

**EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
IN AMERICA**

Church Council

MINUTES

November 11–13, 2011

**Prepared by the
Office of the Secretary**

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CHURCH COUNCIL
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**EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
CHURCH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES
November 11-13, 2011
Lutheran Center
Chicago, Illinois**

The seventy-third 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. The Audit Committee and Executive Committee of the Church Council had met separately on Thursday, November 10, 2011. New members of the Church Council met for orientation the morning of Friday, November 11, 2011. Church Council members gathered Friday at 1:00 P.M. for a service of Holy Communion in the Lutheran Center Chapel. The Executive Committee also met on Sunday, November 13, 2011, from 11:50 A.M. to 12:35 P.M.

ORGANIZATION OF MEETING

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
Pr. Linda O. Norman, treasurer

Chair of the Conference of Bishops:

Pr. Jessica R. Crist, bishop of the Montana Synod (*excused*)

Church Council:

Mr. Paul G. Archer
Ms. Rebecca Jo Brakke
Ms. Rebecca D. Carlson
Ms. Deborah L. Chenoweth
Ms. Christine P. Connell (*excused*)
Pr. Rachel L. Connelly
Pr. Elizabeth E. Ekdale
Ms. Marjorie B. Ellis
Mr. John R. Emery
Mr. Gary D. Gabrielson
Pr. Vicki T. Garber
Pr. Amsalu T. Geleta
Ms. Karin Lynn Graddy
Ms. Louise A. Hemstead
Pr. Stephen R. Herr
Mr. William B. Horne II

Mr. Mark E. Johnson
Pr. Susan Langhauser
Pr. Yvonne I. Marshall
Ms. Susan W. McArver
Pr. Raymond A. Miller
Pr. Robert G. Moore
Mr. John S. Munday
Mr. Mark W. Myers
Mr. John M. Pederson
Mr. Iván A. Pérez (*absent*)
Ms. Pamela E. Pritt
Ms. Feronika A. Raming
Pr. Laurie F. Skow-Anderson
Mr. Blaire P. Smith
Pr. Kathryn A. Tiede
Pr. Philip R. Wold

Representatives of the Conference of Bishops

Bp. Wm. Chris Boeger
Bp. Michael L. Burk
Bp. Elizabeth Eaton (*excused*)
Bp. Ralph E. Jones
Bp. Gerald L. Mansholt

Bp. Margaret G. Payne
Bp. Stephen S. Talmage (*excused*)
 Represented by Bp. Murray D. Finck
Bp. Harold L. Usgaard
Bp. Herman R. Yoos III

Resource Persons

Office of the Presiding Bishop:

Pr. M. Wyvetta Bullock, executive for administration
Mr. Kenneth W. Inskip, executive for research and evaluation
Pr. Marcus R. Kunz, assistant to the presiding bishop for theological discernment
Pr. Donald J. McCoid, assistant to the presiding bishop for ecumenical and inter-religious relations
Pr. Walter S. May, assistant to the presiding bishop for the Conference of Bishops
Ms. Jodi L. Slattery, assistant to the presiding bishop for governance
Ms. Else B. Thompson, executive for human resources

Office of the Secretary:

Pr. Ruth E. Hamilton, executive for Office of the Secretary administration
Mr. Phillip H. Harris, general counsel
Mr. Frank F. Imhoff, manager for official documentation
Mr. David A. Ullrich, associate general counsel

Unit Executives:

Pr. Stephen P. Bouman, executive director, Congregational and Synodical Mission
Ms. Christina Jackson-Skelton, executive director, Mission Advancement
Pr. Rafael Malpica Padilla, executive director, Global Mission

Separately Incorporated Ministries:

Pr. Robert Berg, assistant to the president for church relations, Board of Pensions
Ms. Linda Post Bushkofsky, executive director, Women of the ELCA (*excused*)
 Represented by Ms. Deborah Powell, associate executive director, Women of the ELCA
Mr. Doug Haugen, executive director, Lutheran Men in Mission
Ms. Beth A. Lewis, president, Augsburg Fortress, Publishers
Ms. Eva M. Roby, president, Mission Investment Fund
Pr. Jeffrey D. Thiemann, president, Board of Pensions

Press:

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

Ecumenical Guests:

Ms. Lelanda Lee, The Episcopal Church
Pr. Mary Ann Neevel, United Church of Christ (*excused*)
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

**Friday, November 11, 2011
Plenary Session I**

The seventy-third meeting of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) was convened on Friday, November 11, 2011, in the Council Room of the Lutheran Center at Chicago, Illinois.

CALL TO ORDER AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

(Agenda I.A.)

Mr. Carlos E. Peña, vice president of the ELCA and chair of the Church Council, called the meeting to order at 2:13 P.M. Vice President Peña announced that the Rev. J. Pablo Obregon had resigned from the Church Council.

Mr. David D. Swartling, secretary of the ELCA, moved adoption of the agenda.

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, the chair called for the vote.

VOTED:

CC11.11.66 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 adopted.

INTRODUCTIONS

(Agenda I.B.)

At the invitation of Vice President Carlos E. Peña, everyone present introduced herself or himself.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

(Agenda I.C.)

Secretary David D. Swartling moved approval of the minutes.

Moved;

Seconded: To approve the minutes of the April 8-10, 2011; May 23, 2011; July 28, 2011; and August 14, 2011, meetings of the Church Council; and

To ratify actions of the council's Executive Committee as indicated in the minutes of the April 8, 2011; July 6, 2011; July 13, 2011; July 28, 2011; and August 13, 2011, meetings.

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

VOTED:

CC11.11.67 To approve the minutes of the April 8-10, 2011; May 23, 2011; July 28, 2011; and August 14, 2011, meetings of the Church Council; and

To ratify actions of the council's Executive Committee as indicated in the minutes of the April 8, 2011; July 6, 2011; July 13, 2011; July 28, 2011; and August 13, 2011, meetings.

Vice President Peña declared the minutes were approved.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

(Agenda I.D.; Exhibit A, Part 3)

Secretary David D. Swartling reported to the Church Council on elements of the 2011 Churchwide Assembly, including a summary of evaluation feedback and assembly matters on the agenda for this meeting. He commented on several governance issues to be addressed before the 2013 Churchwide Assembly, such as the size and composition of the Church Council, the allocation of Churchwide Assembly voting members by synod, and possible constitutional amendments. He updated the council on the number of congregations that had voted to disaffiliate from the ELCA since the 2009 Churchwide Assembly (887 congregations took first votes of which 658 passed, 600 congregations passed a second vote, and 580 congregations were removed from the roster of ELCA congregations) and provided some demographic information about those congregations. Secretary Swartling presented statistical data gathered from the 2010 congregational reports.

Responding to questions, the secretary and several liaison synodical bishops estimated that the pace of disaffiliation was slowing. Council members noted that some members from disaffiliating congregations had formed synodically authorized worshipping communities of the ELCA, stated that adoption of the social statement on genetics had not been as controversial as predicted, and asked questions about the statistics reported.

REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

(Agenda I.E.; Exhibit A, Part 2)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña discussed the unique role of the vice president as an officer of this church, emphasizing visits to ELCA synods and congregations, relationships with other church bodies around the world, and the public image of this church. He congratulated Ms. Kathryn M. Lohre, director of ecumenical and inter-religious relations in the Office of the Presiding Bishop, who was installed November 9, 2011, as the 26th president of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

RATIFICATION OF CHURCH COUNCIL COMMITTEES FOR 2011–2013 BIENNIUM

(Agenda I.F.1.; Exhibit L, Part 3)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña drew the Church Council's attention to the list of proposed committee assignments. Secretary David D. Swartling made the following motion on behalf of the Executive Committee.

Moved;

Seconded: To ratify the appointments to the Church Council committees and other advisory responsibilities for the 2011–2013 biennium as detailed in Exhibit L, Part 3.

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

VOTED:

CC11.11.68 To ratify the appointments to the Church Council committees and other advisory responsibilities for the 2011–2013 biennium as follows:

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Pr. Mark S. Hanson, *presiding bishop*

Mr. David D. Swartling, *secretary*

Pr. Linda O. Norman, *treasurer*

Mr. Carlos E. Peña, *vice president and chair*

Pr. Susan Langhauser, *chair of Planning and Evaluation Committee*

[Chair of Program and Services Committee]

[Chair of Budget and Finance Committee]

[Chair of Legal and Constitutional Committee]

[Three at-large members to be elected by Church Council]

AUDIT COMMITTEE

2012: Mr. John Timmer

2013: Mr. Philip Bertram

Ms. Deborah L. Chenoweth (*chair*)

Ms. Louise A. Hemstead

Mr. Timothy Stephan

[One to be appointed by Church Council]

Staff: Treasurer Linda O. Norman

BOARD DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

2013: Pr. Rachel L. Connelly

2015: Mr. William B. Horne II

Pr. Kathryn A. Tiede

2017: Ms. Rebecca D. Carlson

Pr. Stephen R. Herr

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Treasurer Linda O. Norman

2013: Ms. Deborah L. Chenoweth

Mr. John R. Emery

2015: Pr. Amsalu T. Geleta

Ms. Louise A. Hemstead

Mr. Iván A. Pérez

2017: Pr. Elizabeth E. Ekdale

Mr. Gary D. Gabrielson

Pr. Vicki T. Garber

Liaison Bishops: Bp. Ralph E. Jones

Bp. Margaret G. Payne

LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL REVIEW COMMITTEE

2013: Mr. Mark E. Johnson

2015: Pr. Raymond A. Miller

Mr. Blaire P. Smith

2017: Ms. Marjorie B. Ellis
Pr. Stephen R. Herr
Staff: Secretary David D. Swartling
Liaison Bishops: Bp. Wm. Chris Boerger
Bp. Harold L. Usgaard
Bp. Martin D. Wells

PLANNING AND EVALUATION COMMITTEE

2013: Ms. Karin Lynn Graddy
Pr. Susan Langhauser (*chair*)
2015: Ms. Rebecca D. Carlson
Mr. William B. Horne II
2017: Ms. Christine P. Connell
Mr. John M. Pederson
Liaison Bishops: Bp. Michael L. Burk
Bp. Elizabeth A. Eaton

PROGRAM AND SERVICES COMMITTEE

2013: Ms. Rebecca Jo Brakke
Pr. Rachel L. Connelly
Mr. John S. Munday
Mr. Mark W. Myers
2015: Pr. Yvonne I. Marshall
Ms. Susan W. McArver (*chair*)
Ms. Feronika A. Raming
Pr. Kathryn A. Tiede
Pr. Philip R. Wold
2017: Mr. Paul G. Archer
Pr. Robert G. Moore
Ms. Pamela E. Pritt
Pr. Laurie F. Skow-Anderson
Liaison Bishops: Bp. Gerald L. Mansholt
Bp. Herman R. Yoos III

CHURCH COUNCIL TASK FORCES

PRAYER TEAM

Mr. Paul G. Archer
Ms. Rebecca Jo Brakke
Ms. Rebecca D. Carlson
Pr. Rachel L. Connelly
Mr. John R. Emery
Pr. Vicki T. Garber
Ms. Karin Lynn Graddy
Pr. Raymond A. Miller

Pr. Robert G. Moore
Mr. John S. Munday
Mr. Blaire P. Smith
Pr. Philip R. Wold

RACIAL JUSTICE WORKING GROUP

Ms. Christine P. Connell
Ms. Marjorie B. Ellis
Mr. Gary D. Gabrielson

CHURCH COUNCIL LIAISON POSITIONS

COMMUNAL DISCERNMENT

Pr. Susan Langhauser

CRIMINAL JUSTICE TASK FORCE

Mr. John S. Munday

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Pr. Kathryn A. Tiede

THE LUTHERAN MAGAZINE

[To be appointed by Church Council]

JUSTICE FOR WOMEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Ms. Karin Lynn Graddy

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

To be determined

WOMEN OF THE ELCA

Mr. Mark W. Myers

Vice President Peña declared the motion was adopted.

PROCESS FOR ELECTION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

(Agenda I.F.2.)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña explained the process for the election of the Executive Committee:

1. To facilitate its work between regular meetings by ensuring input and perspective from each of its standing committees, the chairs of the committees will be elected to the Executive Committee. Two committee chairs were elected in April 2011 and will serve as members of the Executive Committee: the Rev. Susan Langhauser, Planning and Evaluation Committee, and Ms. Susan W. McArver, Program and Services Committee. The chairs of the Budget and Finance Committee and the Legal and Constitutional Committee were to be elected during the committees' November 2011 meetings.

2. The remaining three members of the Executive Committee will be selected through the following process. The first ballot shall be a nominating ballot for each of the following categories to be identified based on the composition of the Executive Committee (i.e., male/female; clergy/lay; and ethnic inclusivity).
3. The second ballot shall be limited to the two people (plus ties) in each category receiving the greatest number of nominations.
4. Upon completion of the balloting, the Executive Committee (four officers, four committee chairs, and three at-large members) shall be deemed constituted.

Secretary David D. Swartling made the following motion on behalf of the Executive Committee.

Moved;

Seconded: To reaffirm the process for the election of the Executive Committee for the 2011–2013 biennium; and

To declare that the chairs of the Budget and Finance Committee, the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee, the Planning and Evaluation Committee, and the Program and Services Committee shall be members of the Executive Committee of the Church Council.

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

VOTED:

CC11.11.69 To reaffirm the process for the election of the Executive Committee for the 2011–2013 biennium; and

To declare that the chairs of the Budget and Finance Committee, the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee, the Planning and Evaluation Committee, and the Program and Services Committee shall be members of the Executive Committee of the Church Council.

Vice President Peña declared the motion was adopted.

SYNOD VISITS BY CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

(Agenda I.F.3.; Exhibit L, Parts 1–2)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña pointed out the chart listing ELCA synods and the Church Council members proposed to be in contact with each.

Secretary David D. Swartling made the following motion on behalf of the Executive Committee.

Moved;

Seconded: To acknowledge the commitment of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to have “greater interaction of members of the Church Council with synodical councils and synodical assemblies in their respective areas”;

To urge members of the Church Council to accept this responsibility and interact with their own synods and their partner synods in various ways, including attending at least one Synod Council meeting per year and participating in Synod Assemblies, especially in years when a synod is considering nominations to the Church Council; and

To note that expenses for attending Synod Council meetings and Synod Assemblies will be reimbursed by the churchwide organization in accordance with the ELCA travel policy.

The council members discussed the vacancies on the chart and how they may be filled.

There being no further discussion, the chair called for the vote.

VOTED:

CC11.11.70

To acknowledge the commitment of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to have “greater interaction of members of the Church Council with synodical councils and synodical assemblies in their respective areas”;

To urge members of the Church Council to accept this responsibility and interact with their own synods and their partner synods in various ways, including attending at least one Synod Council meeting per year and participating in Synod Assemblies, especially in years when a synod is considering nominations to the Church Council; and

To note that expenses for attending Synod Council meetings and Synod Assemblies will be reimbursed by the churchwide organization in accordance with the ELCA travel policy.

Vice President Peña declared the motion was adopted.

UPDATE ON THE WORK OF THE LIFT TASK FORCE

(Agenda I.G.)

Ms. Deborah L. Chenoweth, a member of the Living into the Future Together: Renewing the Ecology of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (LIFT) task force, presented the purpose and progress of its study. She briefed the council on the task force report and recommendations prepared for the 2011 Churchwide Assembly and the continuing work of the task force.

A discussion ensued about the interdependence of this church’s expressions, methods for measuring the outcomes of the study, and the impact the report and recommendations have had on the ELCA.

REPORT OF OTHER CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY ACTIONS

(Agenda II.B.)

The Rev. Mark S. Hanson, presiding bishop of the ELCA, and Secretary David D. Swartling provided a report on actions and other elements of the 2011 Churchwide Assembly not addressed elsewhere on the agenda of this meeting.

Presiding Bishop Hanson commented on:

- the assembly as describing and defining this church and the church it is becoming
- the assembly theme—Freed in Christ to Serve
- the centrality and unifying nature of worship in the assembly
- the participation of ecumenical guests
- Christian unity too deep to be severed by one church’s decision about one issue
- engaging a thousand individuals in Bible study
- the interdependence of this church’s expressions
- the work of ELCA World Hunger before and after the earthquake in Haiti
- the ecumenical and interfaith essence of this church’s relief and development work
- this church’s taking up the call to address bullying and immigration reform
- the involvement of youth and young adults in the assembly debate and decision-making
- the process of developing social statements as a public church around complex issues.

Secretary Swartling remarked about:

- the opportunities for mission created by actions of the assembly
- the ELCA Malaria Campaign
- implementing the social statement on genetics

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- the challenge to address bullying
- communication from, to, and with the grass roots
- strengthening relationships with the Conference of Bishops
- communal discernment.

RECESS

The November 2011 meeting of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America recessed at 4:01 P.M.

**Friday, November 11, 2011
Plenary Session II**

CALL TO ORDER

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called the second plenary session to order at 5:15 P.M.

