

**EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
IN AMERICA**

Church Council

MINUTES

November 9–11, 2012

**Prepared by the
Office of the Secretary**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Organization of Meeting	1
Voting Members	1
Representatives of the Conference of Bishops	1
Youth and Young Adult Advisors	1
Resource Persons	2
Registered Guests	2
Plenary Session I	3
Call to Order and Adoption of the Agenda	3
Approval of Minutes	3
Report of the Presiding Bishop	4
Report of the Vice President	8
Report of the Executive Committee	9
Election of a Church Council Member	9
2013 Churchwide Assembly Process for Churchwide Officer Elections	9
Update from Lutheran Disaster Response	18
Update on the ELCA Malaria Campaign	18
Plenary Session II	20
Primer on Budget and Financial Management	20
Report of the Treasurer	20
Report of the Budget and Finance Committee	20
2013 Income Estimate and Expenditure Authorization Current Fund and World Hunger	21
Revisions to 2012 Synod Mission Support Plans	21
Revisions to 2013 Synod Mission Support Plans	22
Presentation of a Churchwide Appeal to Recognize the 25th Anniversary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America	24
Update from Mission Investment Fund	24
Executive Session	25
Plenary Session III	26
Report of the Secretary	26
Report of the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee	26
Elections and the Transition to a Triennial Churchwide Assembly	26
Dwelling in the Word	28
Plenary Session IV	29
Dwelling in the Word	29
Update from Congregational and Synodical Mission	29
Consideration of Unfinished Items from the Executive Committee	29
Mission Funding Task Force Report	29
Philosophy of Benefits	35
Update from Global Mission	37
Consideration of Unfinished Items from the Budget and Finance Committee	37
25th Anniversary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Campaign	37
Update from Mission Advancement	38

Plenary Session V	39
Report of the Program and Services Committee	39
Update on 500th Anniversary Proposal	39
Public Ministry Consultations Planning Team (Word and Service Task Force)	43
Social Message on Mental Illness	47
Whole-Life Stewardship Conversations	64
Process Observations	64
Bible Study	64
 Plenary Session VI	 66
Report of the Executive for Administration	66
Report of the Planning and Evaluation Committee	66
Living into the Future Together (LIFT) Advisory Committee Progress Report	66
Update on the ELCA 25th Anniversary Theme	67
Report of the Conference of Bishops	68
Consideration of Unfinished Items from the Executive Committee	68
Recommendation from the Liaison Committee for Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Relations of the Conference of Bishops	68
New Business	71
Resolution on National Native America Heritage Month	71
Café Conversation on Board Governance	72
 Plenary Session VII	 73
Report of the Board Development Committee	73
Church Council Retreat	73
Dwelling in the Word	74
Consideration of Unfinished and Additional Agenda Items	74
<i>En Bloc</i> Consideration of Certain Items	74
Consideration of Item Removed from <i>En Bloc</i>	108
Update on 2013 Churchwide Assembly	110
Introduction to Guidebook App for 2013 Churchwide Assembly	110
Process Observations	110
Meeting Evaluation and Debriefing	110
Adjournment	111
 List of Actions	 112
 Topical Index	 114

**EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
CHURCH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES
November 9–11, 2012
Chicago, Illinois**

The seventy-seventh 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 Executive Committee of the Church Council and the Audit Committee met Thursday, November 8, 2012. The Executive Committee continued its meeting on Friday, November 9, 2012, followed by meetings of the Board Development, Budget and Finance, Legal and Constitutional Review, Planning and Evaluation, and Program and Services Committees.

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

Church Council:

Mr. Paul G. Archer	Mr. Mark E. Johnson
Ms. Rebecca Jo Brakke	Pr. Susan Langhauser
Ms. Rebecca D. Carlson	Pr. Yvonne I. Marshall
Ms. Deborah L. Chenoweth	Ms. Susan W. McArver
Ms. Christine P. Connell	Pr. Raymond A. Miller
Pr. Rachel L. Connelly	Pr. Robert G. Moore
Pr. Elizabeth E. Ekdale	Mr. John S. Munday (<i>excused</i>)
Ms. Marjorie B. Ellis	Mr. Mark W. Myers
Mr. John R. Emery	Mr. John M. Pederson
Mr. Gary D. Gabrielson	Mr. Iván A. Pérez (<i>excused</i>)
Pr. Vicki T. Garber	Ms. Pamela E. Pritt
Pr. Amsalu T. Geleta	Ms. Feronika A. Raming
Ms. Karin Lynn Graddy	Pr. Laurie F. Skow-Anderson
Ms. Louise A. Hemstead	Pr. Kathryn A. Tiede
Pr. Stephen R. Herr	Pr. Philip R. Wold
Mr. William B. Horne II	

Representatives of the Conference of Bishops

Bp. Wm. Chris Boerger	Bp. Gerald L. Mansholt
Bp. Michael L. Burck	Bp. Stephen S. Talmage
Bp. Elizabeth Eaton	Bp. Harold L. Usgaard
Bp. Ralph E. Jones (<i>excused</i>)	Bp. Herman R. Yoos III
Bp. Wilma S. Kucharek	

Youth and Young Adult Advisors

Ms. Amanda A. Briggs
Mr. Jacob R. Halsor
Mr. Anthony (Tony) Rhodes

Resource Persons

Office of the Presiding Bishop:

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

Office of the Secretary:

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

Unit Staff:

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
Pr. Peter J. L. Perella, director for worship formation and liturgical resources
Ms. Evelyn B. Soto, director for operations and programs, Congregational and Synodical Mission
Pr. Gregory J. Villalón, director for leadership for mission/candidacy

Separately Incorporated Ministries:

Ms. Deborah Calvert, associate executive director, Women of the ELCA
Mr. Doug Haugen, executive director, Lutheran Men in Mission
Ms. Beth A. Lewis, president, Augsburg Fortress, Publishers
Ms. Eva M. Roby, president, Mission Investment Fund
Pr. Martin A. Seltz, publisher, worship and music, Augsburg Fortress, Publishers
Pr. Jeffrey D. Thiemann, president, Portico Benefit Services

Press:

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

Ecumenical Guests:

Pr. Scott D. Anderson, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) (*excused*)
Ms. Stephanie Cheney, The Episcopal Church
Pr. Mary Ann Neevel, United Church of Christ
Bp. Sharon Zimmerman Rader, United Methodist Church (*excused*)
Pr. Christopher C. Thore, Moravian Church in America
Pr. Lisa Vander Wal, The Reformed Church in America

Registered Guests

Pr. Kim L. Beckmann, legislative team, Goodsoil
Mr. Tim Fisher, legislative assistant, ReconcilingWorks

**Friday, November 9, 2012
Plenary Session I**

CALL TO ORDER AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

(Agenda I.A.)

Background:

Agenda items had been distributed electronically and by mail. Additional items were distributed at the meeting to the members of the Church Council and invited resource people.

Church Council Action:

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called the meeting to order at 3:31 P.M. on Friday, November 9, 2012. He welcomed those present and introduced Ms. Stephanie Cheney, ecumenical guest from The Episcopal Church, and Mr. Nicholas Barber, who had been nominated to fill a vacancy on the Church Council. At the invitation of the chair, Mr. Paul G. Archer described a method that would be used throughout the meeting to offer prayer concerns on behalf of specific council members. Mr. Peña reviewed the deadlines for certain actions during the meeting.

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:

CC12.11.23 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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

(Agenda I.B.)

Background:

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

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

Opportunity was provided for Church Council members to submit corrections to the distributed text of the minutes in writing to the executive for Office of the Secretary administration. Proper corrections were entered into the protocol copies of the minutes. Such corrections were not raised in the plenary session in connection with the approval of the minutes.

Church Council Action:

Vice President Carlos E. Peña drew the council's attention to minutes distributed since its April 2012 meeting.

Mr. John R. Emery made the following motion.

Moved;

Seconded: To approve the minutes of the April 13–15, 2012, and September 18, 2012, meetings of the Church Council; and
To ratify actions of the council’s Executive Committee as indicated in the minutes of the March 26, 2012, April 13, 2012, May 23, 2012, June 27, 2012, July 27, 2012, August 20, 2012, September 26, 2012, and October 24, 2012, meetings.

Secretary David D. Swartling reminded the council members of how to report any corrections to the minutes. There being no further discussion, the chair called for the vote.

VOTED:

**CC12.11.24 To approve the minutes of the April 13–15, 2012, and September 18, 2012, meetings of the Church Council; and
To ratify actions of the council’s Executive Committee as indicated in the minutes of the March 26, 2012, April 13, 2012, May 23, 2012, June 27, 2012, July 27, 2012, August 20, 2012, September 26, 2012, and October 24, 2012, meetings.**

Vice President Peña declared the motion was adopted.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDING BISHOP
(Agenda I.C.; Exhibit A, Part 1)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson for his report.

The presiding bishop said:

“I greet you in the name of Jesus and with gratitude to God for your service to this church. We are blessed by gifted leaders throughout this church, most certainly by you who serve on the Church Council, as bishops of this church, churchwide staff, and our ecumenical partners and guests.

“My report to you is more of a contribution to what I believe is an important conversation than it is a presentation on the state of the ELCA. I would like to frame my thoughts around four questions.

“1. What is the basis of our unity in the ELCA?

“2. How is leadership shared and for what are leaders being prepared in this church?

“3. How shall we fund the mission of this church?

“4. For what shall we be known in 2017?

“What is the basis of our unity as the ELCA?

“It is a fitting question to ask as we are about to begin our 25th anniversary year with the theme, ‘Always being made new—25 years together in Christ.’ Always being made new is inseparable from our being deeply rooted.

“Yes, our unity is inseparable from our rootedness. Our rootedness is the Living Word of God. We are a Book of Faith church. Scripture is our mother tongue, but how we as Lutheran Christians read the Bible is also part of our rootedness. What an opportunity we have been given in our 25th anniversary year to explore what it means to be rooted in the Living Word of God, which is the Word of God incarnate in Jesus the Christ, the Word of God proclaimed as Law and Gospel, the Word of God recorded in Scripture. Our being rooted in the Word of God is about our being rooted in Christ. So we read Scripture first to hear what shows forth, the Christ.

“Our rootedness also is in the Lutheran Confessions. I was meeting with rostered leaders in the Rocky Mountain Synod. A pastor in his first call said, ‘Bishop, I am tired of the controversies that seem to consume us as a church. In all due respect, they seem to be those that some people have been carrying on with since the ‘60s and ‘70s. They do not interest me. What interests me is teaching and sharing the faith. What interests me is the Small Catechism. What would it be like to have the youth and adults of this church study the catechism asking, “What does this mean?”’

“What a great opportunity for our 25th anniversary year, to ask what it means to be a church rooted in Christ, the Word of God, in the Confessions, in the catechism.

“Our rootedness is in a living faith—a living, daring confidence in God’s grace so sure and certain that you could stake your life on it one thousand times. Last Sunday was All Saints Sunday, a day when in our hearts and from our lips we name those saints—those forgiven sinners—who have passed on the faith to us. I am curious. Whom did you name? For what saint (living or dead, famous or not) do you thank God because that person has planted or nourished the seeds of faith in your life? There is a second related and important question. For whom are you such a saint? To whom are you passing on the faith, nurturing that person in the faith and in faith practices, as that person lives out her or his baptismal calling in a life of discipleship?

“The 25th anniversary gives us opportunity to hear and share stories of the saints. Can you imagine if every one of the 4 million baptized members of this church had someone who is mentoring them in the faith and someone to whom they were passing on the faith, talking about Jesus, praying for them, reading Scripture with them? Yes, we are deeply rooted, always being made new!

“In September, we were in the Sichuan province in China, where the ELCA has growing relationships with the church and with social ministry organizations. Our relationship deepened as we accompanied the people after the earthquake—rebuilding roads, restoring water, building a new church. The congregation in Luzhou in which I preached is growing, sending out evangelists and developing programs in response to needs in the community. The church was full, the main floor with older members, mostly women in their 70s and 80s, and the balcony with young people. As I looked over that assembly, I thought about those faithful people who had kept the faith during the Cultural Revolution. The government had taken their church building and turned it into a jail. Perhaps some of them or their family members had been imprisoned for their Christian faith. I wanted to ask each one, ‘How did your Christian faith sustain you in those years? For what did you pray? What passages of Scripture gave you courage and strength? With whom did you dare gather to worship and pray?’ The balcony was filled with young people, leaning forward, several with cell phones. It seemed they were so ready to hear a word of promise, a word that would give hope and meaning, a word about Jesus, a word about being loved, a word about this God, who in Christ, makes us a new creation.

“But that is what occurs in worship, is it not? Whether that worship is in China, the Caribbean Synod, Cameroon or Cleveland—through the reading of the narrative of God’s people, through the means of grace, through prayers of intercession, songs of praise and the sharing of the peace, through roots deeply planted—the Holy Spirit is making you a new creation in Christ.

“Our unity is received and lived as God’s gift in Christ. Yes, our unity is in our rootedness in Christ, in the Word of God, in the Confessions, in the faith passed on from generation to generation and in our always being made new, a new creation in Christ. Our unity is also in our shared commitments. There have been times over our first 25 years when it has seemed that perhaps it is the issues that divide us as the ELCA that have defined us. I do not believe that is true now. Certainly, that is not meant to imply that we are no longer a church with deep differences. Yet, I believe there are shared commitments that bind us together in far greater ways than do our differences pull us apart. In fact, our diversity—our differences—enrich us in our witness to the Gospel.

“We share a commitment to the vitality of congregations as centers of proclamation and service. It is the priority of the LIFT [Living Into the Future Together] recommendations adopted by the 2011 Churchwide Assembly. It is what has brought the leadership of synodical bishops and directors for evangelical mission together, inviting all ELCA congregations to join with neighboring congregations, ecumenical partners, social ministry organizations, and campus ministries into a process of listening to God’s promises and purpose, discerning the gifts of the Holy Spirit, and re-rooting in their contexts for mission.

“I believe we have a shared commitment to an evangelical Lutheran witness to the Gospel. The last three weekends I have been in the South and Southeast. Three weeks ago, I preached in an ELCA congregation in Montgomery, Alabama, and last Sunday in Fayetteville, Arkansas. In those congregations you could feel the excitement that we as the ELCA have a witness to make in a culture that often sees a very different face of Christianity, hears the Gospel in a different accent, if not a different Gospel altogether, or no Gospel, only the Law.

“I thought about Pastor Rafael Malpica Padilla’s question he asked us in his Reformation Day homily in chapel. He asked, ‘If you were not a Christian today, would you become one? Why or why not?’ He was asking us what the

face of Christianity in our culture is. What is the witness that is being heard as the heart of the Christian Gospel and life? (I would like you to share your answer with someone near you.)

“Think of the opportunity we have. What I heard expressed and lived out in the congregations in Alabama and Arkansas, what I experienced at the Youth Gathering, and the many conversations reflecting upon the impact on the lives of faith of young people and adults, is that we have a great opportunity to make an evangelical witness to the Gospel. This is what I heard in those congregations in Montgomery and Fayetteville: ‘We have Good News to share. You are a beloved child of God. You are welcome here. All are welcome because God has called you by name. God forgives you for Jesus’ sake. You are not out there on your own. You have been joined to a community of sinners, of people who have doubts, questions, broken relationships. You have gifts to share and you have been gathered by the spirit and sent to join in God’s work of restoring community, reconciling relationships, and sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ.’ That is a different face and voice of Christianity.

“What a great opportunity we have as the ELCA, celebrating 25 years together in Christ and preparing to mark 500 years of the ongoing Lutheran Reformation, to renew our commitment to find ways to share and live this Good News in our rapidly changing, increasingly diverse, local and global contexts. We can be a different face of Christianity.

“I also believe we are united in our shared commitment to respond together to human suffering. Freed in Christ was not a one-time Churchwide Assembly theme. It is our way of life. We are freed in Christ to serve, freed in Christ for lives of faith, freed in Christ to work for justice and peace. It is who we are and what we do. At the end of my report, Pastor Steve Bouman and Pastor Rafael Malpica Padilla will give updates on our response to the international and domestic impact of Hurricane Sandy. This afternoon, you will also receive a report on the ELCA Malaria Campaign. How good it has been to have the members of the ELCA Malaria Campaign Leadership Team here sharing their energy, creativity, and generosity and to hear from Lucas Owuor-Omondi, who is coordinating the Malaria Program in the partner churches in Southern Africa. Our response to disasters and the ELCA Malaria Campaign are set within ELCA World Hunger, which continues to be a signature program of the ELCA.

“Yet when we share a commitment to God’s baptismal calling to work for justice and peace, it will mean that we will both create and experience tensions. As I often say, ‘Working for justice and peace is not an option, it is our shared baptismal calling.’ But what makes for peace and what is justice in a particular context is not something upon which we will all agree.

“Such tensions have surrounded a recent letter to Congress I signed with 14 other church leaders last month. The letter called for an investigation into possible violations by Israel of the U.S. Foreign Assistance Act and the U.S. Arms Export Control Act, which respectively prohibits assistance to any country which engages in a consistent pattern of human rights violations and limits the use of U.S. weapons to ‘internal security’ or ‘legitimate self-defense.’ The letter also urges Congress ‘to hold hearings to examine Israel’s compliance’ with U.S. policies and requests ‘regular reporting on compliance and the withholding of military aid for non-compliance.’ The letter is in line with existing policy statements of the ELCA on the Middle East and our Peace Not Walls campaign. The letter was sent to Congress during the Conference of Bishops meeting, and we failed to brief the full conference, although the Middle East Ready Bench was briefed. This was a significant misstep, as it put many of our bishops in untenable situations on the ground with members of the ELCA, and with ecumenical and Jewish partners. Talking points were eventually provided. As we continue to work for a just and lasting peaceful solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, we are working to strengthen our relationships with the Jewish and Muslim communities.

“There is another commitment I believe that is shared widely throughout this church. It is the commitment to leadership. It is about leadership that I want to ask my second question of the four that frame this report.

“How is leadership shared and for what are leaders being prepared in this church?

“When I ask about shared leadership, I am thinking about how the Church Council, the Conference of Bishops, and the churchwide organization share leadership for the life, ministry, and mission of this church. Like so many institutions and organizations in our society, we as the ELCA are experiencing the stresses created by decreasing financial resources, and declining and aging membership. Throughout the ELCA ecology, questions of sustainability and adaptability to a rapidly changing context are being asked. These changes are in racial and ethnic make-up and in how people are creating dynamic webs of relationships for the purpose of communication and serving the neighbor near and far. These ‘missional

webs' depend less and less upon institutional structures. We recognize the challenges and opportunities of adapting this organization to mission in a context of organic movements that often defy the need for highly structured organizations.

"The understandable temptation in such a dynamic and often uncertain context is to become disengaged from one another, even distrustful of one another, focusing on our own survival. No matter how one defines 'our own'—our own congregation, synod, churchwide organization, seminary, college, outdoor ministry. However we then become competitors for diminishing resources. We try to define ourselves in our particularity that sets us apart rather than deepening the identity, mission, and vocation that bring us together.

"I am very grateful for the August 20, 2012, meeting of the Church Council Executive Committee, the Conference of Bishops Executive Committee, and the Administrative Team of the churchwide organization, and I also look forward to our next meeting on December 3. Ms. Chris Grumm, the first vice president of the ELCA, is our facilitator.

"As I shared with the Executive Committee this morning, I believe the moment we have been given as the ELCA is to give a clear, evangelical witness to the Gospel and to show forth a face of Christianity that reflects the cruciform, merciful presence of God in the midst of suffering and the life-giving power of Christian witness. The good life is a life lived out of gratitude to God, sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ, serving the neighbor, finding meaning in our varied callings in daily life. We have Good News to share. You are a new creation in Christ. God does not hold your sins against you. We should not and cannot waste this time by being increasingly turned inward, focusing on questions of dividing diminishing resources and mediating conflicts over power and authority.

"To avoid that it seems—again from systems theory—we need clarity about our respective and distinctive roles in leadership. We need agreement on the shared purpose that draws us into God's future as it comes toward us. We need ways to communicate with one another and the members of this church. The challenge is for leaders to stay connected, not triangulating these relationships or letting anxiety or weariness set in. They can be strong forces that can cause us to become unhealthy; they can render us dysfunctional and ultimately irrelevant.

"I sense across the leadership tables a commitment to such leadership. The questions of shared and differentiated leadership roles and responsibilities must be kept in the context of how together we serve the Gospel as it is lived out in the lives of all the baptized and ministries of congregations and our work and witness together to what God is doing for the life of the world.

"How shall we fund the mission of this church?"

"It is a question facing virtually every part of the ELCA's ecology. If we approach it from the perspective of scarcity, it will inevitably make us increasingly competitive with one another, dwelling upon the future of the parts of the ELCA's ecology, not the whole. Yet I believe we are called upon to steward the whole when we begin with God's abundance, with stewardship as our faithful and generous tending to God's abundant gifts. When we realize we are not a poor church, then the questions become, 'How do we release the abundant resources we have been given to serve God's mission through this church and beyond?' And, 'How do we communicate that message so that ELCA members and those who are not members understand themselves to be part of God's mission.' We will be having a very different conversation, filled with evangelical imagination and growth in giving. The Macedonia Project is one great example. With the seed money and a partnership among synods, the churchwide organization, and congregations, we are seeing amazing creativity in doing stewardship education and mission interpretation that is resulting in the growth of Mission Support.

"I believe the Mission Funding Task Force, created by the Church Council Executive Committee, is another example of the creativity that can occur when leaders of the Church Council, Conference of Bishops, congregations, and the churchwide organization come together to engage in generative thinking. I would like to give a special note of thanks to Ms. Louise Hemstead, chair of the task force.

"Although the proposed changes in a Mission Support system did not receive the support of the Conference of Bishops, we have actions before us to move this work along, including pilot projects. And we will be considering action that will move forward our first comprehensive campaign for the ELCA. As we receive the proposal, you will hear that it embraces those areas of mission that reflect our shared commitments as a church. I believe the 25th anniversary year is a great time to launch such a comprehensive campaign, a campaign that is about the future of the ELCA. This is what leads me to my fourth question.

“In 2017, for what shall we be known?”

“I do want to hear your responses, beginning with the young adult and youth members and advisors: Ms. Becky Carlson, Church Council member; Mr. Tony Rhodes, young adult advisor; and Ms. Amanda Briggs and Mr. Jacob Halsor, youth advisors. (Advisors and council members share their thoughts.) Thank you.

“I have been saying that I think we will also be known for the Gospel and our high expectations for what the Holy Spirit is doing in and through us.

“I also want to hear from our synod bishops and churchwide colleagues. (Bishops and churchwide staff share their thoughts.) Thank you for your witness.

“I think to be a church that is drawn into God’s future, to ask the question about 2017 is a marvelous opportunity to reflect how we are deeply rooted, always being made new. Thank you for those visions. It is exciting. Let us now close with prayer.

“O Gracious God, we thank you for the gift of your presence in Christ and the power of your Spirit amongst us.

“Help us to live as your baptized people, marked with the cross of Christ and sealed with the Holy Spirit forever.

“Thank you for the evangelical imagination that has been shared and signs of your promised future that you are bringing to us and through us to the world.

“Bless us in these days of our conversations and decisions. May they reflect our deep and abiding faith—a living, daring confidence in your grace. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.”

The following responses were given to the question: “In 2017, for what shall this church be known?”

Mr. Anthony (Tony) Rhodes: Its radical welcome for those who have not felt welcome in a church before.

Mr. Jacob R. Halsor: A traditional place that continues to be exciting and new.

Ms. Amanda A. Briggs: Accompaniment rather than charity.

Ms. Rebecca D. Carlson: Not a church building but places where the people are, in parks, their homes.

The Rev. Vicki T. Garber: Diversity.

Mr. Paul G. Archer: The church that made malaria history.

Mr. John R. Emery: The church that builds bridges.

Treasurer Linda O. Norman: An evangelical church known for its witness through word and service.

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, bishop of the Northeastern Ohio Synod: An alternative face of Christianity in this culture.

The Rev. Stephen P. Bouman, executive director of the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit: The church that begins to look like the U.S. Census report. The difference-maker in comprehensive immigration reform.

Vice President Peña thanked the presiding bishop for his report.

REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT (Agenda I.D.; Exhibit A, Part 2)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña relinquished the chair to Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson.

Presiding Bishop Hanson called on Mr. Peña for the report of the vice president.

Vice President Peña read and reflected on Psalm 147. He led the council in prayer. He referred to his written report, which included a devotion, and described his activities during the previous six months. He spoke of a recent meeting regarding the ELCA Malaria Campaign and invited the Church Council members to be involved in the campaign.

Presiding Bishop Hanson thanked the vice president for his report and returned the chair to Mr. Peña.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

ELECTION OF A CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBER

(Agenda I.E.1.; Exhibit C)

Background:

The 2009 Churchwide Assembly elected [CA09.05.25] Mr. Blaire P. Smith, Erie, Pennsylvania, to a six-year term on the Church Council as a lay male under the age of 28 from the Northwestern Pennsylvania Synod (8A). After transferring his congregational membership out of the synod, Mr. Smith resigned from the council. In accordance with ELCA constitutional provision 14.15., Secretary David D. Swartling declared a vacancy on the Church Council. The Northwestern Pennsylvania Synod nominated Mr. Nicholas (Nick) Barber, Erie, Pennsylvania, to complete the term ending in 2015. The nomination was in keeping with the representational principle of this church in the specified category of a young adult.

Church Council Action:

Vice President Carlos E. Peña presented the background information on the election of a Church Council member. Secretary David D. Swartling made the following motion on behalf of the Executive Committee.

Moved;

Seconded: To elect Mr. Nicholas Barber, Erie, Pennsylvania, to the Church Council for a term ending in 2015.

The Rev. Philip R. Wold led the council in prayer.
There being no further discussion, the chair called for the vote.

VOTED:

CC12.11.25 To elect Mr. Nicholas Barber, Erie, Pennsylvania, to the Church Council for a term ending in 2015.

Vice President Peña declared the motion was adopted.
Mr. Barber introduced himself to the Church Council.

2013 CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY PROCESS FOR CHURCHWIDE OFFICER ELECTIONS

(Agenda I.E.2.; Exhibit G, Parts 1 and 2, and Exhibit H, Part 1)

Background:

At its April 2012 meeting, the Church Council voted [CC12.04.18]:

To delegate to the Executive Committee of the Church Council (excluding the presiding bishop and secretary), together with the chair of the Conference of Bishops, responsibility for (1) review and evaluation of and recommendations for Part Sixteen of the draft Rules of Organization and Procedure for the 2013 Churchwide Assembly, particularly the assembly discernment process, and (2) consideration of a potential pre-assembly process to facilitate discernment throughout this church in anticipation of officer elections at the assembly; and

To bring to the Church Council recommendations for Part Sixteen of the Rules of Organization and Procedure for the 2013 Churchwide Assembly and for a potential pre-assembly discernment process no later than the November 2012 meeting.

