

**EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
IN AMERICA**

Church Council

MINUTES

November 8–10, 2013

**Prepared by the
Office of the Secretary**

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**EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
CHURCH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES
November 8–10, 2013
Chicago, Illinois**

The eighty-first 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.

New members of the Church Council met Thursday, November 7, 2013, for orientation to the work of the council.

The Executive Committee of the Church Council met Friday, November 8, 2013, followed by a meeting of the Board Development Committee. New members of the council were provided a tutorial on the use of Net Community and tours of the Lutheran Center. Church Council members gathered at 1:00 P.M. (Central Standard Time) in the Chapel of the Lutheran Center for a service of Holy Communion. The Rev. Wm Chris Boerger, secretary of the ELCA, presided, and the Rev. Amsalu T. Geleta, preached. Ms. Pamela E. Pritt served as assisting minister and Ms. Louise A. Hemstead as lector. Mr. Scott C. Weidler, director for worship and music, and Mr. Peter Mayer served as musicians.

ORGANIZATION OF MEETING

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

Voting Members

Officers:

Pr. Elizabeth A. Eaton, presiding bishop
Mr. Carlos E. Peña, vice president
Pr. Wm Chris Boerger, 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	Ms. Kayla S. Koterwski
Ms. Marit L. Bakken (<i>excused</i>)	Mr. John W. Lohrmann
Mr. Nicholas A. Barber (<i>excused</i>)	Mr. Michael Mason
Mr. Hans E. Becklin	Ms. Susan W. McArver
Mr. Allan J. Bieber	Pr. Raymond A. Miller
Ms. Amanda E. Briggs	Pr. Robert G. Moore
Mr. Reid A. Christopherson	Pr. Linda Nou
Ms. Christine P. Connell	Mr. John M. Pederson
Pr. Elizabeth E. Ekdale	Ms. Meri Jo Petrivelli
Ms. Marjorie B. Ellis	Ms. Pamela E. Pritt
Pr. William E. Flippin Jr.	Ms. Feronika Raming
Mr. Gary D. Gabrielson	Mr. Clarence M. Smith
Pr. Vicki T. Garber	Pr. Jonathan Splichal Larson
Pr. Amsalu T. Geleta	Ms. Ingrid Sponberg Stafford
Pr. Joyce M. Graue (<i>excused</i>)	Ms. Leslie J. Swenson
Ms. Cynthia M. Gustavson	Mr. Oliver W. Thul
Ms. Louise A. Hemstead	Pr. Kathryn A. Tiede
Pr. Stephen R. Herr	Pr. James H. Utt
Mr. William B. Horne II	Pr. William O. Voss
Ms. Maren Hulden	Pr. Michael R. Ward
Mr. James M. Hushagen	[<i>Vacancy</i> , Lay Male, Metropolitan Chicago Synod]
Pr. Peder J. Johanson	

Representatives of the Conference of Bishops

Bp. Michael L. Burk, Region 5
Bp. Claire S. Burkat, Region 7 (*excused*)
 Represented by Bp. Wilma S. Kucharek
Bp. Ralph E. Jones, Region 8
Bp. Marcus C. Lohrmann, Region 6
Bp. Brian D. Maas, Region 4 (*excused*)
Bp. Stephen S. Talmage, Region 2
Bp. Shelley R. Wickstrom, Region 1
Bp. Herman R. Yoos III, Region 9 (*excused*)
 Represented by Bp. Felipe Lozada-Montañez
Bp. David B. Zellmer, Region 3

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. Cherlyne V. Beck, program director for disability ministries and support of lay rostered leaders
Pr. Stephen P. Bouman, executive director of the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit
Ms. Antoinette “Toni” J. Daniels, director for relationships and operations of the Global Mission unit
Ms. Christina Jackson-Skelton, executive director of the Mission Advancement unit
Pr. Rafael Malpica Padilla, executive director of the Global Mission unit
Pr. Peter J. L. Perella, director for worship formation and liturgical resources
Ms. Evelyn B. Soto, director for operations and programs of the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit
Pr. Jonathan P. Strandjord, program director for seminaries
Pr. Gregory J. Villalón, director for leadership for mission/candidacy

Separately Incorporated Ministries:

Ms. Linda Post Bushkofsky, executive director, Women of the ELCA (*excused*)
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. Candice Hill Buchbinder, Mission Advancement
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.)
Ms. Stephanie Cheney, The Episcopal Church
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. Michael Bennett, treasurer, Lutheran CORE

Friday, November 8, 2013
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 persons.