BRIEF REMARKS BY UNIT EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

PR. STEPHEN P. BOUMAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CONGREGATIONAL AND SYNODICAL MISSION
(Agenda II.A.1.)

The Rev. Stephen P. Bouman, executive director of the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit, reported that many congregations had begun mission planning or refreshing their current mission plans, as the LIFT task force recommended and the 2011 Churchwide Assembly requested. That planning is building support systems for mission within synods.

MS. CHRISTINA JACKSON-SKELTON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MISSION ADVANCEMENT
(Agenda II.A.2.)

Ms. Christina Jackson-Skelton, executive director of the Mission Advancement unit, described how the goals of the unit were being addressed through constituent support, marketing communications, *The Lutheran* magazine, mission funding, and the ELCA Foundation.

PR. RAFAEL MALPICA PADILLA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, GLOBAL MISSION
(Agenda II.A.3.)

The Rev. Rafael Malpica Padilla, executive director of the Global Mission unit, said accompaniment is the principle on which the ELCA bases its relationships with people around the world. He outlined the ways the unit and all expressions of this church accompany companion churches through relief and development, mission formation, and global community building.

CHURCH COUNCIL BOARD DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
(Agenda II.C.)

The Rev. Rachel L. Connelly led a panel discussion of “Our experience: Discussion with continuing members” with Ms. Rebecca D. Carlson, Mr. William B. Horne II, the Rev. Susan Langhauser, and the Rev. Philip R. Wold. Council members talked about managing the volume of materials they received for each meeting, leadership training provided through the Board Development Committee, and the impact of their service on their congregations and synods.

ANNOUNCEMENTS
(Agenda II.D.)

Secretary David D. Swartling provided procedural and logistical information about the meeting.
At the invitation of the chair, Mr. Paul G. Archer closed the session with prayer.

RECESS

The November 2011 meeting of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America recessed at 6:20 P.M.

**Saturday, November 12, 2011
Plenary Session III**

CALL TO ORDER

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

NOMINATIONS, APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS

FIRST BALLOT FOR THE 2011–2013 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

(Agenda III.A.1.)

Secretary David D. Swartling introduced the first ballot for the Executive Committee. Church Council action [CC11.11.69] declared the elected chairs of each committee to be members of the Executive Committee:

- Mr. John R. Emery—Budget and Finance Committee
- Mr. Mark E. Johnson—Legal and Constitutional Review Committee
- The Rev. Susan Langhauser—Planning and Evaluation Committee
- Ms. Susan W. McArver—Program and Services Committee

The remaining three members of the Executive Committee were selected from each of the following categories: Clergy Male, Lay Female, and Lay Person (Male or Female). The first ballot was a nominating ballot. Ballots were distributed.

At the invitation of the chair, Ms. Rebecca Jo Brakke led the council in prayer.

Church Council members completed their ballots. The chair declared balloting was closed, and the ballots were collected.

DWELLING IN THE WORD

(Agenda III.B.)

The Rev. Herman R. Yoos III, bishop of the South Carolina Synod, read part of Isaiah 43 and asked those present to discuss in pairs what new thing they see God doing and to pray about the new things they identified.

NOMINATIONS, APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS (CONTINUED)

OTHER ELECTIONS

(Agenda III.A.2.; Exhibit C)

Secretary David D. Swartling explained that the council would elect four members to the advisory committee of *The Lutheran* magazine and distributed ballots with the following nominees.

Advisory Committee for *The Lutheran*

Region 4, Lay Male [Term 2017]

- a. Mr. John David Hanna, Topeka, Kansas (4B)
- b. Mr. Neil Ellis Orts, Houston, Texas (4F)

Region 5, Clergy [Term 2017]

- a. Pr. W. Paul Brinkman, Oshkosh, Wisconsin (5I)
- b. Pr. Norman Keith Fry, Elgin, Illinois (5A)

Region 6, Lay Male [Term 2015] – to fill the unexpired term of John Wagner

- a. Mr. Jack H. Palmer, Defiance, Ohio (6D)

Region 8, Lay Female [Term 2017]

- a. Ms. Sara Johe Busse, Charleston, West Virginia (8H)
- b. Ms. Beth Ann Lombardi, Johnstown, Pennsylvania (8C)

At the invitation of the chair, Ms. Rebecca D. Carlson led the council in prayer.

Church Council members completed their ballots. The chair declared balloting was closed, and the ballots were collected.

PRIMER ON ELCA ADVOCACY MINISTRIES

(Agenda III.C.; Exhibit E)

The Rev. Andrew D. Genszler, director for advocacy and director for the ELCA Washington Office, provided the Church Council with a primer on the advocacy ministries of this church. Responding to questions from council members, Pr. Genszler and the Rev. Stephen P. Bouman, executive director of the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit, acknowledged advocacy done with and through ecumenical partners, ELCA congregations, and individuals.

INTRODUCTION OF LIFT IMPLEMENTING RESOLUTION ON SOCIAL STATEMENT REVIEW PROCESS

(Agenda III.D.; Exhibit J, Parts 1–3)

Ms. Susan W. McArver, chair of the Program and Services Committee, indicated that the committee, in its report, would recommend action for the council to take on the LIFT implementing resolution on the social statement review process. She introduced background information for the Church Council's consideration.

The 2011 Churchwide Assembly voted [CA11.04.14]:

To 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 the consideration of the genetics social statement, Genetics, Faith and Responsibility, at the 2011 Churchwide Assembly; and

To bring no social statements other than *Genetics, Faith and Responsibility* to any Churchwide Assembly until completion of a review of the process for addressing social concerns based on a spirit of communal discernment. This review shall be completed and brought to the fall 2012 Church Council meeting, with a report to the 2013 Churchwide Assembly. During this review, the process for developing the criminal justice social statement and the justice for women social statement may continue, without alteration of the process already under way for the statement on criminal justice, which is to be completed and reported to the 2013 assembly.

Exhibit J included summaries of all ELCA social statements and comments from the Conference of Bishops and Communal Discernment Task Force. Ms. McArver asked the council members to review the exhibit in preparation for the Program and Services Committee report.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Agenda III.E.)

Secretary David D. Swartling provided procedural and logistical information about the meeting.

At the invitation of the chair, the Rev. Rachel L. Connelly led the council in grace.

RECESS

The November 2011 meeting of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America recessed at 11:48 A.M.

**Saturday, November 12, 2011
Plenary Session IV**

BIBLE STUDY

The Rev. Rafael Malpica Padilla, executive director of the Global Mission unit, led a Bible study from 1:10 P.M. to 1:45 P.M. on Genesis 1:26–27, 3:8–13, and 4:8–10.

CALL TO ORDER

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called the fourth plenary session to order at 1:45 P.M.

CHURCH COUNCIL NOMINATION AND ELECTIONS

REPORT ON PREVIOUS BALLOTS

(Agenda IV.A.1.)

Secretary David D. Swartling reported the results of earlier balloting:

Advisory Committee for *The Lutheran*

Region 4, Lay Male [Term 2017]

25 votes a. **Mr. John David Hanna, Topeka, Kansas (4B)**
8 votes b. Mr. Neil Ellis Orts, Houston, Texas (4F)

Region 5, Clergy [Term 2017]

15 votes a. Pr. W. Paul Brinkman, Oshkosh, Wisconsin (5I)
19 votes b. **Pr. Norman Keith Fry, Elgin, Illinois (5A)**

Region 6, Lay Male [Term 2015] – to fill the unexpired term of John Wagner

31 votes a. **Mr. Jack H. Palmer, Defiance, Ohio (6D)**

Region 8, Lay Female [Term 2017]

18 votes a. **Ms. Sara Johe Busse, Charleston, West Virginia (8H)**
16 votes b. Ms. Beth Ann Lombardi, Johnstown, Pennsylvania (8C)

VOTED:

CC11.11.71

To declare the following elected:

Advisory Committee for *The Lutheran* magazine

Region 6, Lay Male [Term 2015] – to fill the unexpired term of John Wagner
Mr. Jack H. Palmer, Defiance, Ohio (6D)

Region 4, Lay Male [Term 2017]

Mr. John David Hanna, Topeka, Kansas (4B)

Region 5, Clergy [Term 2017]

Pr. Norman Keith Fry, Elgin, Illinois (5A)

Region 8, Lay Female [Term 2017]

Ms. Sara Johe Busse, Charleston, West Virginia (8H)

SECOND BALLOT FOR 2011–2013 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

(Agenda IV.A.2.)

Secretary Swartling announced that, in the results of the nominating balloting for the Executive Committee, one individual had been nominated for election in both the Lay Female and Lay Person (Male or Female) categories. He proposed that the second ballot elect members in the Clergy Male and Lay Female categories and a third ballot be cast for the Lay Person category, which would depend on the outcome of the second ballot. He presented the second ballot:

Executive Committee of the Church Council

Clergy Male

- a. Pr. Amsalu T. Geleta (13 votes on the nominating ballot)
- b. Pr. Stephen R. Herr (7 votes on the nominating ballot)

Lay Female

- a. Ms. Deborah L. Chenoweth (7 votes on the nominating ballot)
- b. Ms. Rebecca D. Carlson (6 votes on the nominating ballot)

At the invitation of the chair, Mr. John R. Emery led the council in prayer.

Church Council members completed their ballots. The chair declared balloting was closed, and the ballots were collected.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDING BISHOP

(Agenda IV.B.; Exhibit A, Part 1)

Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson reported:

“Thank you, Bishop. Thank you because your church saved my life.’

“It was not a comment that I expected to hear at the cafeteria at St. Olaf college. I was tempted to immediately correct the theology in the gratitude. This is not my church. It is Christ’s church, and it is God who saves your life. But I resisted and let him continue, ‘Bishop, I never thought I would get to thank you personally because your church saved my life. When I became clear and open that I am a young gay man, all I experienced from churches was “There is not a place for you here.” But your church said, “You are welcome here. God calls you by name. You are a child of God.”’

“Bishop, thank you.’

“This is who we are as the ELCA. This is Christ’s church. God calls us by name. As the Rev. Rafael Malpica Padilla said, ‘We believe each one is created in the image of God, and there is a place for you here, and that the Holy Spirit through the good news of Jesus Christ brings us to a living, daring confidence in God’s grace that we call faith.’

“It was a bitterly cold October day in Baltimore. The winds were howling and a combination of snow and rain was blowing. But it did not deter the 125 folks from the Delaware-Maryland Synod from gathering in a public park to rededicate a huge statue of Martin Luther. The tent we were huddled under did little to protect us, but we sang ‘A Mighty Fortress is Our God’ accompanied by brass and a local choir. We were there that day to do much more than rededicate a statue. We were giving a public witness to who we are as Lutheran Christians. We are a community of faith in the body of Christ, deeply rooted in Scripture, the Scriptures that show forth Christ, deeply rooted in our confessions that are centered in the good news that we are saved by God’s grace through faith on account of Christ. As Luther reminded us and you heard it in the quote that Rafael ended with, ‘And we are deeply rooted in the world, in God’s world, in God’s mission that has a church.’ Deeply rooted in the belief that Christ frees us all to serve our neighbor and seek the common good.

“The next day was Reformation Sunday. At St. Benjamin Lutheran Church in Westminster, Maryland, as happened that Sunday throughout congregations of this church, young people stood up publicly to affirm their baptism in the rite of confirmation. Young people saying, ‘Yes, with the help of God, I want to live in the covenant God made with me in Holy Baptism. I will live among God’s faithful people. I will hear God’s word and share in the Lord’s Supper. I will

proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed. I will serve all people following the example of Jesus, and I will strive for justice and peace in all the earth.’ This is who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. We are a people trusting that the Holy Spirit is living in us and through us. We are living out a living, daring confidence in God’s grace in this baptismal promise that God is always making us a new creation, and in Christ, reconciling us to God and entrusting to us the message and ministry of reconciliation.

“While having lunch with seniors at Luther College—all headed for seminary and not yet decided which seminary because all were waiting to hear financial aid package offerings—one student said, ‘I am sorry Bishop, but I have to get to the library. I am trying to get my senior research paper done so I can graduate in December.’

“I asked, ‘What’s your paper on?’

“She said, ‘I am writing it on Phebe Hospital in Liberia, focusing especially on Phebe Hospital’s role as a healing community pre-, during, and post- the Civil War.’

“I asked, ‘How did you get interested in Phebe Hospital?’

“She said, ‘Because I spent two months there in a global education experience. I feel so called to ministry in a church, centered in the good news of Jesus, that wants to be connected to the world and lives in relationships like we have with the church in Liberia and the people who serve Phebe Hospital.’

“This is who we are. We are a church that knows—not on our own, not on our own as congregations, not on our own as synods or churchwide organization or partner agencies and institutions but together with ecumenical partners and global companions—we are called to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ and engage in God’s work of restoring community.

“Don’t ever underestimate the power of the Holy Spirit to bring forth fruit from our labors. Many years ago, this church invested in a young woman’s education when she wanted to study peacemaking. We gave her a Global Mission scholarship to study at Eastern Mennonite University. As a result of those studies, in part, Leymah Gbowee became a peace activist in the midst of Liberia’s brutal civil war. She went back. She built coalitions across religious lines. Women—Christian, Muslim, and traditional religions—began to sit in prayerful silence in daily demonstrations, defying the orders of that brutal president dictator Charles Taylor. Well, Charles Taylor finally granted the women’s request for a meeting with him. And it was Leymah Gbowee who made the case on behalf of all the women. She told President Taylor, ‘We are tired of war. We are tired of running. We are tired of begging for bulgur wheat. We’re tired of our children being raped, and we are now taking this stand to secure the future for our children because we believe, as custodians of society, someday our children are going to ask us, “Mama, what were you doing during the crisis when all were being killed?”’

“That women’s movement of resistance and nonviolence for peace grew until it really was the movement that ushered in peace by August of 2003. It is a powerful story chronicled in the documentary film *Pray the Devil Back to Hell*. Last month, Leymah Gbowee was on a red-eye flight from San Francisco to New York to do the last stop on her book introduction tour. Emails began to come into her laptop, and she thought she had better pay attention because they all had the same subject line ‘Nobel Nobel Nobel.’ She began to open the emails and she read them, and Leymah leaned over to her seat mate and said, ‘Sorry to bother you, sir, but I think I just won the Nobel Peace Prize.’

“A Lutheran from Liberia living out daily a daring, living confidence in God’s grace, living out daily the baptismal promise that living in this relationship of God’s grace, I will strive for justice and peace in all the earth. Now she, with two other women, will receive in December the world’s highest recognition for peacemaking.

“This is who we are as a church, deeply rooted and yet always being made new. It was Luther in his preface to Romans that described faith this way—a ‘living, daring confidence in God’s grace, so sure and certain that believers would stake their lives on it a thousand times. Because of it [faith], without compulsion, a person is ready and glad to receive everyone, to serve everyone, to suffer everything, out of love and praise to God.’

“The student sitting to my right at that St. Olaf College luncheon was so excited because, she said, ‘I am going into global health.’

“The young first-year student who just joined us said, ‘You are? I want to, too.’

“They met, and the young senior said, ‘And let me tell you what we just did as a student congregation. We just sent a check for \$1,500 to the ELCA Malaria Campaign, but I am so pumped because now I heard of the Sorenson matching gift. So we will be matched dollar-for-dollar. Do you want to help me? We are going to motivate this campus and

maybe other campuses to take up the challenge, so we can be part of this effort to reduce death from malaria.’ She said, ‘Bishop, what a cool thing that we’re doing.’

“This is who we are, living faith—a daring confidence, a daring confidence that our unity—which is God’s gift to us in Christ, comes to us through word and water, bread and wine. All of our work for 23 years, and in our predecessor churches going all the way back to the Confessions, has been about the calling to make visible that unity that is ours in Christ.

“Our growing relationship with the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church was celebrated on a Friday night in September in Salisbury, North Carolina. The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church was formed centuries ago in New York when an African American couple came to have their child baptized. Their white pastor asked, ‘By what name shall he be baptized?’ And they said, ‘George Washington.’ The white pastor said it will not be, and he baptized their baby ‘Ishmael.’ That couple, with their followers, left the congregation and gave birth to a new denomination that has come to be known as the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, a church that has been called the freedom church.

“One ELCA member in North Carolina, Larry Dagenhart, became legal counsel for Hood Seminary and Livingstone College of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church in North Carolina. As he came to know these communities, their leaders, and their members, he went to his bishop and he said, ‘Bishop Bolick, we have got to start a conversation and get to know each other because the North Carolina Synod is right across the road from Hood Seminary.’ That conversation began five years ago and grew into a national conversation of religious leaders. Bishop Walker, my counterpart, and I and other bishops and staff have been deepening our understanding of each other for five years, sharing our histories and our theologies, going to Southern Seminary and Hood Seminary to talk about how we form leaders together, bringing in those working on HIV and AIDS, deepening trust, and growing in reconciliation that needs to tend to the wounds of racism and segregation as they have festered for generation upon generation.