The Executive Committee reviewed the practices of past Churchwide Assemblies regarding the election of an officer and developed recommendations for Part Sixteen of the draft Rules of Organization and Procedure for the 2013 Churchwide Assembly. Part Sixteen, Elections of Officers, provides opportunity during the balloting process for voting members to hear nominees' views on matters relevant to this church and the office for which they have been nominated.

The committee recommended adding a section to Part Sixteen on “Background Checks and Screening,” citing continuing resolution 19.31.A09.:

Background checks and screening shall be required and completed for persons nominated as churchwide officers prior to their election, if possible, or as soon as practical after their election. The specific procedures and timing of background checks and screening shall be determined by the Church Council.

At its July 2012 meeting, the Executive Committee voted [EC12.07.23] to recommend that the Church Council approve: The Protocol for Churchwide Officer Background Checks and Screening; Biographical Form: Election of Presiding Bishop; Biographical Form: Election of Secretary; Disclosure Form for Nominees; and Disclosure and Authorization for Release of Information. At its November 2012 meeting, the committee recommended [EC12.11.37] that the Church Council approve an amended version of the Protocol for Churchwide Officer Background Checks and Screening.

The Executive Committee also reviewed a number of proposals the Communal Discernment Task Force provided to facilitate discernment throughout this church in anticipation of officer elections at the Churchwide Assembly. Vice President Carlos E. Peña shared a proposed agenda, “A Conversation Regarding the Election of Churchwide Officers,” with the Conference of Bishops as well as with the synodical vice presidents when they met in October 2012. The Executive Committee amended the document to reflect the suggestions they provided. At its November 2012 meeting, the committee recommended [EC12.11.39] that the Church Council affirm the use of the proposed agenda “to facilitate conversations regarding the election of churchwide officers during orientation meetings with voting members to the 2013 Churchwide Assembly and for use in other contexts as deemed appropriate.”

Church Council Action:

Vice President Carlos E. Peña drew the Church Council’s attention to the proposed Protocol for Churchwide Officer Background Checks and Screening, which described “the specific procedures and timing of background checks and screening (19.31.A09.)” to be used during the elections of officers at the 2013 Churchwide Assembly. Exhibit G, Part 1, included: The Protocol for Churchwide Officer Background Checks and Screening; Biographical Form: Election of Presiding Bishop; Biographical Form: Election of Secretary; Disclosure Form for Nominees; and Disclosure and Authorization for Release of Information.

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

Moved;

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

A question was answered about the timing of background checks during the ecclesiastical balloting process. There being no further discussion, the chair called for the vote.

VOTED:

CC12.11.26 To approve the Protocol for Churchwide Officer Background Checks and Screening, Biographical Nomination Forms for Churchwide Officers, and the Disclosure Forms below.

**Protocol for Churchwide Officer
Background Checks and Screening**

The following is a protocol for implementation of Continuing Resolution 19.31.A09.

19.31.A09. *Background checks and screening shall be required and completed for persons nominated as churchwide officers prior to their election, if possible, or as soon as practical after their election. The specific procedures and timing of background checks and screening shall be determined by the Church Council.*

General Information for Background Checks for Presiding Bishop, Vice President, and Secretary

1. The Church Council Executive Committee is responsible for background checks and screening of nominees for the offices of Presiding Bishop, Vice President, and Secretary in churchwide elections. The churchwide Executive for Human Resources, or a designee if the Executive is unable to serve, shall provide all necessary services related to background checks and screening.
2. Any member of the Church Council Executive Committee or the churchwide staff who intend to stand for election, or whose name is on the second ballot for an office, shall not participate in any of this background check and screening process (except as a nominee). Any person who is a close relative of a nominee for election shall not be part of the process.¹
3. The Executive Committee, in cooperation with the Secretary, will announce the background check and screening requirements to this church generally and to all voting members in advance of each Churchwide Assembly. The Rules of Organization and Procedure of the Churchwide Assembly will note continuing resolution 19.31.A09. Copies of this protocol will be made available to nominees and other individuals upon request.
4. The Executive Committee will approve forms prepared by Human Resources to be completed by nominees to comply with the background check and screening requirements. These shall include background check authorization and a screening disclosure form. Screening disclosure forms may be modeled upon the Rostered Leader Profile form disclosures.
5. Background checks for nominees may include a criminal check, financial check, driver's license check, and credentials check, and such other checks, and in such jurisdictions, as deemed necessary by the Executive Committee.
6. Best efforts will be made to complete all background checks prior to the officer's election. However, if that is not possible, the election process will not be delayed.
7. This protocol may be amended from time to time by the Church Council.

Procedures for Background Checks for Presiding Bishop, Vice President, and Secretary

1. During the Churchwide Assembly, the Executive Committee will provide background check authorization and disclosure forms to the nominees remaining after the second ballot. There will be a statewide and county criminal search as well as a sex offender registry search. To the extent possible, it will cover seven years. The Executive for Human Resources may use his or her

¹ This protocol is intended to handle most conflict-of-interest situations. In the event of other conflicts or the appearance of conflicts, the Executive Committee will take steps to address such concerns.

discretion to do a search in an adjoining state to the home address of the person depending on state's proximity and possible previous work location. An Office of Foreign Asset Control (OFAC) list check will be completed.

2. A deadline for return of the forms by the nominees will be set and communicated to each nominee. The Office of the Secretary will provide a biographical information form to be completed by the nominees along with the other forms.
3. The Executive Committee will assign a member to each of the nominees remaining after the second ballot. That member will be responsible for distributing and collecting all the forms and information from the assigned nominee and, as appropriate, providing copies of the materials to the Executive Committee, the Office of the Secretary, and the Executive for Human Resources, or the designee, as specified below.
4. The biographical information form, background check authorization, a screening disclosure form and an envelope for returning the disclosure form will be handed out to the nominees by the Executive Committee member assigned to the nominee. The nominees will complete the forms and return them to the assigned Executive Committee member before the deadline. The background check authorization form will be given immediately to Human Resources in order to do the background checks. The disclosure form will be retained by the Executive for Human Resources, or designee, and kept confidential. The biographical information form will be given to the Office of the Secretary.
5. Upon receipt of the authorization form, Human Resources will promptly complete the specified background checks and keep all results confidential. Human Resources will deliver the completed background check survey along with the disclosure forms to the Executive Committee at a committee meeting held in executive session for that purpose. The results of the background check surveys and disclosure forms will be reviewed promptly by the Executive Committee in that meeting. The committee may confidentially share the information it receives with third parties to seek advice or expertise in their review process.
6. A copy of the nominee's background check survey results will be given to the nominee. That delivery should be done by the assigned committee member in a sealed, confidential envelope. Written instructions should accompany the background checks stating that any error or mistake in the report should be promptly explained by the nominee in writing to the Executive Committee. The written explanation by the nominee should be given to the assigned committee member in a confidential manner for delivery to the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee may seek the assistance of Human Resources to address any report of errors.
7. If necessary, the Executive Committee will meet again to review the background check survey disclosure forms, and nominees' explanations, if any. Concerns with the background check results and disclosure form answers should be raised and discussed with the nominee by the Executive Committee.
8. Notice that background checks and screening have been completed will be announced to the Churchwide Assembly. The Executive Committee will make a decision regarding disclosing any

results of the background checks or screening information with the Churchwide Assembly as well. There must be consultation with the nominee before such disclosure occurs.

9. Copies of the background check reports and screening disclosure forms will be handled in a secure manner throughout the process. Human Resources will mark all forms “Confidential” and keep them secure. The information and reports concerning the persons elected to office will be retained in a secure Human Resources file. All other forms and reports will be destroyed.

Procedures for Background Checks for the Treasurer

1. Human Resources will be responsible for conducting a background check and screening disclosure prior to the nomination of an individual for the Office of Treasurer. There will be a credit check completed. There will be a statewide and county criminal search as well as a sex offender registry search. To the extent possible, it will cover seven years. The Executive for Human Resources may use his or her discretion to do a search in an adjoining state to the home address of the person depending on state’s proximity and possible previous work location. An Office of Foreign Asset Control (OFAC) list check will be completed.
 2. Human Resources will share results with the Presiding Bishop. The Presiding Bishop may consult with the Secretary and, as appropriate, with the Church Council Executive Committee regarding results and any evaluation. A copy of the background check will be shared with the nominee.
 3. Notice that a background check and screening documents have been completed will be shared with the Church Council.
 4. Copies of the background check reports and screening disclosure form for the elected Treasurer will be marked “Confidential” and kept in a secure Human Resources file.
-

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Biographical Form: Election of Presiding Bishop

Title: _____
Name: _____
Where are you staying during the Assembly?
(Hotel name, room number and cell phone/e-mail) _____
Current Position: _____
Congregation of Membership: _____
Date and Year of Birth: _____
Date and Year of Ordination: _____

[The form provides additional space for each of the nominee’s following answers.]

Previous Positions (*With congregation or institution and years, most current first*):
Education with Earned Degrees (*With institutions and years, most current first*):
Current Board and Committee Membership:
Past Board and Committee Membership:
Honorary Degrees:
What gifts do you believe you would bring to the office of presiding bishop?
What is your concept of the primary role of the presiding bishop in the ELCA?
What is the key skill required of a leader in the church?
How do you practice care for others and for yourself?

**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Biographical Form:
Election of Secretary**

Title: _____
Name: _____
Where are you staying during the Assembly?
(*Hotel name, room number and cell phone/e-mail*) _____
Current Position: _____
Congregation of Membership: _____
Date and Year of Birth: _____
Date and Year of Ordination (if applicable): _____

[The form provides additional space for each of the nominee's following answers.]

Previous Positions (*With congregation or institution and years, most current first*):
Education with Earned Degrees (*With institutions and years, most current first*):
Current Board and Committee Membership:
Past Board and Committee Membership:
Honorary Degrees:
What gifts do you believe you would bring to the office of secretary?
What is your concept of the primary role of the secretary in the ELCA?
What is the key skill required of a leader in the church?
How do you practice care for others and for yourself?

**Disclosure Form
For
Nominees**

Out of care for this church, the following questions are asked of all who are making themselves available for election to churchwide office:

1. Have you ever engaged in, been accused of, charged with, or convicted of illegal conduct or a crime, including conduct resulting in suspension or revocation of your driver's license?

Yes No If yes, please explain on the attached paper.

2. Do you have any health conditions (physical or psychological) or any addictive behavior, including a history of drug, alcohol, or pornographic addictions that might interfere with your ability to serve or continue serving as a leader?

Yes No If yes, please explain on the attached paper.

3. Have you ever engaged in, been accused of, investigated for, sued, or charged with sexual misconduct, sexual harassment, substance abuse, child or spousal neglect or abuse, or financial improprieties?

Yes No If yes, please explain on the attached paper.

4. While on the roster, have you ever engaged in, been accused of, investigated for, charged with, or disciplined for any conduct proscribed in *Definitions and Guidelines for Discipline*?

Never Rostered Yes No

If yes, please explain on the attached paper.

5. Are you living in accord with *Vision and Expectations* and *Definitions and Guidelines for Discipline* for rostered persons in the ELCA and do you intend to continue to live in compliance?

Never Rostered Yes No

If no, please explain on the attached paper.

6. Have you ever engaged in any behavior or been involved in any situations that, if they became known, might seriously damage your ability to begin or continue in leadership and ministry?

Yes No If yes, please explain on the attached paper.

I have read the above statements and my replies are true and accurate.

Print Name

Date: _____ Signature: _____

I have attached ___ additional page(s). Yes No

Additional Information for Disclosure Form

Please provide as complete an answer as you deem appropriate on this sheet. Please make sure you number your answers to correspond to the questions. If there are more than one sheet, please number each page and note at the bottom “continued” prior to the last page.

Vice President Peña declared the motion was adopted.

Presiding Bishop Hanson and Secretary Swartling were excused from the meeting.

Vice President Carlos E. Peña noted that the Executive Committee had developed recommendations for Part Sixteen of the draft Rules of Organization and Procedure for the 2013 Churchwide Assembly. The council’s Legal and Constitutional Review Committee reviewed those recommendations and incorporated them into the Rules of Organization and Procedure for the 2013 Churchwide Assembly, which was proposed within the *en bloc* resolution of this meeting.

The vice president also referred to the Executive Committee’s responsibility for “consideration of a potential pre-assembly process to facilitate discernment throughout this church in anticipation of officer elections at the assembly.” He presented “A Conversation Regarding the Election of Churchwide Officers,” which was a proposed agenda to facilitate conversations regarding the election of churchwide officers during orientation meetings with voting members to the 2013 Churchwide Assembly and for use in other contexts. He acknowledged that it was adapted from an agenda recommended for use in advance of elections of synodical bishops.

Treasurer Linda O. Norman made the following motion on behalf of the Executive Committee.

Moved;

Seconded:

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

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

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

In response to a question, Vice President Peña described the similarities between the proposed election processes for the 2013 Churchwide Assembly and those for the 2001 and 2007 Churchwide Assemblies. He explained that “A Conversation Regarding the Election of Churchwide Officers” was a new document.

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

VOTED:

CC12.11.27

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

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

To request the Executive for Synodical Relations to share the document below with the Conference of Bishops and synod vice presidents, and other networks as appropriate.

*A Conversation Regarding the Election of Churchwide Officers
For use during Orientation meetings with voting members to the ELCA Churchwide Assembly
August 2013*

Welcome/Purpose of Gathering

- Introductions
- Agenda and timeline for meeting
- Election of a churchwide officer as discernment and call process

Worship and Bible Study/Dwelling in the Word

- Responsive Prayer (ELW p.328); hymn
- *Always Being Made New* – the theme for the 2013 Churchwide Assembly and the 25th anniversary of the ELCA
 - Read 2 Corinthians 5:15–21
 - Discuss the following questions:
 1. What does it mean that “if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation; everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!”
 2. What does it mean that God has entrusted us with the ministry of reconciliation?
 3. How does this text inform the ELCA and its Leadership at the time of its 25th anniversary and 2013 Churchwide Assembly?
 - Where do you see that happening?
 - Where are we falling short of God’s intention for us?

The Church We Are

- What is the ELCA?
 - background piece
 - ELCA constitutional provisions (ELCA Constitution, Chapters 3, 4, and provisions 8.11 and 8.16)
 - Research and Evaluation data
 - Plan for Mission and strategic priorities
- Discuss the following questions:
 1. What are we able to do better as congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization working together for the sake of Christ’s mission than we could do separately?
 2. What difference does that make as we consider the future that God intends for us and how we will respond?
 3. What might we have done better as a church over the past six years?
 4. How can the ELCA be an effective “ambassador for Christ” in the next six years?
 5. What should be the primary priorities of this church in the next six years?

Overview of Ecclesiastical Ballot Process Officer Elections

- Explanation of ecclesiastical ballot process for officers elected by the ELCA Churchwide Assembly.

The Leadership We Seek

- Responsibilities of ELCA churchwide officers (ELCA Constitution, Chapter 13, constitutional provision 5.01.h.)
- Discuss the following questions:
 1. What are the spiritual gifts and leadership attributes that are the most important for a presiding bishop and a secretary of the ELCA in the next six years?
 2. What difference does that make as we consider the future that God intends for us and how we will respond?
 3. What does this conversation suggest about the gifts that we are needing for future leadership in this church?

Concluding Comments/Invitation to Further Conversations

Closing Prayer

Vice President Peña declared the motion was adopted.
The Church Council paused for prayer concerns.

UPDATE FROM LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on the Rev. Stephen P. Bouman, executive director of the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit, who introduced the Rev. Michael R. Stadie, director for Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR).

Pr. Stadie reported on the activities of LDR, synods, and social ministry organizations in New York, New Jersey, and New England in response to the effects of Hurricane Sandy and related storms.

The Rev. Rafael Malpica Padilla, executive director of the Global Mission unit, added information about the activities of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) and this church to assist churches in Cuba and Haiti in efforts to recover from the hurricane. He also mentioned that LWF was accompanying the ELCA in its U.S. disaster response.

Vice President Peña stated that the offering taken at the meeting's Sunday morning worship service would support LDR in its response to devastation brought by Hurricane Sandy and the storms in its aftermath.

UPDATE ON THE ELCA MALARIA CAMPAIGN (Agenda I.F.; Exhibit K, Parts 1, 2, and 3)

Background:

The 2011 Churchwide Assembly voted [CA11.05.29 as amended]:

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

To join with domestic and global partners to address malaria as a disease intensified by poverty within the context of comprehensive and sustainable community development and in close cooperation and partnership with this church's companion churches in Africa and The Lutheran World Federation, and to explore venues for collaboration with similar initiatives from full-communion partners;

To invite every congregation, synod, affiliated ministry, auxiliary, and individual member of this church to make a contribution toward the goal of \$15 million over the next four years (2011–2015) while emphasizing that gifts to the ELCA Malaria Campaign are not intended to replace giving to

ELCA World Hunger but demonstrate commitment above and beyond normal ELCA World Hunger giving;

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

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

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

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

Updates on the ELCA Malaria Campaign were included in the written reports of the churchwide units. Members of the Church Council had been invited to become part of the ELCA Malaria Campaign Leadership Circle by pledging their financial support for the campaign.

Church Council Discussion:

Vice President Carlos E. Peña asked Ms. Jessica Nipp Hacker, diaconal minister and coordinator for the ELCA Malaria Campaign, to provide an update on the campaign.

Mr. Carl C. Stecker, director for diakonia, Global Mission, introduced Mr. Lucas Owuor-Omondi.

Mr. Owuor-Omondi is the malaria program coordinator for the Lutheran Communion in Southern Africa (LUCSA), a regional expression of the LWF representing about 2 million Lutherans and Moravians in ten Southern Africa countries. He shared stories of work to reduce the mobility and mortality of malaria in Angola, Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

Ms. Hacker reported that the ELCA Malaria Campaign had gathered \$5 million, one-third of its five-year goal of \$15 million, and \$2.9 million was raised to date toward the 2012 goal of \$4 million. She added that the goal for 2013 was \$5 million. In response to a question, Ms. Hacker clarified that the campaign was raising funds for malaria prevention and not research.

Vice President Peña expressed appreciation for the update and challenged Church Council members to be involved in the ELCA Malaria Campaign.

The Church Council paused for prayer concerns.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Agenda I.G.)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on Secretary David D. Swartling, who announced plans for the evening and morning and deadlines for new business and for removing items from the *en bloc* resolutions for separate consideration.

RECESS

The November 2012 meeting of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America recessed at 5:29 P.M. Council members assembled in the Lutheran Center Chapel at 5:45 P.M. for Evening Prayer. After dinner in the Augsburg Room of the Lutheran Center, they participated in an off-the-record Café Conversation.

**Saturday, November 10, 2012
Plenary Session II**

The Church Council's Board Development Committee met over breakfast.

Members of the council gathered in the Church Council Room at 8:00 A.M. for Morning Devotions, led by the Rev. Brenda K. Smith, director for faith practices/missional leadership, Congregational and Synodical Mission. She guided the members in using *Story Matters: Claiming Our Biblical Identity for the Sake of the World*, a resource developed with staff of the Book of Faith initiative "to help congregations discover and articulate, in a deep and biblically based conversation, their unique identity and mission."

CALL TO ORDER

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called the second plenary session to order at 8:31 A.M.

**PRIMER ON BUDGET AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT
(Agenda II.A.)**

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on the Rev. M. Wyvetta Bullock, executive for administration, and Treasurer Linda O. Norman, who provided the Church Council with a primer on the budget process and the financial management aspects of this church, for which the council has responsibilities for oversight and approval (ELCA Constitution 8.15., 10.71. and 14.21.05.). Ms. Louise A. Hemstead, member of the council's Budget and Finance Committee, and Ms. Deborah L. Chenoweth, chair of the Audit Committee, assisted with the presentation.

**REPORT OF THE TREASURER
(Agenda II.B.; Exhibit A, Part 4)**

Vice President Carlos E. Peña asked Treasurer Linda O. Norman for an update.

Treasurer Norman provided a financial report for the churchwide organization for the first eight months of fiscal year 2012. She reported that revenue of \$30.8 million in Mission Support was on budget for the year but less than it was at the same point the previous year, which indicated a slight downward trend in Mission Support. Other revenue for the year was at \$12.9 million, bringing total income to \$43.7 million, which was more than budgeted and more than it was at the same point the previous year. The churchwide organization had spent about \$42 million in the eight-month period, which was about \$3.8 million less than budgeted but over \$2 million more than what it spent in the same period the previous year. For the eight months, ELCA World Hunger had received \$8.7 million, including: \$3.9 million through synods; \$3 million from individuals; and \$1.1 million directly from congregations. Direct contributions from congregations were recorded in a new reporting category, and there was not enough data to determine trends. Current figures for the ELCA Malaria Campaign were provided in an earlier report. ELCA Disaster Response had raised about \$2.1 million in the first eight months of the fiscal year, which did not include this church's response to Hurricane Sandy.

Vice President Peña thanked Treasurer Norman for her report.

**REPORT OF THE BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE
(Agenda II.C.; Exhibits D and F)**

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on Mr. John R. Emery, chair of the council's Budget and Finance Committee, who submitted the committee's report. Mr. Emery reviewed committee items included in Exhibit D for *en bloc* consideration.

2013 INCOME ESTIMATE AND EXPENDITURE AUTHORIZATION CURRENT FUND AND WORLD HUNGER

(Agenda II.C.1.; Exhibit F, Part 2)

Background:

Income estimates for fiscal year 2013 were revised since the 2011 Churchwide Assembly adopted a budget for that year. The new projection was \$66,291,150, which was \$4.4 million or 7.0 percent more than initially budgeted. An additional \$2.7 million released from other sources would make \$69,006,305 the total current funds available. The ELCA World Hunger Appeal estimates \$19 million in receipts in 2013.

Church Council Action:

Mr. John R. Emery presented the committee recommendation on the current fund and World Hunger spending authorizations. He made the following motion on behalf of the Budget and Finance Committee.

Moved;

Seconded: To approve an initial 2013 fiscal year current fund spending authorization of \$69,006,305; and
To approve an initial 2013 fiscal year ELCA World Hunger spending authorization of \$19,000,000.

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

VOTED:

**CC12.11.28 To approve an initial 2013 fiscal year current fund spending authorization of \$69,006,305; and
To approve an initial 2013 fiscal year ELCA World Hunger spending authorization of \$19,000,000.**

Vice President Peña declared the motion was adopted.

REVISIONS TO 2012 SYNOD MISSION SUPPORT PLANS

(Agenda II.C.2.)

Background:

Since the April 2012 meeting of the Church Council, the churchwide organization received revised Mission Support plans for 2012 from 12 synods.

Church Council Action:

Mr. John R. Emery presented the committee recommendation on the revised 2012 Mission Support plans. He made the following motion on behalf of the Budget and Finance Committee.

Moved;

Seconded: 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: Pacifica; Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast; Metropolitan Chicago; Central/Southern Illinois; Greater Milwaukee; Upstate New York; Northeastern Pennsylvania; Southeastern Pennsylvania; and Metropolitan Washington, D.C., synods.

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

in consultation with the churchwide organization, to restore or surpass the previous level of Mission Support sharing: Alaska; Southern Ohio; and North Carolina Synods.

To thank the bishops and synod leaders of every synod as they strive to be faithful to shared commitments within the ELCA, and to direct synod and churchwide staff, including the directors for evangelical mission, to deepen their partnership in efforts to strengthen financial support for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

There was a discussion of the message the motion intended to send the synods, especially those that decided to decrease their percentage of sharing.

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

VOTED:

CC12.11.29

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: Pacifica; Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast; Metropolitan Chicago; Central/Southern Illinois; Greater Milwaukee; Upstate New York; Northeastern Pennsylvania; Southeastern Pennsylvania; and Metropolitan Washington, D.C., synods.

To acknowledge with sadness that circumstances in the following synods have led to decisions to seek a decrease from prior levels in the percentage of sharing of 2012 Mission Support contributions by congregations for synodical and churchwide ministries; to encourage each synod to continue to work to grow Mission Support in the synod; and to request that each synod develop a plan, in consultation with the churchwide organization, to restore or surpass the previous level of Mission Support sharing: Alaska; Southern Ohio; and North Carolina Synods.

To thank the bishops and synod leaders of every synod as they strive to be faithful to shared commitments within the ELCA, and to direct synod and churchwide staff, including the directors for evangelical mission, to deepen their partnership in efforts to strengthen financial support for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Vice President Peña declared the motion was adopted.

REVISIONS TO 2013 SYNOD MISSION SUPPORT PLANS

(Agenda II.C.3.)

Background:

Since the April 2012 meeting of the Church Council, the churchwide organization received Mission Support plans for 2013 from the remaining four synods and revised Mission Support plans for 2013 from 14 synods.

Church Council Action:

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 2013 Mission Support contributions by congregations for synodical and churchwide ministries of the following synods: South Dakota; Northeastern Ohio; Metropolitan New York; Upstate New York; and Florida-Bahamas synods.

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

To acknowledge with sadness that circumstances in the following synods have led to decisions to seek a decrease from prior levels in the percentage of sharing of 2012 Mission Support contributions by congregations for synodical and churchwide ministries; to encourage each synod to continue to work to grow Mission Support in the synod; and to request that each synod develop a plan, in consultation with the churchwide organization, to restore or surpass the previous level of Mission Support sharing: Alaska; West Virginia-Western Maryland; and North Carolina synods.

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 was a discussion of the Mission Support consultations between each synod and the churchwide organization with the current vacancy in the staff position of Mission Support director.

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

VOTED:

CC12.11.30

To affirm with sincere appreciation the increases in the percentage for the sharing of 2013 Mission Support contributions by congregations for synodical and churchwide ministries of the following synods: South Dakota; Northeastern Ohio; Metropolitan New York; Upstate New York; and Florida-Bahamas synods.

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

To acknowledge with sadness that circumstances in the following synods have led to decisions to seek a decrease from prior levels in the percentage of sharing of 2012 Mission Support contributions by congregations for synodical and churchwide ministries; to encourage each synod to continue to work to grow Mission Support in the synod; and to request that each synod develop a plan, in consultation with the churchwide organization, to restore or surpass the previous level of Mission Support sharing: Alaska; West Virginia-Western Maryland; and North Carolina synods.

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.

PRESENTATION OF A CHURCHWIDE APPEAL TO RECOGNIZE THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

(Agenda II.C.4.; Exhibit F, Part 13)

Background:

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America will celebrate its 25th anniversary in 2013. The milestone provides opportunities to reflect on the history that shaped this church and to expand its mission and ministry for the future.

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

A presentation on the proposed campaign was made to the Conference of Bishops and synodical vice presidents in October 2012 with the collection of oral and written feedback. The Conference of Bishops was “generally positive” about the proposal.

Presentations to the Church Council were intended to refine the proposal, in anticipation of the council transmitting a final proposal to the 2013 Churchwide Assembly for approval. ELCA bylaw 11.41.06. states that a churchwide appeal must be approved by the Churchwide Assembly.