Church Council Action:

Mr. Carlos E. Peña, vice president of the ELCA and chair of the Church Council, called the meeting to order at 2:30 P.M., welcomed those present, and noted those excused. He announced the resignations of the Rev. Laurie Skow-Anderson and of the Rev. Yvonne I. Marshall from the Church Council. He welcomed the visitors and ecumenical guests to the meeting. He also thanked those who led worship prior to the meeting. The chair drew the attention of the council members to the materials for the meeting and the deadlines to introduce new business and to remove items from the *en bloc* resolution for separate consideration.

Secretary Wm Chris Boerger 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:

CC13.11.47 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 agenda was adopted.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

(Agenda I.B.)

Background:

The minutes of the April 5–7, 2013, July 11, 2013, and August 11, 2013, 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 April 4, 2013, June 10, 2013, July 11, 2013, August 11, 2013, September 25, 2013, and October 25, 2013, were distributed electronically to members. 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 in writing any corrections for the distributed text of the minutes to the Office of the Secretary. Proper corrections were entered into the protocol copies of the minutes. Such corrections did not need to be raised in the plenary session in connection with the approval of the minutes.

Church Council Action:

Vice President Carlos E. Peña pointed out the minutes that had been prepared since the April 2013 meetings of the Church Council and its Executive Committee.

Mr. Paul G. Archer made the following motion.

Moved;

Seconded: To approve the minutes of April 5–7, 2013, July 11, 2013, and August 11, 2013, meetings of the Church Council; and
To ratify actions of the council’s Executive Committee as indicated in the minutes of the April 4, 2013, June 10, 2013, July 11, 2013, August 11, 2013, September 25, 2013, and October 25, 2013, meetings.

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

VOTED:

**CC13.11.48 To approve the minutes of April 5–7, 2013, July 11, 2013, and August 11, 2013, meetings of the Church Council; and
To ratify actions of the council’s Executive Committee as indicated in the minutes of the April 4, 2013, June 10, 2013, July 11, 2013, August 11, 2013, September 25, 2013, and October 25, 2013, meetings.**

Vice President Peña declared the motion was adopted.

The chair asked the Church Council members and synodical bishops present to introduce themselves.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDING BISHOP

(Agenda I.C.; Exhibit A, Part 1)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton for her report.

Presiding Bishop Eaton said:

“The installation seems like it was in another life. That was a long time ago, but, like Secretary [Wm Chris] Boerger, we have been here for a week. So we have all our vision [statements] taken care of. We have our six-year plan organized.

“First, I would like to say a word of thanks to Bishop [Mark S.] Hanson and to the churchwide staff at the Lutheran Center. You need to know that Bishop Hanson has been incredibly gracious to me in this transition period, meeting with me regularly, shepherding me through many of the projects that are underway and just unfailingly showing care and love for this church and me, and I am humbled by that. I cannot imagine what it would be like to preside at an assembly after not being re-elected, and he did that with incredible grace. And I think that is something we will all remember about that assembly, and I certainly will treasure. Also, for the staff here, the tradition is that after the Churchwide Assembly, they come home and crash. That did not happen this year. In fact, they had to do a lot more work and plan for an installation. Are [the Rev.] Peter Perella and the installation team here? Can you raise your hands? Thank you. That was beautiful. [Applause]

“I did not see a lot of the service because I was kneeling and praying. I have seen it on live stream. The beauty of that liturgy and the way, as best as we are able, it embodied the diversity that we long for in this church and are hoping to one day live into was just evident. Thank you for that. Now I know what a groom feels like, because I stood where I was told to stand, I wore what I was told to wear, and I said what I was told to say. The event was wonderful and to see how the staff pitched in—I think they were living here for a while to get that prepared—once again reinforced for me something I learned when I started on the Church Council in 2005. These are incredibly faithful, dedicated, gifted people. And many of them worked with Bishop Hanson for 12 years and with Secretary [David D.] Swartling for six. And so last week they said goodbye to Secretary Swartling and Bishop Hanson, and then they welcomed me. They were just whipsawed but never stopped the work that they were doing. So you can be very confident and proud of your staff, our staff, and I think that all of us should continue to hold them in prayer.