“In September, 450 of us gathered at St. John’s Lutheran Church to give thanks to God for this deepening relationship through which God brings restoration and reconciliation. Remember the context. We were in Salisbury, North Carolina. Not far from St. John’s Lutheran is the former all-white Anglican cemetery, outside the walls of which were discovered the bones of slaves. The wall has now been rebuilt to include those bones. Salisbury, North Carolina—the last publicly recorded known lynching occurred there. And Bishop Bolick said he thinks it has the highest percentage of any county in the United States which has seen the exodus of ELCA congregations through disaffiliation votes after 2009.

“To go into that context, known for its division, its festering wounds and even hatred, to stand publicly together around the table of Christ’s presence and to hear the proclamation coming from my counterpart that leads that church, whose name is Bishop George Washington Carver Walker. He proclaimed the word that night from the story of Jonah when Jonah has fallen asleep in the ship and the shipmate comes down and says, ‘Awake. Arise. Call your God’ (Jonah 1:6). Believe me, by the end of Bishop Walker’s sermon, 450 people were awake, calling on our God, arising, ready to renew our commitment to being part of God’s work. This is who we are as a church, called to be part of God’s reconciling and restoring community, work for which the Holy Spirit calls us.

“It is not only reconciliation within the church, but within the world. That is why no matter what political party is in power in the White House, in Congress, in statehouses, in legislatures, or in local communities, we will first of all affirm the vocation of public service as being a calling from God, and we will hold public servants accountable. We will hold public servants accountable, as we have been doing in recent months, so that the balancing of budgets and the reducing of debt is not done on the backs of those who live in poverty and who hunger every day for food. That is why we advocate that there must be a circle of protection around those programs that historically have been untouched when deficits arise and budgets must be reduced. We believe it is a moral issue. The Rev. Andrew Genszler said, ‘It is a matter of faith.’

“So again and again, we will do what I did on your behalf this week and our ready bench bishops will do at the end of November. We went to the White House to hold this administration accountable, as we have the Bush administration, on behalf of our companions in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land to work tirelessly to exert our power and influence to bring Israelis and Palestinians back to the negotiating table and to urge this administration to challenge the government of Israel to quit settlement expansion that becomes a deterrent to peace.

“As you have heard, we will continue to carry out the commitments of the Churchwide Assembly to make it possible, through the adoption of the DREAM Act, for children born in this country, no matter whether their immigrant parents carry documentation or not, to receive an education. Whether our public voice and witness is raised through advocacy, organizing, or with social ministry organizations, we are people that believe to be part of this church, we will discern daily what the death and resurrection of Christ means for our common life and witness, in a complex and rapidly changing world.

“How do we do this as a church body? We do not just say to the baptized, ‘You are out there. Figure it out. I know it’s a brutal world. It is a changing world. It is a complex world. But if you are wise enough, you can figure it out.’ No, no no. We say, ‘We go together into the public of our life at those intersections of faith and life.’ And we say, ‘We come with these wonderful documents that have been born out of this church out of a process of study that engages the Scriptures, the wisdom of theologians, and the life-lived experience of others. Then, through a process of study, they become formed into a draft of a social statement that engages this church through public hearings and responses and gets redrafted again and that finds its way through this Church Council and through you, should you approve it, to the Churchwide Assembly for more debate and revision and finally adoption. We then give this to the church, this church who we are, and we say, ‘Let this inform our public witness. It does not bind your conscience, but it helps us to live as responsible people of faith in a complex world. This is who we are. We are a church that daily seeks to discern what the death and resurrection of Christ means. We are a church committed to sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with others.’

“One of my favorite passages is still from Romans. Listen to Paul: ‘But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes from the word of Christ’ (Romans 10:14–17).

“The good news of Jesus Christ is so good that the world deserves to hear it. That is why we are encouraging every one of our 10,000 congregations to join with other congregations, Lutheran and ecumenical, to be convened by missionary bishops at mission tables with directors for evangelical mission to be joined by social ministry organizations because we do not believe any one of our 10,000 congregations lacks the Gospel or is in other than a mission context. So I would say that if a congregation wants to abdicate from this challenge, it has to convince me it lacks the Gospel and is not in a mission context. That is who we are. That is why we are going to engage in the three great listenings: listening to God, listening to our community, and listening to the gifts the Holy Spirit has given to us. That is why the Mission Investment Fund has said we are going to put grants into those 26 growing wineskin communities that are people who have stayed within the ELCA after their congregations have disaffiliated from the ELCA. That is why the Mission Investment Fund says we are going to put some money in Minot, North Dakota, for a project coordinator so that those social ministry organizations and congregations that are imagining new possibilities for building up the community of Minot in proclaiming Jesus Christ can do it with thoughtful engagement and evangelical imagination.

“That is why Santa Maria Guadalupe congregation in Irving, Texas, when it lost and got kicked out of its building, individuals loaned the congregation the money to build a new building. They went to the Mission Investment Fund. They got a loan and have now planted this bilingual congregation with 80 to 100 kids in confirmation. They are worshipping 300 to 400. Why? Because the good news of Jesus Christ is too good to keep to ourselves.

“This is who we are. Tomorrow in 10,000 congregations, as we will do here in the Lutheran Center, we will hear the good news of Jesus Christ. And the baptized and the not-yet baptized will experience the presence of Christ through word and bread and wine and water. And by the power of the Holy Spirit, faith will be formed and born and renewed, faith that is a living, daring confidence in God’s grace. I said it at the Churchwide Assembly. I have said it many times since. Some folks have emailed me trying to convince me otherwise, and they have failed miserably. And that is this: I have never, in now my 11th year of being called to lead this church with you, been so grateful and so hopeful for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as I am now. This is a great time for us to be called into leadership together. Thanks.”

Vice President Carlos E. Peña thanked Presiding Bishop Hanson for his report.

REPORT OF THE LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL REVIEW COMMITTEE

(Agenda IV.C.; Exhibit D, Part 3)

Mr. Mark E. Johnson, chair of the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee, presented the committee's report. He noted one action item would be considered after the Board of Pensions report, and he outlined other actions to be considered *en bloc*.

RESTATED ARTICLES AND BYLAWS OF LUTHERAN MEN IN MISSION

(Agenda IV.C.1.; Exhibit H, Parts 1–2)

Mr. Mark E. Johnson indicated that changes in the restated Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws of the separately incorporated ministry, Lutheran Men in Mission, were printed in the Church Council materials as information.

UPDATE FROM THE BOARD OF PENSIONS

(Agenda IV.D.)

The Rev. Jeffrey D. Thiemann, president of the Board of Pensions, reported on matters concerning the separately incorporated ministry, primarily changes in health benefits that national health care reform will require in 2014. He concluded with a presentation on the process used to determine a new name and “brand” for the Board of Pensions.

AMENDMENT OF CONTINUING RESOLUTION 17.20.A11.

(Agenda IV.D.1.)

Mr. Mark E. Johnson presented a proposed amendment to continuing resolution 17.20.A11. of the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*.

Secretary David D. Swartling made the following motion.

Moved;

Seconded: *To amend the following continuing resolution:*

17.20.A11. Responsibilities of the Board of Pensions

The Board of Pensions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America—also known as Portico Benefit Services—shall: . . .

[with the rest of the continuing resolution unchanged]

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

VOTED:

CC11.11.72 *To amend the following continuing resolution:*

17.20.A11. Responsibilities of the Board of Pensions

The Board of Pensions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America—also known as Portico Benefit Services—shall: . . .

[with the rest of the continuing resolution unchanged]

Vice President Peña declared the motion was adopted.

At the invitation of the chair, Secretary Swartling led the council in prayer.

Pr. Thiemann updated the council on the agreement the Board of Pensions had reached to be the sole provider of health and retirement services of the North American Lutheran Church (NALC). Subsequently, NALC decided to use

a different provider of health services beginning in 2012, discontinuing its agreement with the Board of Pensions. Pr. Thiemann responded to questions from Church Council members about the Board of Pensions's agreements regarding others who have disaffiliated from the ELCA.

DWELLING IN THE WORD

(Agenda IV.E.)

The Rev. Kathryn A. Tiede share with the Church Council her experiences in Costa Rica and a conversation with her father that drove her to a new appreciation for Ephesians 2.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

(Agenda IV.G.)

The Church Council recessed at 3:20 P.M. and entered into executive session from 3:21 P.M. to receive a legal briefing from Mr. Phillip H. Harris, general counsel. Minutes for meetings held in executive session are added to the protocol file in the Office of the Secretary.

RECESS

The November 2011 meeting of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America recessed at 3:38 P.M.

**Saturday, November 12, 2011
Plenary Session V**

CALL TO ORDER

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called the fifth plenary session to order at 4:16 P.M.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

(Agenda V.A.; Exhibit A, Part 4)

The Rev. Linda O. Norman, treasurer of the ELCA, announced that net revenue over expenses for the churchwide organization was \$3 million, as of September 30, 2011, which was \$7 million more than budgeted. She said the Rev. M. Wyvetta Bullock, executive for administration in the Office of the Presiding Bishop, was leading consideration of using any possible surplus at the end of the fiscal year to restore grants that had been reduced for the year. The treasurer explained the income projections for 2012 for the churchwide organization. She reported that the World Hunger income goal of \$18.5 million in 2011 would again be the goal for 2012. She also provided market-value and other information about the Endowment Fund Pooled Trust.

REPORT OF THE BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

(Agenda V.B.; Exhibit F)

Mr. John R. Emery, chair of the Budget and Finance Committee, presented the committee's report.

2012 EXPENDITURE AUTHORIZATION CURRENT FUND AND WORLD HUNGER

(Agenda V.B.1.; Exhibit F, Part 2)

The 2011 Churchwide Assembly had approved [CA11.04.20] a 2012 current fund spending authorization of \$61,792,900 and a 2012 World Hunger income proposal of \$18,500,000.

Mr. John R. Emery made the following motion on behalf of the Budget and Finance Committee.

Moved;

Seconded: To approve an initial 2012 fiscal year current fund spending authorization of \$64,173,000; and
To approve an initial 2012 fiscal year World Hunger spending authorization of \$18,500,000.

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

VOTED:

**CC11.11.73 To approve an initial 2012 fiscal year current fund spending authorization of \$64,173,000; and
To approve an initial 2012 fiscal year World Hunger spending authorization of \$18,500,000.**

Vice President Peña declared the motion was adopted.

2011 EXPENDITURE AUTHORIZATION

(Agenda V.B.4.)

Mr. John R. Emery said the Budget and Finance Committee was recommending no change in the 2011 spending authorization.

SYNOD MISSION-SUPPORT PLANS

(Agenda V.B.2.; Exhibit F, Part 5b)

Mr. John R. Emery made the following motion on behalf of the Budget and Finance Committee.

Moved;

Seconded:

To affirm with sincere appreciation the increases in the percentage for the sharing of 2012 mission-support contributions by congregations for synodical and churchwide ministries of the following synods: Western North Dakota; Metropolitan New York; and Caribbean;

To affirm the revised 2012 mission-support dollar estimates for the sharing of mission-support contributions by congregations for synodical and churchwide ministries of the following synods: Northwestern Ohio and Northeastern Ohio;

To acknowledge with sadness that circumstances in the following synod 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 the synod to continue to work to grow mission support in the synod; and to request that the synod develop a plan, in consultation with the churchwide organization, to restore or surpass the previous level of mission-support sharing: Upstate New York; 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, the chair called for the vote.

VOTED:

CC11.11.74

To affirm with sincere appreciation the increases in the percentage for the sharing of 2012 mission-support contributions by congregations for synodical and churchwide ministries of the following synods: Western North Dakota; Metropolitan New York; and Caribbean;

To affirm the revised 2012 mission-support dollar estimates for the sharing of mission-support contributions by congregations for synodical and churchwide ministries of the following synods: Northwestern Ohio and Northeastern Ohio;

To acknowledge with sadness that circumstances in the following synod 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 the synod to continue to work to grow mission support in the synod; and to request that the synod develop a plan, in consultation with the churchwide organization, to restore or surpass the previous level of mission-support sharing: Upstate New York; 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.

Vice President Peña declared the motion was adopted.

2011 INTERIM FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Agenda V.B.3.; Exhibit F, Parts 1a–1e)

Mr. John R. Emery directed the Church Council’s attention to the financial information provided in Exhibit F.

CHURCH COUNCIL NOMINATION AND ELECTIONS

REPORT ON PREVIOUS BALLOTS

(Agenda V.C.1.)

Secretary David D. Swartling announced the results of the second ballot for Executive Committee:

Executive Committee of the Church Council

Clergy Male

25 votes a. **Pr. Amsalu T. Geleta**

7 votes b. Pr. Stephen R. Herr

Lay Female

21 votes a. **Ms. Deborah L. Chenoweth**

11 votes b. Ms. Rebecca D. Carlson

VOTED:

CC11.11.75 To declare Ms. Deborah L. Chenoweth and the Rev. Amsalu T. Geleta elected to the Executive Committee of the Church Council.

THIRD BALLOT FOR 2011–2013 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

(Agenda V.C.2.)

Secretary David D. Swartling reported that on the nominating ballot for Executive Committee, in the Lay Person (Male or Female) category, Mr. William B. Horne II received 17 votes and Mr. John S. Munday received three votes. Their names appeared in that category on the third ballot for Executive Committee, which was distributed.

At the invitation of the chair, Ms. Karin Lynn Graddy led the council in prayer.

Church Council members completed their ballots. The chair declared balloting was closed, and the ballots were collected.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE FOR ADMINISTRATION

(Agenda V.D.; Exhibit A, Part 5)

The Rev. M. Wyvetta Bullock, executive for administration in the Office of the Presiding Bishop, presented the “Churchwide Organization Operational Plan for 2011–2013.” She outlined the process used to develop the plan. She described the plan’s six goals:

- The ELCA is an evangelizing, multicultural, multi-generational church growing in faith, and witnessing to God’s mission locally and globally, with more people worshipping in new and renewed congregations and living out their faith in the world.

- The ELCA is contributing to the alleviation of poverty and hunger globally and within the United States, and to achieving just, peaceful and sustainable livelihoods for impoverished and vulnerable people and communities.
 - The churchwide organization is connecting with ELCA members through coordinated messaging and engaging communication that increases their understanding and involvement with God’s mission through this church.
 - The churchwide organization is achieving a growing and sustainable revenue base through strengthening mission funding and planned giving.
 - Governance of the ELCA is strengthened in ways that support the future vitality, sustainability, and effectiveness of this church and the churchwide organization.
 - The churchwide organization is characterized by strong and inclusive leadership, a competent and well-supported staff team, efficient and effective systems and processes, and a culture of continuous improvement and learning.
- Pr. Bullock delineated the outcomes for each goal. She said the plan “planted seeds” for growth beyond 2013.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Agenda V.G.)

Secretary David D. Swartling provided procedural and logistical information about the meeting. He informed the council that the offering taken at the November 13, 2011, worship was designated for ELCA World Hunger.

THIRD BALLOT FOR 2011–2013 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (CONTINUED)

(Agenda V.C.2.)

Secretary David D. Swartling reported the results of the third ballot for Executive Committee.

Executive Committee of the Church Council

Lay Person (Male or Female)

28 votes a. **Mr. William B. Horne II**

5 votes b. Mr. John S. Munday

VOTED:

CC11.11.76 To declare Mr. William B. Horne II elected to the Executive Committee of the Church Council.

The chair declared that Executive Committee (four officers, four committee chairs, and three at-large members) was constituted.

RECESS

The November 2011 meeting of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America recessed at 5:02 P.M.

**Sunday, November 13, 2011
Plenary Session VI**

CALL TO ORDER

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called the sixth plenary session to order at 9:59 A.M.

REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE OF BISHOPS

(Agenda VI.A.; Exhibit A, Part 6)

The Rev. Michael L. Burk, bishop of the Southeastern Iowa Synod and vice chair of the Conference of Bishops, brought a report to the council on behalf of the conference and its chair, the Rev. Jessica R. Crist, bishop of the Montana Synod. Bp. Burk discussed the relationship of the conference with the council and the churchwide organization.

REPORT OF THE PLANNING AND EVALUATION COMMITTEE

(Agenda VI.B.)

The Rev. Susan Langhauser, chair of the Planning and Evaluation Committee, presented the committee's report and recommendations to the Church Council.

LIFT IMPLEMENTING RESOLUTIONS [CA11.04.21]

(Agenda VI.B.2.)

Background:

The 2011 Churchwide Assembly voted [CA11.04.21]:

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

1. To facilitate review of the constitutional responsibilities of synods in order that synods continue and increase their roles as catalysts for missional planning;
2. To facilitate a broad-based process addressing legislative decision-making in this church;
3. To initiate a process to expand the consultative role of the Conference of Bishops that allows the Church Council to refer issues to it and the Conference of Bishops to make recommendations to the Church Council;
4. To explore the use of social media and technology in order to allow greater participation of ELCA members in meetings of the Church Council and the Churchwide Assembly;
5. To initiate collaborative work by congregations, synods, the churchwide organization, institutions of this church, and others to create and support diverse non-legislative forums and events that bring together leaders of this church to address missional issues, participate in theological study and reflection, foster leadership development, and enhance the interdependence of this church;
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.

