from the vote be noted.

Vice President Peña asked Pr. Bullock to present the next item on the agenda.

Pr. Bullock stated that seven elements of the LIFT task force's work were ongoing and would become the responsibility of the Office of the Presiding Bishop, in consultation with the Conference of Bishops.

Secretary Swartling made the following motion.

**Moved;**

**Seconded:**

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

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

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

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

There being no further questions or comments, Vice President Peña called for the vote.

**VOTED:**

**CC11.05.40**

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

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

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

The chair declared the motion had been approved.

Pr. Tiede asked that her abstention from the vote be noted.

**STRATEGIC PLANNING UPDATE FROM EXECUTIVE FOR ADMINISTRATION**

(Agenda I.E)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on the Rev. M. Wyvetta Bullock, executive for administration, to update the Church Council on strategic planning.

**EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA  
CHURCH COUNCIL  
May 23, 2011**

**MINUTES, Page 20**

---

Pr. Bullock drew the council's attention to a note that Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson had sent electronically to staff of the churchwide organization in recognition of the first 100 days of the newly designed organization. The Planning and Evaluation Committee of the Church Council had also received a working document on operational strategic planning. She described mid-level planning for the first two years of the new design, which would include the committee. Pr. Bullock said the Rev. Susan Langhauser, chair of the Planning and Evaluation Committee, the Rev. Steven P. Loy, chair of the Program and Services Committee, and the Rev. Michael L. Burk, bishop of the Southeastern Iowa Synod, would participate in a two-day planning meeting in July 2011. The Administrative Team of the unit executive directors, Presiding Bishop Hanson, and Pr. Bullock had engaged consultant Lyla Rogan in the mid-level planning process. Pr. Bullock described the purposes of the planning, setting and evaluating organizational goals. She outlined the time frame for the planning with a progress report for the Church Council in August 2011.

There being no questions, Vice President Peña thanked Pr. Bullock and others involved in the strategic planning process. The chair noted that the slate of nominees for election to the Nominating Committee, which appeared in the agenda as item 1.6, was postponed until the council's meeting in August.

**ADJOURNMENT  
(Agenda I.G)**

The seventieth meeting of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America adjourned May 23, 2011, at 10:51 A.M.