“Next, I will give you a little laundry list of things that I am just getting up to speed on, though I do not know if I will ever get up to speed. I have asked Bishop Hanson to continue serving this church in a number of ways. First of all, he has been instrumental, along with Rabbi [Steve] Gutow, in getting together Jewish and Christian leaders at a summit in order to begin to repair the breach and re-open communication between our two faith communities after a letter which this church signed, along with others in October 2012, questioning the unconditional granting of military aid to the Israeli government. That really caused a break in our relationships with the Jewish community. He, along with Rabbi Gutow, has been working hard to mend that. There will be a summit in March. He will be there, and I will as well, representing the ELCA.

“We also have—and I will speak about this more later—an Ecclesiology of a Global Church Task Force that takes a look at our relationship as one of the churches in the communion of churches of the Lutheran World Federation. It looks at how we understand ourselves, not just as a collection of congregations, synods, or even a stand-alone denomination, but who we are in relation to other Lutherans and the Lutheran World Federation, and in fact, who are we in the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church. That is being chaired by Bishop James Mauney from the Virginia Synod and the Rev. Robin Steinke from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg. Bishop Hanson will be working with that task force on a case-by-case basis.

“We also have a Theological Education Advisory Council, and that is being chaired by Bishop Herman Yoos [South Carolina Synod]. Bishop Hanson will be meeting with them at least one more time as we are making that transition.

“I have also asked Bishop Hanson to continue working on the 25th Anniversary Campaign because, in 12 years, he has made a lot of connections and is very effective in helping people realize the joy of generosity and serving Jesus. He is out there helping people feel good about being generous on behalf of this church and on behalf of the ministry we do.

“The Theological Education Advisory Council is not just a committee set up to decide how many seminaries we need. It is really taking a look at all the ways we can be effective as a community in this church in making sure that the priesthood of all believers, meaning all the baptized and in whatever way we fulfill our baptismal vocation, is theologically grounded. Of course it is going to take a look at seminary education, but it is also going to look at colleges and universities and at Christian formation that happens in parishes and homes. I think Pastor [Stephen] Bouman will talk about this a little bit more; it is so global right now that there is a danger that we might not ever get anything done. We really enjoy each other’s company. It is a wonderful committee, but we need to try to narrow our focus.

“Vice President Peña, in his report, has mentioned the importance and the need for immigration reform. It seems to me the time is ripe right now, particularly through the ELCA Washington Office, maybe also through our U.N. office [Lutheran Office on World Community], and as Christian sisters and brothers, to work with our elected Representatives and Senators to say now is the time to do the right thing. We often hear, at least in my former synod, that these people, particularly Latinos, are coming here and taking jobs from native-born Americans. Well, I can say confidently that I know of no native-born American that I could find and identify who was willing to be the Spanish-speaking mission developer of a Latino congregation in Canton, Ohio. It is a pretty narrow niche, and that is probably pretty true of a lot of jobs that immigrants and undocumented people are doing in this country now. And we should all remember that the holy family were undocumented people in Egypt when they fled. This is a justice issue, but it is also rooted in our biblical heritage and understanding.

“I am not sure where we are with a further relationship or dialogue with The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod. They, of course, are always welcome to commune at Christ’s altar that happens to be located in our congregations. We are always willing and happy to cooperate with them on all kinds of ministries, and some of which we are still in cooperation. I think I might be problematic that I happen to be this gender, but that was a decision this church took when it elected me. We will see how that goes.

“Also with our relationship with the North American Lutheran Church—we did reach out to them two years ago. To be candid, that was a less than productive meeting. So they are always welcome to the Lord’s Table located in our congregations, but that is a very difficult relationship and one in which I would say our welcome is not always reciprocated by their leadership.

“You will be seeing, particularly in Pastor [Wyvetta] Bullock’s report, that our operational plan is coming close to fruition. I found out there is an operational plan for the people who work in the churchwide expression. And we were working on that in the spring as part of the Planning and Evaluation Committee with Lyla Rogan from Australia. So she

beats everyone from Alaska and Puerto Rico for the door prize for the furthest travel. You can find that in Exhibit I, Part 1. I think it is a helpful plan, and that is how we in the churchwide office try to align the work that we are doing.