Church Council Action:

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

Moved;

Seconded:

To respond to the actions of the 2011 Churchwide Assembly [CA11.04.21] concerning the report and recommendations of the task force on Living into the Future Together: Renewing the Ecology of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (LIFT);

To acknowledge that the assembly called on the Office of the Presiding Bishop, in collaboration with the Church Council and the Conference of Bishops, to provide a means to continue the work assigned to the LIFT task force;

To establish an Advisory Committee to assist the Office of the Presiding Bishop in its collaboration with the Church Council and the Conference of Bishops to continue the work assigned to the LIFT task force;

To appoint the following people as members of the Advisory Committee: the Rev. Robert N. Bacher; Ms. Karin L. Graddy, Church Council; Ms. Deborah L. Chenoweth, Church Council; the Rev. Richard H. Graham, bishop of the Metropolitan Washington, D.C., Synod; Mr. William B. Horne II, Church Council; and the Rev. Diane H. "Dee" Pederson; and

To request that an interim report be brought to the April 2012 meeting of the Church Council and that a final report and possible recommendations be brought to the November 2012 Church Council meeting.

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

VOTED:

CC11.11.77

To respond to the actions of the 2011 Churchwide Assembly [CA11.04.21] concerning the report and recommendations of the task force on Living into the Future Together: Renewing the Ecology of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (LIFT);

To acknowledge that the assembly called on the Office of the Presiding Bishop, in collaboration with the Church Council and the Conference of Bishops, to provide a means to continue the work assigned to the LIFT task force;

To establish an Advisory Committee to assist the Office of the Presiding Bishop in its collaboration with the Church Council and the Conference of Bishops to continue the work assigned to the LIFT task force;

To appoint the following people as members of the Advisory Committee: the Rev. Robert N. Bacher; Ms. Karin L. Graddy, Church Council; Ms. Deborah L. Chenoweth, Church Council; the Rev. Richard H. Graham, bishop of the Metropolitan Washington, D.C., Synod; Mr. William B. Horne II, Church Council; and the Rev. Diane H. "Dee" Pederson; and

To request that an interim report be brought to the April 2012 meeting of the Church Council and that a final report and possible recommendations be brought to the November 2012 Church Council meeting.

Vice President Peña declared the motion was adopted.

Pr. Langhauser concluded the report of the Planning and Evaluation Committee.

REPORT OF THE PROGRAM AND SERVICES COMMITTEE

(Agenda VI.C.; Exhibit J)

Ms. Susan W. McArver, chair of the Program and Services Committee, presented the committee's report. She outlined preparations made in consultation with the Conference of Bishops and the Communal Discernment Task Force to create an Addressing Social Concerns Review Task Force. A proposed charter for the task force was provided in Exhibit J, Part 5 [and below].

LIFT IMPLEMENTING RESOLUTION ON SOCIAL STATEMENT REVIEW PROCESS

(Agenda VI.C.1.; Exhibit J)

Background:

The 2011 Churchwide Assembly voted [CA11.04.14]:

To 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 the consideration of the genetics social statement, *Genetics, Faith and Responsibility*, at the 2011 Churchwide Assembly; and

To bring no social statements other than *Genetics, Faith and Responsibility* to any Churchwide Assembly until completion of a review of the process for addressing social concerns based on a spirit of communal discernment. This review shall be completed and brought to the fall 2012 Church Council meeting, with a report to the 2013 Churchwide Assembly. During this review, the process for developing the criminal justice social statement and the justice for women social statement may continue, without alteration of the process already under way for the statement on criminal justice, which is to be completed and reported to the 2013 assembly.

Church Council Action:

Ms. Susan W. McArver made the following motion on behalf of the committee.

Moved;

Seconded:

To respond to the authorization of the 2011 Churchwide Assembly that the Church Council, in consultation with the Conference of Bishops and the Communal Discernment Task Force, establish a review process of current procedures for the development and adoption of social concerns;

To request the Executive Committee, in consultation with the Program and Services Committee, appoint members to serve on the "Addressing Social Concerns Review Task Force" by its December 2011 meeting;

To approve a charter with specific interim reports to the Conference of Bishops and Church Council for the work of the task force; and

To anticipate that the task force will bring a report to the November 2012 meeting of the Church Council, which will serve as the basis for a report with possible recommendations to the 2013 Churchwide Assembly.

Mr. Paul G. Archer moved the following amendment to the motion.

Moved;

Seconded:

To amend the first paragraph of the motion by insertion:

To respond to the authorization of the 2011 Churchwide Assembly that the Church Council, in consultation with the Conference of Bishops and the Communal Discernment Task Force, establish a review process of current procedures for the development and adoption of documents addressing social concerns;

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

Moved;
Seconded;
Carried:

To amend the first paragraph of the motion by insertion:

To respond to the authorization of the 2011 Churchwide Assembly that the Church Council, in consultation with the Conference of Bishops and the Communal Discernment Task Force, establish a review process of current procedures for the development and adoption of documents addressing social concerns;

The Church Council discussed the possibility of amending the charter, which would be approved as part of the motion, especially language in the charter regarding this church's critics. Ms. McArver moved the following amendment to the charter.

Moved;
Seconded:

To amend the task force charter (Exhibit J, Part 5) by deletion and addition:

III. Responsibilities

A. The Addressing Social Concerns Review Task Force shall:

5. ~~Attend to~~ Engage the criticisms and critiques that ELCA members have expressed concerning:

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

Moved;
Seconded;
Carried:

To amend the task force charter (Exhibit J, Part 5) by deletion and addition:

III. Responsibilities

A. The Addressing Social Concerns Review Task Force shall:

5. ~~Attend to~~ Engage the criticisms and critiques that ELCA members have expressed concerning:

[The full text of the charter is provided below.]

The chair declared that the motion to amend the charter was adopted.

The Church Council discussed amending the charter further by including among the task force responsibilities a review of the reception of social statements. The council considered the charter's reference to a review of the processes of "publicizing, distributing, promoting, and using social statements and messages" (III.A.3.d.) to be sufficient.

VOTED:

CC11.11.78

To respond to the authorization of the 2011 Churchwide Assembly that the Church Council, in consultation with the Conference of Bishops and the Communal Discernment Task Force, establish a review process of current procedures for the development and adoption of documents addressing social concerns;

To request that the Executive Committee, in consultation with the Program and Services Committee, appoint members to serve on the "Addressing Social Concerns Review Task Force" by its December 2011 meeting;

To approve a charter with specific interim reports to the Conference of Bishops and Church Council for the work of the task force; and

To anticipate that the task force will bring a report to the November 2012 meeting of the Church Council, which will serve as the basis for a report with possible recommendations to the 2013 Churchwide Assembly.

**Charter for
Addressing Social Concerns Review Task Force**

I. Organization and Purposes

A. Churchwide Assembly authorizing action

CA11.04.14

LIFT Implementing Resolution

To 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 the consideration of the genetics social statement, *Genetics, Faith and Responsibility*, at the 2011 Churchwide Assembly; and

To bring no social statements other than *Genetics, Faith and Responsibility* to any Churchwide Assembly until completion of a review of the process for addressing social concerns based on a spirit of communal discernment. This review shall be completed and brought to the fall 2012 Church Council meeting, with a report to the 2013 Churchwide Assembly. During this review, the process for developing the criminal justice social statement and the justice for women social statement may continue, without alteration of the process already under way for the statement on criminal justice, which is to be completed and reported to the 2013 assembly.

II. Background Information

LIFT Task Force recommendation (2011 ELCA CWA Pre-Assembly Report, Part V, p. 28)

Communal Discernment

The task force commends the work of the Communal Discernment Task Force formed by action of the Church Council in 2008, which seeks better ways to engage emotional and divisive issues and make difficult decisions in this church by means that increase mutual trust, build respect for each other as the body of Christ and deepen spiritual discernment. The task force commends the spirit of communal discernment to the whole church.

The task force recommends that the ELCA:

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.G11.) 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.

III. Responsibilities

A. The Addressing Social Concerns Review Task Force shall:

1. Review, more broadly, "the process for addressing social concerns," and specifically, "current procedures for the development and adoption of social statements";
2. Review the existing body of ELCA social statements, social messages and social policy resolutions, their use and their effect;
3. Review the processes for
 - a. identifying social concerns to address and the means of addressing them;
 - b. developing statements;
 - c. study, discussion, deliberation and decision;
 - d. publicizing, distributing, promoting and using social statements and messages;
4. Review the missional, theological and evangelical purpose and goals for addressing social concerns;

5. Engage the criticisms and critiques that ELCA members have expressed concerning:
 - a. the processes for developing social statements and messages;
 - b. the reasons and goals of addressing social concerns through statements;
 - c. the effects of the ELCA's addressing social concerns on other aspects of its mission and its overall life, with particular attention to the LIFT Task Force report of "disconnect" and to the experiences of division and exclusion in congregations, synods and in the ELCA as a whole;
 6. Clarify the reasons for addressing social concerns and the purpose of the statements and messages developed to address them; and
 7. Review and, as needed, recommend revisions to *Policies and Procedures of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for Addressing Social Concerns*.
- B. Throughout its work the Addressing Social Concerns Review Task Force shall:
1. Consult with the Conference of Bishops, the Communal Discernment Task Force and the Program and Services Committee of the Church Council;
 2. Attend to the convictions and hopes of both those who value the ELCA's work of addressing social concerns through statements and messages and those who have serious reservations about it or seek to discontinue it;
 3. Engage the full diversity of experience, expertise and wisdom among ELCA members for addressing social concerns, with particular attention to persons whose voices are too often excluded or ignored;
 4. Consult with the Mission Advancement unit and marketing and research consultants regarding awareness, distribution and use of social statements; and
 5. Consider opportunities for learning and collaboration with ecumenical partners.

IV. Membership and Leadership

- A. The task force shall be composed of 10-12 members, consistent with the ELCA's representational principles. Task force membership shall include:
 1. at least 2 synod bishops;
 2. at least 1 member each of the Communal Discernment task force; the LIFT task force; the Program and Services Committee; and
 3. at least 1 youth or young adult; 1 ethicist; 1 teaching theologian; and 1 person with expertise in communications and marketing.
- B. Initial members of the task force and its chairperson shall be appointed by the Executive Committee in consultation with the Program and Services Committee. The Presiding Bishop may make additional appointments in consultation with Executive Committee.
- C. Staff members shall be appointed by the Presiding Bishop.
- D. The term of service for all members shall be until the completion of the task force's work.
- E. The task force may invite additional staff, advisors, consultants and guests.

V. Meetings and Funding

- A. The full task force shall meet in person at least three times during 2012 (preferably winter, spring, summer).
- B. Additional meetings of the task force or work groups may be held either in person or by conference call.
- C. The work of this task force shall be funded by strategic initiative funds.

VI. Timetable for Actions

- A. A report and recommendations shall be brought to the Church Council at its fall 2012 meeting.
 - 1. Interim reports, including a preliminary report of findings, shall be presented to the spring meetings of the Conference of Bishops and the Church Council.
 - 2. A preliminary report with recommendations shall be presented to the fall 2012 meeting of the Conference of Bishops for review.
 - 3. The task force may revise the preliminary report and recommendations for presentation to the fall 2012 Church Council meeting.
- B. The task force shall present a final report to 2013 Churchwide Assembly.

Vice President Peña declared the motion was adopted.

SOCIAL TEACHING AND POLICY CAPACITY REASSESSMENT
(Agenda VI.C.2.; Exhibit J, Part 6)

Ms. Susan W. McArver elaborated on a schedule for the development of authorized social teaching and policy documents through 2016. She made the following motion on behalf of the committee.

Moved;

Seconded:

To adopt the schedule provided in Exhibit J, Part 6; and
To request that the Program and Services Committee reassess the revised timeline and question of capacity at its November 2013 meeting and in consideration of the actions of the 2013 Churchwide Assembly.

Ms. McArver noted that the chart in Exhibit J had been corrected to remove words that had been repeated in the second half of the chart from the first half. The Rev. Roger A. Willer, director for studies, Office of the Presiding Bishop, described which words had been deleted from earlier versions of the exhibit.

There being no further discussion, the chair called for the vote.

VOTED:

CC11.11.79

**To adopt the schedule provided below; and
To request that the Program and Services Committee reassess the revised timeline and question of capacity at its November 2013 meeting and in consideration of the actions of the 2013 Churchwide Assembly.**

Social Teaching Development Schedule Through 2016

	Fall 2011	Winter 2012	Spring 2012	Summer 2012	Fall 2012	Winter 2013	Spring 2013	Summer 2013	Fall 2013	Winter 2014
Criminal Justice	Study		Draft Hrgs	Hrgs	Hrgs	Prop	CC	CWA	Pub	
Justice for Women			TF						Study	Study
Mental Health		Consult	Writing	Draft	CC	Pub				
Genetics*		Pub			Study Guide					
Continued from above	Spring 2014	Summer 2014	Fall 2014	Winter 2015	Spring 2015	Summer 2015	Fall 2015	Winter 2016	Spring 2016	Summer 2016
Criminal Justice			Study Guide							
Justice for Women	Study	Study	Study		Draft Hrgs	Hrgs	Hrgs	Prop	CC	CWA
Mental Health										

Key to abbreviations:

- TF = Task Force begins
- Hrgs = Hearings Cycle
- Prop = Proposed Statement Review Cycle
- CC = Church Council consideration
- CWA = Churchwide Assembly consideration
- Pub = Publish
- * listed for information only

Vice President Peña declared the motion was adopted.
 Ms. McArver concluded the report of the Program and Services Committee.

DWELLING IN THE WORD
 (Agenda VI.D.)

The Rev. Philip R. Wold reflected on the guidance of Scriptures in his upbringing in Lutheran pietism and the ministry to which he has been called.

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS REMOVED FROM *EN BLOC*

(Agenda VI.E.; Exhibits B and D)

Secretary David D. Swartling presented two resolutions that council members had asked to be removed from *en bloc* consideration.

PROPOSED RESPONSES TO SYNODICAL RESOLUTIONS

PREVIOUSLY REFERRED TO UNITS BY CHURCH COUNCIL OR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

(Exhibit B, Part 1b, Pages 4–5)

ELCA Health and Benefits Program

Southeastern Minnesota Synod (3I)

Secretary David D. Swartling made the following motion.

Moved;

Seconded:

To thank the Southeastern Minnesota Synod for its resolution related to the ELCA Health and Benefits Program;

To receive the report of the ELCA Board of Pensions prepared in consultation with the Office of the Presiding Bishop, Office of the Secretary, and Office of the Treasurer;

To request that a report from the ELCA Board of Pensions on the impact of participation levels be brought to the November 2012 meeting of the Church Council; and

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

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

VOTED:

CC11.11.80

To thank the Southeastern Minnesota Synod for its resolution related to the ELCA Health and Benefits Program;

To receive the report of the ELCA Board of Pensions prepared in consultation with the Office of the Presiding Bishop, Office of the Secretary, and Office of the Treasurer;

To request that a report from the ELCA Board of Pensions on the impact of participation levels be brought to the November 2012 meeting of the Church Council; and

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

Vice President Peña declared the motion was adopted.

CHURCH COUNCIL REFERRALS OF CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY ACTIONS

MEMORIALS CATEGORY B2: SYNODICAL RATIFICATION PROCEDURE

(Exhibit B, Part 2a, Page 6)

Background:

The 2011 Churchwide Assembly voted [CA11.03.06c]:

To receive with gratitude the memorial of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod concerning synodical ratification of social statements and amendments to churchwide governing documents;

To acknowledge that the issue of ratification has been considered many times in the life of the ELCA, most recently by the task force on Living Into the Future Together: Renewing the Ecology of the ELCA (LIFT);

To encourage further exploration of existing means of discussion and decision-making as well as new means, such as communal discernment and non-legislative gatherings, as recommended by the LIFT task force; and

To decline to institute synodical ratification of social statements and amendments to churchwide governing documents.

Church Council Action:

Secretary David D. Swartling made the following motion.

Moved;

Seconded: To refer the third paragraph of the Churchwide Assembly's action on Memorials Category B2: Synodical Ratification Procedure to the Office of the Presiding Bishop; and
To request that a report and possible recommendations on that action be presented to the November 2012 meeting of the Church Council.

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

VOTED:

**CC11.11.81 To refer the third paragraph of the Churchwide Assembly's action on Memorials Category B2: Synodical Ratification Procedure to the Office of the Presiding Bishop; and
To request that a report and possible recommendations on that action be presented to the November 2012 meeting of the Church Council.**

Vice President Peña declared the motion was adopted.

EN BLOC APPROVAL OF CERTAIN ITEMS

(Agenda VI.F.; Exhibits B and D)

Secretary David D. Swartling pointed out that *en bloc* actions in Exhibit D included amendments to the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* that required the approval of two-thirds of the Church Council members present and voting. Those actions would be considered separate from other *en bloc* actions.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION, BYLAWS, AND CONTINUING RESOLUTIONS OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

(Exhibit D, Pages 4–5)

Secretary David D. Swartling made the following motion on behalf of the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee.