Church Council Discussion:

Mr. John R. Emery noted that the Budget and Finance Committee had received reports from the council’s Mission Funding Task Force and from the Mission Advancement unit and that recommended actions would be proposed later in the meeting on both reports. He introduced Ms. Christina Jackson-Skelton, executive director of the Mission Advancement unit.

Ms. Jackson-Skelton reviewed a draft brochure for the campaign and outlined the campaign’s five-year goals. She said the purpose of the campaign would be to raise an additional \$65 million to expand the capacity of this church to do transformative work in its congregations, communities, and around the world.

Ms. Jackson-Skelton answered questions about methods to be used to make people aware of the campaign, the budget to implement the campaign, the ability of synods and congregations to adapt the campaign for their own fundraising, the capacity of this church to accept another appeal, possible conflicting messages between a special appeal and an emphasis on regular Mission Support, input from the Conference of Bishops, and all the expressions of this church coordinating their contact with major donors.

Vice President Peña thanked Ms. Jackson-Skelton for her presentation and Mr. Emery for the report of the Budget and Finance Committee. Mr. Peña noted that Church Council action on the proposal was later on the agenda.

UPDATE FROM MISSION INVESTMENT FUND

(Agenda II.D.)

Background:

The Church Council receives periodic updates from this church’s separately incorporated ministries. Ms. Eva M. Roby, president, reported on the Mission Investment Fund of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America [constitutional provision 17.30. and related bylaws]. The website of the Mission Investment Fund was at <http://www.mif.elca.org/>.

Church Council Discussion:

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on Ms. Eva Roby, president of the Mission Investment Fund (MIF).

Ms. Roby described the purpose of the MIF to serve the mission and goals of the ELCA in all its expressions by extending loans to congregations, synods, social ministry organizations, and the churchwide organization for a variety of reasons, from launching capital projects to refinancing existing loans. It supports that ministry by selling investments to individuals, congregations, and other ELCA-related ministries. She reported small declines in loan balances during years since a recession began in 2008. She called 2012 a “turnaround” year. The delinquency ratio was just above 1.5 percent, perhaps its lowest point in the MIF’s history. As of August 31, 2012, the MIF had total assets of \$668 million, net assets of \$183 million, outstanding loans of \$451 million, and investment obligations of \$480 million.

She reviewed the MIF's strategic plan for 2013–2015 that its board of trustees approved in October 2012. She invited members of the Church Council to watch a video about the MIF's ministry with Grace Lutheran Church, Adel, Iowa.

Vice President Peña thanked Ms. Roby for her update on the Mission Investment Fund.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

(Agenda II.E.)

The Church Council recessed at 10:17 A.M. and entered into executive session at 10:18 A.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 2012 meeting of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America recessed at 10:30 A.M.

**Saturday, November 10, 2012
Plenary Session III**

CALL TO ORDER

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called the third plenary session to order at 10:48 A.M.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

(Agenda III.A.; Exhibit A, Part 3)

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

Secretary Swartling described work being done to follow up on the 2011 Churchwide Assembly, to prepare for the 2013 Churchwide Assembly, and to prepare for 2013 Synod Assemblies, especially those planning to hold elections for synodical bishops. He provided statistical information from congregational reports of 2011 and from congregations voting to disaffiliate from the ELCA. He discussed several miscellaneous items and closed with a personal reflection on his decision to not stand for re-election in 2013 as secretary of this church.

Vice President Peña thanked Secretary Swartling for his report.

REPORT OF THE LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL REVIEW COMMITTEE

(Agenda III.B.; Exhibits D and H)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña asked Mr. Mark E. Johnson, chair of the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee, to present the committee's report.

Mr. Johnson reviewed committee items included in Exhibit D for *en bloc* consideration and background information in Exhibit H for those items. He reminded the Church Council members of the noon deadline to remove items from *en bloc* consideration.

ELECTIONS AND THE TRANSITION TO A TRIENNIAL CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY

(Agenda III.B.1.; Exhibit H, Part 4)

Background:

Continuing resolution 12.31.A11. states:

To implement the transition to a triennial cycle, the Church Council shall make recommendations to the 2013 Churchwide Assembly regarding elections to the Church Council, boards, and committees.

This continuing resolution shall expire upon adjournment of the 2013 Churchwide Assembly.

Secretary David D. Swartling presented a memorandum to Church Council on elections and the transition to a triennial Churchwide Assembly which was included in Exhibit H.

Church Council Action:

Mr. Mark E. Johnson made the following motion on behalf of the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee.

Moved;

Seconded:

To receive and approve the memorandum of Secretary David D. Swartling on elections and the transition to a triennial Churchwide Assembly, and to forward it to the 2013 Churchwide Assembly, in response to continuing resolution 12.31.A11;

To endorse the recommendations in Secretary Swartling's memorandum regarding nominations for the Church Council and the boards of trustees of Portico Benefit Services, The Publishing House of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and the Mission Investment Fund of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and to recommend to the 2013 Churchwide Assembly adoption of

amendments to the Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, in order to implement these recommendations; and

To instruct the churchwide Nominating Committee to bring to the 2013 Churchwide Assembly nominations for 11 or 12 positions on the Church Council, in addition to positions nominated by synods, and nominations for the boards of trustees of Portico Benefit Services, The Publishing House of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and the Mission Investment Fund of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, in accordance with Secretary Swartling's memorandum.

Secretary Swartling responded to questions about the details of his memorandum, especially addressing the fact that the terms of current Church Council members would expire in years when the ELCA will not hold Churchwide Assemblies. Council members discussed the secretary's memorandum.

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

VOTED:

CC12.11.31 To receive and approve the memorandum of Secretary David D. Swartling on elections and the transition to a triennial Churchwide Assembly, and to forward it to the 2013 Churchwide Assembly, in response to continuing resolution 12.31.A11;

To endorse the recommendations in Secretary Swartling's memorandum regarding nominations for the Church Council and the boards of trustees of Portico Benefit Services, The Publishing House of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and the Mission Investment Fund of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and to recommend to the 2013 Churchwide Assembly adoption of amendments to the Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, in order to implement these recommendations; and

To instruct the churchwide Nominating Committee to bring to the 2013 Churchwide Assembly nominations for 11 or 12 positions on the Church Council, in addition to positions nominated by synods, and nominations for the boards of trustees of Portico Benefit Services, The Publishing House of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and the Mission Investment Fund of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, in accordance with Secretary Swartling's memorandum.

Vice President Peña declared the motion was adopted.

Mr. Johnson concluded the report of the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

(Agenda III.C.)

Several members of the Church Council brought personal joys, concerns, and announcements.

The Rev. Jessica R. Crist, bishop of the Montana Synod and chair of the Conference of Bishops, read the "Presidential Proclamation on National Native American Heritage Month, 2012" and announced a related resolution would be offered as new business.

DWELLING IN THE WORD

(Agenda III.D.)

Mr. William B. Horne II reflected on Mark 10:35–45 and the impact the passage has had on his life. He concluded by leading the Church Council in table grace.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Agenda III.E.)

Secretary David D. Swartling reminded those present of plans for lunch and of deadlines to remove items from *en bloc* and to introduce new business.

Church Council members paused for prayer concerns.

RECESS

The November 2012 meeting of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America recessed for lunch at 12:00 P.M.

**Saturday, November 10, 2012
Plenary Session IV**

CALL TO ORDER

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called the fourth plenary session to order at 1:19 P.M.

DWELLING IN THE WORD

(Agenda IV.A.)

The Rev. Vicki T. Garber shared a personal story of the comfort and call she found in Romans 5:1–5.

UPDATE FROM CONGREGATIONAL AND SYNODICAL MISSION

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

Vice President Carlos E. Peña asked the Rev. Stephen P. Bouman, executive director of the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit, to update the Church Council on the work of the unit.

Pr. Bouman described how the various functions of the unit were being accomplished through its organization.

Vice President Peña thanked Pr. Bouman for the unit update.

CONSIDERATION OF UNFINISHED ITEMS FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

MISSION FUNDING TASK FORCE REPORT

(Agenda IV.C.1.; Exhibit G, Parts 3 and 4)

Background:

Since 1988, Mission Support shared by congregations for the work of synods and the churchwide organization has declined both as a percentage of total giving, designated and undesignated, and in actual dollars. In 1990, total Mission Support was \$119 million. In 2011, Mission Support was \$103 million. Adjusted for inflation, from 1990 to 2011, Mission Support has declined 43 percent for synods and 56 percent for the churchwide organization.

The Church Council authorized the appointment of a study design group in March 2009 and established the Living into the Future Together: Renewing the Ecology of the ELCA (LIFT) Task Force in November 2009. The purpose of the study was stated in the task force's charter:

... to recognize the evolving societal and economic changes of the twenty years since the formation of this church and to evaluate the organization, governance and interrelationships among this church's expressions in the light of those changes. The intended result of the Ecology Study Task Force's work is a report and recommendations that will position this church for the future and explore new possibilities for participating in God's mission.

The task force prepared a report and recommendations for the 2011 Churchwide Assembly, which adopted a series of resolutions to implement certain task force recommendations.

The 2011 Churchwide Assembly voted [CA11.03.07]:

To request the Conference of Bishops, in consultation with synod leaders and the churchwide organization, to prepare a report and recommendations for the November 2012 meeting of the Church Council for consideration by the 2013 Churchwide Assembly that:

- Describes patterns of synodical life in the ELCA that effectively support vital congregations, mission growth and outreach;
- Proposes a pattern or set of patterns that will allow synods to receive and distribute financial resources to support the whole ministry of this church;

- Builds on the Blue Ribbon Committee report of 2007 and includes recommendations for renewed, sustainable financial support for the mission and ministries of this church, including funding for theological education;
- Includes strategies for increased mission vitality that may include consideration for redrawing synod boundaries; and
- Recommends revision of the constitutional responsibilities of bishops and synods to emphasize synods as catalysts for mission in the changing context and culture.

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

In April 2012, the Church Council voted [CC12.04.08]:

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

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

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

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

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

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

In addition to the presiding bishop and vice president, the following individuals were appointed to the Mission Funding Task Force: Ms. Diana G. Haywood, vice president of the North Carolina Synod; Ms. Louise A. Hemstead, chair of the task force and a member of the Church Council; Ms. Christina Jackson-Skelton, executive director of the Mission Advancement unit; the Rev. Sonja J. G. Pancoast, Zion Lutheran Church, Loveland, Colorado; and the Rev. Duane C. Pederson, bishop of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin. The Rev. Jessica R. Crist, bishop of the Montana Synod and chair of the Conference of Bishops, joined the task force after its first meeting. Ms. Christine Grumm facilitated task force meetings.

The Mission Funding Task Force prepared a report and proposal for the October 2012 meeting of the Conference of Bishops. Members of the conference found significant concerns with the proposal and declined to endorse it. The task force decided not to forward the proposal to the Church Council.

In its report to the Church Council, the Mission Funding Task Force advised:

1. to encourage and invite synods to partner on a regional basis or in groupings of synods to pilot ways to strengthen and build Mission Support, including development of approaches that emphasize stewardship,

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

The task force noted that the current Mission Support system remained in effect and that “the issue of renewed, sustainable financial support for theological education in the ELCA . . . deserved consideration beyond the scope of the current task force.”

Church Council Action:

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on Ms. Louise A. Hemstead, chair of the Mission Funding Task Force.

Ms. Hemstead reviewed the background information and the task force report, which was included among exhibits for the Church Council meeting. She said the task force recommended that the matter of funding theological education be referred to the Office of the Presiding Bishop. She presented an account of the task force discussion and findings. In summary, she stated that no one proposed system of Mission Support seemed to work for all synods, but some elements of the task force report may work for some synod.

The Rev. Jessica R. Crist, bishop of the Montana Synod and chair of the Conference of Bishops, added that the conference supported proportional giving but did not support a strict 55 percent sharing with the churchwide organization.

Mr. William B. Horne II asked whether it would be helpful to provide the Conference of Bishops with more time to consider the proposals.

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, bishop of the Northeastern Ohio Synod, replied that the timing to prepare a proposal for the 2013 Churchwide Assembly did not allow more time.

Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson responded that even processes with more time had not brought resolution to questions about mission funding.

The Rev. Michael L. Burk, bishop of the Southeastern Iowa Synod, expressed a concern he had heard during the Conference of Bishops’ discussion of the proposal that it favored the congregations and the churchwide organization while the synods would suffer most in difficult financial times.

Ms. Hemstead replied that the proposal did not favor one expression of this church over another, but it may have been perceived that way.

Secretary David D. Swartling responded to Mr. Horne’s question by laying out the action being proposed by the Executive Committee to show how it would use more time in dealing with mission funding.

Ms. Susan W. McArver suggested that pilot programs and revisions to bookkeeping did not address the underlying problems with the current mission-funding system.

Bp. Eaton assured the Church Council that synods rarely adjust their percentage of Mission Support sharing during a year and usually send the amount pledged to the churchwide organization before meeting many of their other financial obligations.

Pr. Kathryn A. Tiede asked for clarification of what is meant by “regional” in the recommendations.

Bp. Crist replied that it referred to the leadership of the synods in a specific region of this church.

Pr. Tiede pointed out that the recommendations did not employ the existing regional structure of this church.

Bp. Crist explained that each region of the ELCA is structured differently, and the recommendation was dealing more with geography and lateral accountability than the regional structure.

Presiding Bishop Hanson asked whether this church could embrace a diversity of practice within a unity of purpose. He noted that conversations about mission funding return to that question, when the ELCA needs to focus more on a shared purpose of raising resources.

Ms. Karin Lynn Graddy inquired into reasons why synods are unable to share 55 percent of Mission Support they receive from congregations.

The Rev. Gerald L. Mansholt, bishop of the Central States Synod, described a “web” of relationships among the expressions and institutions of this church that manifest themselves differently in each synod and how those relationships evolve.

The Rev. Wm. Chris Boerger, bishop of the Northwest Washington Synod, stated that Mission Support began in congregations, and the conversation should begin by involving the congregations in such a way that they see the offering plate benefitting this whole church and the world.

Presiding Bishop Hanson related the advice of the Rev. Sonja J. G. Pancoast, pastor of Zion Lutheran Church, Loveland, Colorado, who shared with task force members that congregational discussions of which expression to fund must be replaced with an understanding that the congregation funds the whole mission of this church.

Bp. Burk responded to Ms. Graddy’s question by illustrating the differences in Mission Support among regions and an undergirding conversation about money and responsibility to share in the mission of this church.

The Rev. Stephen P. Bouman, executive director of the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit, explained how recent changes in the economy shifted patterns of support for new congregations from the churchwide organization to neighboring ministries. He described a constantly evolving system that will rely on flexibility and a broader understanding of the mission of this church.

Bp. Eaton reminded the Church Council that the ministry policy decisions of the 2009 Churchwide Assembly had an impact similar to that of the economic downturn.

The Rev. Harold L. Usgaard, bishop of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod, responded to Ms. Graddy’s question by detailing how the Southeastern Minnesota Synod managed to maintain Mission Support while cutting its own budget.

Bp. Eaton added that one expression of this church has no authority to require financial support of another. It is a strength of the ELCA that it is a volunteer organization that bases its giving on love for Jesus Christ.

Vice President Peña drew the discussion to a close.

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

Moved;

Seconded:

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Rev. Stephen R. Herr asked whether the request of the Mission Investment Fund (MIF) had a budgetary implication, even if synods decide not to participate in a remittance process system.

Treasurer Linda O. Norman replied that there would be a cost, and, while the participation of all synods in such a system seemed unlikely, MIF leaders expressed confidence that those who do participate would benefit from the study enough to justify its cost.

At the invitation of Vice President Peña, the Rev. Robert G. Moore led the Church Council in prayer.

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

VOTED:

CC12.11.32

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

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

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

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

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

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

Vice President Peña declared the motion was adopted.

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

Moved;

Seconded:

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

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

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

To request that the churchwide organization, the Conference of Bishops, and the Church Council continue to evaluate and respond to the diverse realities of this church's communities of faith,

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

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

VOTED:

CC12.11.33

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

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

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

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

Vice President Peña declared the motion was adopted.

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

Moved;

Seconded:

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

Presiding Bishop Hanson stated that approval of this motion would bring multiple conversations together to address the issues of “renewed, sustainable financial support for theological education in the ELCA” before the council’s next meeting.

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

VOTED:

CC12.11.34

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

Vice President Peña declared the motion was adopted. He thanked the Mission Funding Task Force and Ms. Hemstead, its chair.

PHILOSOPHY OF BENEFITS

(Agenda IV.C.2.)

Background:

As part of its evaluation of the impact of potential health care reform and the changing environment for benefits, Portico Benefit Services convened a task force to evaluate its Philosophy of Benefits. The Philosophy of Benefits document was developed by the ELCA Board of Pensions in 2004 to articulate the underlying philosophy of the ELCA Pension and Other Benefits Program and to identify guiding principles. Two Church Council members, Ms. Marjorie B. Ellis and Mr. John R. Emery, were appointed to participate in the task force, which consists of Portico staff, the secretary and treasurer of this church, four synodical bishops, and certain staff of the churchwide organization. A report and recommendations were to be brought to the November 2012 meeting of the Church Council, but Portico’s work with the seminaries in the development of an alternative pilot health insurance plan, as well as uncertainties regarding health care reform, made the original timetable unrealistic. In addition, experience in developing the seminary pilot plan demonstrated the need to include other stakeholders in the task force.

Church Council Action:

Vice President Carlos E. Peña asked Secretary David D. Swartling to present the recommendation of the Executive Committee regarding Portico Benefit Services and its Philosophy of Benefits Task Force.

Secretary Swartling recalled that the Philosophy of Benefits had been a topic of the Church Council’s special meeting in September 2012. He reviewed the background information and the reasons for a report and recommendations not being available. He introduced the Rev. Jeffrey D. Thiemann, president of Portico Benefit Services.

Pr. Thiemann described plans to complete a draft Philosophy of Benefits for the April 2013 meeting of the Church Council, discuss the draft at Synod Assemblies, bring a final version of the Philosophy of Benefits to the August 2013 meeting of the Church Council, and possibly distribute the approved version in the fall of 2013. He announced that Portico would host a webcast on health care reform on Thursday, November 15, 2012.

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

Moved;

Seconded:

To express appreciation and thanks to the staff and board of Portico Benefit Services for providing leadership, education, and advice to this church regarding the provision of benefits to plan members, especially in light of the complexities of addressing potential health care reform;

To encourage Portico to continue its leadership in providing timely and important education and advice to plan members, congregations, other employers, and those involved with preparing for and implementing health care reform;

To recognize that Portico has appointed a Philosophy of Benefits Task Force to undertake the process of revising Portico's Philosophy of Benefits in such a way that recognizes the historic principles of providing benefits to clergy, rostered laypersons, and church employees, the realities of societal changes, both within and outside this church, as well as pending health care reform, with the expectation that a report would be submitted to the Church Council meeting in November 2012;

To acknowledge that the Church Council appointed Ms. Marjorie B. Ellis and Mr. John R. Emery to serve on the Philosophy of Benefits Task Force;

To recognize that complexities and political uncertainties militate against revising Portico's Philosophy of Benefits until there is greater clarity regarding the political landscape and the form of health care reform;

To authorize deferring the submission of a report and recommendations of the Philosophy of Benefits Task Force until the Church Council meeting in April or August 2013; and

To authorize the Executive Committee of the Church Council to add additional members to the task force to include other stakeholders and to provide such other liaison and assistance as may be necessary for the Portico task force to complete its report and recommendations no later than August 2013.

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

VOTED:

CC12.11.35

To express appreciation and thanks to the staff and board of Portico Benefit Services for providing leadership, education, and advice to this church regarding the provision of benefits to plan members, especially in light of the complexities of addressing potential health care reform;

To encourage Portico to continue its leadership in providing timely and important education and advice to plan members, congregations, other employers, and those involved with preparing for and implementing health care reform;

To recognize that Portico has appointed a Philosophy of Benefits Task Force to undertake the process of revising Portico's Philosophy of Benefits in such a way that recognizes the historic principles of providing benefits to clergy, rostered laypersons, and church employees, the realities of societal changes, both within and outside this church, as well as pending health care reform, with the expectation that a report would be submitted to the Church Council meeting in November 2012;

To acknowledge that the Church Council appointed Ms. Marjorie B. Ellis and Mr. John R. Emery to serve on the Philosophy of Benefits Task Force;

To recognize that complexities and political uncertainties militate against revising Portico's Philosophy of Benefits until there is greater clarity regarding the political landscape and the form of health care reform;

To authorize deferring the submission of a report and recommendations of the Philosophy of Benefits Task Force until the Church Council meeting in April or August 2013; and

To authorize the Executive Committee of the Church Council to add additional members to the task force to include other stakeholders and to provide such other liaison and assistance as may be necessary for the Portico task force to complete its report and recommendations no later than August 2013.

Vice President Peña declared the motion was adopted.

UPDATE FROM GLOBAL MISSION
(Agenda IV.D.; Exhibit K, Part 2)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on the Rev. Rafael Malpica Padilla, executive director of the Global Mission unit, for an update on the work of the unit.

Pr. Malpica described how the Global Mission unit organized its programs and commitments around the theology and practice of accompaniment.

Vice President Peña thanked Pr. Malpica for the unit update.

CONSIDERATION OF UNFINISHED ITEMS FROM THE BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE
25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA CAMPAIGN
(Agenda IV.E.1.)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña asked Mr. John R. Emery, chair of the Budget and Finance Committee, to bring any unfinished business from the committee.

Mr. Emery referred to the earlier report in which Ms. Christina Jackson-Skelton, executive director of the Mission Advancement unit, proposed a 25th Anniversary Campaign. He made the following motion on behalf of the Budget and Finance Committee.

Moved;

Seconded:

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

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

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

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

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

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

At the invitation of Vice President Peña, the Rev. Raymond A. Miller led the council in prayer.

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

VOTED:

CC12.11.36

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

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

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

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

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

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

Vice President Peña declared the motion was adopted.
Mr. Emery concluded the report of the Budget and Finance Committee.

UPDATE FROM MISSION ADVANCEMENT (Agenda IV.F.; Exhibit K, Part 3)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña asked Ms. Christina Jackson-Skelton, executive director of the Mission Advancement unit, to provide an update on the work of the unit.

Ms. Jackson-Skelton related the work of the Mission Advancement unit to the operational plan of the churchwide organization.

Vice President Peña thanked Ms. Jackson-Skelton for the unit update.

ANNOUNCEMENTS (Agenda IV.G.)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on Secretary David D. Swartling, who shared plans for the break and the start of the meeting’s fifth plenary session.

The Church Council paused for prayer concerns.

RECESS

The November 2012 meeting of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America recessed at 3:21 P.M.

**Saturday, November 10, 2012
Plenary Session V**

CALL TO ORDER

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called the fifth plenary session to order at 4:01 P.M.

REPORT OF THE PROGRAM AND SERVICES COMMITTEE

(Agenda V.A.; Exhibits D and J)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on Ms. Susan W. McArver, chair of the Program and Services Committee, to present the committee's report.

UPDATE ON 500TH ANNIVERSARY PROPOSAL

(Agenda V.A.3.; Exhibit J, Part 8)

Background:

The Rev. Marcus R. Kunz, assistant to the presiding bishop for theological discernment, had reported to the Church Council in April 2012 on plans being developed to observe the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation by the Lutheran World Federation, Germany, the Evangelical Church in Germany, and the ELCA. A formal proposal for the ELCA's observation was presented to the Program and Service Committee in November 2012.

Church Council Action:

Ms. Susan W. McArver presented the background information on the 500th anniversary of the Reformation and made the following motion on behalf of the Program and Services Committee.

Moved;

Seconded:

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

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

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

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

VOTED:

CC12.11.37

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

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

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

**A Proposal
for Observance in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
of the 500th Anniversary of the Evangelical (Lutheran) Reformation**

November 10, 2012

1. Purpose

As it observes the 500th anniversary of the evangelical (Lutheran) Reformation of Christian teaching and practice in sixteenth-century Europe, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) will initiate and participate in activities that serve the ELCA's evangelical vocation — that is, both its mission and its identity — in all its relationships.

Relationships

North American. The religious and cultural experience of North America is the primary context for the ELCA's vocation. It will be the primary point of reference for thinking and planning the ELCA's observance of the 500th anniversary. The manifold relationships within the ELCA as well as relationships with other Lutherans, ecumenical partners, other religious communities and the larger American public provide abundant opportunities to make an evangelical witness that draws on the heritage and continuing vitality of the evangelical Lutheran reformation.

Global. At the same time, the ELCA has important and rich relationships with communities around the globe: the Lutheran World Federation, its member churches and other Lutheran communities; other Christian churches and communities through the World Council of Churches, in international dialogues, including those with the Catholic and Orthodox churches, and other alliances; other religious communities and their representatives; and institutions and alliances with whom the ELCA collaborates in activities that “promote justice, relieve misery, and reconcile the estranged . . . further human dignity, freedom, justice, and peace in the world . . . and minister to people in spiritual and temporal needs” (4.03.g, l, m). All these relationships provide opportunities to join others in observing the continuing significance of the evangelical Reformation for our shared work.

2. Goals

In all these relationships activities will be “an occasion for the joyful celebration of the power of the Lutheran witness to the gospel and at the same time a space for the self-critical acknowledgment of failures in faithfulness and of the continuing pain of division among Christians” (LWF Strategic Plan).

Within the ELCA, but also in activities with others, the ELCA will honor its stated principles of being an inclusive and interdependent church (5.01.b-c).

Specifically, the ELCA will:

- a. continue to encourage and support participation in the observances planned by the Lutheran World Federation for 2015-2017 and the EKD Luther Decade (2008-2017);
- b. encourage and support initiatives by congregations, synods and other institutional expressions of the ELCA that observe this anniversary;
- c. collaborate with ecumenical partners and others, where and when appropriate, in activities that promote a witness of the Gospel that is both repentant and evangelical;
- d. initiate and support activities throughout the entire ELCA ecology that serve the ELCA's evangelical vocation without dictating a uniform plan or assuming responsibility for planning or approving all local, regional, or other collaborative initiatives that begin in 2013 and continue beyond 2017;
- e. plan and implement a schedule of featured events from the 2016 Churchwide Assembly to October 31, 2017, that allow ELCA members to participate in observance of the 500th anniversary through worship, learning, service.

3. Activities

Although the ELCA churchwide organization will not have responsibility for planning and dictating the observances of every ELCA congregation, synod, and associated institution, it will accept responsibility for the following activities.