“Mission Support—you will hear this from Pastor [Linda] Norman in a little bit. Mission Support is a little soft right now. We are all right. We will balance the budget for 2014, but, looking ahead, if the trend continues where it is right now, we are going to have to make some serious decisions. And it could actually be a little bit painful. But you will be hearing more about that, and we are hoping that there might be a way we can enlist you, as leaders in this church, to be engaged in discussions about Mission Support. We are the envy of other denominations in this country because—maybe the ecumenical guests can say whether this is true or not; maybe just we think we are the envy—the overwhelming majority of our financial support comes from the regular giving of our members. That is not the case across the church landscape. But we also know that people have different trends in giving. There seems to be more of a trend of people saying, ‘That is a particular project I like, and I want to support that project.’ How do we do both at the same time? That is a conversation.

“We had the ELCA Malaria Campaign steering committee here this weekend. In fact, [Mr.] Peter Mayer was our wonderful musician playing that beautiful piece and singing during worship today. The ELCA Malaria Campaign is progressing really very well, and that is something that I think people can get excited about. In my former synod in Ohio—[Bishop] Marcus Lohrmann can speak to this as well—we are probably the most closely tied to the auto industry right after Detroit. And so we took a big hit in the recession. But when the ELCA Malaria Campaign came along, people had a sense that they were no longer powerless or without agency or without resources, and we had a great response in our synod and across this church so far because people thought, ‘I am part of a church that, in Jesus’ name, can make a difference. I am not a powerless person.’ So that was wonderful.

“There is my laundry list.

“A little more sensitive subject but one I raised during the assembly and something I think we need to talk about now is something Pastor [Rafael] Malpica Padilla labeled ‘the hermeneutic of suspicion.’ And that is certainly prevalent in secular culture, but I think it has seeped into our dear church in a way when one entity makes a decision or tries to implement something. Sometimes it can be misunderstood, and the misunderstanding unfortunately quickly grows to suspicion and a lack of trust. So, as a real easy example, the Church Council passed a motion that resources would be identified in order to move forward with the 500th anniversary celebration of the Reformation. And that was understood by some people on the churchwide staff as meaning to identify resources. But I think some people on the Church Council thought that meant to hire someone to do this. And I think it was a different interpretation of the same thing. And right away there was a sense that maybe the churchwide staff was not following the directive of the Church Council or vice versa. We cannot do that to each other anymore. We need to be open and to talk to each other. And I think that the 25th Anniversary Campaign [or Campaign for the ELCA] falls under this category too. Those of us in the Conference of Bishops felt in some ways that this was a *fait accompli*. It was given to us, and we had to go out there and make this happen. And we did not have a chance, we thought, for input. So there is some discomfort, and I would say even some ouchiness out there about this. How do we find a way to live out Luther’s explanation to the Eighth Commandment and be open in our communication with each other, and understand that we are all in this together? We are all on the same team. This all of us—congregations, the rostered, the baptized, synods, agencies, institutions, colleges and universities, the churchwide staff, the council—we are all on team ELCA, and Jesus is the captain. And we have got to work on how we live that out without going to that place where we think that somehow we are not being heard or we are being discounted. We will fix that by tomorrow. That is hindering the mission of Jesus in this church, and that is something I will be very careful about. I made this apology to Carlos [Peña] right after 2009. When we were getting our heads handed to us as synodical bishops, I stood up at a Conference of Bishops meeting and said, ‘We have no authority to make decisions. Instead, we have to clean up the mess that the Church Council makes.’ It was wrong for me to say that. So, we have to quit doing that. So, I apologize to you twice in a day.

“Another thing that I think is important, and not that we want to discount the wonderful things we learn from people in the business world about how we can be a more effective corporation. I wanted to make sure that, in the operational plan and right in the beginning, before we got to goals and cross-cutting currents and whatever these things are, we need to understand ourselves this way. First of all, we are a church. We are not Luther Corp. We are not an NGO [non-government organization]. We are church first. At the heart of what we do is worship, and at the heart of our

worship is the crucified and risen Christ. We need to keep that in mind, and that should be the lens through which we engage all our work and ministry. Whether it is working in the mail room or making sure that you get your parochial report in on time or teaching Sunday school, we are church first. [Ms.] Beth Lewis is working on this at Augsburg Fortress[, Publishers], and we can probably do this intentionally. Can we perhaps as a church engage in regular spiritual practices and disciplines so that we might be prepared to be quiet enough to hear and receive what the Holy Spirit is giving to us in discernment? That is something that you have already worked on for a while.