Moved;

Seconded: To approve the *en bloc* amendments to the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* as listed in Exhibit D.

- ~~14.21.A11. — Election of an Executive Director for Service Units~~
~~Unless otherwise specified in this constitution and bylaws, the Church Council shall elect the executive director for each churchwide service unit to a four-year term in consultation with and with the approval of the presiding bishop of this church. Nomination of a candidate for election shall be made by the presiding bishop. The presiding bishop, as chief executive officer, shall arrange within the policy of this church for an annual review of each executive director. A unit executive director shall be eligible for reelection. The employment of the executive director may be terminated jointly by the presiding bishop of this church and the Executive Committee of the Church Council.~~
- 14.31.B11. The Church Council may appoint one young adult and two youth, as defined in continuing resolution 6.02.A09., to serve as advisors to the Church Council from the time of appointment through the conclusion of the Churchwide Assembly in 2013.
- ~~14.32.C10A11. One voting member of the Church Council shall be selected in each biennium to serve as a liaison with voice but not vote on each program committee of the churchwide units. In addition, a A member of the Church Council, upon invitation, may serve as liaison for the respective boards of trustees of the separately incorporated ministries.~~
- 17.30.A11. Operation of the Mission Investment Fund of the ELCA**
The Mission Investment Fund of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America shall:
- a. have primary responsibility for the development, administration, ~~and~~ promotion, ~~and~~ sale of Mission Investments;
 - b. develop and administer a loan program, including management responsibilities for the underwriting, legal, accounting, reporting, servicing, marketing, and other related functions;
 - c. provide expertise for management of real property and execute all necessary documents for the acquisition and disposition of such property;
 - d. relate to the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit, which shall request real estate acquisition for new and existing ministries within the limits of the capital funds available and within established criteria;
 - e. confer with the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit on any loans to developing ministries;
 - f. offer building and architectural consultative services to new congregations entering first-unit construction, to congregations relocating with synodical approval, to other congregations, and to other organizations and institutions that are affiliated with this church;
 - g. offer building and property consultative services to congregations of this church.
- ~~19.04.A10. — Implementation Process~~
~~To implement the transition in the number of program committees, the Church Council shall take the following actions during its November 2010 meeting:~~
- a. ~~invite the duly elected members of the program committee related, as of October 2010, to the Global Mission unit to serve the remainder of their terms;~~
 - b. ~~elect from the members of the program committees related, as of October 2010, to the Evangelical Outreach and Congregational Mission unit, the Vocation and~~

- Education unit, the Church in Society unit, and the Multicultural Ministries unit, sixteen (16) people to serve the remainder of their terms as the program committee of the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit;*
- c. appoint, in accordance with bylaw 16.12.12., one member of the Church Council to serve as a liaison member of the Congregational and Synodical Mission program committee; and*
- d. request the Conference of Bishops to select, in accordance with bylaw 16.12.12., one bishop to serve as an advisory member of the Congregational and Synodical Mission program committee.*

There being no discussion, the chair noted a two-thirds vote would be required and called for the vote.

VOTED:

TWO-THIRDS VOTE

CC11.11.82

To approve the *en bloc* amendments to the Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as listed as follows:

~~14.21.A11.~~ — Election of an Executive Director for Service Units

Unless otherwise specified in this constitution and bylaws, the Church Council shall elect the executive director for each churchwide service unit to a four-year term in consultation with and with the approval of the presiding bishop of this church. Nomination of a candidate for election shall be made by the presiding bishop. The presiding bishop, as chief executive officer, shall arrange within the policy of this church for an annual review of each executive director. A unit executive director shall be eligible for reelection. The employment of the executive director may be terminated jointly by the presiding bishop of this church and the Executive Committee of the Church Council.

14.31.B11. *The Church Council may appoint one young adult and two youth, as defined in continuing resolution 6.02.A09., to serve as advisors to the Church Council from the time of appointment through the conclusion of the Churchwide Assembly in 2013.*

~~14.32.C10A11.~~ *One voting member of the Church Council shall be selected in each biennium to serve as a liaison with voice but not vote on each program committee of the churchwide units. In addition, a A member of the Church Council, upon invitation, may serve as liaison for the respective boards of trustees of the separately incorporated ministries.*

17.30.A11. *Operation of the Mission Investment Fund of the ELCA*
The Mission Investment Fund of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America shall:

a. have primary responsibility for the development, administration, ~~and~~ promotion, and sale of Mission Investments;

- b. *develop and administer a loan program, including management responsibilities for the underwriting, legal, accounting, reporting, servicing, marketing, and other related functions;*
- c. *provide expertise for management of real property and execute all necessary documents for the acquisition and disposition of such property;*
- d. *relate to the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit, which shall request real estate acquisition for new and existing ministries within the limits of the capital funds available and within established criteria;*
- e. *confer with the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit on any loans to developing ministries;*
- f. *offer building and architectural consultative services to new congregations entering first-unit construction, to congregations relocating with synodical approval, to other congregations, and to other organizations and institutions that are affiliated with this church;*
- g. *offer building and property consultative services to congregations of this church.*

19.04.A10. — *Implementation Process*

To implement the transition in the number of program committees, the Church Council shall take the following actions during its November 2010 meeting:

- a. *invite the duly elected members of the program committee related, as of October 2010, to the Global Mission unit to serve the remainder of their terms;*
- b. *elect from the members of the program committees related, as of October 2010, to the Evangelical Outreach and Congregational Mission unit, the Vocation and Education unit, the Church in Society unit, and the Multicultural Ministries unit, sixteen (16) people to serve the remainder of their terms as the program committee of the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit;*
- c. *appoint, in accordance with bylaw 16.12.12., one member of the Church Council to serve as a liaison member of the Congregational and Synodical Mission program committee, and*
- d. *request the Conference of Bishops to select, in accordance with bylaw 16.12.12., one bishop to serve as an advisory member of the Congregational and Synodical Mission program committee.*

Vice President Peña declared the motion was adopted.

EN BLOC APPROVAL OF REMAINING ITEMS
(Exhibits B and D)

Secretary David D. Swartling made the following motion.

Moved;

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

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

VOTED:

CC11.11.83 To take action *en bloc* on the remaining items listed as follows:

[Actions CC11.11.83a–CC11.11.83bb]

Vice President Peña declared the motion was adopted.

**A. THE DECADE OF WOMEN—GENDER EQUALITY:
THEOLOGICAL REFLECTIONS AND CONGREGATIONAL ACTION STRATEGIES**

VOTED:

EN BLOC

CC11.11.83a To receive with deep gratitude the resolution of the Southwest California Synod calling for the adoption of “The Decade of Women” in 2011–2020 within the ELCA 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;

To affirm and celebrate the many ways individuals, congregations, synods, ELCA-related institutions, and the churchwide office are already engaged in work to affirm and uphold gender equity and justice for women;

To refer a proposal for a decade on women to the upcoming task force for the Justice for Women social statement as a possible implementing resolution;

To encourage leaders and congregations to participate in efforts to support gender equity and justice for women through resources being developed with the Lutheran World Federation’s Women in Church and Society Desk;

To refer congregations to resources on women and gender justice through the ELCA’s Justice for Women program, Women of the ELCA, Advocacy, World Hunger, Global Mission, and other ELCA-related organizations, such as Lutheran World Relief, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services, Cherish Our Children, and other social ministry organizations and schools, as ways to engage in the many areas of justice for women; and

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

B. HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AGAINST THE OROMO PEOPLE

VOTED:

EN BLOC

CC11.11.83b To receive the background information provided by the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit in response to the resolution of the Metropolitan Washington, D.C., Synod related to “Human Rights Violations Against the Oromo People”;

To authorize a delay in further response until the April 2012 meeting of the Church Council; and

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

C. MEMORIALS CATEGORY A3: INTERNATIONAL YEAR FOR PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT

VOTED: *EN BLOC*

CC11.11.83c To request that the director for racial justice, in consultation with the Congregational and Synodical Mission and Global Mission units, bring to the April 2012 meeting of the Church Council a report on the ELCA activities associated with the International Year for People of African Descent.

D. MEMORIALS CATEGORY A4: ENERGY STEWARDSHIP

VOTED: *EN BLOC*

CC11.11.83d To refer Memorials Category A4: Energy Stewardship to the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit, in consultation with the Office of the Treasurer and the Theological Discernment team in the Office of the Presiding Bishop; and
To request that a report and possible recommendations be presented to the April 2013 Church Council meeting.

E. MEMORIALS CATEGORY A6: IMMIGRATION REFORM

VOTED: *EN BLOC*

CC11.11.83e To request that the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit, in collaboration with the Office of the Presiding Bishop, bring to the November 2012 meeting of the Church Council a report on its activities associated with its support of comprehensive immigration reform and the DREAM Act.

F. MEMORIALS CATEGORY B2: SYNODICAL RATIFICATION PROCEDURE

VOTED: *EN BLOC*

CC11.11.83f To refer the third paragraph of the Churchwide Assembly's action on Memorials Category B2: Synodical Ratification Procedure to the Office of the Presiding Bishop; and
To request that a report and possible recommendations on that action be presented to the November 2012 meeting of the Church Council.

G. MEMORIALS CATEGORY C1: LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY

VOTED: *EN BLOC*

CC11.11.83g To refer Memorials Category C1: Lutheran Campus Ministry to the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit, in consultation with the Conference of Bishops and the Office of the Presiding Bishop; and

To request that a report and possible recommendations be presented to the November 2012 meeting of the Church Council.

H. MEMORIALS CATEGORY D2: HOLY COMMUNION

VOTED: *EN BLOC*
CC11.11.83h To request that the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit, in consultation with the Conference of Bishops, present to the spring 2013 Church Council meeting a report and possible recommendations concerning its activities related to Memorial Category D2: Holy Communion.

I. MEMORIALS CATEGORY E1: SOCIAL STATEMENT ON HUMAN SEXUALITY

VOTED: *EN BLOC*
CC11.11.83i To request that the Office of the Presiding Bishop provide the report on the implementation of the social statement on human sexuality, which is due to the Church Council at its November 2012 meeting, to the 2013 Churchwide Assembly as information.

J. MOTION B: PERPETUAL PRAYER VIGIL

VOTED: *EN BLOC*
CC11.11.83j To request that the Office of the Presiding Bishop, in consultation with the Conference of Bishops, present a report and possible recommendations on Motion B: Perpetual Prayer Vigil to the April 2013 meeting of the Church Council.

K. MOTION C: CONFRONTING INJUSTICE IN STATE IMMIGRATION INITIATIVES

VOTED: *EN BLOC*
CC11.11.83k To refer Motion C: Confronting Injustice in State Immigration Initiatives to the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit in consultation with the Theological Discernment team in the Office of the Presiding Bishop; and
To request that a report and possible recommendations, particularly about the designation of "Stand for Welcome Sunday," be presented to the Church Council at its April 2012 meeting.

L. MOTION D: DIALOGUE WITH THE NORTH AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH

VOTED: *EN BLOC*
CC11.11.83l To request that the Office of the Presiding Bishops's Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Relations staff bring a report and possible recommendations on

Motion D: Dialogue with the North American Lutheran Church to the November 2012 meeting of the Church Council.

M. MOTION F: CONGREGATIONAL OFFERINGS

VOTED: *EN BLOC*
CC11.11.83m To request that the Mission Advancement unit present a report on its activities related to Motion F: Congregational Offerings to the November 2012 Church Council meeting.

N. MOTION G: EFFECT OF U.S. ETHANOL POLICY ON WORLD HUNGER

VOTED: *EN BLOC*
CC11.11.83n To request that the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit, in collaboration with the Office of the Presiding Bishop, present a report and possible recommendations on Motion G: Effect of U.S. Ethanol Policy on World Hunger to the April 2013 meeting of the Church Council.

O. MOTION H: YOUTH-RELATED MATTERS

VOTED: *EN BLOC*
CC11.11.83o To request that the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit present a report and possible recommendations on Motion H: Youth-Related Matters to the November 2012 meeting of the Church Council.

P. MOTION J: NATIVE AMERICANS AND ALASKA NATIVES

VOTED: *EN BLOC*
CC11.11.83p To request that the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit bring a report and possible recommendations on Motion J: Native Americans and Alaska Natives to the November 2012 meeting of the Church Council.

Q. MOTION K: TREE FOR LUTHERGARTEN

VOTED: *EN BLOC*
CC11.11.83q To request that the Office of the Presiding Bishop present a report and possible recommendations on Motion K: Tree for Luthergarten to the April 2012 meeting of the Church Council.

R. MOTION L: MISSION SUPPORT

VOTED: *EN BLOC*
CC11.11.83r To request that the Mission Advancement unit present a report on its activities related to Motion L: Mission Support to the November 2012 meeting of the Church Council.

S. ADDITIONAL VOTING MEMBERS FOR THE 2013 CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY

VOTED: *EN BLOC*
CC11.11.83s To allocate for the 2013 Churchwide Assembly one additional voting-member position to the Alaska Synod (1A), making a total of four voting members, with the provision that the position shall be filled by an Alaska Native person;
To allocate for the 2013 Churchwide Assembly one additional voting-member position each to the Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod (4C), making a total of four voting members, and the West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod (8H), making a total of five voting members, for an individual of color or an individual whose primary language is other than English;
To allocate for the 2013 Churchwide Assembly one additional voting-member position for a lay member of the Slovak Zion Synod (7G); the total number of voting members is three; and
To allocate for the 2013 Churchwide Assembly two additional voting-member positions to the Caribbean Synod (9F), making a total of 4, with the provision that these additional voting members shall be people of color or people whose primary language is other than English.

T. RATIFICATION OF SYNOD CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

VOTED: *EN BLOC*
CC11.11.83t To ratify the following amendments to the Allegheny Synod constitution.

- S7.12. Special meetings of the Synod Assembly maybe called by the bishop with the consent of the Synod Council, and shall be called by the bishop at the request of one-fifth of the voting members of the Synod Assembly.
- a. The notice of each special meeting shall define the purpose for which it is to be held. The scope of actions to be taken at such a special meeting shall be limited to the subject matter(s) described in the notice.
 - b. If the special meeting of the Synod Assembly is required for the purpose of electing a successor bishop because of death, resignation, or inability to serve, the special meeting shall be called by the Synod Council after consultation with the presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America ~~in cooperation with the Synod Council.~~
- S8.23. In the event of the death, resignation, or disability of the bishop, the vice president, after consultation with the presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in

America, shall convene the Synod Council to arrange for the conduct of the duties of the bishop until a new bishop shall be elected or, in the case of temporary disability, until the bishop resumes full performance of the duties of the office.

S8.52. The terms of the officers shall begin on the first day of 3rd calendar month following election or, in special circumstances, at a time designated by the Synod Council.

S10.06. If a member of the Synod Council ceases to meet the requirements of the position to which she or he was elected ~~be a member in good standing on a roster of this synod, if an ordained minister, or to be a voting member of a congregation of this synod, if a layperson,~~ the office filled by such member shall at once become vacant.

U. AMENDMENTS TO THE DEACONESS COMMUNITY BYLAWS

VOTED:

EN BLOC

CC11.11.83u To approve the amendments to the bylaws of the Deaconess Community of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as printed below.

BYLAWS

of

The Deaconess Community of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

PREAMBLE OF HISTORICAL ANTECEDENTS

The Deaconess Community of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America expresses the continuity of deaconess work in the Lutheran Church in America (a) as conceived in an agreement dated January 13, 1966, among three corporations existing at that time, viz. Mary J. Drexel Home and Philadelphia Motherhouse of Deaconesses, The Baltimore Lutheran Deaconess Motherhouse and School, Inc., and the Board of College Education and Church Vocations and its successor, the Division for Professional Leadership, both of the Lutheran Church in America, and (b) as of September 7, 1965, by joining with the sisterhood previously affiliated with the Immanuel Deaconess Institute of the former Augustana Lutheran Church. This continuity is particularly defined and shaped by the actions pertaining to deaconess work of the 1978 convention of the Lutheran Church in America and by the official documents of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

ARTICLE 1: NAME AND INCORPORATION

This document records the bylaws which regulate the corporation known as The Deaconess Community of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America which will be referred to herein as the "Deaconess Community." The corporation so named was formed by decree of the Court of Common Pleas of Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, dated August 5, 1966, approving the articles of incorporation. The decree, together with the articles of

incorporation, was recorded on August 8, 1966, in the Office for the Recording of Deeds for Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, in Charter Book 14, at pages 301 and 302. The Deaconess Community, through corporate merger, is successor to The Baltimore Lutheran Deaconess Motherhouse and School, Inc., and The Mary J. Drexel Home and Philadelphia Motherhouse of Deaconesses. In 1988, the name was changed from the Deaconess Community of the Lutheran Church in America to The Deaconess Community of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

- 1.1 Registered office: The registered office of the Deaconess Community shall be at such location in Pennsylvania as the directors may from time to time determine.
- 1.2 Other offices: The Deaconess Community may also have offices at such other places as the directors may select and the business of the community shall require.