- a. Receiving and distributing information about activities and initiatives planned throughout the ELCA and in its relationships with others, and inviting participation and support of these activities (including the Luther Decade and LWF observance).
- b. Planning and implementing a schedule of featured events from the 2016 Churchwide Assembly to October 31, 2017, that allow ELCA members to participate in observance of the 500th anniversary through worship, learning and service.
- c. Convening and supporting initiatives in the areas such as and convening teams to lead the work for these initiatives. (See Appendix A)

4. Planning Team

The ELCA churchwide organization will be responsible for convening a planning team and providing appropriate resources (staff and funding). This planning team will represent the diversity of ELCA membership and institutional ecosystems. It will also meet the ELCA's representational commitments. A planning team will be appointed by the Executive Committee in consultation with the Conference of Bishops. The planning team may include:

- 1-2 Church Council members
- 1-2 synod bishops (including a bishop from Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Relationships liaison committee)

Director for Theological Resources and Networks, Office of the Presiding Bishop
a representative of Augsburg Fortress Publishers
representatives of ELCA seminaries and colleges, including a member of the Association of Teaching Theologians
representative of ELCA social ministry agencies
additional members

5. Provisional Timeline

Nov 2012	Consideration of proposal by ELCA Church Council
Dec 2012	Appointment of planning team
Jan 2013	Planning team meets Initial communications plan or principles adopted; continuing work on implementation
Spring 2013	Initiative teams convene and begin work
Spring 2013	Initial reports to COB and Church Council
Summer 2013	Report to Churchwide Assembly, beginning of communications plan (coordination with 25th anniversary?)

Appendix A: Sample “Trajectories” or Initiatives (NOT decided; for illustrative purposes only)

1. Bible

Book of Faith project members interested in continuation convene to develop a trajectory related to broader availability and evangelical use of the Scriptures. Possible outcome: new translation or edition with Lutheran study resources available in all electronic formats (iPad apps, etc.). Possible target: September, 2022 (500th anniversary of Luther’s “September Testament,” a translation of the New Testament in the language of the people)

2. Catechesis

After initial consultation with bishops, Augsburg Fortress staff and others, a team convenes to develop a trajectory related to the renewal of catechesis for all ages in the spirit of Luther’s Small and Large Catechisms.

Possible outcome: multiple and diverse new approaches and resources for learning the catechism (Commandments, Creed, Lord’s Prayer). Age-specific, including adult, and intergenerational; text, visual, experiential approaches; individual, small-group, congregationwide, secondary and college-level resources; etc.

Possible target: 2029 (500th anniversary of publication of Luther’s catechisms)

3. Vocation and Service

Focused consultation with multiple groups and initiatives moving toward an initiative to rectify one of the most prominent indictments of Luther and the Lutheran movement: “quietism” with regard to social injustices and reform.

Possible outcome: a renewed statement and expression of engagement with socio-economic life of society that draws constructively from an evangelical Lutheran theology and respects both diverse political convictions and diverse passions and gifts for engagement.

Possible target: 2025 (500th anniversary of the Peasants Revolt and Luther's marriage, a milestone in reframing Christian vocation).

4. Persons of other faiths

Consultation with Ecumenical and Inter-religious staff and networks moving toward initiatives to rectify a second prominent set of indictments of Luther and the Lutheran movement: schism in the Christian community; persecution of other Christians and Jews (and Muslims?).

Possible outcome: broadened implementation of current agreements and undertakings ("reception")

Possible target: 2021 (500th anniversary of Luther's excommunication, etc.)

5. Other possible trajectories or initiatives

Planting 500 congregations. Possible target: 2017.

Lutheran theology in conversation with other traditions: Catholic, Reformed, "Radical," etc.

Possible targets: May, 2018 (500th anniversary of Heidelberg Disputation), 2020 (500th anniversary of Luther's three reformatory treatises) or 2025 (500th anniversary of Luther's debate with Erasmus re free/bound will).

Missiology. Rectify the allegation that there is no missiology inherent in Lutheran witness of the Christian faith.

Vice President Peña declared the motion was adopted.

PUBLIC MINISTRY CONSULTATIONS PLANNING TEAM

(Word and Service Task Force)

(Agenda V.A.1.; Exhibit J, Part 6)

Background:

The former Vocation and Education program unit convened a consultation on the ministries of deaconesses, diaconal ministers, and associates in ministry in January 2007 with funding from the ELCA Deaconess Community. From that consultation, a Public Ministry Consultations Planning Team worked for three years, fostering similar gatherings in eight regions of the ELCA and developing a DVD resource. The planning team submitted a report in 2010 that included these nine recommendations.

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

1. Address the ELCA constitution and other governing documents to remove the word "lay" to describe all three of these rosters in public ministry.
2. Articulate a common theological foundation for ministry, reclaiming "diakonia" as the foundation for all three rosters.
3. While recognizing and valuing the differences in tradition and history of these three rosters, we recommend that they become one roster with three expressions.
4. Require basic theological preparation for all three rosters while maintaining flexibility toward goals of effective and diverse mission and ministry.

5. For the sake of good order, examine the titles, symbols, and visible signs of each of the three rosters.
6. Vigorously encourage synods, bishops, and churchwide staff to communicate more effectively the value of and variety of gifts of these three rosters (e.g., advocate with congregations and agencies as they consider staffing).

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

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

In November 2010, the Church Council voted [CC10.11.64]:

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

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

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

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

To request that a report and possible recommendations be brought to the April 2012 meeting of the ELCA Church Council.

In April 2012, the Church Council voted [CC12.04.19j]:

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

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

Background from the Public Ministry Consultations Planning Team

In response to Church Council action [CC10.11.64], staff from the Leadership for Mission team in the Congregational and Synodical Mission (CSM) unit, in collaboration with the Office of the Secretary, convened a table

of representatives from the three Word and Service rosters October 26–27, 2011, to receive their input about how to move forward with the task assigned. The group recommended that representatives from each of the diaconal rosters name two people identified by their executive committees, two representatives from the associates in ministry roster, and two ordained clergy identified by staff, be invited to participate as members of the task force. In addition to the representatives from the rosters, one teaching theologian, and a synodical bishop named by the Conference of Bishops were invited to the table. The first meeting of the task force was held May 14–15, 2012.

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

Summary of the conversations to date:

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

Church Council Action:

Ms. Susan W. McArver noted that the Public Ministry Consultations Planning Team was now operating as the Word and Service Task Force. She provided background information on this church's lay ministry rosters and made the following motion on behalf of the Program and Services Committee.

Moved;

Seconded:

To receive with gratitude and thanks the interim report of the Word and Service Task Force, convened in response to Church Council action [CC10.11.64] taken in November 2010;

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

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

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

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

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

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

Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson asked how this proposed action may be tied into similar proposals to re-study other major aspects of this church’s relationships.

The Rev. Gregory J. Villalón, director for leadership for mission/candidacy, responded that the task force had received questions beyond the scope of its work and recommended those issues also be addressed.

Presiding Bishop Hanson asked whether a provisional unified lay roster may be possible before 2016.

Pr. Villalón replied that the task force planned to present a concrete proposal before 2016.

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

VOTED:

CC12.11.38

To receive with gratitude and thanks the interim report of the Word and Service Task Force, convened in response to Church Council action [CC10.11.64] taken in November 2010;

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

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

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

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

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

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

Vice President Peña declared the motion was adopted.

SOCIAL MESSAGE ON MENTAL ILLNESS

(Agenda V.A.2.; Exhibit J, Part 1)

Background:

In response to a resolution from the Central States Synod, at its November 2009 meeting the Church Council voted [CC09.11.86c]:

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

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

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

The resolution, referral of the Executive Committee, and the response from the former Church in Society program unit were included in the Church Council minutes of November 2009.

At its November 2010 meeting, the Church Council voted [CC10.11.61]:

To request that future social documents be scheduled with sensitivity to the time demands involving elected churchwide leadership, including bishops, Church Council members, and synodical leaders;

To acknowledge the preference that only one major document be in process at any one time;

To adopt the schedule provided in Exhibit K, Part 1; and

To request that at its November 2011 meeting the Program and Services Committee, considering the actions of the 2011 Churchwide Assembly, reassess the revised time line and question of capacity.

The schedule was updated to reflect capacity issues due to staff reductions and the feelings of being burdened by the rapid succession, overlapping schedules, and controversial aspects of developing documents. The Program and Services Committee received an update on development of the message at its April 2012 meeting.

“Policies and Procedures of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for Addressing Social Concerns,” under procedures for Messages on Social Issues, states:

The Church Council shall act upon the recommendations from the Office of the Presiding Bishop and adopt, modify, or reject the message.

Church Council Action:

Ms. Susan W. McArver presented background information on messages of this church and on the proposed message, “The Body of Christ and Mental Illness,” as amended by the Program and Services Committee. She made the following motion on behalf of the committee.

Moved;

Seconded: To adopt “The Body of Christ and Mental Illness,” as amended, as a message of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

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

VOTED:

CC12.11.39 To adopt “The Body of Christ and Mental Illness,” as amended, as a message of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

A message on....

The Body of Christ and Mental Illness

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning? O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer; and by night, but find no rest. (Psalm 22:1–2)

When people suffering from mental illness seek solace in Scripture, they often turn to the psalms. The anguish and isolation expressed in such scriptures are all too familiar to anyone who has experienced depression, anxiety disorders, bipolar disorder, or cared for someone with a mental illness. The plight of the Gerasene man in the Gospel accounts (Luke 8, Mark 5), the despair of King David (2 Samuel 19), and the deep terror of Jesus in Gethsemane (Matthew 26, Mark 14) all vividly describe mental and emotional pain.

The mental and emotional pain of mental illness could be one of the most far-reaching issues the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) encounters. In their lifetimes, one-half of Americans will have a serious mental health condition, but fewer than half of them will receive treatment.¹ A study by the ELCA found 16 percent of male clergy and 24 percent of female clergy to be suffering from depression.²

The need for understanding and treatment of mental illness is a crisis affecting the entire nation. For example, 10 years of extended overseas military campaigns have resulted in a large population of combat veterans who are experiencing mental health issues and are prone to suicide. At the same time, the veterans' health system is widely deemed inadequate to address the massive mental health needs among our troops.

Despite how many others have shared and will share their situation, those with mental illness experience loneliness and isolation. These experiences are deepened by society's lack of understanding and stigma. For every person living with mental illness, an ever-widening circle of family and friends, coworkers and church members feels sorrow and despair.⁶

WHAT IS MENTAL ILLNESS?

"A mental illness can be defined as a health condition that changes a person's thinking, feelings, or behavior (or all three) and that causes the person distress and difficulty in functioning."³ The causes of mental illness are complex and not entirely known to scientists, but most scientists believe mental illnesses result from electro-chemical disruptions in the brain. Genetic, environmental and social factors put some people at a greater risk than others for developing mental illness.⁴ Physical trauma such as a traumatic brain injury seems to increase the risk of mental illness substantially. Mental illnesses range from the mild to the severe, from mild depression and anxiety to severe depression, bipolar and schizophrenia.

Mental illness can be disabling, but from a legal standpoint, some forms of mental illness may not be considered a disability. Mental illness, clearly, may be one of the possible sources contributing to living with disability.⁵ Likewise, mental illness may contribute to contemplation of suicide but the two should not be equated. The ELCA has addressed pastoral and social questions about suicide in its 1999 social message on suicide prevention.⁶

Mental illness is often complicated by and intertwined with addiction. Addiction raises additional moral issues that cannot be fully addressed in the setting of this message. It should be said that the presence of mental illness makes substance abuse more likely, and vice versa.⁷ Proper treatment needs to address both.

WHY ADDRESS MENTAL ILLNESS NOW?

Though the experience of mental illness is nothing new, the current economic and sociopolitical situation in the United States presents significant challenges to public health. State funding for treatment programs has been decimated by the recent economic downturn. The limited resources of the Veterans Affairs⁸ are overcome by the challenge of treating the mental illness experienced by veterans.⁹ As the U.S. engages in debate over ensuring health care coverage for all, the question of treatment for mental illness (and lack thereof) is polarized.

The cost of not treating mental illness is enormous, and comes in many forms. The cost comes in terms of destroyed relationships and overwhelming stress, social humiliation, human dignity and, in fact, human lives. Collectively, society loses what would have been the contributions of intelligent and gifted people. These are losses that can't be enumerated. Financial loss, however, can be estimated, and it is in the billions.¹⁰

HOPES FOR THE MESSAGE

This social message hopes to proclaim the gospel's powerful news and offer up the body of Christ as a sign of healing and hope. It also intends to raise awareness in the church that mental illness, which is so often hidden away, is present in congregations and communities, and is a major public health issue. Additionally, it hopes to illuminate some of the effects that mental illness has, both on individuals and on familial and social networks.

This message is a call for ELCA members to acknowledge the needs of those living with mental illness and for this church to claim the responsibility it has as a body of Christ. The body of Christ is incomplete if people experiencing mental illness are not integrated as a visible part of the whole. The call challenges the ELCA to be a community seeking understanding that encourages individuals to pursue treatment, comforts them in their suffering, and supports them in their treatment and recovery. Such a community also will sustain caregivers and mental health professionals. It will raise its public voice in support of those living with the consequences of mental illness.

This church can rejoice in many examples of inspired service to the neighbor in need. Individually ELCA Lutherans have cared for those living with mental illness through their daily callings, in congregations and in their families. Our church also has ministered through pastoral and congregational care, Lutheran health care systems and social ministry organizations, specialized ministries such as pastoral counseling, and chaplaincy.

At the same time, this message represents an opportunity for this church to reflect on how people living with mental illness and their families have been treated. The frequent mistreatment by society of those who suffer mental illness *must* be acknowledged. The church also has been responsible too often for reprehensible acts, for turning away and shaming people suffering from mental illness and for isolating them and their families.

The church has the power to address many of the ravages inflicted by mental illness, whether through compassion to those affected, advocating for and improving access to treatment, supporting caregivers and practitioners, or making mental illness visible. Individually and collectively, ELCA members have the power to proclaim God's love, fight for justice, give care, and change the way people with mental illness are treated.

WHAT ARE THE CHALLENGES?

CHALLENGES TO HUMAN DIGNITY

Despite the prevalence of mental illness, its presence frequently is a shame-filled secret, left unacknowledged and often untreated. Or its exposure to daylight leads to isolation and alienation of everyone affected — alienation here means depriving a person of the consolation of human connection and communal support because that person has been named as “other,” as different or even frightening. Such alienation undermines human dignity.¹¹

Without human connection and communal support, an alienated person is subject to further assaults on dignity. Unique and gifted people are reduced to “patients,” whose only identity is an illness. Instead of honest appraisal of the complex causes of mental illness, which leads to a deeper understanding of the person, social categorization leads to identifying the alienated person simply as “mentally ill.” Their families often are blamed. Certain familial or social environments (poverty, for example) can increase the risk of mental illness, but risk factors are not inevitable causes. Every person merits the dignity of compassionate understanding rather than categorization and stigma.

CHALLENGES OF TREATMENT AND ACCESS TO IT

Mental illness presents a series of specific challenges to society. Accommodating the needs of people living with mental illness can be quite difficult. People suffering from mental illness may resist or be reluctant to take the medications they need to function, because the side effects can be debilitating. The two most common serious mental illnesses, bipolar disorder and schizophrenia, impair the sufferer’s sense of self, making it difficult to persuade the sufferer that the medications are indeed necessary.

In the United States, a move away from state-sponsored institutional care resulted in laws making involuntary commitment to institutional care difficult. The move was initially made to resolve a situation where mentally ill people were kept in vast institutions with questionable treatment. Some of the results have been salutary, but families of people with mental illness have also been frustrated by the difficulty of obtaining involuntary commitment.

Involuntary treatment of mental illness raises such questions as what responsibility individuals bear for themselves and to society as a whole, what constitutes proper self-care, and the meaning of autonomy and rights. Each situation is different and deserves careful scrutiny, a scrutiny that this church believes should encourage freedom and autonomy as exercised through remaining in a right relationship with loved ones.

Inability to access treatment is generally the most urgent issue for anyone experiencing mental illness. Unfortunately, the high rate of mental illness has not resulted in a corresponding availability of resources. The Health Resources and Services Administration estimates that from 2007–2009, mental health services were needed, but not received, by about 11.3 million adults annually.¹²

Many find that while they have “coverage” for mental health, they lack meaningful access. Even those who have health insurance may find their coverage is insufficient to treat the mental illness from which they are suffering. The national decline in inpatient psychiatric beds means often there are no inpatient psychiatric beds available for those who need them.¹³ Insurance might not have a contract with any hospitals in the

individual's area. Many people live in areas where there are few qualified mental health practitioners or no mental health professionals who accept their insurance.

The ways in which people find their access is limited are too many to count. To someone who is struggling to function at a minimal level, negotiating these obstacles is simply overwhelming.

CHALLENGES OF INEQUALITY

Access to services requires funding. Funding is not evenly distributed across the population, and neither is access to mental health care. Residents of rural areas may find that providers of mental health care simply don't exist. More than three quarters of the counties in the U.S. experience severe shortages of mental health providers, and the more rural the county, the more likely this is the case.¹⁴

The three principal problems of rural mental health care can be described as access, availability and acceptability, particularly among youth and the elderly. Rural residents often are under-diagnosed, and then cannot find treatment. When they find a practitioner, they may have to travel long distances for treatment.

Other demographic determinants, such as race, class and cultural understanding, also affect access to mental health care. African Americans, for example, are just as much at risk for mental illness as their white counterparts, yet receive substantially less treatment.¹⁵ U.S. Census Bureau data shows that in 2005, African Americans were 7.3 times as likely to live in high poverty neighborhoods with limited to no access to mental health services.¹⁶ Studies show that just under half of American Indians and Alaska Natives have job-based or other private coverage compared to approximately 83 percent of whites.¹⁷

Income is also determinative of whether someone suffering from mental illness is able to get treatment.¹⁸ The stresses of poverty increase the likelihood that environmental risk factors for mental illness are present.¹⁹ Racial and economic injustice already present in society is magnified by mental illness and the needs it engenders.

Veterans also experience difficulty in obtaining treatment. The Department of Veterans Affairs has been simply unable to keep pace with the high rate of mental illness among veterans. In April of 2012 a report by the inspector general for the Department of Veterans Affairs found that "less than half, or 49 percent, of the more than 370,000 patients evaluated in fiscal year 2011 received their full evaluations within 14 days. For the remaining patients, the department took an average of about 50 days to provide the comprehensive evaluations. ..."²⁰ Mental illness will not wait for 50 days. The ELCA's social message *People Living with Disabilities* advocates for full funding of veterans' services. The difficulty in obtaining mental health care for veterans is another example of why full funding is so important.

CHALLENGES OF EVERYDAY LIFE

People who experience mental illness encounter challenges in addition to accessing treatment. Social networks and family relationships are under much more stress when mental illness is present. Finding and keeping employment is difficult. Symptoms can be misunderstood and misinterpreted. Law enforcement officers can be trained to respond properly to people exhibiting symptoms of mental illness, but that training is rare even though it can save lives.

By any count, the rate of mental illness among people who are chronically homeless is markedly higher than among the general population.²¹ Untreated mental illness makes navigating the requirements of our social welfare system difficult, meaning the escape from chronic homelessness is much more difficult.

Mental illness among people who are incarcerated is also far higher than in the general population. According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, 56 percent of state prisoners and 45 percent of federal prisoners have symptoms or a recent history of mental health problems.²² Jails and prisons, of course, are not built or administered with the purpose of treating mental illness and the situation is bleak.

Mental illness makes people doubly vulnerable to abuse in the criminal justice system. It renders incarcerated people unable to comply with prison routines, resulting in discipline from security staff, and also makes them vulnerable to abuses by other incarcerated people. Security staff is not trained sufficiently to distinguish when misbehavior is a symptom of mental illness. Trained mental health staffing is stretched to the breaking point and turnover is high, screening and tracking is inadequate, and incarcerated people who receive care mostly have access to drug therapy alone rather than the full complement of services needed to combat mental illness.²³

Prison systems may choose not to use newer, more effective medications because of their higher cost. They may also require patients to wait hours in line or to take the medications at times suitable for the prison administration, but not effective for treatment. Drug side effects are not monitored, and compliance with medication regimens is not monitored either. Little about the prison system enhances the possibility of successful treatment of mental illness.²⁴

CHALLENGES TO THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

Mental illness challenges the health care system in many ways: care for mental health is not given equal coverage (parity) with care for physical health. Benefits are often denied or are unavailable. The delivery system for mental health care, which needs to work in unison, is fragmented and lacks beds, resources and providers.

Existing challenges within the health care system have been exacerbated by the impact of economic downturn and funding changes. Between 2009 and 2011, for example, 15 states cut their budgets by 10 percent or more. A decade prior to that, the federal government had devolved most funding to states, so the effect is particularly dramatic. With state budgets under so much stress, the availability of 24-hour treatment beds is constantly dwindling.²⁵

The economic crisis affects housing, case management, therapy, evidenced-based wraparound services, long-term services, psychiatry, and crisis services. In addition, the administrative support to ensure that safe, timely and appropriate services are provided has been cut. Some of the most recent effects of the cuts have been detailed in a report by the National Alliance on Mental Illness.²⁶

WHAT PEOPLE WITH MENTAL ILLNESS NEED

People living with mental illness most of all need access to high- quality, well-integrated, professionally trained care. Even with sufficient resources, care for individuals who are experiencing mental illness is multifaceted. Each person's experience of mental illness is highly individualized. Often several treatment combinations must be attempted before finding the best treatment. Some people suffering from severe

mental illnesses avoid treatment altogether. As an added difficulty mental illness often occurs together with other illnesses, making treatment even more intricate and complex, and requiring a greater degree of integration of physical and mental health care.

What people suffering from mental illness need from the health care system is time. They need time to reach a point of stabilization. They need time to try different medications to find what works properly. And they need care from trained professionals at all stages of this process. Currently, the mental health care system is designed to discharge patients as soon as possible, but if someone has not found the right treatment and been stabilized, progress is temporary, and the cycle of decline and seeking care begins again.

People living with mental illness need relationship, even though mental illness presents considerable challenges to relationships. Mental illness is episodic, and loved ones must adjust constantly to the sufferer's current condition. Loved ones often become caregivers, and find themselves, even if temporarily, with authority that alters their relationship.

Mental illness can affect social functioning, meaning it is difficult to develop and sustain a social network. Paradoxically, those who are living with mental illness have a great need for sustaining relationships. They particularly need friendships where mental illness is not at the center, and they can participate as someone who is a complete, gifted and unique human being, and not merely as a mental illness "patient."

People living with mental illness still need to function according to their abilities. The presence of mental illness does not mean that a person has lost his or her intellect, talents or usefulness. People being treated successfully for mental illness can and should continue schooling, engage in meaningful work, and use their gifts to serve the neighbor.²⁷

WHAT DOES THIS CHURCH SAY?

THIS CHURCH'S CONFESSION

In biblical times, symptoms of what we now call serious mental illness would mostly have been attributed to demonic possession. Illness was frequently associated with root moral causes.²⁸ When Jesus heals the Gerasene man in Luke 8, he heals a man who has been living in tombs, alienated from his community, and bound by chains. After healing him, Jesus tells him to return to his original community to relate what has happened.

Today, the mental health treatment community speaks of recovering or healing with respect to mental illness, as most mental illnesses are not cured. The hope is that people can emerge from the debilitating level of symptoms they are experiencing and move to healing and recovery.

The church can be a powerful and welcoming place for people who are in recovery and experiencing healing, as they return to tell their stories of hope. The church can be a locus for proclaiming the good news of healing of body and relationships, not just to people living with mental illness, but from people living with mental illness.

For the ELCA, examining the challenges of mental illness begins with confession. The way in which churches historically have excluded individuals who experience mental illness, and their families and

caregivers, is distressing. This church confesses that its own pastors who suffer from mental illness are often afraid to seek help for fear of reprisal. Unfortunately, exclusion, fear and blame are often linked to misguided religious beliefs.²⁹

THE QUESTION OF SIN

One of the most important correctives this church teaches is that the presence of mental illness does not indicate particular sinfulness in the person who is affected. Humans are free to ask why mental illness occurred, and seeking the cause is useful in terms of care and prevention. Yet the presence of mental illness is not a sign that one person is more sinful than another, or closed off to the possibility of grace, is weak, or lacks faith (Romans 3:23).

Mental illness is the result of a complex integration of factors, including inherited traits, biological factors, life experience, and brain chemistry.³⁰ Its social and environmental causes, such as abuse and trauma, often result from social ills such as poverty³¹ and warfare. Rather than imputing mental illness to the character of the person experiencing it, Christians might properly describe the presence of mental illness in creation as a sign of “life’s tragic brokenness.”³² *All* humans are finite and *all* live under the brokenness of sin. Mental illness is simply a sign of that reality.³³

While recognizing that human knowledge and power is always limited, ELCA social teaching encourages treatment for mental illness from trained practitioners. Lutherans understand creation to be open to human interaction. Exploration by medical sciences and pharmacology of healing for people suffering from mental illness is encouraged. Those suffering from mental illness and their caregivers should seek the help of medical sciences as a gift from God to heal and relieve suffering. Seeking help should be encouraged, and not seen as a sign of weakness.

ELCA social teaching on health constructs an understanding that: “Health is good for its own sake; it is also good for living abundantly in relationship with God and in loving service to our neighbor in the vocations to which God has called us.”³⁴ Illness “disrupts lives, limits activities, disturbs relationships, and brings suffering.”³⁵

The ELCA statement *Caring for Health* names the isolation that results from illness and it is that isolation that is most fearsome about mental illness. When people living with mental illness are at their most vulnerable, their relationships with loved ones are often severely compromised, their faith is shuttered, and they are unable to feel hope or companionship. The anguish of the psalms in feeling that God is removed is all too familiar. Their loved ones also may suffer from isolation and alienation, missing the company of their loved one, embarrassed to speak of the mental illness in their family. Such alienation is in contradiction to the fundamental exercise of the human dignity imbued in us by God.³⁶

Christians believe that humans exist not as the sum of physical parts or intellectual processes. Human status is located in being beloved creatures of God free to love and be loved.³⁷ Some of the most upsetting aspects of mental illness can be the loss of intellectual capacity, or dramatic change in social affect. To continue in the relationships that imply dignity when those relationships need to change constantly is a profound challenge for all involved. Nevertheless, people living with the most profound mental illnesses were created as an act of love, and are worthy of loving and being loved.

And yet, those who care for someone suffering from mental illness must confront the question of the limits of their capacities and of their responsibilities. How much must they sacrifice to care for their mentally ill family members? Is there a point, if a family member refuses to seek treatment or take medication, or represents a danger to other family members, at which a caregiver should refuse to give some forms of care or support? What are the caregiver's obligations to the person living with mental illness? What are that person's obligations to the caregiver?

When a person represents a danger to his or her family, no reasonable person would say the caregiver is obligated to put him or herself at risk. Caregivers also deserve to love and be loved. Family members of people living with mental illness face the extraordinary challenge of loving someone who can act truly unlovable.

It is human and humane to implement reasonable limits on the expectations of caregivers. When someone refuses to participate in her or his own healing, for example, obligations of caregivers are more limited. Caregivers exist in the space between caring for and loving someone living with mental illness and being cared for and loved sufficiently for themselves.