“And the next thing is, we are Lutheran, which is not to say to our dear ecumenical guests that we somehow have a corner on truth. However, we have a distinctive voice, which I think we have muted in some ways. It is not only an important voice to be heard in the conversation that we have in the Church, but it is also important in interfaith relations and in the public square. And if you have not read *The Lutheran* article, I was much more succinct in that.

“The third thing is that we are church together. And this is something I would say we have never solved in the 32 years that I have been in public ministry. We look at our own congregations, or we get meshed in our synods, or we think that this expression is it. And we get to be a bunch of pixels and think we are the only pixels that exist, and we do not realize that all the pixels need to come together to make one picture. So how can we be church together? And particularly for this body, how do we see ourselves as the Church Council, Conference of Bishops, churchwide staff, all the people who we represent as in this together?

“And the fourth thing is, we are church for the sake of the world. It is not just about us. We were not given the Good News of Jesus Christ and redeemed just so we could sit at home and think wonderful, lovely thoughts about Jesus. We are supposed to be out there, helping to bring about the abundant life Jesus promised. So, those are four emphases I have been trying to bring forth.

“The last part contains some personal reflections. Secretary Boerger and I had a moment in the elevator last night. We had just said goodbye to David Swartling, and Bishop Hanson had left last week. We both got on the elevator at the same time. The doors shut. We were the only two in the elevator, and we both looked at each other and said, ‘Uh oh.’ And I have been asked by people what I am afraid of, what my concerns are, and what my prayers are. And one of them would be that this is a huge, huge job. I hope I am up to that. That is a concern. The other thing is that this is a political entity, our church, in good ways and in some not so good ways. How we navigate that is important. The third thing is that it is very easy to become stuck in a bubble where this building becomes my reality, instead of this entire church. So I am afraid about that, and I will be intentional about that. And another thing is that no one was interviewing me on television or on *Huffington Post* or in *Time* magazine about three months ago. One can get really caught up in that hype. And I do not want to believe the hype. My spiritual director has been very helpful. She said, ‘Liz, you are good, but you are not that good.’ That is an important thing, because you can really get caught up in all this. So that is what I know so far. Thank you.”

Mr. Paul G. Archer drew the Church Council members’ attention to the forms they would be using to gather prayer concerns from each other during the meeting, and he asked Presiding Bishop Eaton how the council might pray for her.

Presiding Bishop Eaton and Treasurer Linda O. Norman answered a question about Pr. Hanson and his continuing involvement in churchwide activities.

Vice President Peña thanked Presiding Bishop Eaton for her report.

REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

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

Vice President Carlos E. Peña relinquished the chair to Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton, who called on Vice President Peña for the report of the vice president.

Vice President Peña drew attention to his written report and reflected on Exodus 3:9–12a. He identified several events at which he represented the ELCA, including the October 2013 meeting of the Conference of Bishops, the installation service for Presiding Bishop Eaton, and the World Council of Churches (WCC) Assembly in South Korea. He reported that Mr. Ulysses W. Burley III and he were ELCA members elected to seven-year terms on the WCC Central Committee, and Mr. Burley was elected to the WCC Executive Committee as a young adult member. The vice president

discussed many of the issues the WCC Assembly addressed. He also outlined several of the topics that would be covered in this meeting of the Church Council. He thanked the council members for their willingness to serve this church.

Presiding Bishop Eaton thanked the vice president for his report and returned the chair to Vice President Peña.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CHURCH COUNCIL NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

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

Background:

The Rev. Laurie Skow-Anderson (3D) and the Rev. Yvonne I. Marshall (5E) resigned from the Church Council. In accordance with ELCA constitutional provision 14.15., the secretary of this church declared vacancies on the council.

The Northwestern Minnesota Synod (3D) nominated the Rev. Loren D. Mellum, Moorhead, Minn., from its clergy roster to complete the term of Pr. Skow-Anderson ending in 2017.

The Western Iowa Synod (5E) nominated the Rev. Carla J. Johnsen, Dunlap, Iowa, from its clergy roster to complete the term of Pr. Marshall ending in 2015.