ARTICLE 2: CHURCH RELATIONSHIP

The Deaconess Community, affirmed by and under the direction of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America referred to herein as the “ELCA,” is subject to policies established by that church including actions of the ELCA’s Congregational and Synodical Mission Unit* taken under the official documents of the church.

ARTICLE 3: PURPOSE, MEMBERSHIP, AND FUNCTIONS

- 3.1 The Deaconess Community has been formed in order that skilled and committed women serving through community may complement the ministry of Word and Sacrament as well as the ministry of the whole people of God. This ministry is exercised within the context of the church’s mission to proclaim the Gospel, to relate the Gospel to human need in every situation, and to extend the ministry of the Gospel to all the world.
- 3.2 The Deaconess Community consists of women who have been consecrated to and continue as deaconesses in the ELCA or in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, referred to herein as the “ELCIC” together with those of its candidates who have met preparatory standards and publicly participated in the service of mutual affirmation known as investiture. Members are committed to full-time service and are strengthened for service through the Deaconess Community. If full-time service is not feasible, a deaconess may serve in an appropriate position on a part-time basis, as provided in the “Standards for Members of the Deaconess Community of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America,” which will be referred to herein as the “standards.”
- 3.3 In order to proclaim the Word directly and indirectly through the church’s specialized ministries, the Deaconess Community shall support its members as follows:
 - 3.3.1 encourage spiritual, professional, educational and personal growth;
 - 3.3.2 provide mutual support in call, service and retirement;
 - 3.3.3 recommend to the ELCA’s Congregational and Synodical Mission Unit the standards; and

- 3.3.4 enter into arrangements with the ELCA through the Congregational and Synodical Mission Unit for promotion and interpretation of deaconess work throughout the church and for the recruitment and education of candidates.

ARTICLE 4: THE DEACONESS ASSEMBLY

- 4.1 The Deaconess Assembly is the gathering of the members of the Deaconess Community. Membership in good standing shall be defined in the standards. Voice and vote in sessions of the Deaconess Assembly shall be limited to those who are members in good standing. All members are obligated to attend sessions of the Deaconess Assembly unless duly excused.
- 4.2 The Deaconess Assembly shall be the highest authority within the Deaconess Community.
- 4.3 The Deaconess Assembly shall meet annually to review the work of the Deaconess Community and to plan for the future; its programs shall also include elements of inspiration, fellowship and education.
- 4.4 The Deaconess Assembly shall be called into session at a time and place determined by it or by the board of directors.
- 4.5 The directing deaconess shall chair sessions of the Deaconess Assembly. A vice chairperson and a secretary for each session of the Deaconess Assembly may be approved by the board of directors from among the members in good standing of the Deaconess Community.
- 4.6 The members present shall constitute a quorum provided that the entire membership has been notified by mail at least two months prior to the opening of a session.
- 4.7 The Deaconess Assembly shall elect members of the board of directors as provided in Article 5.
- 4.8 The executive director of the ELCA's Congregational and Synodical Mission Unit, or the director's designee, shall be invited to attend each meeting of the Deaconess Assembly.
- 4.9 Robert's Rules of Order, latest edition, shall be the governing parliamentary law of the Deaconess Assembly except as provided in these bylaws.

ARTICLE 5: THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- 5.1 The board of directors shall be elected by the Deaconess Assembly, and shall consist of six deaconesses and five other persons from the membership of the ELCA and/or the

ELCIC. A majority of the directors shall be members of the ELCA. Biographical information, including the gifts and skills each prospective director offers to the board, shall be given to the Assembly so that the Assembly may make an informed vote. The nomination slate presented by the Governance Committee may consist of two candidates for each deaconess position and a single candidate for each non-deaconess position. The executive director of the ELCA's Congregational and Synodical Mission Unit, or the director's designee; the directing deaconess, the director of vocation and education, and the executive director, shall have seat and voice on the board of directors.

5.1.1 A majority of the voting members shall constitute a quorum for any board meeting.

5.2 The term of a director shall be four years, and the terms shall be arranged so that approximately half of the directors are elected every two years. No director shall serve more than two terms consecutively. Terms of newly elected directors shall begin on January 1st of the calendar year following their election, except that a person selected to fill a vacancy ad interim shall begin upon his or her acceptance of selection. Outgoing directors shall continue in office until their elected successors begin service on January 1st of the calendar year following their election.

5.2.1 Interim appointments. When a board vacancy is to be filled between elections, the Committee on Governance shall select a candidate to fill the unexpired term and submit that person's name to the Deaconess Community for a mail vote. A simple majority of members in good standing is required to affirm the appointment. In computing an interim appointee's eligibility for continued board membership, service which precedes a full term without interruption shall be disregarded if less than half a term.

5.3 The board of directors shall be accountable to the Deaconess Assembly for the management of the affairs of the Deaconess Community and to the ELCA for policies relating to the Deaconess Community. The board of directors shall act for the Deaconess Community in the interim between sessions of the Deaconess Assembly, but may not act contrary to the Deaconess Assembly's decisions or those of the ELCA. Specifically, the board of directors shall

- 5.3.1 carry out corporate responsibilities on behalf of the Deaconess Community;
- 5.3.2 have power to authorize contracts;
- 5.3.3 plan and provide for the conduct and evaluation of all Deaconess Community programs including interpretation and the recruitment and education of candidates, and cooperate therein as appropriate with the ELCA's Congregational and Synodical Mission Unit and synodical candidacy committees of the ELCA and the ELCIC;
- 5.3.4 provide general oversight for the service of all members and develop guidelines for their temporal support;

- 5.3.5 oversee the responsibilities of the Deaconess Community to those retired under the cooperative plan;
- 5.3.6 exercise responsibility for all properties owned or leased by the Deaconess Community;
- 5.3.7 establish policy for the management of the financial resources of the Deaconess Community;
- 5.3.8 adopt annual current budgets which project no deficit spending;
- 5.3.9 determine staff structure for the Deaconess Community, and in consultation with the senior leadership team, employ executive and program staff;
- 5.3.10 determine the inability of a director to carry out his or her responsibilities, e.g., is absent from three consecutive meetings of the board of directors without cause;
- 5.3.11 determine the inability of the directing deaconess or any executive or program staff elected by the board of directors to carry out his or her responsibilities (see 5.4);
- 5.3.12 report annually to the members of the Deaconess Community and to the ELCA's Congregational and Synodical Mission Unit;
- 5.3.13 guide planning for sessions of the Deaconess Assembly;
- 5.3.14 carry out such other responsibilities as the Deaconess Assembly may assign from time to time.

5.4 The board of directors, having determined that a director is unable to carry out his or her responsibilities, may elect to remove that director from the board in accordance with these by-laws after giving at least 30 days' prior notice to the secretary of the ELCA. The decision to remove a director shall be reported to the Church Council by the ELCA secretary.

The dismissal of a board member may be effected:

- a. for willful disregard or violation of the by-laws of this Community;
- b. for absence without cause from three consecutive board meetings;
- c. for such physical or mental disability as renders the director incapable of performing the duties of the office; or
- d. for such conduct as would subject the board member to disciplinary action as a member of a roster of the ELCA or as a member of a congregation of this church.

5.5 Should the directing deaconess die, resign or be unable to serve, its chairperson shall convene the board of directors to arrange for the appropriate care of the responsibilities of the directing deaconess until an election of a new directing deaconess can be held or until the directing deaconess is able to serve again. The term of the successor directing deaconess, elected by the next Deaconess Assembly, or a special meeting of the Deaconess Assembly called for the purpose of election, shall be four years, with the subsequent election to take place at the assembly closest to the expiration of such a term.

The executive committee of the board of directors shall determine whether the directing deaconess is unable to serve; the directing deaconess may appeal the decision of the executive committee by requesting a hearing before the board of directors. A meeting to determine the ability of the directing deaconess to serve shall be called upon the request of at least two members of the executive committee. Prior notice of the meeting shall be given to the directing deaconess.

Should a senior leadership team or program staff person die, resign, or be unable to serve, the remaining senior leadership team, with the approval of the executive committee of the board of directors, shall arrange for the appropriate care of the responsibilities of the staff person until a new staff person can be appointed or until the staff person is able to serve again.

The dismissal of the directing deaconess or a member of the executive or program staff may be effected:

- a. for willful disregard or violation of the bylaws of this Community;
- b. for such physical or mental disability as renders the directing deaconess or staff person incapable of performing the duties of office; or
- c. for such conduct as would subject the directing deaconess or staff person to disciplinary action as a member of the roster of the ELCA or as a member of a congregation of this church.

Proceedings for dismissal of the directing deaconess shall be instituted at petition by:

- a. the board of directors on a vote of at least two-thirds of its members; and
- b. the Deaconess Assembly on a vote of at least two-thirds of its members.

5.6 The officers of the board of directors shall be a chairperson, a vice chairperson, a secretary and a treasurer. They shall be elected biennially at the last board meeting of each calendar year in which directors are elected by the Deaconess Assembly. Their respective terms shall begin the first day of the following calendar year, and shall expire no later than the conclusion of their respective terms on the board. Their duties and responsibilities shall be those customary to their respective offices and as set forth in Article 6, below.

5.6.1 The treasurer may be chosen from outside the membership of the board of directors if necessary to provide for the requisite financial expertise. If so chosen, he or she shall also be elected biennially by the directors at the last board meeting of each calendar year in which directors are elected by the Deaconess Assembly. A treasurer chosen from outside the board membership shall not serve more than four two-year terms consecutively. An outside treasurer shall have seat and voice, but not vote, in meetings of the board of directors and of the executive committee.

5.7 The board of directors shall meet twice annually, and at such other times as it may deem necessary. The chairperson or the executive committee may call meetings of the board of

directors. The chairperson shall call a meeting when requested to do so in writing by five members of the board of directors or by a majority of members in good standing of the Deaconess Community. Notice of a meeting shall be mailed or sent electronically at least three weeks prior to its meeting date.

- 5.7.1 A majority of the directors in office shall constitute a quorum for any board meeting. The acts of a majority of the directors present at a meeting at which a quorum is present shall be the acts of the board of directors.
- 5.7.2 Teleconference meetings: One or more directors may participate in a meeting of the board of directors, or any committee thereof, by means of a conference telephone or similar communications equipment by which all persons participating in the meeting can hear one another.
- 5.7.3 Action by written consent: Any action which may be taken at a meeting of the board of directors may be taken without a meeting, provided that the action is set forth in writing and all of the directors in office give their written consent. The record of such action shall be filed with the board secretary and distributed to all parties who receive the minutes of regular board meetings.

ARTICLE 6: OFFICERS

6.1 Vacancies

A vacancy in any office may be filled by the board of directors for the unexpired portion of the term.

6.2 The Chairperson

The Chairperson shall

- 6.2.1 preside at all meetings of the board of directors and of the executive committee;
- 6.2.2 be responsible for the development of an agenda for each meeting;
- 6.2.3 be responsible that the provisions of these bylaws are observed and that the enactments of the board of directors are carried out;
- 6.2.4 have general charge of and control over the affairs and property of the corporation and general supervision over its officers and agents, subject to the direction of the board of directors;
- 6.2.5 have seat and voice in all meetings of each standing committee and of all other committees of the board; and
- 6.2.6 have such other powers and perform such other duties as may be incidental to this office, as are given by these bylaws, or as from time to time may be assigned by the board.

6.3 The Vice-Chairperson

The Vice-Chairperson shall:

- 6.3.1 in the absence of the chairperson preside at all meetings of the board of directors and the executive committee; and
- 6.3.2 perform such other duties as from time to time may be assigned by the board of directors or the chairperson.

6.4 The Secretary

The Secretary shall:

- 6.4.1 record the minutes of the meeting of the board of directors and the executive committee;
- 6.4.2 file with the minutes of the board of directors or the executive committee, as the case may be, the resolutions by which any actions taken without a meeting are authorized, together with the consents to such action;
- 6.4.3 transmit promptly a copy of the minutes of each meeting of, and a copy of each resolution by which action is taken without a meeting by the board of directors or the executive committee to each director
- 6.4.4 cause notices to be duly given in accordance with the provision of these bylaws and as required by law;
- 6.4.5 see that all reports and other documents and records required by law are properly filed and kept;
- 6.4.6 have custody of the records and seal of the corporation and cause the seal to be affixed as authorized; and
- 6.4.7 have such other powers and perform such other duties as are given by the board of directors or the chairperson.

6.5 The Treasurer

The Treasurer shall:

- 6.5.1 be bonded;
- 6.5.2 be the chief fiscal officer of the board;
- 6.5.3 have responsibility for the receipt and distribution of all moneys, and for the safekeeping of moneys and securities, of the corporation;
- 6.5.4 keep an accurate account of all financial transactions and report thereon at each meeting of the board of directors; and
- 6.5.5 have such other powers and perform such other duties as from time to time may be assigned by the board of directors or the chairperson.

6.6. Resignations

Any officer may resign at any time by giving notice in writing to the board of directors or the chairperson. Unless otherwise specified in the notice, the resignation shall take effect upon delivery.

6.7 Removal

Any officer or agent may be removed at any time, either for or without cause, by the board of directors.

6.8 Signing Authority

Each contract or other financial instrument shall be executed by any one of the following: directing deaconess, executive director, chairperson, vice chairperson, or treasurer. If the amount of any instrument exceeds FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$5,000.00), it shall be executed by any two of the above.

ARTICLE 7: COMMITTEES

- 7.1 Committees of the board of directors shall be appointed by the chairperson with the concurrence of the board of directors, except for the executive committee. Each committee shall be chaired by a member of the board of directors and, except for the executive committee, may include non-board members for their special competence, experience, and interest. At least two members of each committee shall be members in good standing of the Deaconess Community.
- 7.1.1 A majority of the voting members shall constitute a quorum for any committee meeting. The acts of a majority of the voting members present at a meeting at which a quorum is present shall be the acts of the committee.
- 7.1.2 Teleconference meetings: One or more committee members may participate in a meeting by means of a conference telephone or similar communications equipment by which all persons participating in the meeting can hear one another.
- 7.2 The board of directors shall have general oversight of the work of each committee, establishing policy as appropriate. Each committee shall report, after each meeting, to the board of directors.
- 7.3 The executive committee shall consist of the officers except that, if the treasurer is not a member of the board of directors, one additional “at large” director shall be elected to the committee by the board of directors. This committee shall have the power to act on behalf of the board of directors in instances requiring interim action, except that it shall not have power to modify any prior action of the board of directors. The executive committee shall also act as the Personnel Committee of the board. Actions of the executive committee shall be reported by mail to the entire board of directors within ten days.
- 7.4 The Committee on Finance and Budget shall consist of at least two directors and three other persons chosen for their competence in finance. The treasurer shall be included in its membership. This committee shall report to the board of directors on all matters concerning fiscal management and shall be responsible for the presentation of annual budgets to the board. It shall supervise the investments of the Deaconess Community under policies adopted by the board of directors.
- 7.5 The Committee on Community Life shall consist of at least one director and four other persons. In cooperation with the directing deaconess, it shall seek to enhance the life of the Deaconess Community through programs and events which emphasize spiritual growth, nurture, support, and fellowship among the members. It shall serve in an advisory relationship to the directing deaconess in matters related to community life, and shall appoint the planning committee for meetings of the Deaconess Assembly.
- 7.6 The Committee on Vocation and Education shall consist of at least one director and three other persons. This committee shall deal with all matters related to the candidacy process and continuing education for the Deaconess Community. The director of vocation and education shall have seat and voice on this committee.

- 7.7 The Committee on Communications shall consist of at least one director and three other persons. This committee shall develop a communication plan and oversee its implementation. The director of communication shall be included in its membership.
- 7.8 Committee on Mission Support. The Committee on Mission Support shall consist of at least one director and four other persons. It shall assist the Deaconess Community in seeking, responding to, evaluating, and selecting mission support opportunities that will facilitate, fulfill, and further its vision and mission.
- 7.9 Committee on Governance. The Committee on Governance shall consist of at least one director and four other persons. It shall deal with all matters relating to a) the creating and updating of the Deaconess Community's governing documents; b) the screening and selection of candidates for election to positions on the board of directors; c) the screening and selection of candidates for election as directing deaconess; and d) recommendations for appointment of standing committee chairs and members.
- 7.10 The board of directors may establish other committees from time to time as it deems necessary.