THE CALL TO COMPANIONSHIP

No one can weather mental illness alone, whether that be the person diagnosed, the family member, or the practitioner. This church is called to challenge outdated views of mental illness and foster loving practices within our communities. In a society that stresses self-sufficient individualism and is ashamed of vulnerability, congregations and other ministry sites can be communities where illness and living with limitations are simply part of our communal reality. Jesus' ministry and that of the earliest Christian communities exemplify this communal response.

In the gospel healing accounts, suffering *is not* treated as inevitable or definitive by Jesus. Being integrated into a community, however, *is* treated as definitive by Jesus. After healing the man possessed by demons, Jesus sends him back to his community to testify to the power of God's healing to re-integrate and restore human dignity. The parable of the lost sheep, interpreted as God's special care for the vulnerable illustrates that a Christian community missing even one of its members cannot be considered complete until that member is cared for.

To live with mental illness is to live with uncertainty. The individual asks: Will this treatment work? When will the next episode occur? Will I ever recover? Family members ask: Will our family survive? Who will care for my child when I am gone? Congregation members ask: Can our congregation handle this? The chronic and episodic nature of mental illness can be profoundly challenging to the life of faith. Christians challenge uncertainty not with certainty but with companionship through the valley of the shadow of death.

Heeding Galatians 6:2, ELCA social teaching advocates that Christians bear the burdens of one another.³⁸ To people who are experiencing mental illness, physical, prayerful companionship can be a sign of God's presence in a time when God's presence cannot be felt any other way. For caregivers and families, offers of help and presence are a tangible sign that they are still a part of the body of Christ.

The consequences and the suffering of mental illness may well remain throughout life and yet by entering into them through companionship and care, members of our congregations can change the form and meaning

of that experience. Sharing one another's burdens as part of baptismal vocation in the name of the Christ who died on the cross can signify God's presence to transform suffering even while it remains.³⁹ Through a Christian community acting as the body of Christ, the isolation and alienation of mental illness can be eased.

Looking to God's future, Christians offer a vision of healing that takes the fullness of our relationships into account in the face of present realities: "Healing is restoration of wholeness and unity of body, mind and spirit. Healing addresses the suffering caused by the disruption of relationships with God, with our neighbors, and with ourselves."⁴⁰

ELCA social teaching deepens an understanding of the meaning of healing: "It involves curing when possible, but embraces more than cure. When we limit illness to disease and health care to cure, we miss the deeper dimensions of healing through restoration to God."⁴¹

Healing at its heart is about a restoration of relationships, and the promise of the gospel of Jesus Christ is a promise of restoration to God. In situations where a diagnosis of severe mental illness is present, such teaching about the true meaning of healing offers a realistic hope, not that life will ever be the same again, or that someone will be rid of mental illness, but that relationships can be mended and restored.

ELCA social teaching offers a vision of health care as a shared endeavor, an endeavor in which individuals take appropriate personal responsibility for themselves, Christian ministry is about companionship, Christian vocation attends to the healing of others, and society adequately assists those who are vulnerable. Christians who are not practitioners or caregivers have a role to play in the healing process through companionship with caregivers and practitioners, advocacy, and participation in public deliberation.

WHAT DOES THIS CHURCH DO?

BEING THE BODY OF CHRIST

The most important thing the church can do is to live out its call as the body of Christ. Christians who have suffered from mental illness have related the power of knowing they are being prayed for. Praying on behalf of the person who cannot pray, praying for healing, praying for the health of the family, praying for the presence of God, are all ways of participating in the healing and restoring of relationships that God promises.

As Christ was not afraid to be vulnerable, or to show his wounds, the church when living faithfully as the body of Christ is not afraid to be vulnerable and wounded. When people with mental illness are present as full members, as their true selves, the church as the body of Christ is both wounded and authentic. Their willingness to be present as vulnerable is a gift and is itself a form of service,⁴² and a reminder to the church that true freedom is found in service.

Friendship and communal support to the families of those who are living with mental illness can lighten the enormous burden of care giving. Congregations also can create a community by sponsoring support groups for people living with mental illness and for caregivers. Guidelines and instructions for facilitation are widely available.⁴³

The church can be a supportive community for providers of mental health care. Providers are expected to bear the burdens of people suffering from mental illness on behalf of all. In return, the church community can recognize and honor the importance of what they do, reinforce that their profession is a valued personal calling, and find ways to support some of the burden of their profession.

THIS CHURCH'S HEALTHCARE

The church has its own network of access to healthcare through parish nurses, church-related health systems and social ministry organizations, and the ELCA's own employee health network. Congregations frequently offer health fairs and screenings for their members and the surrounding community. Given the high incidence rate of mental illness, mental health is an essential part of community health screenings.

The ELCA has a laudable history of developing health care institutions and social ministry organizations and providing innovative clinical and pastoral care to those living with mental illness. This church gives thanks for all those who serve in these institutions. Our church, however, is composed not just of institutions or organizations, but also is composed of any individual or group of caring, active individuals who have the ability to act. It is within the power of individuals to seek creative responses and solutions to health care challenges in their local situation.

CLERGY PREPARATION

A member of the clergy may be the first professional a person turns to for help in times of mental distress. A 1999 National Institute of Mental Health study found that clergy were more likely than psychologists or psychiatrists *combined* to have a person with a psychiatric diagnosis seek them out for help.⁴⁴

Training pastors to be open to talking about mental health as part of pastoral care and equipped with names and numbers of local health care practitioners is one way to prepare. Being able to recognize the symptoms of common mental illnesses is also part of good preparation for pastors, who should always refer to a qualified practitioner when they suspect mental illness.⁴⁵ Pastors likely to encounter veterans may want to engage in special training. Veterans' organizations and social ministry organizations offer special training to help pastors talk with veterans about mental health.

PUBLIC VOICE

The ELCA teaches that the vulnerable state of people experiencing mental illness means they deserve particular care from our social systems. Yet, at this time, state and federal budgets for mental health care are being continually decimated.⁴⁶ Systemic flaws present in the government and civil institutions permeate current laws, and cripple attempts to function with justice and mercy.

As states cut their budgets in a time of economic crisis, as soldiers return from war in precarious states of mental health just as budgets are being slashed, as the public struggles with how to provide health care for the citizens of the United States, Christians as citizens must step up to be sure this society does not forget the struggles of people made vulnerable by mental illness.

In addition, the ELCA has an institutional voice to raise in support of appropriate and comprehensive care for mental health. All of society benefits when people with mental illness are treated and returned to their highest level of functioning.

The church is called to stand especially with those made twice vulnerable by mental illness combined with race, gender or poverty: “Confession of faith ought to flow into acts of justice for the sake of the most vulnerable.”⁴⁷ While the ELCA’s health care social statement calls for equitable access to basic health care for all people, learning about the issue makes clear that equitable access for basic mental health care for all people is far from a reality. The ELCA’s health care social statement calls upon all people of good will to work together for equitable access. Access in the case of mental health care means well-trained professionals delivering high-quality care.

CONCLUSION: COUNTERING DIS-GRACE AND ISOLATION

Science uncovers more every day about the causes of mental illness, yet sufferers and their families still experience the dis-grace of encountering mental illness myths and misconceptions. Though research shows genetic and biological causes are at the root of mental illnesses, many still believe sufferers just need to “think positive” or work harder to “snap out of it” when what they really need is treatment, therapy and support.

People with severe mental illness, such as schizophrenia, are often assumed to be dangerous and violent. In fact, “mental disorders are neither necessary, nor sufficient causes of violence. The major correlations of violence continue to be socio-demographic and socioeconomic factors such as being young, male, and of lower socioeconomic status.”⁴⁸

Most often, people with mental illness who are symptomatic are confused and frightened, and targets of violence rather than perpetrators.⁴⁹ Even though mental illness begins with a biological or physiological cause, parents find they are still regarded with suspicion when their children are diagnosed.

Into this troubled and painful situation, the church is called to bring its gifts. Among those gifts would be a sense of hope that experiencing severe symptoms of mental illness need not be a permanent state. The world was created good, but not perfect, and humans are part of God’s ongoing creation. “The ELCA believes that this gracious God also endows human beings with insight and reasoning, and calls human beings to help order and shape, nurture and promote the creation so that it may continue to flourish.”⁵⁰

Treatment of the symptoms of mental illness can be difficult, and may have many ups and downs, but it is, for the most part, possible. Though some might understand affliction with mental illness as God’s will, ELCA social teaching would understand the act of seeking treatment for mental illness as God’s intention.

The ELCA by virtue of its teaching about healing in its health care statement, offers an understanding of mental illness that is both hopeful and realistic. Treating mental illness requires care and attention, a sense of hopefulness, and a realistic sense of what is possible. Mental illness cannot always be “cured,” but it can be treated, and people who suffer its effects can experience recovery or healing, or alleviation of symptoms.

The company of others also eases the alienation and dis-grace that people living with mental illness experience. By answering its call to enter into the companionship of suffering, the church eases the isolation and alienation experienced by those who suffer from the effects of mental illness. Answering this call is at the heart of the church’s response to mental illness.

A WORD TO:

People Suffering from Mental Illness: For a person experiencing mental illness to feel that God has withdrawn, or to be unable to pray or sense God’s presence is a common experience. This feeling of abandonment can never be forgotten and only be lessened by the healing of mental health and faith relationships.

When someone suffering from mental illness seeks treatment, our church hopes to ensure that he or she has accompaniment in that endeavor. We also seek to be a place which commits to dispelling myths of mental illness, easing alienation, and restoring the human dignity of all people. *The ELCA commits as a church to accompanying you in your valley of the shadow, to advocating for your just and dignified treatment, and to praying for your healing and restoration.*

Pastors: A pastor is often the first professional to whom someone suffering from mental illness turns. Pastors should consider themselves resources, but not mental health practitioners, and should always refer someone who is suffering from mental illness to a qualified professional for treatment. Pastors can prepare by knowing the symptoms of the most common mental illnesses and knowing where they can refer people for treatment. *As part of this church, we give thanks for your leadership as congregations grapple with honest and helpful conversations and fostering new practices of companionship. We also encourage you to treat your own mental health as essentially important in your life of baptismal vocation.*

Congregations: Statistically speaking, there are people in all ELCA congregations experiencing some form of mental illness. When congregations encourage informed, factual discussion of mental illness, include screening for mental illness at health fairs, support individuals and families of those suffering from mental illness, and encourage their pastors to take the time to tend to their mental health, they begin to create powerful examples within the whole body of Christ. *As part of this body of the ELCA we commit to supporting you by common prayer and with grateful encouragement as you strengthen your ministries and mission to and with those who live with mental illness.*

Families and Caregivers: We recognize that the suffering of caregivers and families is profound. Once mental illness has emerged, life will never be the same. *The ELCA as a church commits to accompanying you as families and caregivers with honest, hopeful yet realistic, and prayerful companionship.*

ENDNOTES

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- 6 www.ELCA.org/What-We-Believe/Social-Issues/Messages/Suicide-Prevention.aspx
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- 8 The ELCA social message on *People Living with Disabilities* advocates for the adequate funding of the Veterans Affairs, formerly the Veterans Administration.
- 9 Rand Corporation, “One in Five Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans Suffer from PTSD or Major Depression” (Press release, 2008). www.rand.org/news/press/2008/04/17.html
- 10 “In 1996, the United States spent more than \$69 billion for the direct treatment of mental illnesses. Indirect costs of mental illness due to lost productivity in the workplace, schools, or homes represented a \$79 billion loss for the U.S. economy in 1990.” *The Science of Mental Illness: NIH Curriculum Supplement Series — Grades 6-8.* (Colorado Springs: BSCS, 2005). <http://science.education.nih.gov/supplements/nih5/mental/guide/info-mental-c.htm>. Loss figure is from <http://profiles.nlm.nih.gov/ps/access/NNBBHS.pdf>, 411. Incorrectly quoted in footnotes as 2000 Surgeon General Report on Mental Health, it is the 1999 Surgeon General Report.
- 11 “While a person’s dignity is a gift of God, it is within individual relationships, families, communities and the larger society that human beings exercise that freedom. It is through participation in face-to-face relationships involving bodily actions, postures and mutual recognition that human freedom and dignity become apparent.” ELCA, *People Living with Disabilities*.
- 12 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, “Women’s Health USA 2011” (October 2011), 66. <http://mchb.hrsa.gov/whusa11/hsu/downloads/pdf/w11hsu.pdf>
- 13 In 1986, there were 111.7 24-hour hospital/residential treatment settings and number of beds per 100,000 in the population. By 2004, that number was 71.2. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, *Mental Health, United States, 2010*, table 46: 160. www.samhsa.gov/data/2k12/MHUS2010/MHUS-2010.pdf
- 14 “A 1-point increase in rurality on the 9-point Rural-Urban Continuum Code corresponded to an increase in unmet need of 3.3 percentage points.” Kathleen C. Thomas, Alan R. Ellis, Thomas R. Konrad, Charles E. Holzer, Joseph P. Morrissey, “County-Level Estimates of Mental Health Professional Shortage in the United States” *Psychiatric Services*, Vol. 60, No. 10 (October 2009): 1325.
- 15 Surveying racial groups as categorized by the U.S. government reveals significant differences in the rate of treatment of mental illness. Of the 1 in 14 adults with a major depressive episode, whites received treatment at a rate of 71.9 percent, but other races were less likely to receive treatment: African Americans,

Hispanics and Asians (54.5, 64.0 percent, respectively). *** no Asian number in 2010 — suppressed cell www.samhsa.gov/data/NSDUH/2k10MH_Findings/2k10MH_DTables/Sect1peMHtabs.htm#Tab1.55B

16 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, *Mental Health: Culture, Race, and Ethnicity — A Supplement to Mental Health: A Report of the Surgeon General* (Rockville, Md.: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Center for Mental Health Services, 2001). www.apa.org/about/gr/issues/minority/access.aspx

17 See, for example this study done by the Kaiser Family Foundation in 2004. www.kff.org/minorityhealth/upload/American-Indians-and-Alaska-Natives-Health-Coverage-Access-to-Care.pdf

18 “A \$1,000 increase in per capita income corresponded to a decrease in unmet need of 3.3 percentage points.” Kathleen C. Thomas et al, “County-Level Estimates of Mental Health Professional Shortage in the United States” *Psychiatric Services*, Vol. 60, No. 10 (October 2009): 1325.

19 Carey Golberg, “Mental Health and Poverty: Does One Cause the Other?” *Boston Globe*, March 8, 2005. www.boston.com/yourlife/health/mental/articles/2005/03/08/mental_illness_and_poverty_does_one_cause_the_other/

20 James Dao, “Many Veterans Face Long Wait for Mental Health Evaluations, Report Finds” *At War: Notes from the Front Lines New York Times*, April 23, 2012. <http://atwar.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/04/23/veterans-face-longer-wait-for-mental-health-evaluations-report-finds/>

21 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, “Current Statistics on the Prevalence and Characteristics of People Experiencing Homelessness in the United States” (Rockville, Md.: SAMHSA, 2011), 4. www.nrchmi.samhsa.gov/ResourceFiles/hrc_factsheet.pdf

22 Doris J. James and Lauren E. Glaze, “Mental Health Problems of Prison and Jail Inmates” (U.S. Dept. of Justice: Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2006), 1. <http://bjs.ojp.usdoj.gov/content/pub/pdf/mhppji.pdf>

23 Human Rights Watch, “Ill-Equipped: U.S. Prisons and Offenders with Mental Illness” October 22, 2003: 16. www.hrw.org/node/12252/section/16

24 Ibid.

25 In 1986, there were 111.7 24-hour hospital/residential treatment settings and number of beds per 100,000 in the population. By 2004, that number was 71.2 beds. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, *Mental Health, United States, 2010*, table 46: 160. www.samhsa.gov/data/2k12/MHUS2010/MHUS-2010.pdf

26 National Alliance on Mental Illness, “State Mental Health Cuts: A National Crisis” (March 2011). www.nami.org/ContentManagement/ContentDisplay.cfm?ContentFileID=126233

27 “Health is good for its own sake; it is also good for living abundantly in relationship with God and in loving service to our neighbor in the vocations to which God has called us.” Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, *Caring for Health: Our Shared Endeavor* (Chicago: ELCA, 2003).

28 When Jesus encounters a blind man in John’s Gospel, he is asked: “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” (John 9:1).

29 Stanley Hauerwas explains the tendency to locate causes of illness this way: “Our being able to associate our illnesses, at both a social and a personal level, with a causal system gives us a sense of control that seems to make their destructive outcomes less terrible.” Stanley Hauerwas, *God, Medicine, and Suffering* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1994), 72.

30 www.mayoclinic.com/health/mental-illness/ds01104/dsection=causes

31 Christopher G. Hudson, “Socioeconomic Status and Mental Illness: Tests of the Social Causation and Selection Hypotheses” *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry* Vol. 75, No. 1 (2005): 3-18. www.apa.org/pubs/journals/releases/ort-7513.pdf

32 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, *A Message on Suicide Prevention* (Chicago: ELCA, 1999).

33 See the ELCA social statement on genetics for a discussion of creation.

34 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, *Caring For Health: Our Shared Endeavor* (Chicago: ELCA, 2003).

35 Ibid.

36 “It is through participation in face-to-face relationships involving bodily actions, postures and mutual recognition that human freedom and dignity become apparent.” Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, *A Message on People Living with Disabilities* (Chicago: ELCA, 2011).

37 “... all people are God’s creatures and, therefore, persons of dignity,” Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, *For Peace in God’s World* (Chicago: ELCA, 1995). For more on the “imago dei” see also *A Message on People Living with Disabilities* (Chicago: ELCA, 2011), footnote 5.

38 “Family life also is supported when its members strive to meet reasonable expectations to forgive and to seek forgiveness and to bear each other’s burdens responsibly.” Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, *Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust* (Chicago: ELCA, 1995), 23.

39 Terrence Fretheim, *Creation Untamed: The Bible, God, and Natural Disasters* (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2010), 117.

40 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, *Caring For Health: Our Shared Endeavor* (Chicago: ELCA, 2003).

41 Ibid.

42 “There is no reason why even the suffering we undergo from illness, suffering that seems to have no good reason to exist, cannot be made part of the telos [goal] of our service to one another in and outside the Christian community. For example, the very willingness of those who are suffering from illness to be in the presence of the well is a form of service. Suffering and pain make us vulnerable, and often we try to protect ourselves by attempting to be ‘self-sufficient.’ The willingness to be present as well as to accept the assistance of others when we need help is a gift we give to one another.” Stanley Hauerwas, *God, Medicine, and Suffering* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1994), 88.

43 For example, such resources are available at the National Alliance for Mental Illness website (www.nami.org).

44 Robert H. Albers, William H. Meller, and Steven D. Thurber, (eds.), *Ministry with Persons with Mental Illness and Their Families* (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2012), 54.

45 The National Alliance on Mental Illness (www.nami.org) is a good place to start for basic information on mental illness.

46 National Alliance on Mental Illness, “State Mental Health Cuts: A Continuing Crisis” (November 2011). www.nami.org/ContentManagement/ContentDisplay.cfm?ContentFileID=147763

47 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, *Sufficient, Sustainable Livelihood for All* (Chicago: ELCA, 1999).

48 Heather Stuart, “Violence and Mental Illness: an Overview” *World Psychiatry* (June 2003) Vol. 2 (2): 121–124. www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1525086/

49 Ibid.

50 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, *A Social Statement on Genetics, Faith and Responsibility* (Chicago: ELCA, 2011).

Vice President Peña declared the motion was adopted.

Ms. McArver continued the report of the Program and Services Committee by describing updates it received on development of criminal justice and justice for women social statements and by reviewing items in the *en bloc* resolution that the committee had recommended.

ADDRESSING SOCIAL CONCERNS REVIEW TASK FORCE
(Exhibit J, Part 2)

Ms. Susan W. McArver concluded the report of the Program and Services Committee by drawing attention to a preliminary report to the Church Council from the Addressing Social Concerns Review Task Force. She presented the

task force's general recommendations as well as its specific recommendations regarding enhancements of existing practices and substantive procedural changes.

Among the substantive changes recommended by the task force, Ms. McArver emphasized "Change to the Process for Developing a Social Statement":

When the exploratory process described above results in a recommendation to respond to a social concern by developing a social statement, we recommend the insertion of an additional step into the process. In the current timetable for the development of a social statement, a draft is released, hearings are conducted, and the Task Force proceeds to write the proposed statement. *We recommend that a draft not proceed to the stage of developing the proposed social statement without the approval of 40% of the synods of the ELCA (26 out of 65 synods), by majority vote of their synod assemblies. This vote shall be a vote to authorize the continuation of the process, not a vote for or against the content of the draft.*

Ms. McArver led the Church Council members in small-group discussions of the task force's report and recommendations. The purpose of the discussion was to gather the feedback of council members for the Addressing Social Concerns Review Task Force. This concluded the report of the Program and Services Committee.

WHOLE-LIFE STEWARDSHIP CONVERSATIONS

(Agenda V.B.)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on Ms. Christina Jackson-Skelton, executive director of the Mission Advancement unit, to lead the Church Council in whole-life stewardship conversations.

Ms. Jackson-Skelton introduced the Rev. Stephen P. Bouman, executive director of the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit. Pr. Bouman presented the objectives of the Macedonia Project, an initiative to assist ELCA congregations and members as they grow in a spirit of gratitude and generosity.

In small groups, Church Council members discussed their responses to one of the following questions:

- When has your family received the grace of God?
- How do you express gratitude for God's grace?
- How do you teach others to be grateful for what they have received?

Ms. Annette C. Shoemaker, director for the ELCA Foundation, shared stories and information about Kalos: The ELCA Legacy Society. Kalos is a legacy recognition society developed to celebrate friends of the ELCA who have designated a gift in their will or trust or to an endowment to support the work of this church.

Church Council members engaged in small-group discussions of the legacy they intend to leave the ELCA.

Vice President Peña asked the members to prayerfully consider this invitation to join the Kalos society.

PROCESS OBSERVATIONS

(Agenda V.C.)

The Rev. Kathryn A. Tiede, a member of the Board Development Committee, asked the council members to discuss their views with her about continuing to hear processes observations during Church Council meetings.

Ms. Amanda A. Briggs and the Rev. Wm. Chris Boerger, bishop of the Northwest Washington Synod, offered process observations.

BIBLE STUDY

(Agenda V.D.)

The Rev. Jessica R. Crist, bishop of the Montana Synod and chair of the Conference of Bishops, led the Church Council in a study of the Parable of Talents (Matthew 25:14–30) and the Parable of the Pounds (Luke 19:12–27) using a series of small-group discussions.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Agenda V.E.)

Secretary David D. Swartling made several scheduling announcements.

RECESS

At the invitation of Vice President Carlos E. Peña, Ms. Karin Lynn Graddy closed the plenary session with prayer. The November 2012 meeting of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America recessed at 5:34 P.M.

**Sunday, November 11, 2012
Plenary Session VI**

Church Council members gathered at 8:30 A.M. for a service of Holy Communion in the Lutheran Center Chapel. Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson presided; the Rev. Laurie F. Skow-Anderson preached; Ms. Deborah L. Chenoweth served as assisting minister; and Mr. Jacob Halsor was lector.

CALL TO ORDER

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called the sixth plenary session to order at 9:55 A.M. He thanked those who participated in worship and announced that the offering of \$3,676 was designated for Lutheran Disaster Response in response to Hurricane Sandy.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE FOR ADMINISTRATION

(Agenda VI.A.; Exhibit A, Part 5)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on the Rev. M. Wyvetta Bullock, executive for administration, for her report.

Pr. Bullock updated the Church Council on the implementation of the churchwide organization's 2011–2013 operational plan.

Vice President Peña thanked Pr. Bullock for the report of the executive for administration.

The Church Council paused for prayer concerns.

REPORT OF THE PLANNING AND EVALUATION COMMITTEE

(Agenda VI.B.)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña asked the Rev. Susan Langhauser, chair of the Planning and Evaluation Committee, to present the committee's report.

Pr. Langhauser reviewed items the committee addressed at its meeting on November 9, 2012.

Ms. Christine P. Connell reported on some recovery efforts in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy.

LIVING INTO THE FUTURE TOGETHER (LIFT) ADVISORY COMMITTEE PROGRESS REPORT

(Agenda VI.B.1.; Exhibit I, Parts 1a and 2)

The Rev. Susan Langhauser, chair of the Planning and Evaluation Committee, drew the Church Council's attention to the written report of the LIFT Advisory Committee, and she moved the recommendation in that report on behalf of the Planning and Evaluation Committee.

Moved;

Seconded:

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

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

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

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

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

Through a series of questions and answers, members of the Church Council received a progress report on congregational mission planning and the implementation of other aspects of the LIFT resolutions from liaison synodical bishops and resource persons present.

There being no further discussion, Vice President Carlos E. Peña asked the Rev. Vicki T. Garber to lead the council in prayer.

The chair called for the vote.

VOTED:

CC12.11.40

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

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

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

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

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

Vice President Peña declared the motion was adopted.

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

UPDATE ON THE ELCA 25TH ANNIVERSARY THEME

(Agenda VI.C.)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña introduced Ms. Melissa Ramirez Cooper, manager for public relations in the Mission Advancement unit.

Ms. Ramirez Cooper presented messaging tools for broadcasting value statements about this church and the theme of the ELCA’s celebration of its 25th Anniversary—Always Being Made New: 25 Years Together in Christ.

REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE OF BISHOPS

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

The Rev. Jessica R. Crist, bishop of the Montana Synod and chair of the Conference of Bishops, presented the written report of the conference and spoke of its work on revising the relational agreement among synodical bishops and of the experience of its Executive Committee meeting with the Executive Committee of the Church Council and the Administrative Team.

Vice President Carlos E. Peña thanked Bp. Crist for the report of the Conference of Bishops.

CONSIDERATION OF UNFINISHED ITEMS FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

RECOMMENDATION FROM THE LIAISON COMMITTEE FOR ECUMENICAL AND INTER-RELIGIOUS RELATIONS OF THE CONFERENCE OF BISHOPS

(Agenda VI.E.1.)

Background:

The Conference of Bishops, at the recommendation of its Liaison Committee for Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Relations, adopted the following motion at its October 2012 meeting.

To request that the Church Council establish a task force charged with reviewing the governing documents of this church, including but not limited to Chapter Three of the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* and related provisions in the *Constitution for Synods* and the *Model Constitution for Congregations*, for the purpose of addressing how this church can affirm and strengthen its self-understanding as part of the Lutheran World Federation. The work of this task force would include reviewing the nature and ecclesiology of this church in light of the past 25 years of significant developments in its ecumenical and global self-understanding and relationships. The task force should submit its final report and recommendations to the Conference of Bishops and the Church Council in sufficient time for possible action at the 2016 Churchwide Assembly.

Church Council Action:

Vice President Carlos E. Peña drew the Church Council's attention to the Conference of Bishops request. Secretary David D. Swartling made the following motion on behalf of the Executive Committee.