Church Council Action:

Vice President Carlos E. Peña presented the nominations of the Northwestern Minnesota Synod and the Western Iowa Synod to fill vacancies on the Church Council.

Secretary Wm Chris Boerger made the following motion on behalf of the Executive Committee.

Moved;

Seconded: To elect the Rev. Loren D. Mellum, Moorhead, Minn., (3D) to the Church Council for a term ending in 2017; and
To elect the Rev. Carla J. Johnsen, Dunlap, Iowa, (5E) to the Church Council for a term ending in 2015.

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

VOTED:

**CC13.11.49 To elect the Rev. Loren D. Mellum, Moorhead, Minn., (3D) to the Church Council for a term ending in 2017; and
To elect the Rev. Carla J. Johnsen, Dunlap, Iowa, (5E) to the Church Council for a term ending in 2015.**

Vice President Peña declared the motion was adopted. He congratulated Pr. Johnsen and Pr. Mellum and welcomed them as members of the Church Council.

RATIFICATION OF APPOINTMENTS TO CHURCH COUNCIL COMMITTEES

(Agenda I.E.2.; Exhibit L, Part 4)

Background:

The Executive Committee began consideration of the composition of the Church Council's standing committees for the 2013–2016 triennium in April 2013. Taking into account the requests of continuing and new members, the Executive Committee recommended that the council ratify the committee assignments as outlined in a proposed chart provided in Exhibit L, Part 4. It also appointed the Board Development Committee, in accordance with proposed amendments to ELCA continuing resolution 14.41.F13.

Church Council Action:

Vice President Carlos E. Peña presented the proposed chart of committee assignments for the 2013–2016 triennium. Secretary Wm Chris Boerger made the following motion on behalf of the Executive Committee.

Moved;

Seconded: To ratify the appointments to the Church Council committees and other advisory responsibilities for the 2013–2016 triennium as detailed in Exhibit L, Part 4.

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

VOTED:

CC13.11.50 To ratify the appointments to the Church Council committees and other advisory responsibilities for the 2013–2016 triennium as detailed below.

2013–2016 CHURCH COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND RELATED ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Elizabeth Eaton, Presiding Bishop
Chris Boerger, Secretary
Linda Norman, Treasurer
Carlos Peña, Vice President and Chair
Jessica Crist, Chair of the Conference of Bishops
Louise Hemstead
Bill Horne
Susan McArver
Raymond Miller
[Additional members elected at 11/13 CC]

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Marjorie Ellis (8/15) (to be appointed by CC)
Louise Hemstead (8/15) “
Deborah Hopkins (8/15) “
Clarence Smith (8/15) “
Ingrid S. Stafford (8/15) “
James Zils (11/14)
*Staff: Robert Benson, Jon Beyer, Wyvetta Bullock,
Kathy Fry, Linda Norman, Diane Snopek*

BOARD DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

2015: Bill Horne
Susan McArver
Kathryn Tiede (chair)
2016: Kayla Koterwski
2017: Paul Archer
Stephen Herr
2019: James Utt
Michael Ward
Staff: Wyvetta Bullock, Jodi Slattery

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Treasurer: Linda Norman
2015: Louise Hemstead (chair)
2017: Elizabeth Ekdale
Gary Gabrielson
Vicki Garber
2019: Hans Becklin
Peder Johanson
Meri Jo Petrivelli
Clarence Smith
Ingrid Sponberg Stafford
William Voss
Michael Ward
Liaison bishops: Claire Burkat, Ralph Jones
*Staff: Robert Benson, Wyvetta Bullock, Christina
Jackson-Skelton, Walter May*

LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL REVIEW COMMITTEE

2015: Raymond Miller (chair)
2017: Marjorie Ellis
Stephen Herr
2019: Amanda Briggs
Maren Hulden
James Hushagen
John Lohrmann
Michael Mason
Liaison bishops: Michael Burk, David Zellmer
*Staff: Chris Boerger, Phil Harris, Laura Knitt, Sue
Rothmeyer, David Ullrich*

PLANNING AND EVALUATION COMMITTEE

2015: Marit Bakken
Amsalu Geleta
Bill Horne (chair)
Feronika Raming
2017: Christine Connell
John Pederson
2019: Allan Bieber
Reid Christopherson
William Flippin
Joyce Graue
Linda Nou
Jonathan Splichal Larson
James Utt
Liaison bishops: Brian Maas, Stephen Talmage,
Shelley Wickstrom
Staff: Wyvetta Bullock, Kenneth Inskeep, Walter May