ARTICLE 8: STAFF

- 8.1 The Deaconess Assembly shall elect a directing deaconess for a term of four years, renewable by election for one additional term. The term of office shall ordinarily begin ninety (90) days following election, or at such other time as may be determined by the board of directors. The directing deaconess shall be chosen from among those who are members in good standing of the Deaconess Community and who are consecrated deaconesses. The process for electing the directing deaconess shall be approved by the board of directors pursuant to paragraph 7.9 of these by-laws. No less than three months before the Deaconess Assembly at which a directing deaconess will be elected, all members in good standing shall be provided notice regarding the election.
- 8.2 The three senior leadership staff members (being the directing deaconess, the executive director, and the director of vocation and education) shall be responsible to the Deaconess Community and board of directors for their respective leadership accountabilities. Each shall have seat and voice in all committees and the board of directors, providing assistance, counsel and guidance as appropriate. They shall work in partnership with the board, program staff, and one another, to provide leadership, vision, and direction for the organization.
- 8.2.1 The directing deaconess shall be elected by the Deaconess Community with responsibility for overseeing the pastoral and spiritual care of the individual sisters and the Community as a whole. She serves as the Deaconess Community's ambassador and liaison to the church and the world.
- 8.2.2 The executive director shall be appointed by the board of directors with

responsibility for oversight of the management and administration of the finances, programs and operations of the Deaconess Community. The executive director hires, supervises and evaluates support staff, and develops and implements organizational strategy.

8.2.3 The director of vocation and education shall be appointed by the board of directors with responsibility for implementing, in cooperation with the Committee on Vocation and Education, the candidacy process and continuing education for candidates and deaconesses. The director of vocation and education serves as the Community's primary liaison with the ELCA and ELCIC directors for candidacy, seminaries, and synod staffs, to interpret and inform them regarding the Community's candidacy process.

8.3 After consultation with the senior leadership team, the board of directors shall periodically review all senior leadership team position descriptions, outlining specific responsibilities and accountabilities. The board of directors shall provide for periodic performance evaluation of the senior leadership team. In consultation with the board of directors, the executive director shall periodically review all support staff position descriptions, outlining specific responsibilities and accountabilities. The executive director shall provide for performance evaluation of all support staff.

ARTICLE 9: FISCAL MATTERS

9.1 The fiscal year shall be the calendar year.

9.2 The Deaconess Community shall not incur deficits in current operations.

9.3 The support of retired deaconesses who were admitted to the cooperative plan prior to July 1, 1978, and who served under it throughout their years in the diaconate shall have priority in the allocation of the financial resources of the Deaconess Community.

9.4 The sale or purchase of real estate, the encumbrance of assets exceeding FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$50,000.00), and the financing of capital improvements exceeding FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$50,000.00), shall require approval by two-thirds of votes cast by the Deaconess Assembly or by two-thirds of votes cast by mail from the members in good standing of the Deaconess Community.

9.5 No part of the net earnings of the corporation shall inure to the benefit of any private individual, corporation or other organization. No substantial part of the activities of the corporation shall be to carry on propaganda, or otherwise attempt to influence legislation. The corporation shall not participate in, or intervene in any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office, including publishing or distributing statements for the candidate.

ARTICLE 10: INDEMNIFICATION

To the full extent permitted from time to time by law, each person who is or was made or threatened to be made a party to any proceeding by reason of the present or former capacity of that person as a member, director, officer, employee, or committee member of this church shall be indemnified against judgments, penalties, fines, settlements, excise taxes, and reasonable attorneys fees and disbursements incurred by that person in connection with the proceeding. This Deaconess Community may purchase and maintain insurance on behalf of itself or any person entitled to indemnification pursuant to this chapter against any liability asserted against and incurred by this Deaconess Community or by such other person in or arising from a capacity described above.

ARTICLE 11: DISSOLUTION

Should the corporation cease to act and be dissolved, all of its property and assets remaining after the payment of its liabilities shall be paid and distributed to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, a Minnesota nonprofit corporation, or its successor or assigns, provided, however, that payment shall be made hereunder only to corporations, trusts, foundations, or other organizations which are organized and operated exclusively for charitable or religious purposes and which shall then be exempt from Federal income tax under Section 501 (a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as amended, as organizations described in Section 501 (c) (3) thereof (references to include corresponding provisions of any future revenue law).

ARTICLE 12: AMENDMENTS

- 12.1 Amendments to these bylaws may be presented: (a) by the board of directors or (b) in writing by five members in good standing of the Deaconess Community. When presented by five members, amendments shall be referred immediately to the board of directors which shall promptly submit its recommendations thereon to the Deaconess Assembly if it is in session or otherwise in writing to the members of the Deaconess Community immediately following the next meeting of the board of directors.
- 12.2 Amendments to Articles 1, 2, 3, 4.1, and 9 shall be adopted by majority vote of the Deaconess Assembly. Amendments to other articles may be adopted by the same procedure or by mail vote with approval by two-thirds of the members in good standing of the Deaconess Community.
- 12.3 Before becoming effective, all amendments shall be submitted, through the ELCA's Congregational and Synodical Mission Unit, to the ELCA Church Council or its executive committee for approval.

As adopted by the Deaconess Community of the Lutheran Church in America,
In Assembly, December 30, 1978

And

As amended October 1, 1994, by the Deaconess Community of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

And

As amended May 16, 2004, by the Deaconess Assembly, approved by the Division for Ministry Board, June 2, 2004

And

As amended by the Deaconess Assembly, May 6, 2006 and approved by the ELCA Church Council Executive Committee July 28, 2006. **EC06.07.25**. Note: The ELCA Office of the Secretary interprets the Community's amended bylaws to mean that all amendments are to be submitted through the Vocation and Education unit to the Church Council or its Executive Committee for approval."

And

As amended by the Deaconess Assembly, April 26, 2008 and approved by the ELCA Church Council Executive Committee July 25, 2008. **EC08.07.16b**. Note: The ELCA Office of the Secretary interprets the Community's amended bylaws to mean that all amendments are to be submitted through the Vocation and Education unit to the Church Council or its Executive Committee for approval.

And

As amended by the Deaconess Assembly, September 29, 2010, submitted by the ELCA Vocation and Education Unit, and approved by the ELCA Church Council, November 13, 2010. **CC10.11.78**.

***NOTE:** Church Council action **CC10.11.78** also authorized the ELCA Secretary "to make editorial changes to the bylaws related to the redesign of the churchwide organization." These changes, which consisted of replacing references to the ELCA's Vocation and Education Unit with the name of the new Congregational and Synodical Mission Unit, which replaced it in the redesign, have been incorporated into these bylaws.

And

As amended by the Deaconess Assembly, October 2, 2011, submitted to the ELCA Office of the Presiding Bishop, and approved by the ELCA Church Council, November 13, 2011.

V. LUTHERAN MEDICAL CENTER

VOTED:

CC11.11.83v

EN BLOC

To approve the following resolution on behalf of the ELCA, the sole voting member of Lutheran Medical Center, Brooklyn, New York:

WHEREAS, Lutheran Medical Center (LMC), a New York not-for-profit corporation, is an affiliated social ministry organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA); and

WHEREAS, the ELCA is the sole voting member of the LMC corporation and the ELCA has the authority to adopt and amend the LMC governing documents; and

WHEREAS, LMC, by action of its Board of Trustees [Exhibit H, Part 3a], has requested that its constitution be amended as indicated in Exhibit H, Part 3b, attached hereto; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Church Council, on behalf of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, hereby authorizes and adopts the amendment to the Constitution of Lutheran Medical Center specified in Article V, Section 1, hereto.

**ARTICLE V
TRUSTEES AND THEIR ELECTION**

Section 1.

(a) A Board of Trustees shall consist of not less than twelve nor more than thirty-four persons, approximately one-third (1/3) of whom shall be elected at each Annual Meeting. They shall hold office for three years and until their successors have been elected. The Trustees serving at the time this amendment is adopted shall be divided at the designation of the Nominations Committee into three groups approximately equal in size. The first group shall serve an initial term of one year; the remaining groups shall serve initial terms expiring at successive one-year intervals after the first year. Thereafter, at its Annual Meeting, or Special Meeting, the sole voting member of the Corporation shall elect individuals to fill the then-existing vacancies on the Board. Each elected Trustee shall hold office for a term of three years and until a successor is duly elected, unless the Trustee sooner resigns or is removed pursuant to Article V., Section 2 of this Constitution.

(b) At least 25% of the membership of the Board of Trustees shall be members of a congregation of a Lutheran Church, including the bishop of the Metropolitan New York Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America who shall be an *ex officio* voting member of the Board, with the understanding that the Nominations Committee and the Board shall make all reasonable efforts to maintain the Lutheran percentage as close to 50% as feasible, recognizing the need to also reflect the diversity of the community on the Board and to recruit Trustees with the skills and resources to support the Corporation. Three members of the Board shall be ~~nominated by~~ comprised of members of the board of directors of Sunset Park Health Council, Inc. (SPHC), as follows. Following each annual meeting of SPHC for the election of its directors and officers, the President of SPHC, who shall be an *ex officio* voting member of the Board of Trustees, shall nominate for election to the Board of Trustees two additional SPHC directors. Following approval of such nominations by the Board, the SPHC members shall be presented to the sole voting member for election.

(c) To be eligible for Board membership, a trustee candidate shall (a) exemplify basic qualities of honesty, integrity, justice, and sound moral character; (b) be committed to uphold the purposes, philosophy and general policy of the Corporation as stated in the Constitution and By Laws and have the willingness and ability to devote necessary time to Board activities and be able to apply realistically experience and expertise to make decisions objectively, and (c) recognize the confidential character of information discussed at Board meetings and strive to avoid the appearance of any conflict of interest. The President and Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation shall be an *ex officio* voting member of the Board.

W. AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS OF THE ENDOWMENT FUND OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

VOTED:

EN BLOC

CC11.11.83w To approve the amendments to the bylaws of the Endowment Fund of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to read as follows.

**BYLAWS
OF
ENDOWMENT FUND OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN
AMERICA**

ARTICLE 1

Principal Office

The principal office of this corporation, at which the general business of this corporation shall be transacted and where the records of this corporation shall be kept, shall be at such place as shall be fixed from time to time by duly adopted resolutions of the Board of Trustees. Until otherwise fixed by the Board of Trustees, the principal office shall be at 8765 West Higgins Road, Chicago, Illinois 60631.

ARTICLE 2

Board of Trustees

SECTION 2.1 Number and method of election. The Board of Trustees of this corporation shall consist of at least nine persons but not more than twelve persons, elected by the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The members of the Board of Trustees shall be elected by the Church Council from a slate of candidates approved and submitted by a committee selected by such means as the Church Council directs.

SECTION 2.2 Terms. Individuals elected by the Church Council to serve six year terms as trustees of this corporation shall be divided into three classes as nearly equal in number as possible, so that the terms of office of one-third of the members of the Board of Trustees shall expire every second year at the conclusion of the regular Fall meeting of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. A member of the Board of Trustees shall hold office for the term for which he or she was elected through the end of the meeting at which his or her successor has been elected and until such successor has qualified, or until the member's prior death, resignation or removal. A period of at least two years shall have elapsed between the expiration of a member's term of office and the commencement of the member's next term of office, if any. Any member of the Board of

Trustees may be removed by the Secretary of the ELCA upon two successive absences that have not been excused by the board. Any vacancy occurring because of the death, resignation or removal of a member of the Board of Trustees shall be filled by the Church Council of the ELCA for the unexpired term of such member of the Board of Trustees.

SECTION 2.3 Advisory members. The following persons shall serve as advisory members of the Board of Trustees of this corporation, without vote:

- a. The presiding bishop of the ELCA, or the presiding bishop's designated representative;
- b. The Treasurer of the ELCA;
- c. A synodical bishop elected by the Conference of Bishops of the ELCA; and
- d. Such other persons as may be designated by the Board of Trustees.

ARTICLE 3

Meetings of the Board of Trustees

SECTION 3.1 Annual meeting. The annual meeting of the Board of Trustees for the purpose of electing officers, hearing a report on the activities and financial condition of the corporation, and transacting such other business as may properly come before the meeting, as may be raised consistent with the notice of meeting requirements, shall take place at the time and place designated from time to time by the Board of Trustees. If the Board of Trustees does not fix a different time or place, such meeting shall be held at 1:00 P.M., Central time, on the third Saturday in October at the principal office of this corporation.

SECTION 3.2 Other meetings. Other meetings of the Board of Trustees may be held at such time and place as are announced at a previous meeting of the Board of Trustees. Meetings of the Board of Trustees may also be called at any time (a) by the Chairperson, (b) by the President, (c) by the Board of Trustees, or (d) upon the written request of four or more members of the Board of Trustees. Anyone entitled to call a meeting of the Board of Trustees may make a written request to the Secretary to call the meeting, and the Secretary shall give notice of the meeting, setting forth the time, place and purpose thereof, to be held between five and thirty days after receiving the request. If the Secretary fails to give notice of the meeting within seven days from the day on which the request was made, the person or persons who requested the meeting may fix the date, time and place of the meeting and give notice in the manner hereinafter provided.

SECTION 3.3 Notice of meetings. Notice of each meeting of the Board of Trustees for which notice is required, and of each annual meeting, stating the date, time, place and

purpose thereof shall be given to all trustees by electronic communication or in person, including by telephone, at least two days before the meeting, or shall be mailed to each trustee at least five days before the meeting. A trustee may be given notice by electronic communication only if the trustee has previously consented to receive notice in such form of electronic communication. All such notices not given in person shall be sent to the trustee at his or her postal or electronic address according to the latest available records of this corporation. Any member of the Board of Trustees may waive notice of a meeting before, at or after the meeting, orally, in writing, by electronic communication, or by attendance. Attendance at a meeting is deemed a waiver unless the member objects at the beginning of the meeting to the transaction of business because the meeting is not lawfully called or convened, or objects before a vote on an item of business because the item may not lawfully be considered at that meeting and does not participate in the consideration of the item at that meeting.

SECTION 3.4 Quorum and voting. The presence of a majority of the members of the Board of Trustees shall constitute a quorum at any meeting thereof, but the members present at any meeting, although less than a quorum, may adjourn the meeting from time to time. Advisory members shall not be taken into account in determining whether a quorum is present at a meeting of the Board of Trustees. At all meetings of the Board of Trustees, each member, other than advisory members, shall be entitled to cast one vote on any question coming before the meeting. A majority vote of the members present at any meeting of the Board of Trustees, if there be a quorum, shall be sufficient to transact any business, unless a greater number of votes is required by law or these Bylaws. A member shall not appoint a proxy for himself or herself or vote by proxy at a meeting of the Board of Trustees. A member who is present at a meeting of the Board of Trustees when an action is approved by the Board of Trustees is presumed to have assented to the action unless the member votes against the action or is prohibited from voting on the action.

SECTION 3.5 Adjourned meetings. When a meeting of the Board of Trustees is adjourned to another time or place, notice of the adjourned meeting need not be given other than by announcement at the meeting at which adjournment is taken.

SECTION 3.6 Written action. An action required or permitted to be taken at a meeting of the members may be taken without a meeting by written action signed, or consented to by authenticated electronic communication, by all of the members entitled to vote on that action. The written action is effective when it has been signed, or consented to by authenticated electronic communication, by all of those members, unless a different effective time is provided in the written action.

SECTION 3.7 Remote communication for meetings. Members of the Board of Trustees may participate in meetings via remote communication if notice requirements are met. Remote communication includes conference telephone or such other means of remote communication that may be authorized by the Board of Trustees, in each case through which each trustee so participating and all trustees physically participating at the meeting may

communicate with each other on a substantially simultaneous basis. Participation in a meeting by remote communication constitutes presence at the meeting.

SECTION 3.8 Conflicts of interest. This corporation shall not enter into any contract or transaction with (a) one or more of the members of its Board of Trustees, (b) a director of a related organization (within the meaning of Minnesota Statutes, section 317A.011, subd. 18), or (c) an organization in or of which a member of the Board of Trustees is a director, officer or legal representative or has a material financial interest (other than the ELCA, and its synods, congregations, institutions, and agencies); unless the material facts as to the contract or transaction and as to the member's interest are fully disclosed or known to the Board of Trustees, and the Board of Trustees authorizes, approves, or ratifies the contract or transaction in good faith by the affirmative vote (without counting the interested member) of a majority of the entire Board of Trustees, at a meeting at which there is a quorum without counting the interested member. Failure to comply with the provisions of this Section 3.8 shall not invalidate any contract or transaction to which this corporation is a party.

ARTICLE 4

Officers

SECTION 4.1 Tenure of office. The officers of this corporation shall be a Chairperson, a Vice Chairperson, a President, a Secretary, a Treasurer and such other officers as the Board of Trustees may from time to time designate. Officers other than the President shall be elected by the Board of Trustees to serve for terms of one year and until their respective successors are chosen and have qualified. Any officer other than the President may at any time be removed by the Board of Trustees with or without cause. The same person may hold more than one office at the same time, except the offices of (a) President and Chairperson and (b) President and Vice Chairperson. The Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, and Secretary shall be members of the Board of Trustees, but other officers need not be members of the Board of Trustees.

SECTION 4.2 Chairperson. The Chairperson shall preside at all meetings of the Board of Trustees and the Executive Committee, if one is appointed. He or she shall oversee all operations of the Board of Trustees, and shall have such additional powers and duties as may be determined from time to time by the Board of Trustees.

SECTION 4.3 Vice Chairperson. The Vice Chairperson shall perform the duties of the Chairperson in case of the latter's absence or disability.