Moved;

Seconded:

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

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

To authorize the Executive Committee of the Church Council to appoint the members of the task force, which will be known as the Ecclesiology of a Global Church Task Force, and which will undertake the responsibility of reviewing the nature and ecclesiology of this church in light of the past 25 years of significant developments in its ecumenical and global self-understanding and relationships;

To request that Ecclesiology of a Global Church Task Force submit interim reports on at least a yearly basis to the Conference of Bishops and the Church Council and submit its final report and

recommendations to the Conference of Bishops and the Church Council in sufficient time for possible action at the 2016 Churchwide Assembly.

Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson presented a rationale for the recommendation:

“This is a continuing conversation in this church about how we speak about ourselves in terms of our self-understanding of the nature of the Church. Look at Chapter Three [of the ELCA constitution]. Although it is a very short chapter in the governing documents, it describes the nature of the Church in two paragraphs. That was crafted through difficult and sometimes delicate conversations by the Committee for a New Lutheran Church (CNLC) to reflect differing self-understandings of the nature of the Church in the three predecessor church bodies. It has served this church well.

“Much has changed in the past 25 years. Our deepening sense of our ecumenical commitment, as it is reflected in the statement on ecumenism [“Ecumenism: The Vision of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America” (1991)], adopted after this chapter was adopted, that has guided us into significant full-communion relationships and in continuing dialogue and involvement in conciliar relationships.

“Simultaneously, over the past 25 years, the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) has deepened its self-understanding as more than a federation of churches—but as a communion of churches. Although we are not *the* Church, we have a deeper sense of being the Church together around the means of grace, recognizing that to be a member of the LWF is to be in altar-and-pulpit fellowship with all other member churches in the LWF.

“So, we have been asking: ‘Is our self-understanding of the nature of the Church, as lived out in our full-communion relationships and lived out in the deepening sense of being in communion with LWF-member churches, adequately reflected in these two paragraphs on the nature of the Church?’ Rather than answer the question by beginning to amend those paragraphs, we think we need to have that conversation so that it can bring forth words that would not replace but would strengthen these two paragraphs. It can be a complex conversation, to talk about the nature of the Church.

“It is important to remember the nature and the purpose of the Church, which we call ‘ecclesiology,’ is different from ‘polity,’ which is how we organize this church for the sake of that nature and purpose. So, when we talk about this church as one church and three expressions—congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization—that is polity. We can do that differently, if we feel it most effectively serves the Gospel and God’s mission. It is easy to confuse polity and ecclesiology.

“This is really a foundational conversation about our self-understanding in relationship to the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church—words from the Nicene Creed that do not appear in this chapter, as you would note, but some would say should appear in this chapter.

“I will caution you that as word gets out, we need to be clear about what we are seeking to do and to not do, because for those who had a part in the formulation of this chapter, there will be understandable concern that we are beginning to redefine the nature of the Church that has created, in many respects, the merger that enabled the birth of this part of the Body of Christ 25 years ago. We are not trying to do that. We are trying to ask the question: ‘How do we more fully reflect our self-understanding of this church, as we have come to live it the past 25 years?’ It can be a very rich conversation, but conversations these days around things that are core to our self-understanding can also create anxiety, anxiety can create tension, and tension can bring with it all the old conflicts that we have experienced over the past years. That is not our desire.

“We will need you to be interpretative agents of this action, even as we will seek to be clear about what we are trying to do. I am cautioning you that there will be some potential misunderstanding and concern about what we are doing. Because we have time, it is very important to me that you ask the clarifying questions, even so that you understand what the action is.

“We do talk about the LWF in other parts of our governing documents, and some might say we speak about it adequately there. I do not think we do, but we can have that conversation. Some, in the past four or five years, have said: ‘Can we begin to talk about the LWF as the fourth expression of the ELCA and that we have a global communion self-understanding?’ Some have said we have five expressions with the fifth being the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church. That is a dangerous path to go down, to declare the LWF an expression of the ELCA, when our self-identity is within the LWF, not the LWF an extension of our identity.

“For me, it does not make sense to make a polity move when it comes to talking about the LWF, but we can think about it in its various dimensions, both relationally as a federation of churches and within the context of Chapter Three as part of the nature of the Church.”

The Rev. Donald J. McCoid, assistant to the presiding bishop for ecumenical and inter-religious relations, spoke in favor of the motion.

A discussion ensued about how the proposed action may be understood.

There being no further discussion, Vice President Peña asked Mr. John R. Emery to lead the Church Council in prayer.

The chair called for the vote.

VOTED:

CC12.11.41

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

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

To authorize the Executive Committee of the Church Council to appoint the members of the task force, which will be known as the Ecclesiology of a Global Church Task Force, and which will undertake the responsibility of reviewing the nature and ecclesiology of this church in light of the past 25 years of significant developments in its ecumenical and global self-understanding and relationships;

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

Vice President Peña declared the motion was adopted.

VIDEOS

Those present viewed two videos mentioned earlier in the meeting: a Mission Investment Fund video on its work through Grace Lutheran Church in Adel, Iowa; and a video featuring Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson with a message of reconciliation following the U.S. presidential election in 2012.

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION ON NATIONAL NATIVE AMERICA HERITAGE MONTH

(Agenda VII.C.1.)

The Rev. Jessica R. Crist, bishop of the Montana Synod and chair of the Conference of Bishops, made the following motion.

Moved;

Seconded:

To adopt the following resolution:

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

WHEREAS, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) has a commitment to justice and inclusion for all peoples; and

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

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

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

Bp. Crist noted that she had read the presidential proclamation earlier in the meeting.

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

VOTED:

CC12.11.42

To adopt the following resolution:

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

WHEREAS, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) has a commitment to justice and inclusion for all peoples; and

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

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

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

Vice President Peña declared the motion was adopted.

YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT ADVISORS

Vice President Carlos E. Peña invited Ms. Amanda A. Briggs, Mr. Jacob R. Halsor, and Mr. Anthony (Tony) Rhodes to discuss their experiences of the Church Council meeting.

CAFÉ CONVERSATION ON BOARD GOVERNANCE

(Agenda VI.F.)

Secretary David D. Swartling and Treasurer Linda O. Norman led the Church Council in small-group conversations regarding fiduciary, strategic, and generative modes of governance. The discussions were based on three questions:

- What suggestions do you have to prepare the Church Council for a role in strategic governance beginning in 2013?
- What suggestions do you have to prepare the Church Council for a role in generative governance beginning in 2013?
- What key questions should be addressed by the Church Council in preparing to lead in 2013?

Members of the Church Council shared some of the themes and questions from the conversations regarding each of the governance modes.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Agenda VI.G.)

Secretary David D. Swartling announced schedule and logistical details for the remainder of the meeting.

TABLE GRACE AND RECESS

At the request of the chair, the Rev. Rachel L. Connelly led the group in table grace.

The November 2012 meeting of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America recessed for lunch at 12:14 P.M.

**Sunday, November 11, 2012
Plenary Session VII**

CALL TO ORDER

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called the seventh plenary session to order at 1:10 P.M.

REPORT OF THE BOARD DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

(Agenda VII.A.)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña asked the Rev. Rachel L. Connelly, chair of the Board Development Committee, to present the committee's report.

Pr. Connelly presented an overview of the committee's work and relationships.

CHURCH COUNCIL RETREAT

(Agenda VII.A.1.)

Based on a discussion of the Church Council at its April 2012 meeting regarding the possibilities and benefits of gathering in retreat, the Board Development Committee prepared a recommendation. The Rev. Rachel L. Connelly made the following motion on behalf of the committee.

Moved;

Seconded:

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

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

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

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

VOTED:

CC12.11.43

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

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

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

Vice President Peña declared the motion was adopted.

Pr. Connelly concluded the report of the Board Development Committee.

The Church Council paused for prayer concerns.

DWELLING IN THE WORD

(Agenda VII.B.)

The Rev. Raymond A. Miller reflected on Galatians 6:2, St. Paul's instructions to "bear one another's burdens," in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy.

CONSIDERATION OF UNFINISHED AND ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS

(Agenda VII.D.)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on Secretary David D. Swartling, who announced the only additional item of business was the appointment of a Church Council liaison to the advisory committee of *The Lutheran* magazine in the Mission Advancement unit. By unanimous consent, the council appointed Ms. Deborah L. Chenoweth.

EN BLOC CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN ITEMS

(Agenda VII.F.; Exhibits B, D, and H)

Background:

En bloc resolutions were supplied among the exhibits for the meeting and time was provided for Church Council members to remove any item or items they would like to consider separately. *En bloc* action reflects a judgment that these items are relatively non-controversial in nature and may not require plenary discussion and a separate vote.

Church Council Action:

Vice President Carlos E. Peña noted that the proposal to amend ELCA bylaw 12.41.11. in the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* had been removed from the *en bloc* resolutions for separate consideration by the Church Council.

Secretary David D. Swartling made the following motion.

Moved;

Seconded:

To take action *en bloc* on the items listed in Exhibit B and Exhibit D, except for the proposed amendments to bylaw 12.41.11. in the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*.

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

VOTED:

CC12.11.44

To take action *en bloc* on the items listed below, except for [in item T] the proposed amendments to bylaw 12.41.11. in the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*.

Vice President Peña declared the motion was approved and approval was given *en bloc* to the following items, except for the proposed constitutional amendment of bylaw 12.41.11. in item T.

SYNODICAL RESOLUTIONS FOR REFERRAL

A. GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE

Northeastern Ohio Synod (6E)

VOTED:

EN BLOC

- CC12.11.44a** To receive with gratitude the resolution of the Northeastern Ohio Synod related to global climate change;
To acknowledge the continuing efforts and commitment of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to address environmental issues as part of its call to justice, sustainability, and solidarity with affected communities, in conjunction with partners across this church; and
To request that the secretary of this church inform the synod of this action.

RESPONSES TO SYNODICAL RESOLUTIONS

PREVIOUSLY REFERRED TO UNITS BY CHURCH COUNCIL OR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

B. ELCA HEALTH AND BENEFITS PROGRAM

Southeastern Minnesota Synod (3I)

VOTED:

EN BLOC

- CC12.11.44b** To receive the response and report from Portico Benefit Services on the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America health and benefits program;
To express appreciation to the Southeastern Minnesota Synod for sharing the concerns and challenges faced by synods and congregations brought on by the departure of many former ELCA congregations;
To affirm the recommendation of Portico Benefit Services that clergy plan members who have left the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America not be removed from the health and benefits program of this church; and
To request that the secretary of this church inform the synod of this action.

C. ANALYSIS, ASSESSMENT, AND MEASUREMENT OF NEW MISSION STARTS AND CONGREGATIONS IN REDEVELOPMENT

Southwest California Synod (2B)

VOTED:

EN BLOC

- CC12.11.44c** To acknowledge and affirm the ongoing work of the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit;
To anticipate a full report and possible recommendations to the November 2013 meeting of the Church Council; and
To request that the secretary of this church inform the synod of this action.

D. ELECTRONIC NOTIFICATION FOR CONGREGATIONS

Southwestern Washington Synod (1C)

VOTED:

EN BLOC

CC12.11.44d To receive with gratitude the resolution of the Southwestern Washington Synod requesting modifications to the *Model Constitution for Congregations* regarding electronic notifications for congregations;

To receive the response of the Office of the Secretary to the synod for the modifications and acknowledge the potential amendments proposed to the *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*; and

To request the secretary inform the synod of this action.

E. A CALL TO PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF THE CONFLICT WITH IRAN

Southern Ohio Synod (6F)

VOTED:

EN BLOC

CC12.11.44e To receive the response provided by the Office of the Presiding Bishop related to the resolution of the Southern Ohio Synod regarding a call for a peaceful resolution of the conflict in Iran;

To request the Office of the Presiding Bishop continue with the recommendations proposed by the Public Policy Procedures Group; and

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

RESPONSES TO CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY ACTIONS

PREVIOUSLY REFERRED TO UNITS BY CHURCH COUNCIL OR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

F. BULLYING, HARASSMENT, AND RELATED VIOLENCE

Memorials Category A1: Churchwide Assembly Action [CA11.03.13]

Alaska Synod (1A), Eastern Washington-Idaho Synod (1D), Oregon Synod (1E), Montana Synod (1F), Grand Canyon Synod (2D), Rocky Mountain Synod (2E), Eastern North Dakota Synod (3B), Northwestern Minnesota Synod (3D), Northeastern Minnesota Synod (3E), Southwestern Minnesota Synod (3F), Minneapolis Area Synod (3G), Saint Paul Area Synod (3H), Southeastern Minnesota Synod (3I), Central States Synod (4B), Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod (4C), Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod (4F), Metropolitan Chicago Synod (5A), Northern Illinois Synod (5B), Central/Southern Illinois Synod (5C), Southeastern Iowa Synod (5D), Northeastern Iowa Synod (5F), Northern Great Lakes Synod (5G), Greater Milwaukee Synod (5J), South-Central Synod of Wisconsin (5K), Southern Ohio Synod (6F), New Jersey Synod (7A), New England Synod (7B), Metropolitan New York Synod (7C), Upstate New York Synod (7D), Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod (7E), Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod (7F), Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod (8B), Allegheny Synod (8C), Metropolitan Washington, D.C., Synod (8G), North Carolina Synod (9B), South Carolina Synod (9C), and Florida-Bahamas Synod (9E)

VOTED: *EN BLOC*
CC12.11.44f To receive with gratitude the responses of the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit and Lutheran Men in Mission regarding bullying, harassment, and related violence;
To acknowledge the reports as the response of the Church Council to the action of the 2011 Churchwide Assembly; and
To request that the secretary of this church inform the synods of this action.

G. IMMIGRATION REFORM

Memorials Category A6: Churchwide Assembly Action [CA11.04.26]
Northeastern Minnesota Synod (3E)

VOTED: *EN BLOC*
CC12.11.44g To receive with gratitude the response of the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit on its activities associated with its support of comprehensive immigration reform and the DREAM Act;
To acknowledge this report as the response of the Church Council to the action of the 2011 Churchwide Assembly; and
To request that the secretary of this church inform the synod of this action.

H. SYNODICAL RATIFICATION PROCEDURE

Memorials Category B2: Churchwide Assembly Action [CA11.03.06c]
Southeastern Minnesota Synod (3I)

VOTED: *EN BLOC*
CC12.11.44h To receive with gratitude the response from the Office of the Presiding Bishop regarding ways that the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, in all its expressions, is exploring existing and new means of discussions and decision-making;
To encourage congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization to continue to engage in opportunities for further study and discussion of matters important to the mission of this church;
To acknowledge this report as the response of the Church Council to the action of the 2011 Churchwide Assembly; and
To request that the secretary of this church inform the synod of this action.

I. LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY

Memorials Category C1: Churchwide Assembly Action [CA11.05.39]

Pacifica Synod (2C), Southwestern Minnesota Synod (3F), Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod (4C), Metropolitan Chicago Synod (5A), Northern Illinois Synod (5B), Central/Southern Illinois Synod (5C), Southeastern Iowa Synod (5D), Greater Milwaukee Synod (5J), Upstate New York Synod (7D), and South Carolina Synod (9C)

VOTED: *EN BLOC*
CC12.11.44i To receive with gratitude the report of the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit in response to the memorial of the 2011 Churchwide Assembly related to Lutheran Campus Ministry;
 To acknowledge this report as the response of the Church Council to the action of the 2011 Churchwide Assembly; and
 To request that the secretary of this church inform the synods of this action.

J. SOCIAL STATEMENT ON HUMAN SEXUALITY

Memorials Category E1: Churchwide Assembly Action [CA11.03.06h]

South Dakota Synod (3C), Metropolitan Chicago Synod (5A), Metropolitan New York Synod (7C), and Metropolitan Washington, D.C., Synod (8G)

VOTED: *EN BLOC*
CC12.11.44j To receive the response from the Office of the Presiding Bishop;
 To forward the report on the implementation of the social statement, *Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust*, received in the April 2012 meeting of the Church Council to the 2013 Churchwide Assembly; and
 To request the secretary of this church inform the synods of this action.

K. DIALOGUE WITH THE NORTH AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH

Motion D: Churchwide Assembly Action [CA11.05.32]

VOTED: *EN BLOC*
CC12.11.44k To receive the report of the Office of the Presiding Bishop in response to the memorial of the 2011 Churchwide Assembly on the dialogue with the North American Lutheran Church; and
 To acknowledge the report as the response of the Church Council to the action of the 2011 Churchwide Assembly.

L. CONGREGATIONAL OFFERINGS

Motion F: Churchwide Assembly Action [CA11.05.34]

VOTED: *EN BLOC*
CC12.11.44l To receive with gratitude the report of the Mission Advancement unit in response to the memorial of the 2011 Churchwide Assembly on congregational offerings; and
 To acknowledge the report as the response of the Church Council to the action of the 2011 Churchwide Assembly.

M. YOUTH-RELATED MATTERS

Motion H: Churchwide Assembly Action [CA11.05.36]

VOTED:

EN BLOC

CC12.11.44m To receive the report of the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit in response to the memorial of the 2011 Churchwide Assembly on youth-related matters;
To recognize with deep appreciation the ways that the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit maintains and strengthens a youth-led faith formation and leadership development organization at the churchwide expression; and
To acknowledge with gratitude the work of the church to actively involve youth and young adults in governance structures at the churchwide and synodical expressions, and to receive the report as the response of the Church Council to the action of the 2011 Churchwide Assembly.

N. NATIVE AMERICANS AND ALASKA NATIVES

Motion J: Churchwide Assembly Action [CA11.04.18]

VOTED:

EN BLOC

CC12.11.44n To receive the response from the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit; and
To postpone the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit report with possible recommendations to the April 2013 meeting of the Church Council.

O. MISSION SUPPORT

Motion L: Churchwide Assembly Action [CA11.05.38]

VOTED:

EN BLOC

CC12.11.44o To receive with gratitude the report of the Mission Advancement unit in response to the memorial of the 2011 Churchwide Assembly on mission support; and
To acknowledge the report and recommendations of the Mission Funding Task Force regarding the deep engagement and commitment to this issue as the response of the Church Council to the action of the 2011 Churchwide Assembly.

OTHER ITEMS

P. APPOINTMENT OF THE MEMORIALS COMMITTEE

VOTED:

EN BLOC

CC12.11.44p To appoint the members of the Memorials Committee for the 2013 Churchwide Assembly:

1. Ms. Susan W. McArver (9C) – *co-chair*
2. Pr. Stephen R. Herr (8D) – *co-chair*
3. Mr. Mark E. Johnson (1B)
4. Ms. Christine P. Connell (7C)

5. Bp. Elizabeth A. Eaton (6E)
6. Bp. Ray Tiemann (4E)
7. Pr. Jane A. Buckley-Farlee (3G)
8. Pr. Kendra A. Mohn (4D)
9. Pr. Arhiana S. Shek (5E)
10. Sister Krista M. Anderson (3D)
11. Ms. Arielle Mastellar (3F)
12. Mr. Anthony (Tony) Rhodes (1B)
13. Mr. Charles R. Pietscher (5D)
14. Mr. Mark L. Winzler (7B); and

To authorize the Executive Committee of the Church Council to appoint additional members to the Memorials Committee for the 2013 Churchwide Assembly as needed.

Q. APPOINTMENT OF THE REFERENCE AND COUNSEL COMMITTEE

VOTED:

EN BLOC

CC12.11.44q

To appoint the members of the Committee of Reference and Counsel for the 2013 Churchwide Assembly:

1. Mr. William B. Horne II (9E) – *co-chair*
2. Ms. Louise A. Hemstead (5L) – *co-chair*
3. Mr. Paul G. Archer (6A)
4. Pr. Vicki T. Garber (6C)
5. Bp. Martin D. Wells (1D)
6. Bp. Jon V. Anderson (3F)
7. Pr. Randy Skow-Anderson (3D)
8. Pr. Glen A. Vanderkloot (5C)
9. Mr. Charles E. Poston (9A)
10. Mr. Carl A. Teinert (4E)
11. Ms. Yolanda A. Tanner (8F)
12. Ms. Susan M. Berg (1B)
13. Ms. Amanda A. Briggs (2A)
14. Ms. Addie J. Butler (7F); and

To authorize the Executive Committee of the Church Council to appoint additional members to the Reference and Counsel Committee for the 2013 Churchwide Assembly as needed.

R. SYNOD CONSTITUTION AMENDMENTS

VOTED:

EN BLOC

CC12.11.44r

To ratify the following amendments to the Oregon, Southwest California, Western North Dakota, Southwestern Minnesota, Southeastern Minnesota, Southwestern Texas, Greater Milwaukee, Southwestern Washington, New Jersey and Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana synod constitutions; and

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

R1. Oregon Synod (1E)

S9.03. There shall be a Nominating Committee consisting of ~~a representative of each cluster in this synod~~ no fewer than five members to serve for each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.

R2. Southwest California Synod (2B)

S7.26. This synod may establish processes through the Synod Council that permit representatives of mission settings formed with the intent of becoming ~~chartered~~ organized congregations and authorized worshiping communities of the synod, which have been authorized under Evangelical Lutheran Church in America bylaw 10.02.03., to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly, consistent with †S7.21. Authorized worshiping communities, acknowledged under criteria, policies, and procedures approved by the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, shall accept and adhere to the Confession of Faith and Statement of Purpose of this church, shall be served by leadership under the criteria of this church, and shall be subject to the discipline of this church.

S8.22. The vice president shall chair the Synod Council and represent the synod in required meetings.

~~**S9.11.** The Synod Council shall elect or appoint representatives to the Coordinating Council of the Region.~~

S10.03. The functions of the Synod Council shall be to:

...

f. ~~After missing three meetings per year, fill~~ Fill vacancies until the next regular meeting of the Synod Assembly except as may otherwise be provided in the constitution or bylaws of this synod, and determine the fact of the incapacity of an officer of this synod.

~~**S12.20.** Coalitions~~

~~**S12.30.** Clusters~~

~~**S14.21.** All ordained ministers under call shall attend the meetings of the Synod Assembly, Conference Assembly and Clergy Collegium to which the congregation in which they hold membership belongs.~~

All rostered leaders under a call shall attend meetings of the Synod Assembly, and the pastors of congregations shall also attend the meetings of the conference, cluster, coalition, collegium or other area subdivision to which the congregation belongs.

~~**S15.41.** This synod shall have an Endowment Fund endowment fund named the Mission and Ministry Fund (hereafter referred to as the Fund). ~~This Fund shall be named The Mission and Ministry Fund.~~ It shall not be a separately incorporated entity, but shall be a separate ~~Fund~~ fund of this synod.~~

~~**S15.42.** The Mission and Ministry Fund shall continue in existence and shall be used as hereinafter provided, (unless earlier revoked); so long as the synod shall continue to exist. If the synod~~

should cease to exist, then the assets of the Fund shall become the property of a successor synod. If there is no successor synod, then the assets of the Fund become the property of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America or its successor body. Furthermore, should the synod dissolve it shall, at the time of dissolution, have the right to determine, in consultation with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, a successor synod that qualifies as an exempt organization under the Internal Revenue Code.

R3. Western North Dakota Synod (3A)

S9.11. The Nominating Committee shall nominate persons to be elected by the Synod Assembly to serve on the Luther Seminary Board; and the Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota Board ~~and the North Dakota Campus Ministry Board~~. Additional nominations may be made from the floor.

R4. Southwestern Minnesota Synod (3F)

S7.26. This synod may establish processes through the Synod Council that permit representatives of congregations under development and synodically authorized worshipping communities of the synod, under ELCA bylaw 10.02.03., to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly, consistent with †S7.21. Such congregations under development and synodically authorized worshipping communities, acknowledged under criteria and procedures of the ELCA Division for Outreach and the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, shall accept and adhere to the Confession of Faith and Statement of Purpose of this church, shall be served by leadership under the criteria of this church, and shall be subject to the discipline of this church.

R5. Southeastern Minnesota Synod (3I)

S9.05. The Synod Nominating Committee shall nominate at least two persons for vice president; additional nominations may be made from the floor.

S9.13. The Synod Nominating Committee shall nominate person for election by the Synod Assembly to the boards of agencies and institutions of the church according to their respective constitutions.

S9.14. The ~~Synod's Lutheran Youth Organization~~ Synod Nominating Committee shall nominate person(s) for election by the Synod Assembly to serve as youth member(s) of the Synod Council.

S9.16. The Synod Nominating Committee shall nominate seven persons for the Committee on the Election of a Bishop who shall be elected by the Synod Assembly.

S11.11. This synod shall in its bylaws or by continuing resolution establish a process to ensure that the members of its ~~teams~~ tables, committees, and other organizational units will be persons possessing the necessary knowledge and competence to be effective members of such units, and to meet the requirements of †S6.04. With the exception of ordained ministers on the roster of this synod who reside outside the territory of this synod, each member of a board or committee of this synod, or any other organizational unit created by this synod, shall be a voting member of a congregation of this synod.

R6. Southwestern Texas Synod (4E)

S9.03. There shall be a Nominating Committee composed of nine persons appointed by the Synod Council. One of the appointees shall be a youth or young adult who shall be appointed for a two-year term. Other members shall be appointed for six-year terms. The appointees shall reflect the male/female and lay/clergy representation guidelines for the Synod. ~~consisting of one member from each conference, and one youth member (age 15–20) to serve for each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.~~ Additional nominations may be made from the floor for all elections for which nominations are made by the Nominating Committee.

R7. Greater Milwaukee Synod (5J)

S7.34. Unless otherwise specified in the bylaws, each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly shall be held during April, May, June, or July.

R8. Southwestern Washington Synod (1C)

~~**S9.03.** There shall be a Nominating Committee consisting of ten members whose election and duties shall be defined by the bylaws. Additional nominations may be made from the floor for all elections for which nominations are made by this committee.~~

S10.03. The Synod Council shall have as its primary responsibilities matters of policy for this synod; fostering of coordinated goals, and mutual mission; and in pursuit thereof shall:

~~Procedural concerns shall be delegated to the boards: Fiscal, Leadership Support, Outreach, Congregational Ministries, Church in Society and Mission Endowment Fund, each of which shall have representatives from the Synod Council.~~

~~These boards, together with the Executive Committee, shall be responsible to oversee and respond to the continuing mission of the synod.~~

~~a. Each synodical board shall be responsible to, and shall regularly report to, this Synod Council and the Synod Assembly.~~

~~b. Each synodical board shall meet at least twice each year to carry out its assigned responsibilities. Subcommittee(s) may be established by a board with the approval of the Executive Committee.~~

~~c. a. Exercise trusteeship responsibilities on behalf of the synod.~~

~~d. b. Provide for an annual review of the roster of ordained ministers and of other official rosters, receive and act upon appropriate recommendations regarding those persons whose status is subject to reconsideration and action under the constitution and bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and make a report to the Synod Assembly of the Synod Council's actions in this regard.~~

~~e. c. Issue letters of call to ordained ministers and letters of call to associates in ministry, deaconesses, and diaconal ministers as authorized by Chapter 7 of the constitution and bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.~~

~~f. d. Provide for an annual review of the roster of ordained ministers and the roster of associates in ministry and make appropriate recommendations to this synod regarding those persons whose status is subject to reconsideration and action under the constitution and bylaws of ELCA.~~

~~g. e. Issue letters of call to ordained ministers and letters of appointment to associates in ministry, consecrated deacons and deaconesses, commissioned teachers, and certified~~

or commissioned lay professionals as authorized by Chapter 7 of the constitution and bylaws of ELCA.