PROGRAM AND SERVICES COMMITTEE

2015: Nick Barber
Jessica Crist
Susan McArver (chair)
Kathryn Tiede
2016: Kayla Koterwski
Oliver Thul
2017: Paul Archer
Loren Mellum
Robert Moore
Pamela Pritt
2019: Cynthia Gustavson
Leslie Swenson
Liaison bishops: Marcus Lohrmann, Herman Yoos
Staff: Jodi Slattery

Church Council Task Forces

PRAYER TEAM

Paul Archer
Hans Becklin
Vicki Garber
Cynthia Gustavson
Kayla Koterwski
Raymond Miller
Robert Moore
Linda Nou

SOCIAL JUSTICE WORKING GROUP

Hans Becklin	Maren Hulden
Allan Bieber	Peder Johanson
Amanda Briggs	Kayla Koterwski
Reid Christopherson	Michael Mason
Christine Connell	Linda Nou
Marjorie Ellis	Feronika Raming
William Flippin	Jonathan Splichal Larson
Gary Gabrielson	Leslie Swenson
Vicki Garber	James Utt
Cynthia Gustavson	

Church Council liaison positions

**THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
LIAISON**

Stephen Herr (Term expires August 2015)

**JUSTICE FOR WOMEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE
LIAISON**

Pamela Pritt (Term expires August 2016)

THE LUTHERAN MAGAZINE

Cynthia Gustavson (Term expires August 2016)

THE MORAVIAN CHURCH LIAISON

Susan McArver (Term expires August 2015)

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH USA LIAISON

Vicki Garber (Term expires November 2015)

REFORMED CHURCH IN AMERICA LIAISON

Paul Archer (Term expires August 2017)

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST LIAISON

Marjorie Ellis (Term expires November 2013)

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH LIAISON

William Flippin (Term expires November 2015)

Vice President Peña declared the motion was adopted.

PROCESS FOR ELECTION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

(Agenda I.E.3.)

Background:

ELCA bylaw 14.41.11. states:

The Church Council shall have an Executive Committee composed of the churchwide officers, the chair of the Conference of Bishops, and seven members of the Church Council elected by the council.

The vice president of this church shall chair this committee.

At its first meeting after the Churchwide Assembly, the Church Council completes the election of its Executive Committee. Incumbent members of the Executive Committee are eligible for re-election.

The process has taken the following pattern:

1. To facilitate its work between regular meetings by ensuring input and perspective from each of its standing committees, the chairs of the committees are elected to the Executive Committee. The four committee chairs were elected in April 2013 and serve as members of the Executive Committee: Ms. Louise A. Hemstead, Budget and Finance Committee; Mr. William B. Horne II, Planning and Evaluation Committee; Ms. Susan W. McArver, Program and Services Committee; and the Rev. Raymond A. Miller Jr., Legal and Constitutional Review Committee.
2. The remaining three members of the Executive Committee will be selected through the following process. The first ballot shall be a nominating ballot for each of the following identified categories:
 - 1) Lay Female
 - 2) Lay Male
 - 3) Lay Female or Male
3. The second ballot shall be limited to the two people (plus ties) in each category receiving the greatest number of nominations.
4. Upon completion of the balloting, the Executive Committee (four officers, chair of Conference of Bishops and seven at-large members) shall be deemed constituted.

In accordance with the pattern above, the Church Council approved the following action at its August 2013 meeting:

To authorize the continuing members of the Executive Committee to serve as the Executive Committee of the Church Council between the close of the Churchwide Assembly on August 17, 2013, and the November 2013 meeting of the Church Council; and

To declare that the newly elected chairs of the Budget and Finance Committee, the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee, the Planning and Evaluation Committee, and the Program and Services Committee shall be members of the Executive Committee of the Church Council beginning at the close of the Churchwide Assembly on August 17, 2013.

Church Council Action:

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

Secretary Wm Chris Boerger made the following motion on behalf of the Executive Committee.

Moved;

Seconded: To reaffirm the process for the election of the Executive Committee for the 2013–2016 triennium.

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

VOTED:

CC13.11.51 To reaffirm the process for the election of the Executive Committee for the 2013–2016 triennium.