SECTION 4.4 President. The President shall be the chief executive officer of this corporation. He or she shall be responsible for the general supervision, direction and management of the affairs of this corporation. He or she may execute on behalf of this corporation all contracts, deeds, conveyances and other instruments in writing which may

be required or authorized by the Board of Trustees for the proper and necessary transaction of the business of this corporation. The President shall be elected to a four-year term by the Board of Trustees in consultation with, and with the approval of, the presiding bishop of the ELCA. The President shall be eligible for reelection. Each candidate for the office of President shall be nominated by the presiding bishop of the ELCA after consultation with the Executive Committee of this corporation. The President may be an employee of this corporation. The President's performance shall be reviewed annually by the Board of Trustees and the presiding bishop of the ELCA. The employment of the President may be terminated jointly by the presiding bishop of the ELCA and the Board of Trustees, following a recommendation of termination from the Executive Committee, if one is then in existence.

SECTION 4.5 Secretary. The Secretary shall provide for the keeping of accurate minutes of all meetings and shall be responsible for the custody of the records, documents and papers of this corporation. He or she shall provide for the keeping of proper records of all transactions of this corporation. He or she shall have and may exercise any and all other powers and duties pertaining by law, regulation or practice to the office of Secretary, or imposed by these Bylaws. He or she shall also perform such other duties as may be assigned to him or her from time to time by the Board of Trustees.

SECTION 4.6 Assistant Secretary. The Board of Trustees in its discretion may elect an Assistant Secretary, who shall perform the duties and assume the responsibilities of the Secretary as above set forth under the general direction of the Secretary or the President.

SECTION 4.7 Treasurer. The Treasurer shall provide for the maintenance of accurate financial records for this corporation and safeguarding the assets of this corporation. He or she shall present a report of this corporation's financial transactions and status to the Board of Trustees at its annual meeting, and shall from time to time make such other reports to the Board of Trustees as it may require. The Treasurer shall perform such other duties as may be assigned to him or her from time to time by the Board of Trustees.

SECTION 4.8 Assistant Treasurer. The Board of Trustees in its discretion may elect an Assistant Treasurer who shall perform the duties and assume the responsibilities of the Treasurer as above set forth under the general direction of the Treasurer or the President.

SECTION 4.9 Additional powers. Any officer of this corporation, in addition to the powers conferred upon him or her by these Bylaws, shall have such powers and perform such additional duties as may be prescribed from time to time by the Board of Trustees.

ARTICLE 5

Committees

SECTION 5.1 Authority. The Board of Trustees may act by and through such committees as may be specified in resolutions adopted by an affirmative vote of the majority of the members of the entire Board of Trustees. Each such committee shall have such duties and responsibilities as are granted to it from time to time by the Board of Trustees. Each such committee shall at all times be subject to the control and direction of the Board of Trustees. Committee members, other than members of the Executive Committee, need not be members of the Board of Trustees.

SECTION 5.2 Executive Committee. The Board of Trustees may designate an Executive Committee composed of at least three persons designated by the Board of Trustees. The Executive Committee shall have the authority of the Board of Trustees in the management of the business of this corporation in the interval between meetings of the Board of Trustees, and the Executive Committee shall at all times be subject to the control and direction of the Board of Trustees.

SECTION 5.3 Meetings and voting. Meetings of each committee may be held at such time and place as are announced at a previous meeting of the committee. Meetings of any committee may also be called at any time by the chairperson of the committee, or by the President. Notice of each committee meeting for which notice is required, stating the date, time and place thereof, shall be given to all committee members by electronic communication or in person, including by telephone, at least two days before the meeting, or shall be mailed to each committee member at least five days before the meeting. A committee member may be given notice by electronic communication only if the member has previously consented to receive notice in such form of electronic communication. All such notices not given in person shall be sent to the member at his or her postal or electronic address according to the latest available records of this corporation. Attendance at a meeting is deemed to be a waiver of notice unless the committee member objects at the beginning of the meeting to the transaction of business because the meeting is not lawfully called or convened and the committee member does not participate in the meeting. At all meetings of a committee of this corporation each member thereof shall be entitled to cast one vote on any question coming before such meeting. The presence of a majority of the membership of any committee of this corporation shall constitute a quorum at any meeting thereof, but the members of a committee present at any such meeting, although less than a quorum, may adjourn the meeting from time to time. A majority vote of the members of a committee of this corporation present at any meeting thereof, if there be a quorum, shall be sufficient for the transaction of the business of such committee. Any action that could be taken at a committee meeting may be taken by written action signed by all members of the committee. Members of a committee of this corporation may participate in meetings via remote communication if notice requirements are met.

ARTICLE 6

Indemnification

To the full extent permitted by any applicable law, this corporation shall indemnify each person made or threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending or completed civil, criminal, administrative, arbitration, or investigative proceeding, including a proceeding by or in the right of this corporation, by reason of the former or present capacity of the person as --

- (a) a member of the Board of Trustees, officer, employee or member of a committee of this corporation, or
- (b) a director, officer, partner, trustee, employee or agent of another organization, who while a member of the Board of Trustees, an officer or an employee of this corporation, is or was serving the other organization at the request of this corporation or whose duties as a member of the Board of Trustees, officer or employee of this corporation involve or involved such service to the other organization,

against judgments, penalties, fines, settlements, excise taxes and reasonable attorneys' fees, disbursements, and similar required expenditures incurred by the person in connection with the proceeding, provided, however, that no indemnification shall be made with respect to any claim, issue or matter as to which the person shall be adjudged by a court of law to be liable to this corporation. Indemnification includes reimbursement and advances of the above costs and expenses.

Indemnification provided by this section shall continue as to a person who has ceased to be a member of the Board of Trustees, officer, employee or committee member, shall inure to the benefit of the heirs, executors and administrators of such person and shall apply whether or not the claim against such person arises out of matters occurring before the adoption of this section. Any indemnification realized other than under this section shall apply as a credit against any indemnification provided by this section.

This corporation may, to the full extent permitted by applicable law from time to time in effect, purchase and maintain insurance on behalf of any person who is or was a member of the Board of Trustees, an officer, an employee or a member of a committee of this corporation against any liability asserted against such person and incurred by such person in any such capacity.

ARTICLE 7

Miscellaneous

SECTION 7.1 Calendar year. Unless otherwise fixed by the Board of Trustees, the fiscal year of this corporation shall be on a calendar year.

SECTION 7.2 Corporate seal. This corporation shall have no seal.

SECTION 7.3 Amendments. The Board of Trustees may amend these Bylaws by adopting a resolution setting forth the amendment; provided, however, that no such amendment shall take effect until it has been approved by the Church Council or the Churchwide Assembly of the ELCA.

SECTION 7.4 Authority to borrow, encumber assets. No member of the Board of Trustees, officer, agent or employee of this corporation shall have any power or authority to borrow money on its behalf, to pledge its credit or to mortgage or pledge its real or personal property except within the scope and to the extent of the authority delegated by resolutions adopted from time to time by the Board of Trustees. Authority may be given by the Board of Trustees for any of the above purposes and may be general or limited to specific instances.

SECTION 7.5 Execution of instruments. All deeds, mortgages, bonds, checks, contracts and other instruments pertaining to the business and affairs of this corporation shall be signed on behalf of this corporation by the President or the Chairperson, or by such other person or persons as may be designated from time to time by the Board of Trustees.

SECTION 7.6 Deposit of funds. All funds of this corporation shall be deposited from time to time to the credit of this corporation in such banks, trust companies or other depositories as the Board of Trustees may approve or designate, and all such funds shall be withdrawn only in the manner or manners authorized by the Board of Trustees from time to time.

SECTION 7.7 Use of name in conduct of business. This corporation may conduct its business under such name as may be specified from time to time by the Board of Trustees.

SECTION 7.8 Relationship with Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. This corporation shall be subject to certain actions and approvals of the ELCA as described in the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws of this corporation, including, without limitation, those described in Article XII of the Articles of Incorporation of this corporation. This corporation shall also at all times be subject to any and all provisions of the Articles of Incorporation, Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the ELCA that are intended by the ELCA to apply specifically to this corporation or generally to separately incorporated ministries of the ELCA.

X. BOARDS OF CERTAIN SOCIAL MINISTRY ORGANIZATIONS

VOTED: *EN BLOC*

CC11.11.83x To elect to the board of directors of Mosaic, Inc., to a three-year term expiring in October 2014: Ms. Lisa Negstad; and

To ratify the election as members of the board of directors of The Evangelical Lutheran Good Samaritan Society: Mr. David J. Horazdovsky, president [no term limit]; Mr. Neil Gulsvig [term expiring in June 2012]; Ms. Patricia Haugen [term expiring in June 2013]; and Mr. Christopher Johnson [term expiring in June 2014].

Y. BOARDS OF CERTAIN ELCA SEMINARIES

VOTED: *EN BLOC*

CC11.11.83y To elect as members of the board of directors of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, to four-year terms expiring in 2015: Ms. Suzanne Moyer, Ms. Lois O'Rourke, Mr. Larry Webber, and Pr. Daniel Yeiser;

To elect as a member of the board of directors of the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, Chicago, Illinois, for a two-year term expiring in 2013: Pr. Harvard Stephens Jr.; and

To elect as members of the board of directors of the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, Chicago, Illinois, for three-year terms expiring in 2014: Mr. Gerald Schultz and Mr. J. Arthur Gustafson; and

To re-elect as a member of the board of directors of Trinity Lutheran Seminary, Columbus, Ohio, to a four-year term expiring in 2015: Mr. John W. Marr Jr.; and

To elect as a member of the board of directors of Luther Seminary, Saint Paul, Minnesota, for a four-year term [beginning July 1, 2012, and] expiring in 2016: Ms. Karis Thompson.

Z. OTHER ELECTIONS

VOTED: *EN BLOC*

CC11.11.83z To elect as members of the Committee of Hearing Officers to one six-year term expiring in 2017: Pr. Paul (Chip) Gerhard Gunsten, Ms. Cynthia Eleanor Nance, and Pr. Janice Elaine Nesse; and

To elect as trustees of the Board of Pensions: Ms. Janette E. Drew [four-year term], Ms. Raye Nae Darlene Nylander [six-year term], and Pr. Paul William Stumme-Diers [two-year term].

AA. AUDIT COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

VOTED: *EN BLOC*
CC11.11.83aa To elect Marjorie B. Ellis to the ELCA Audit Committee for a two-year term beginning November 2011.

BB. AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT TO THE CHURCH COUNCIL

VOTED: *EN BLOC*
CC11.11.83bb To receive and approve the report of the Church Council Audit Committee describing its review of the audited financial statements, management letter, and response of management for the fiscal year ended January 31, 2011.

REPORT OF THE LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL REVIEW COMMITTEE (CONTINUED)

IMPLEMENTING RESOLUTION FOR CONTINUING RESOLUTION 14.31.B11.

(Agenda VI.G.1.)

Secretary David D. Swartling made the following motion on behalf of the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee.

Moved;

Seconded: To implement continuing resolution 14.31.B11., the Church Council authorizes the Executive Committee to appoint one young adult and two youth advisors to the council, following consultation with and recommendations from the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit.

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

VOTED:

CC11.11.84 To implement continuing resolution 14.31.B11., the Church Council authorizes the Executive Committee to appoint one young adult and two youth advisors to the council, following consultation with and recommendations from the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit.

Vice President Peña declared the motion was adopted.

AMENDMENT TO CONTINUING RESOLUTION 16.12.A10.

(Agenda VI.G.2.)

Secretary David D. Swartling made the following motion on behalf of the committee.

Moved;

Seconded: To approve the following amendments to continuing resolution 16.12.A10. in the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.*

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 Educational and Institutional Insurance Administrators, Inc. 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. *Educational and Institutional Insurance Administrators, Inc. (EIIA) ELCA Risk Management, Inc. (ELCARM) is a separately incorporated ministry that provides risk management and insurance services to church-related colleges, universities, and seminaries including related to the ELCA institutions of higher education.*

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

VOTED:

CC11.11.85

TWO-THIRDS VOTE

To approve the following amendments to continuing resolution 16.12.A10. in the Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

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 Educational and Institutional Insurance Administrators, Inc. ~~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. *Educational and Institutional Insurance Administrators, Inc. (EIIA) ~~ELCA Risk Management, Inc. (ELCARM)~~ is a separately incorporated ministry ~~that~~ provides risk management and insurance services to church-related colleges, universities, and seminaries including related to the ELCA institutions of higher education.*

Vice President Peña declared the motion was adopted.

DWELLING IN THE WORD
(Agenda VII.A.)

The Rev. Rachel Connelly recalled the biblical story of two travelers walking with Jesus on the way to Emmaus and related her own experiences of opening the Scriptures while walking and talking.

REPORT OF THE BOARD DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

(Agenda VII.C.)

The Rev. Rachel Connelly reported on activities of the Board Development Committee and planning for future meetings of the Church Council.

NEW BUSINESS

OTHER APPOINTMENTS

(Agenda VII.D.2.)

Secretary David D. Swartling made the following motion.

Moved;

Seconded: To appoint Ms. Pamela E. Pritt as an advisory member of *The Lutheran* advisory committee for the 2011–2013 biennium.

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

VOTED:

CC11.11.86 To appoint Ms. Pamela E. Pritt as an advisory member of *The Lutheran* advisory committee for the 2011–2013 biennium.

Vice President Peña declared the motion was adopted.

EVALUATION: 2011 CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY

(Agenda VII.B.; Exhibit Q, Parts 1–2)

Mr. Kenneth W. Inskip, executive for research and evaluation, reported the results of evaluations received from voting members of the 2011 Churchwide Assembly. Compared with earlier assemblies, voting members felt less prepared and more overwhelmed by the materials, he said. Most voting members felt the paperless project went well.

Council members discussed possibilities of providing assembly materials to voting members sooner.

Mr. Jonathan Beyer, executive for information technology, commented that the paperless project worked well, but lessons were learned to improve the distribution of paperless materials.

Secretary David D. Swartling noted that 68 percent of the voting members were attending their first Churchwide Assembly. He suggested providing orientation for voting members earlier to address that fact.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Agenda VI.H.)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña provided an update on the meeting's agenda and announced the Church Council would recess for lunch and reconvene at 12:30 P.M.

Secretary David D. Swartling provided procedural and logistical information about the meeting. He informed the council that the offering, designated for ELCA World Hunger, taken that morning at worship totaled \$2,220.

At the invitation of the chair, Mr. Blaire P. Smith closed the session with table grace.

RECESS

The November 2011 meeting of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America recessed at 11:44 A.M.

**Sunday, November 13, 2011
Plenary Session VII**

CALL TO ORDER

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called the seventh plenary session to order at 12:40 P.M.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (CONTINUED)

Secretary David D. Swartling made the following motion on behalf of the Executive Committee.

Moved;

Seconded: To appoint Ms. Marjorie B. Ellis and Mr. John R. Emery to the Board of Pensions's task force on the evaluation of the ELCA Philosophy of Benefits.

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

VOTED:

CC11.11.87 To appoint Ms. Marjorie B. Ellis and Mr. John R. Emery to the Board of Pensions's task force on the evaluation of the ELCA Philosophy of Benefits.

Vice President Peña declared the motion was adopted.

APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE CHARTERS

(Agenda VII.D.1.)

Secretary David D. Swartling made the following motion on behalf of the Executive Committee.

Moved;

Seconded: To approve the revised committee charters as amended.

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

VOTED:

CC11.11.88 To approve the revised committee charters as amended.

Vice President Peña declared the motion was adopted. He announced that the revised committee charters had been posted on the Net Community website.

Secretary Swartling reported that the Executive Committee had appointed Mr. Paul G. Archer to the Board Development Committee.

EVALUATION AND DEBRIEFING

(Agenda VII.E.)

Secretary David D. Swartling directed the attention of the Church Council to a form for evaluating the meeting and gave instructions on where to return it.

Vice President Carlos E. Peña asked the members, especially those attending their first council meeting, for their perspectives on the meeting. Several expressed appreciation for orientation, worship, and the collegiality of continuing members. Some asked that orientation be provided for committee work. Others spoke highly of a reception with staff of the churchwide organization.

PROCESS OBSERVATION

(Agenda VII.F.)

The Rev. Kathryn A. Tiede asked that Church Council members volunteer to serve on the Racial Justice Working Group. She offered several observations and introduced Ms. Lelanda Lee, ecumenical guest from The Episcopal Church, who had provided the council with process observation training the evening of Saturday, November 12, 2011.

Ms. Lee complimented the Church Council for its incorporation of new members and the visitors. She commented on the council's intentional efforts to diversify all of this church's decision-making bodies.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Agenda VII.G.)

Secretary David D. Swartling provided closing announcements about the meeting materials, reports, and forms.

Vice President Carlos E. Peña thanked individuals involved in the planning and execution of the meeting.

Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson and Treasurer Linda O. Norman thanked the vice president for his leadership.

CLOSING PRAYER

(Agenda VII.H.)

At the invitation of the chair, the Rev. Robert G. Moore closed the meeting with prayer.

ADJOURNMENT

The seventy-third meeting of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America adjourned on Sunday, November 13, 2011, at 1:01 P.M.