- ~~h-f.~~ Fill vacancies until the next regular meeting of the Synod Assembly except as may otherwise be provided in the constitution or bylaws of this synod, and determine the fact of the incapacity of an officer of this synod.
- ~~i-g.~~ Report its actions to the regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.
- ~~j-h.~~ Perform such other functions as are set forth in the bylaws of the synod, or as may be delegated to it by the Synod Assembly. Recommend program goals and budgets to the regular meetings of the Synod Assembly. Carry out the resolutions of the Synod Assembly.
- ~~k-i.~~ Designate at least one member of Synod Council as a member of the steering committee of this synod's region.

S10.04. Procedural concerns shall be delegated to committees and other organizational units the Synod Council shall create pursuant to these bylaws. Such committees and other organizational units shall be responsible to oversee and respond to the continuing mission of the synod.

S10.045. Any proposal to appropriate funds, whether by amendment to the budget or otherwise, which is presented to a meeting of the Synod Assembly without the approval of the Synod Council, shall require a two-thirds vote for adoption.

[Renumber subsequent provisions and bylaws in Chapter 10.]

S11.10.—The General Provisions

R9. New Jersey Synod (7A)

S9.03. ~~There shall be a Nominating Committee consisting of one member from each cluster, who shall be elected by the cluster to serve for two consecutive regular meetings of the Synod Assembly. One half of the committee shall stand for election each year. Additional nominations may be made from the floor for all elections for which nominations are made by the Nominating Committee.~~
There shall be a Nominating Committee appointed annually by the Synod Council of from six to nine persons. The Synod Council may appoint the Mission District Deans to serve in this role. The Synod Bishop and Synod Secretary shall serve *ex officio* with voice, but not vote. The Nominating Committee shall provide at least one nomination for Counselor for each Mission Cluster. The Nominating Committee shall provide nominations to the Synod Assembly for Synod Council and for ELCA Churchwide Voting Members for positions available after Mission District elections of nominees. The Nominating Committee shall designate categories for Mission Districts electing nominees for Synod Council and Churchwide Voting Members.

R10. Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Synod (4D)

†**S3.01.** The territory of this synod, as determined by the Churchwide Assembly, shall be the counties of Andrews, Archer, Armstrong, Bailey, Baylor, Bell, Borden, Bosque, Bowie, Briscoe, Brown, Callahan, Camp, Carson, Cass, Castro, Childress, Clay, Cochran, Coke, Coleman, Collin, Collingsworth, Comanche, Concho, Cooke, Coryell, Cottle, Crosby, Dallam, Dallas, Dawson, Deaf Smith, Delta, Denton, Dickens, Donley, Eastland, Ector, Ellis, Erath, Falls, Fannin, Fisher,

Floyd, Foard, Franklin, Gaines, Garza, ~~Gatesville~~, Glasscock, Gray, Grayson, Gregg, Hale, Hall, Hamilton, Hansford, Hardeman, Harrison, Hartley, Haskell, Hemphill, Henderson, Hill, Hockley, Hood, Hopkins, Howard, Hunt, Hutchinson, Irion, Jack, Johnson, Jones, Kaufman, Kent, King, Knox, Lamar, Lamb, Lampasas, Limestone, Lipscomb, Lubbock, Lynn, ~~McCullough~~ McCulloch, McLennan, Marion, Martin, Midland, Mills, Mitchell, Montague, Moore, Morris, Motley, Navarro, Nolan, Ochiltree, Oldham, Palo Pinto, Panola, Parker, Parmer, Potter, Rains, Randall, Reagan, Red River, Roberts, Rockwall, Runnels, Rusk, San Saba, Scurry, Shackelford, Sherman, Smith, Somervell, Stephens, Sterling, Stonewall, Swisher, Tarrant, Taylor, Terry, Throckmorton, Titus, Tom Green, Upshur, Van Zandt, Wheeler, Wichita, Wilbarger, Wise, Wood, Yoakum, Young in the state of TEXAS; the parishes of Bienville, Bossier, Caddo, Caldwell, Catahoula, Claiborne, Concordia, DeSoto, East Carroll, Franklin, Grant, Jackson, LaSalle, Lincoln, Madison, Morehouse, Natchitoches, Ouachita, Red River, Richland, Sabine, Tensas, Union, Webster, West Carroll, Winn in the state of LOUISIANA.

S. CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS TO SYNOD BOUNDARIES

Delaware-Maryland Synod (8F)

VOTED:

EN BLOC

CC12.11.44s

To recommend that the 2013 Churchwide Assembly approve the following action:

To ratify the following amendment to the Delaware-Maryland Synod constitution;

and

To amend bylaw 10.01.11. of the Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as follows.

†S3.01. The territory of this synod, as determined by the Churchwide Assembly, shall be: the state of DELAWARE; the city of Baltimore and the counties of Allegany, Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Caroline, Carroll, Cecil, Dorchester, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Kent, Queen Anne's, Somerset, Talbot, Washington, Wicomico, and Worcester in the state of MARYLAND; the congregations of ~~The Redeemer, Montgomery County, and of Holy Trinity, Prince George's County, in the State of MARYLAND;~~ the congregation of Mt. Joy, Adams County, in the Commonwealth of PENNSYLVANIA; and the counties of Accomack and Northampton in the State of VIRGINIA.

10.01.11. The names and boundaries of the synods shall be:

Synod 8.F—Delaware-Maryland. The state of DELAWARE; the city of Baltimore and the counties of Allegany, Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Caroline, Carroll, Cecil, Dorchester, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Kent, Queen Anne's, Somerset, Talbot, Washington, Wicomico, Worcester in the state of MARYLAND; the congregation of Holy Trinity, Prince George's County, in the state of MARYLAND; the congregation of Mt. Joy, Adams County, in the state of PENNSYLVANIA; the counties of Accomack, Northampton in the state of VIRGINIA.

T. PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE *CONSTITUTIONS, BYLAWS, AND CONTINUING RESOLUTIONS OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA*

VOTED: *EN BLOC*
CC12.11.44t *To recommend adoption of the following proposed action by the voting members of the 2013 Churchwide Assembly:*
*To adopt the proposed amendments to the *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* presented to the 2013 Churchwide Assembly.*

U. 2013 CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY RULES OF ORGANIZATION AND PROCEDURE

VOTED: *EN BLOC*
CC12.11.44u1 *To recommend adoption of the following proposed action by the voting members of the 2013 Churchwide Assembly:*
To adopt the “Rules of Organization and Procedure” for the 2013 Churchwide Assembly (exclusive of quoted and highlighted constitutional provisions and bylaws that are already in force).

VOTED: *EN BLOC*
CC12.11.44u2 *To authorize the presiding bishop and secretary of this church to prepare further editing and scheduling revisions that may be found necessary for the Rules prior to their publication in the *Pre-Assembly Report*; and*
To report any changes to the Church Council at its August 2013 meeting.

V. AMENDMENTS TO THE DEACONESS COMMUNITY BYLAWS

VOTED: *EN BLOC*
CC12.11.44v *To approve the amended 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 two 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 ELCIC, or as a member of a congregation of one of these church bodies.
- 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, in consultation with the rostering bishop, 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 ELCIC, or as a member of a congregation of one of these church bodies.

If dismissal of a rostered member of the executive or program staff (other than the directing deaconess) is to be effected under this article, any disciplinary action, including a decision to dismiss, should be undertaken in consultation with the staff member's rostering bishop.

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 have at least one director included in its membership, who will serve as its liaison to the board. Except for the executive committee, each 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 The chair of each committee shall be appointed biennially by the board of directors at the last board meeting of each calendar year in which directors are elected by the Deaconess Assembly. A committee chair's term shall not exceed his or her term on the committee.
- 7.1.2 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.
- 7.1.3 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. If a committee's chair is not a director, a board member who serves on that committee shall be its liaison to the board, and shall give a report to the board at its next scheduled meeting.
- 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 bylaws. 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. **CC11.11.83u.**

And

As amended by the Deaconess Assembly, September 24, 2012, submitted to the ELCA Office of the Presiding Bishop, and approved by the ELCA Church Council, November 11, 2012. **CC12.11.44v.**

W. Corporate Social Responsibility Issue Papers and Economic Social Criteria Investment Screens

VOTED:

EN BLOC

CC12.11.44w To approve the amendments to the following corporate social responsibility issue papers and economic social criteria investment screen, but to request that the original issue papers be archived for historical and research purposes:

- Tobacco Social Criteria Screen
- Sufficient, Sustainable Livelihood for All: Sustainability
- For Peace in God's World: Human Rights
- For Peace in God's World: Violence in Our World

To acknowledge and affirm that the interim process for addressing issues of corporate social responsibility approved by the Church Council in April 2012 [CC12.04.09] will continue through 2013 and until a long-term recommendation is adopted by the Church Council.

X. PERSONNEL POLICIES

VOTED:

EN BLOC

CC12.11.44x To approve the revisions to the ELCA Churchwide Personnel Policies regarding Cell Phones, Tablet Computers, and Other Electronic Communications Devices as provided below.

Cell Phones, Tablet Computers, and Other Electronic Communications Devices

Whether their cell phone, smart phone, tablet computer or other electronic communication device is provided by the ELCA or paid for by an individual employee, ELCA staff members are expected to observe the following guidelines in their use of electronic communications devices for ELCA related business:

- Employees are required to abide by the law or ordinance of a particular jurisdiction with regard to the use of all electronic communication devices while driving a motor vehicle, and will be solely responsible for any traffic violations relating to such use.
- Safety must always be of paramount concern, and employees should never place themselves or others at risk to fulfill work-related needs.
- Employees should never attempt to create, send or review text, video or email messages while operating a motor vehicle.

- Employees are encouraged to place calls either prior to driving or while on rest breaks, and to pull off to the side of the road and safely stop before accepting calls.
- Employees should always be conscious of their surroundings and refrain from discussing confidential matters in a public setting or under circumstances where their conversation could be overheard or their screens viewed by others.

Y. EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP PRAYERBOOK FOR THE ARMED SERVICES

VOTED: *EN BLOC*
CC12.11.44y **To commend Evangelical Lutheran Worship Prayer Book for the Armed Services for use as an enriching addition to the worship patterns of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; and**
 To express gratitude for the conscientious efforts of the reviewers and the insights and observations by the many people who helped to shape and refine the content of Evangelical Lutheran Worship Prayer Book for the Armed Services.

Z. STAND FOR WELCOME SUNDAY RESOURCE

VOTED: *EN BLOC*
CC12.11.44z **To thank Congregational and Synodical Mission unit and Lutheran Immigration Refugee and Service for creating the “Stand for Welcome Sunday” resource;**
 To commend “Stand for Welcome Sunday” for use in congregations who wish to engage in opportunities for mission and ministry with newcomers; and
 To request the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit to share and encourage the “Stand for Welcome Sunday” resource with synods and congregations through existing channels of communication.

AA. AUDIT COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

VOTED: *EN BLOC*
CC12.11.44aa **To elect Mr. James Zils to the ELCA Audit Committee for a two-year term beginning November 2012.**

BB. FROM MISSIONARY SPONSORSHIP TO ELCA GLOBAL CHURCH SPONSORSHIP

VOTED: *EN BLOC*
CC12.11.44bb **To approve the program changes to Missionary Sponsorship, and to refer to it hereafter as “ELCA Global Church Sponsorship.”**

CC. FROM ELCA MISSION FOUNDERS TO ELCA NEW CONGREGATIONS

VOTED: *EN BLOC*
CC12.11.44cc To approve the program changes to Mission Founders, and to refer to it hereafter as “ELCA New Congregations.”

DD. AMENDMENTS TO THE BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE CHARTER

VOTED: *EN BLOC*
CC12.11.44dd To approve the revised Church Council Budget and Finance Committee charter as provided below.

ELCA Church Council Budget and Finance Committee

CHARTER

(11/12/11; Revision 11/10/12)

Organization and Purposes

The organization and purposes of the Budget and Finance Committee are described in ELCA continuing resolution 14.41.A10.:

A Budget and Finance Committee shall be composed of members of the Church Council elected by the council and the treasurer of this church as an ex officio member of the committee. This committee shall have staff services provided by the Office of the Presiding Bishop and the Office of the Treasurer. The committee shall prepare and present a comprehensive budget to the Church Council for its consideration and presentation to the Churchwide Assembly. The committee shall relate to the work of the Office of the Treasurer.

In fulfilling its purposes, the Budget and Finance Committee also shall facilitate the implementation of the Plan for Mission, including the following strategic directions of the churchwide organization:

- Support congregations in their call to be faithful, welcoming, and generous, sharing the mind of Christ.
- Assist members, congregations, synods, and institutions, and agencies of this church to grow in evangelical outreach.
- Step forward as a public church that witnesses boldly to God’s love for all that God has created.
- Deepen and expand our global, ecumenical, and interfaith relationships for the sake of God’s mission.
- Assist this church to bring forth and support faithful, wise, and courageous leaders whose vocations serve God’s mission in a pluralistic world.

Responsibilities

A. The responsibilities of the Budget and Finance Committee include:

1. Budget oversight
 - a. Review and recommend approval of current and World Hunger income proposals.
 - b. Review revised income estimates and recommend spending authorization.
 - c. Approve annual capital expenditure budget.

- d. Recommend action on synod mission support plans.
 - e. Provide leadership for Churchwide Assembly budget hearing and report.
 2. Church Council designated funds
 - a. Review financial position of the churchwide organization and adequacy of available cash and investment reserves before considering any requests for Church Council designated funds.
 - b. Recommend action on any requests for designation of funds by the Church Council, Churchwide Assembly, or Office of the Bishop.
 - c. Review reports on all active Church Council designated funds.
 - d. Review Church Council funds functioning as endowment.
 3. Audit
 - a. Recommend changes to the ELCA Audit Committee charter to the Church Council.
 - b. Approve Audit Committee nominations for recommendation to the Church Council.
 - c. Receive and forward the report of the Audit Committee.
 4. Cash and investments
 - a. Review and recommend approval of cash and investment policies.
 - b. Review and recommend approval of cash management policy.
 - c. Review cash balances compared to cash management policy.
 - d. Review investment performance and management as compared to policy.
 5. Receive reports
 - a. Office of the Treasurer
 - b. Mission Advancement
 - c. Mission support consultations and planning
 6. Calendar
 - a. Develop a calendar of anticipated work for the triennium at the first committee meeting following the Churchwide Assembly
 7. Other
 - a. Accomplish other tasks that may be assigned by the Church Council.
- B. In fulfilling its responsibilities, the Budget and Finance Committee will be supported by the following churchwide staff:
- Treasurer, Office of the Treasurer
 - Director for Budget Planning, Office of the Treasurer
 - Controller, Office of the Treasurer
 - Director for Treasury and Asset Management, Office of the Treasurer
 - Executive for Administration, Office of the Presiding Bishop
 - Director for Mission Support, Mission Advancement
 - Executive Director, Mission Advancement
 - Director, Investments
- C. Members of the Budget and Finance Committee are expected to prepare for meetings by reviewing the agenda, minutes, and meeting materials in advance of meetings, to participate actively in meetings, and to complete timely responsibilities assigned by the committee.

Chair

Members of the Budget and Finance Committee shall elect a chair and vice-chair at the fall meeting following the Churchwide Assembly.

Meetings

The Budget and Finance Committee will meet in conjunction with regular meetings of the Church Council. Other meetings may be held for special or emergency purposes, ordinarily by conference call, at the request of the chair or a majority of committee members. A majority of the voting membership of the committee shall constitute a quorum.

Amendment of Charter

The Budget and Finance will review this charter at the first meeting of the committee following a Churchwide Assembly. Amendments to this charter may be recommended at any time, subject to approval by the Church Council.

Evaluation

The Budget and Finance Committee will evaluate its meetings. In addition to reviewing and evaluating its meetings, the committee will work with Research and Evaluation to develop a process for evaluating its work each triennium. These processes will include evaluation of the committee’s commitment to racial and gender equity.

ACTION ITEMS:	BF/CC	Spring	Fall
Election of Committee chair and vice chair <i>(Churchwide Assembly year only)</i>	BF		X
Adoption of agenda	BF	X	X
Approval of minutes	BF	X	X
Approval of Current year spending authorization	BF/CC	X	X
Approval of Following year spending authorization	BF/CC		X
Approve triennial budget proposal <i>(Churchwide Assembly year only)</i>	BF/CC	X	
Approve following year capital budget	BF		X
Approval of new Church Council designated funds <i>(as needed)</i>	BF/CC	X	X
Approval of synod mission support plans	BF/CC	X	X
Approval of Audit Committee members <i>(as needed)</i>	BF/CC	X	X
Receive Audit Committee report	BF/CC		X
Approve Audit Committee charter revisions <i>(as needed)</i>	BF/CC		X

Approve engagement of outside auditors	BF		X
Approve investment policies (<i>as needed</i>)	BF/CC		X
Approve cash management policies (<i>as needed</i>)	BF/CC		X
Approve Budget and Finance Committee charter revisions (<i>as needed</i>)	BF/CC		X

INFORMATION ITEMS:

Financial statement review	BF/CC	X	X
Review current year capital budget expenditures	BF	X	X
Review Church Council designated funds	BF/CC	X	X
Report of director for mission support	BF/CC	X	X
Report of Mission Advancement	BF/CC	X	X
Review Church Council funds functioning as endowment	BF/CC	X	
Report of the Treasurer	BF/CC	X	X
Review cash balances compared to cash management policy	BF	X	X
Review investment performance to policy	BF	X	X

EE. REVISIONS TO THE AUDIT COMMITTEE CHARTER

VOTED:

EN BLOC

CC12.11.44ee To approve the revision of the Church Council Audit Committee charter as provided below.

ELCA AUDIT COMMITTEE CHARTER

Purpose

The primary purpose of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) Audit Committee is to assist the Budget and Finance Committee of the Church Council in fulfilling its general oversight of the churchwide organization's accounting and financial reporting, internal control systems and audit functions.

Authority

Subject to the approval of the ELCA Budget and Finance Committee, the Audit Committee shall have the authority to retain special legal, accounting or other consultants to advise the committee. The Audit Committee shall have the authority to request any officer or employee of the churchwide organization, its outside counsel or independent auditor to attend a meeting of the committee, or to meet with members of the committee.

Responsibility

Church management is responsible for preparing financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (US GAAP), maintaining a system of internal controls and complying with appropriate laws and regulations. The director of internal audit is responsible for evaluating the adequacy and effectiveness of the system of internal controls. The independent auditor is responsible for performing an independent audit as a basis for providing an opinion that the Church's financial statements are fairly presented in accordance with US GAAP.

The Audit Committee is responsible for reviewing significant accounting and reporting issues and judgments made in connection with the preparation of the financial statements, including analyses of the effects of alternative GAAP methods on the financial statements.

The ELCA Audit Committee performs its functions in relation to the ELCA Churchwide Administrative Offices and the ELCA Endowment Fund Pooled Trust (collectively, the church). Portico Benefit Services, Augsburg Fortress Publishers, the Mission Investment Fund (MIF), Lutheran Men in Mission (LMM) and the Women of the ELCA (W/ELCA) are separately incorporated ministries of the ELCA. The ELCA Audit Committee has no responsibilities with respect to these or other related organizations (including congregations, synods, agencies, institutions and other partners of the ELCA).

Membership

The Audit Committee shall consist of six members. A minimum of 2 members should be Church Council Budget and Finance Committee members. Members of the committee shall be appointed by the Budget and Finance Committee and forwarded to the Church Council for approval. Budget and Finance Committee members should be appointed for a 2-year term with the possibility of reappointment up to their Church Council term. Non-Church Council members should be appointed for a 2-year term, renewable for 2 additional terms. Terms need to be staggered in recognition of the need for continuity of committee membership from year to year.

The chair of the committee shall be a member of the Budget and Finance Committee and shall be appointed by the chair of the Budget and Finance Committee. Members of the committee will have no relationship to the church that may interfere with the exercise of the member's independence and must be financially literate. At least one member shall have accounting or related financial management experience.

In order to provide for an effective committee, attendance at the Audit Committee meeting is required of all members. Upon two successive absences that have not been approved by the committee, the member's position shall be declared vacant by the chair.

Meetings

The Audit Committee will meet at least two times per year or more frequently as circumstances require. Meeting agendas will be cleared by the committee chair in advance of the meeting. Minutes will be prepared by one of the churchwide staff, approved by the committee and maintained in the permanent records of the church.

Duties and Responsibilities

The Audit Committee shall have the following duties and responsibilities with respect to:

Financial Statements

Inquire of the independent auditors and churchwide organization management as to the acceptability and appropriateness of financial accounting practices and disclosures used or proposed.

Annually, review the church's audited financial statements and related footnote disclosures and consider whether they are complete and consistent based on information known to committee members.

Discuss with the independent auditors, the effect of regulatory and accounting initiatives on the ELCA's financial statements.

Review with the independent auditors any matters related to the conduct of the audit which are required to be communicated to the committee under generally accepted auditing standards, including, but not limited to, any significant changes required in the original audit plan or any serious difficulties or disputes with management during the course of the audit.

External Audit

Recommend to the Budget and Finance Committee the engagement, retention or discharge of the independent auditors and consider the appropriateness of rotating independent auditors on a regular basis.

Evaluate the performance of the independent auditors.

Review and approve the independent auditors' audit fees and the proposed audit plan.

Review and confirm the independence of the external auditors by monitoring fees paid to the auditor for consulting or other non-audit services and reviewing any relationships that may impact the objectivity or independence of the auditor.

Internal Audit

Review and approve the appointment or dismissal of the director of internal audit in consultation with the Executive for Administration.

Review with the director of internal audit the charter, staffing and organizational structure of the internal audit function.

Review the effectiveness of the internal audit function by obtaining assurance that internal audit is not prohibited from carrying out its responsibilities.

Review and approve the annual internal audit plan and schedule based on a mutually acceptable risk assessment. As part of this responsibility, review the fraud risk assessment with management and internal audit, providing guidance and input as appropriate.

Evaluate and investigate, as appropriate, all whistleblower complaints communicated to the committee by the director of internal audit.

Internal Control

Review any internal control comments and recommendations in the independent auditor's management letter that are classified as material weaknesses or reportable conditions as well as management's response to these comments and recommendations.

Review internal audit's report to the committee, including significant comments and recommendations to management and management's responses to these comments and recommendations.

On an annual basis, review the Board and Committee Operational Ethics Policy, the Employee Operational Ethics Policy and a summary of any reported conflicts of interest.

Communication and Reporting

Meet, in separate executive sessions, as necessary, with the independent auditor, the director of internal audit or churchwide staff to discuss any matters that the Audit Committee believes should be discussed privately.

Provide for an open avenue of communications between the independent auditor or director of internal audit and the committee chair.

Review and assess the adequacy of this Charter annually and submit proposed changes to the Budget and Finance Committee for their review and submission to the Church Council for approval.

Report the committee's performance of the duties and responsibilities defined in this charter, including any recommendations the Committee deems appropriate, to the Budget and Finance Committee of the Church Council.

Develop a calendar of anticipated work for the triennium at the committee's first meeting following each Churchwide Assembly.

Other Tasks

The Audit Committee shall accomplish other tasks that may be assigned by the Church Council.

The effective date of this Charter is November 8, 2002.

Last Revised: November 12, 2010

Last Reviewed by Audit Committee: November 8, 2012

FF. ACCEPTANCE OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT

VOTED:

EN BLOC

CC12.11.44ff To receive and approve the report of the Church Council Audit Committee describing their review of the audited financial statements, management letter, and response of management for the fiscal year ended January 31, 2012.

GG. CHURCH COUNCIL NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

VOTED:

EN BLOC

CC12.11.44gg To elect to the board of directors of The Evangelical Lutheran Good Samaritan Society to a three-year term that will expire in 2015: Mr. Neil L. Gulsvig;

To elect to the board of trustees of Lutheran Medical Center to three-year terms expiring in 2015: Mr. Andrew Burch, Rabbi Robert G. Kaplan and Ms. Kathleen Regan;

To elect to the board of directors of Mosaic, Inc., to three-year terms expiring in 2015: The Rev. Keith D. Hohly and Ms. Kathy Patrick;

To elect to the board of directors of National Lutheran Campus Ministry, Inc. to four-year terms expiring in 2017: Ms. Karen Sumner and The Rev. Robert G. Wollenburg;

To re-elect to the board of directors of National Lutheran Campus Ministry, Inc. to a four-year term expiring in 2017: The Rev. Linda Boston;

To elect to the board of directors of Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia to a three-year term expiring in 2015: The Rev. Charles S. Miller;

To elect to the advisory council of Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary as part of Lenoir-Rhyne University to one-year terms expiring in 2013: The Rev. Susan R. Briehl, Mr. Kenneth L. Childs and The Rev. Sheila L. Elliott (United Methodist Church);

To elect to the advisory council of Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary as part of Lenoir-Rhyne University to two-year terms expiring in 2014: The Rev. Lowell G. Almen and Ms. Doris M. Underwood;

To elect to the advisory council of Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary as part of Lenoir-Rhyne University to three-year terms expiring in 2015: Ms. Jacqueline A. Bussie, Mr. William B. Horne, II and The Rev. William B. Trexler; and

To elect to the board of directors of Wartburg Theological Seminary to a six-year term expiring in 2018: The Rev. Kathryn A. Kleinhans.

HH. APPROVAL OF SIGNATORIES

VOTED:

EN BLOC

CC12.11.44hh *To adopt the following resolution:*

WHEREAS, in the opinion of legal counsel (Faegre & Benson of Minneapolis), the Minnesota Nonprofit Corporation Act authorizes the Church Council as the board of directors of this corporation to appoint additional officers; and

WHEREAS, this corporation previously has authorized execution of various documents, when necessary, by two assistant vice presidents in the absence of the bishop, vice president, secretary, and treasurer (CC90.4.31*); and

WHEREAS, this corporation previously has appointed various persons to be assistant vice presidents and assistant secretaries of this corporation; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the previous appointments of assistant vice presidents and assistant secretaries of this corporation (CC90.04.32, CC92.11.103, CC96.11.61b, CC03.11.85, CC07.11.90, CC08.11.52, CC09.03.39, CC11.08.60) be and are hereby rescinded; and be it further

RESOLVED, for the sole purpose of executing documents, as specified in CC90.04.31, that the following be and are hereby appointed as assistant vice presidents of this corporation: Pr. M. Wyvetta Bullock, Pr. Marcus R. Kunz, Pr. Walter S. May, and Ms. Jodi L. Slattery; and be it further

RESOLVED, for the sole purpose of executing documents, as specified in CC90.04.31, that the following be and are hereby appointed as assistant secretaries of this corporation: Ms. Sue E. Rothmeyer, Mr. Phillip H. Harris, Ms. Laura L. Knitt, Ms. Mary Beth Nowak, and Mr. David A. Ullrich.

Vice President Peña declared the motion was adopted.

CONSIDERATION OF ITEM REMOVED FROM *EN BLOC*

(Agenda VII.E.; Exhibit H, Part 3)

Background:

The following recommendations were among proposed amendments to the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* included in the *en bloc* resolutions.

- 12.41.11.** Each synod shall elect one voting member of the Churchwide Assembly for every ~~5,800~~ 6,000 baptized members in the synod. In addition, each synod shall elect one voting member for every 50 congregations in the synod. The synodical bishop, who is *ex officio* a member of the Churchwide Assembly, shall be included in the number of voting members so determined. These voting members elected by each synod shall comply with the principles of organization, commitment to inclusiveness, and interdependence as specified in Chapter 5 of this Constitution. In addition, each synod shall elect one additional voting member who is a youth or young adult at the time of the election and one additional voting member who is a person of color or a person whose primary language is other than English. There shall be at least ~~two~~ four voting members from each synod. The Church Council may allocate up to ten additional voting members among synods ~~in order to further the principles of organization, commitment to~~

~~inclusiveness, and interdependence as specified in Chapter 5 of this constitution~~, but no single synod may be allocated more than two additional voting members. The secretary shall notify each synod of the number of assembly members it is to elect.

In a related memorandum, Secretary David D. Swartling explained:

This bylaw addresses the size and composition of the Churchwide Assembly. It was originally intended (and subsequently revised) to maintain the size of the Churchwide Assembly at approximately 1000 voting members. As the result of membership loss, the voting membership of the 2013 Churchwide Assembly will be 952. In an informal survey of bishops conducted in March 2012, 46 of 52 bishops who responded recommended increasing the size of the assembly. Since that time, the Office of the Secretary has further investigated the cost implications of adding voting members. The estimated marginal cost of adding voting members is approximately \$2000 each. (This includes airfare, accommodations, meals, registration and other expenses paid by the churchwide organization.) Additionally, after 2013 the Churchwide Assembly budget will not be supported by grant proceeds from Thrivent. In light of these considerations, the recommendation is to amend this bylaw to return the size of the Churchwide Assembly to approximately 1000 voting members. In addition, the proposed amendment also adjusts the allocation of voting members. Rather than having all synod voting members determined on the basis of a formula based on number of congregations and their size, two voting members (a youth or young person and a person of color) will be allocated to each synod. The remainder of synod voting members will be determined as before.

Church Council Action:

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on Ms. Rebecca Jo Brakke, who had requested that the proposal to amend bylaw 12.41.11. in the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* be removed from the *en bloc* resolutions for separate consideration by the Church Council.

Secretary David D. Swartling described the purposes of the proposed amendments.

Ms. Brakke suggested the proposal was too specific about the types of people synods could elect as voting members of the Churchwide Assembly and was becoming exclusive.

Secretary Swartling replied that, according to the proposed amendment, the representational principles would guide the elections of additional members and synods would have more flexibility in electing voting members.

Mr. Mark E. Johnson made the following motion on behalf of the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee.

Moved;

Seconded: *To recommend adoption of the following proposed action by the voting members of the 2013 Churchwide Assembly:*

To adopt the proposed amendments to bylaw 12.41.11. in the Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America presented to the 2013 Churchwide Assembly.

A discussion ensued about the purpose and implications of the proposed amendments, and several clarifying questions were answered.

There being no further discussion, the chair called on Mr. Paul G. Archer to lead the Church Council in prayer.

Vice President Peña called for the vote.

VOTED:

CC12.11.45 *To recommend adoption of the following proposed action by the voting members of the 2013 Churchwide Assembly:*

To adopt the proposed amendments to bylaw 12.41.11. in the Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America presented to the 2013 Churchwide Assembly.

Vice President Peña declared the motion was adopted.

UPDATE ON 2013 CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCTION TO GUIDEBOOK APP FOR 2013 CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY

(Agenda VII.G.1.)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on Ms. Jodi L. Slattery, assistant to the presiding bishop for governance, and Mr. Jonathan H. Beyer, executive for information technology in the Office of the Treasurer, for an update on planning for the 2013 Churchwide Assembly.

Ms. Slattery detailed the logistics and schedule planned for the assembly.

Mr. Beyer described planning for electronic communication and distribution of materials during the assembly.

Ms. Slattery and Mr. Beyer responded to specific questions about conducting a Churchwide Assembly with little or no paper.

Vice President Peña thanked Ms. Slattery and Mr. Beyer for their update.

PROCESS OBSERVATIONS

(Agenda VII.H.)

The Rev. Kathryn A. Tiede noted that Mr. Iván A. Pérez, chair of the racial justice working group, was excused from this meeting and that the working group was changing its name to the social justice working group. She reported that, during the course of the meeting, several Church Council members had spoken with her about the council's need for the working group. Pr. Tiede received the consensus of the Church Council to ask the Board Development Committee to consider the future of process observations during council meetings.

Vice President Carlos E. Peña thanked Pr. Tiede for her report and Church Council members for providing Pr. Tiede with their observations during the course of the meeting.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

(Agenda VII.I.)

Members of the Church Council shared several of their joys and concerns.

ECUMENICAL GUESTS

Vice President Carlos E. Peña introduced the ecumenical guests and invited each to address the Church Council.

MEETING EVALUATION AND DEBRIEFING

(Agenda VII.J.)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña asked that members of the Church Council complete the online evaluation form for the meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Agenda VII.K.)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña thanked those present for a productive meeting.

Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson returned the thanks to the chair.

Secretary David D. Swartling described the resources available to the Church Council members for their reporting the actions of the meeting.

CLOSING PRAYER

(Agenda VII.L.)

At the invitation of Vice President Carlos E. Peña, Ms. Rebecca D. Carlson closed the meeting with prayer.

ADJOURNMENT

The seventy-fifth meeting of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America adjourned Sunday, November 11, 2012, at 2:36 P.M.

LIST OF ACTIONS

CC12.11.23	Adoption of the agenda	3
CC12.11.24	Approval of the Church Council and Executive Committee minutes	4
CC12.11.25	Election of Mr. Nicholas Barber to the Church Council	9
CC12.11.26	Approval of Protocol for Churchwide Officer Background Checks and Screening, Biographical Nomination and Disclosure Forms	10
CC12.11.27	Affirmation of a discernment agenda in preparation for churchwide officer elections	16
CC12.11.28	Approval of initial current fund and ELCA World Hunger spending authorizations for 2013	21
CC12.11.29	Affirmation and acknowledgment of 2012 Mission Support plans	22
CC12.11.30	Affirmation and acknowledgment of 2013 Mission Support plans	23
CC12.11.31	Endorsement of recommendations on elections and the transition to a triennial Churchwide Assembly	27
CC12.11.32	Reception of Mission Funding Task Force report, encouragement of synodical pilot programs, and request for the Mission Investment Fund to explore a remittance system	33
CC12.11.33	Request for a study of the diverse realities of this church’s communities of faith	34
CC12.11.34	Request for a report on leadership development and related funding matters	35
CC12.11.35	Authorization for delay of report on the Philosophy of Benefits of Portico Benefit Services	36
CC12.11.36	Endorsement in concept of a 25th Anniversary Campaign for the ELCA	37
CC12.11.37	Endorsement of an observance of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation	39
CC12.11.38	Affirmation of movement toward creation of a unified lay ministry roster, authorization for Word and Service Task Force to continue	46
CC12.11.39	Adoption of message on “The Body of Christ and Mental Illness”	47
CC12.11.40	Authorization for LIFT Advisory Committee to continue as LIFT II Committee	67
CC12.11.41	Creation of the Ecclesiology of a Global Church Task Force	70
CC12.11.42	Adoption of resolution apologizing to Native American for past injustices	71
CC12.11.43	Authorization to plan a Church Council retreat	73
CC12.11.44	<i>En bloc</i> approval of the following items	74
CC12.11.44a	Response to synodical resolution on global climate change	75
CC12.11.44b	Response to synodical resolution on the ELCA Health and Benefits Program	75
CC12.11.44c	Response to synodical resolution on new mission starts and congregations in redevelopment	75
CC12.11.44d	Response to synodical resolution on electronic notification for congregations	76
CC12.11.44e	Response to synodical resolution on peace with Iran	76
CC12.11.44f	Response to Churchwide Assembly action on bullying, harassment, and related violence	77
CC12.11.44g	Response to Churchwide Assembly action on immigration reform	77
CC12.11.44h	Response to Churchwide Assembly action on a synodical ratification procedure	77
CC12.11.44i	Response to Churchwide Assembly action on Lutheran Campus Ministry	78
CC12.11.44j	Response to Churchwide Assembly action on the social statement on human sexuality	78
CC12.11.44k	Response to Churchwide Assembly action on dialogue with the North American Lutheran Church	78
CC12.11.44l	Response to Churchwide Assembly action on congregational offerings	78
CC12.11.44m	Response to Churchwide Assembly action on youth-related matters	79
CC12.11.44n	Response to Churchwide Assembly action on Native Americans and Alaska Natives	79
CC12.11.44o	Response to Churchwide Assembly action on Mission Support	79
CC12.11.44p	Appointment of the Memorials Committee for 2013	79
CC12.11.44q	Appointment of the Reference and Counsel Committee for 2013	80
CC12.11.44r	Ratification of synodical constitution amendments	80
CC12.11.44s	Recommendation for Churchwide Assembly to ratify a synodical constitution amendment	85
CC12.11.44t	Recommendation to Churchwide Assembly to adopt amendments to governing documents	86

CC12.11.44u1	Recommendation to Churchwide Assembly to adopt the Rules of Organization and Procedure	86
CC12.11.44u2	Authorization for necessary editing of the Rules of Organization and Procedure	86
CC12.11.44v	Approval of amendments to the bylaws of the Deaconess Community of the ELCA	86
CC12.11.44w	Approval of amendments to certain corporate social responsibility instruments	98
CC12.11.44x	Approval of revisions to personnel policies related to electronic communication devices	98
CC12.11.44y	Commendation of the Prayer Book for the Armed Services	99
CC12.11.44z	Commendation of the “Stand for Welcome Sunday” resource	99
CC12.11.44aa	Election of Mr. James Zils to the Audit Committee	99
CC12.11.44bb	Approval to change “Missionary Sponsorship” to “ELCA Global Church Sponsorship”	99
CC12.11.44cc	Approval to change “Mission Founders” to “ELCA New Congregations”	100
CC12.11.44dd	Approval of revisions to the council’s Budget and Finance Committee charter	100
CC12.11.44ee	Approval of revisions to the council’s Audit Committee charter	103
CC12.11.44ff	Approval of the Audit Committee report	107
CC12.11.44gg	Elections to certain boards and councils	107
CC12.11.44hh	Adoption of a resolution approving signatories of this church	108
CC12.11.45	Recommendation that the Churchwide Assembly amend bylaw 12.41.11	109

TOPICAL INDEX

2012 Synod Mission-Support Plans, Revisions to	21
2013 Churchwide Assembly	
Introduction to Guidebook App	110
Memorials Committee	79
Reference and Counsel Committee	80
Rules of Organization and Procedure, Proposed	86
Update on	110
2013 Income Estimate and Expenditure Authorization Current Fund	21
2013 Synod Mission-Support Plans, Revisions to	22
25th Anniversary Theme, Update on the ELCA	67
500th Anniversary Proposal, Update on	39

A

Addressing Social Concerns Review Task Force	63
Agenda, Adoption of the	3
Alaska Synod (1A)	
2012 Mission-Support Plan	22
2013 Mission-Support Plan	23
Bullying, Harassment, and Related Violence	76
Allegheny Synod (8C)	
2013 Mission-Support Plan	23
Bullying, Harassment, and Related Violence	76
Always Being Made New, 25th Anniversary Theme	67
Amendments to the Constitutions, Proposed	86
Appeal to Recognize the 25th Anniversary of the ELCA, Churchwide	24
Approval of Signatories	108
Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod (4C)	
Bullying, Harassment, and Related Violence	76
Lutheran Campus Ministry	77
Armed Services, Prayerbook for the	99
Audit Committee	
Acceptance of the Report	107
Revisions to the Charter	103
Audit Committee Election	
Zils, Mr. James	99

B

Background Checks and Screening	
Protocol for Churchwide Officer	10
Barber, Mr. Nicholas	
Election to the Church Council	9
Bible Study	
Crist, Bishop Jessica R.	64
Biographical Form	
Election of Presiding Bishop	13
Election of Secretary	14
Board Development Committee	
Church Council Retreat	73
Report of the	73
Board Governance, Café Conversation on	72
Body of Christ and Mental Illness, The	
Social Message on Mental Illness	48

Budget and Finance Committee	
Amendments to the Charter	100
Report of the	20
Unfinished Items from the	37
Budget and Financial Management, Primer on	20
Bullying, Harassment, and Related Violence	76
Memorials Category A1: Churchwide Assembly Action [CA11.03.13]	76

C

Café Conversation on Board Governance	72
Cell Phones, Tablet Computers, and Other Electronic Devices	
Personnel Policies	98
Central States Synod (4B)	
Bullying, Harassment, and Related Violence	76
Central/Southern Illinois Synod (5C)	
2012 Mission-Support Plan	22
2013 Mission-Support Plan	23
Bullying, Harassment, and Related Violence	76
Lutheran Campus Ministry	77
Charters	
Audit Committee	103
Budget and Finance Committee	100
Chenoweth, Ms. Deborah L.	
Appointment as Liaison to <i>The Lutheran</i> magazine	74
Church Council Retreat	73
Churchwide Assembly Committees	
Memorials Committee	79
Reference and Counsel Committee	80
Churchwide Officer Elections, Process for	9
Conference of Bishops	
Report of the	68
Representatives of the	1
Congregational and Synodical Mission, Update from	29
Congregational Offerings	
Motion F: Churchwide Assembly Action [CA11.05.34]	78
Constitutional Amendments to Synod Boundaries	
Delaware-Maryland Synod (8F)	85
Constitutions, Proposed Amendments to the	86
Consultation on Theological Education and Leadership Development	35
Conversation Regarding the Election of Churchwide Officers	17
Corporate Social Responsibility	
Issue Papers and Economic Social Criteria Investment Screens	98
Current Fund and World Hunger	
2013 Income Estimate and Expenditure Authorization	21

D

Deaconess Community Bylaws, Amendments to the	86
Debriefing, Meeting Evaluation and	110
Delaware-Maryland Synod (8F)	
Constitutional Amendments to Synod Boundaries	85

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
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November 9–11, 2012

Topical Index, Page 116

Dialogue with the North American Lutheran Church	
Motion D: Churchwide Assembly Action [CA11.05.32]	78
Disaster Response, Update from Lutheran	18
Disclosure Form for Nominees	14
Dwelling in the Word	
Garber, The Rev. Vicki T.	29
Horne, Mr. William B. II	28
Miller, The Rev. Raymond A.	74

E

Eastern North Dakota Synod (3B)	
2013 Mission-Support Plan	23
Bullying, Harassment, and Related Violence	76
Eastern Washington-Idaho Synod (1D)	
Bullying, Harassment, and Related Violence	76
Ecclesiology of a Global Church Task Force	68
Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Relations	
Conference of Bishops, Recommendation from the Liaison Committee	68
Ecumenical Guests	2
Election of a Church Council Member	9
Election of Churchwide Officers, A Conversation Regarding the	17
Election of Presiding Bishop	
Biographical Form	13
Election of Secretary	
Biographical Form	14
Election to Audit Committee	
Zils, Mr. James	99
Elections, Process for Churchwide Officer	9
Elections and the Transition to a Triennial Churchwide Assembly	26
Elections to Certain Boards and Councils	107
Electronic Notification for Congregations	
Southwestern Washington Synod (1C)	76
<i>En Bloc</i> Consideration of Certain Items	74
Evaluation and Debriefing, Meeting	110
Executive Committee	
Report of the	9
Unfinished Items from the	29, 68
Executive for Administration	
Report of the	66
Executive Session	25
Expenditure Authorization Current Fund and World Hunger	
2013 Income Estimate and	21

F

Financial Management	
Primer on Budget and	20
Florida-Bahamas Synod (9E)	
2013 Mission-Support Plan	23
Bullying, Harassment, and Related Violence	76

G

Global Church Sponsorship, ELCA	
Formerly Missionary Sponsorship	99
Global Climate Change	
Northeastern Ohio Synod (6E)	75
Global Mission, Update from	37
Grand Canyon Synod (2D)	
Bullying, Harassment, and Related Violence	76
Greater Milwaukee Synod (5J)	
2012 Mission-Support Plan	22
Bullying, Harassment, and Related Violence	76
Lutheran Campus Ministry	77
Synod Constitution Amendments	83
Guidebook App for 2013 Churchwide Assembly	110

H

Health and Benefits Program	
Southeastern Minnesota Synod (3I)	75

I

Immigration Reform (DREAM Act)	
Northeastern Minnesota Synod (3E)	77
Investment Screens, Issue Papers and Economic Social Criteria	
Corporate Social Responsibility	98
Iran, A Call to Peaceful Resolution of the Conflict with	
Southern Ohio Synod (6F)	76
Issue Papers and Economic Social Criteria Investment Screens	
Corporate Social Responsibility	98

L

Leadership Development	
Consultation on Theological Education and	35
Legal and Constitutional Review Committee, Report of the	26
LIFT: Living into the Future Together	
Advisory Committee Progress Report	66
Lutheran Campus Ministry	
Memorials Category C1: Churchwide Assembly Action [CA11.05.39]	77
<i>Lutheran</i> magazine, <i>The</i>	
Appointment of Ms. Deborah L. Chenoweth as Liaison	74

M

Malaria Campaign, Update on the ELCA	18
Memorials Category A1: Churchwide Assembly Action [CA11.03.13]	
Bullying, Harassment, and Related Violence	76
Memorials Category A6: Churchwide Assembly Action [CA11.04.26]	
Immigration Reform	77
Memorials Category B2: Churchwide Assembly Action [CA11.03.06c]	
Synodical Ratification Procedure	77
Memorials Category C1: Churchwide Assembly Action [CA11.05.39]	
Lutheran Campus Ministry	77

Memorials Category E1: Churchwide Assembly Action [CA11.03.06h]	
Social Statement on Human Sexuality	78
Memorials Committee, Appointment of the	79
Mental Illness, Social Message on	47
Metropolitan Chicago Synod (5A)	
2012 Mission-Support Plan	22
2013 Mission-Support Plan	23
Bullying, Harassment, and Related Violence	76
Lutheran Campus Ministry	77
Social Statement on Human Sexuality	78
Metropolitan New York Synod (7C)	
2013 Mission-Support Plan	23
Bullying, Harassment, and Related Violence	76
Social Statement on Human Sexuality	78
Metropolitan Washington, D.C., Synod (8G)	
2012 Mission-Support Plan	22
Bullying, Harassment, and Related Violence	76
Social Statement on Human Sexuality	78
Minneapolis Area Synod (3G)	
Bullying, Harassment, and Related Violence	76
Minutes, Approval of	3
Mission Advancement, Update from	38
Mission Founders, ELCA	
ELCA New Congregations	100
Mission Funding Task Force Report	29
Mission Investment Fund, Update from	24
Mission Support	
Motion L: Churchwide Assembly Action [CA11.05.38]	79
Missionary Sponsorship	
ELCA Global Church Sponsorship	99
Montana Synod (1F)	
2013 Mission-Support Plan	23
Bullying, Harassment, and Related Violence	76
Motion F: Churchwide Assembly Action [CA11.05.34]	
Congregational Offerings	78
Motion H: Churchwide Assembly Action [CA11.05.36]	
Youth-Related Matters	79
Motion J: Churchwide Assembly Action [CA11.04.18]	
Native Americans and Alaska Natives	79
Motion L: Churchwide Assembly Action [CA11.05.38]	
Mission Support	79
N	
Native American Heritage Month	
Presidential Proclamation on National	27
Resolution on National	71
Native Americans and Alaska Natives	
Motion J: Churchwide Assembly Action [CA11.04.18]	79
New Business	
Resolution on National Native America Heritage Month	71

New Congregations, ELCA	
Formerly ELCA Mission Founders	100
New England Synod (7B)	
Bullying, Harassment, and Related Violence	76
New Jersey Synod (7A)	
Bullying, Harassment, and Related Violence	76
Synod Constitution Amendments	84
New Mission Starts and Congregations in Redevelopment	
Southwest California Synod (2B)	75
Nominations and Elections	107
North American Lutheran Church, Dialogue with the	78
North Carolina Synod (9B)	
2012 Mission-Support Plan	22
2013 Mission-Support Plan	23
Bullying, Harassment, and Related Violence	76
Northeastern Iowa Synod (5F)	
Bullying, Harassment, and Related Violence	76
Northeastern Minnesota Synod (3E)	
Bullying, Harassment, and Related Violence	76
Immigration Reform (DREAM Act)	77
Northeastern Ohio Synod (6E)	
2013 Mission-Support Plan	23
Global Climate Change	75
Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod (7E)	
2012 Mission-Support Plan	22
Bullying, Harassment, and Related Violence	76
Northern Great Lakes Synod (5G)	
Bullying, Harassment, and Related Violence	76
Northern Illinois Synod (5B)	
2013 Mission-Support Plan	23
Bullying, Harassment, and Related Violence	76
Lutheran Campus Ministry	77
Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Synod (4D)	
Synod Constitution Amendments	84
Northwestern Minnesota Synod (3D)	
2013 Mission-Support Plan	23
Bullying, Harassment, and Related Violence	76
Resolution on National	71
O	
Observance of the 500th Anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation, Proposal for	40
Officer Elections, Process for Churchwide	9
Oregon Synod (1E)	
Bullying, Harassment, and Related Violence	76
Synod Constitution Amendments	81
P	
Pacifica Synod (2C)	
2012 Mission-Support Plan	22
Lutheran Campus Ministry	77

Personnel Policies	
Cell Phones, Tablet Computers, and Other Electronic Devices	98
Philosophy of Benefits	35
Planning and Evaluation Committee, Report of the	66
Portico Benefit Services	
Philosophy of Benefits	35
Prayerbook for the Armed Services, ELW	99
Presiding Bishop	
Report of the	4
Process for Churchwide Officer Elections	
2013 Churchwide Assembly	9
Process Observations	64, 110
Program and Services Committee, Report of the	39
Proposal for Observance in the ELCA of the 500th Anniversary of the Evangelical (Lutheran) Reformation	40
Proposed Amendments to the Constitutions	86
Protocol for Churchwide Officer Background Checks and Screening	10
Public Ministry Consultations Planning Team	
Word and Service Task Force	43
R	
Reference and Counsel Committee	
Appointment of the	80
Reports	
Audit Committee	107
Board Development Committee	73
Budget and Finance Committee	20, 37
Conference of Bishops	68
Executive Committee	9, 29, 68
Executive for Administration	66
Legal and Constitutional Review Committee	26
Mission Funding Task Force	29
Planning and Evaluation Committee	66
Presiding Bishop	4
Program and Services Committee	39
Secretary	26
Treasurer	20
Vice President	8
Resolution on National Native American Heritage Month	71
Resource Persons	2
Retreat, Church Council	73
Revisions to 2012 Synod Mission-Support Plans	21
Revisions to 2013 Synod Mission-Support Plans	22
Rocky Mountain Synod (2E)	
Bullying, Harassment, and Related Violence	76
Rules of Organization and Procedure	
2013 Churchwide Assembly, Proposed	86

S

Saint Paul Area Synod (3H)	
2013 Mission-Support Plan	23
Bullying, Harassment, and Related Violence	76
Screens, Issue Papers and Economic Social Criteria Investment	
Corporate Social Responsibility	98
Secretary	
Report of the	26
Signatories, Approval of	108
Social Statement on Human Sexuality	
Memorials Category E1: Churchwide Assembly Action [CA11.03.06h]	78
South Carolina Synod (9C)	
Bullying, Harassment, and Related Violence	76
Lutheran Campus Ministry	77
South Dakota Synod (3C)	
2013 Mission-Support Plan	23
Social Statement on Human Sexuality	78
South-Central Synod of Wisconsin (5K)	
Bullying, Harassment, and Related Violence	76
Southeastern Iowa Synod (5D)	
Bullying, Harassment, and Related Violence	76
Lutheran Campus Ministry	77
Southeastern Minnesota Synod (3I)	
Bullying, Harassment, and Related Violence	76
Health and Benefits Program	75
Synod Constitution Amendments	82
Synodical Ratification Procedure	77
Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod (7F)	
2012 Mission-Support Plan	22
2013 Mission-Support Plan	23
Bullying, Harassment, and Related Violence	76
Southern Ohio Synod (6F)	
2012 Mission-Support Plan	22
A Call to Peaceful Resolution of the Conflict with Iran	76
Bullying, Harassment, and Related Violence	76
Southwest California Synod (2B)	
New Mission Starts and Congregations in Redevelopment	75
Synod Constitution Amendments	81
Southwestern Minnesota Synod (3F)	
Bullying, Harassment, and Related Violence	76
Lutheran Campus Ministry	77
Synod Constitution Amendments	82
Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod (8B)	
Bullying, Harassment, and Related Violence	76
Southwestern Texas Synod (4E)	
Synod Constitution Amendments	82
Southwestern Washington Synod (1C)	
Electronic Notification for Congregations	76
Synod Constitution Amendments	83

Stand for Welcome Sunday Resource	99
Stewardship Conversations, Whole-Life	64
Synod Constitution Amendments, Ratification of	80
Synodical Ratification Procedure	
Southeastern Minnesota Synod (3I)	77

T

Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod (4F)	
2012 Mission-Support Plan	22
Bullying, Harassment, and Related Violence	76
Theological Education and Leadership Development	
Consultation on	35
Treasurer	
Report of the	20
Triennial Churchwide Assembly, Elections and the Transition to a	26

U

Unfinished and Additional Agenda Items	74
Update from Congregational and Synodical Mission	29
Update from Global Mission	37
Update from Mission Advancement	38
Update from Mission Investment Fund	24
Update on 500th Anniversary Proposal	39
Update on the ELCA 25th Anniversary Theme	67
Upper Susquehanna Synod (8E)	
2013 Mission-Support Plan	23
Upstate New York Synod (7D)	
2012 Mission-Support Plan	22
2013 Mission-Support Plan	23
Bullying, Harassment, and Related Violence	76
Lutheran Campus Ministry	77
Vice President	
Report of the	8
Voting Members	1

W

West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod (8H)	
2013 Mission-Support Plan	23
Western North Dakota Synod (3A)	
Synod Constitution Amendments	82
Whole-Life Stewardship Conversations	64
Word and Service Task Force	
Public Ministry Consultations Planning Team	43
World Hunger	
2013 Income Estimate and Expenditure Authorization Current Fund	21

Y

Youth and Young Adult Advisors	1, 71
Youth-Related Matters	
Motion H: Churchwide Assembly Action [CA11.05.36]	79