Vice President Peña declared the motion was adopted.

SYNOD VISITS BY CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

(Agenda I.E.4.; Exhibit L, Parts 1 and 2)

Background:

Since its November 2005 meeting, the Church Council has committed itself to building relationships between the churchwide organization and synods, congregations, and institutions and agencies.

At its November 2007 meeting, the council voted [CC07.11.65]:

To recall that, concerning changes in governance of this church, the 2005 Churchwide Assembly voted [CA05.06.21]: “To encourage greater interaction of members of the Church Council with synodical councils and synodical assemblies in their respective areas;”

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

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

Church Council Action:

Vice President Carlos E. Peña talked about the Church Council’s commitments to be in contact with the synods of this church and asked the council members to consider their individual commitments for the 2013–2016 triennium.

Secretary Wm Chris Boerger made the following motion on behalf of the Executive Committee.

Moved;

Seconded:

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

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

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

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

VOTED:

CC13.11.52

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

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

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

Vice President Peña declared the motion was adopted.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

(Agenda I.F.)

The November 2013 meeting of the Church Council recessed at 3:39 P.M. and entered into executive session at 3:41 P.M. to consider personnel matters and 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 2013 meeting of the Church Council recessed at 4:09 P.M. Council members gathered in the Augsburg Room of the Lutheran Center for a reception with staff of the churchwide organization.

**Friday, November 8, 2013
Plenary Session II**

CALL TO ORDER

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called the second plenary session to order at 5:15 P.M. in the Council Room of the Lutheran Center.

DWELLING IN THE WORD

(Agenda II.A.)

The Rev. Robert G. Moore reflected on Romans 8:38–39.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE SESSION

Vice President Carlos E. Peña reported the actions taken in executive session.

VOTED:

CC13.11.53 To elect the Rev. M. Wyvetta Bullock as the executive for administration for a term coterminous with the term of the presiding bishop, as provided in churchwide continuing resolution 15.12.A10.

VOTED:

CC13.11.54 To re-elect Mr. Daniel J. Lehmann as editor of *The Lutheran* magazine for a four-year term beginning January 1, 2014.

PRIMER ON CONGREGATIONAL AND SYNODICAL MISSION

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

On recommendation of the Board Development Committee of the Church Council, the Rev. Stephen P. Bouman, executive director of the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit, provided a primer about the unit to help the council members better understand the purpose and functions of the unit.

Pr. Bouman responded to a question about this church's evangelism efforts.

PRIMER ON THE ALWAYS BEING MADE NEW CAMPAIGN FOR THE ELCA

(Agenda II.C.)

Ms. Christina Jackson-Skelton, executive director of the Mission Advancement unit, presented a primer on the Campaign for the ELCA that the 2013 Churchwide Assembly approved to raise nearly \$200 million during the next five years. Members of the Church Council were invited to view the video about the campaign that was shown to the assembly.

Ms. Jackson-Skelton and Treasurer Linda O. Norman responded to a question regarding the budget for coordinating the campaign.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

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

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on Secretary Wm Chris Boerger for his report.

The secretary gave an account of his transition into the Office of the Secretary on November 1, 2013. He noted that italicized portions of his written report were from Mr. David D. Swartling's report to the Conference of Bishops in October 2013. Secretary Boerger highlighted data from the 2013 Churchwide Assembly, parochial reports, and disaffiliating congregations. He indicated that 15 synods would hold elections for bishop in 2014, and he described

preparations for those elections. He outlined services provided by the Office of the Secretary to facilitate the mission of this church.

Vice President Peña thanked Secretary Boerger for his report.

PROCESS OBSERVATION

(Agenda II.E.)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on Ms. Marjorie B. Ellis, who introduced the other members of the process observation team for this meeting: Mr. Gary D. Gabrielson, the Rev. Vicki T. Garber, and Ms. Stephanie Cheney, ecumenical guest from The Episcopal Church.

Ms. Ellis provided her observations of the procedures to this point in the meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Agenda II.F.)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña asked Secretary Wm Chris Boerger to make announcements about the schedule and meeting resources.

HYMN AND CLOSING PRAYER

(Agenda II.G.)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña invited the Rev. Robert G. Moore to lead the Church Council in singing “Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song” before closing the session with prayer.

RECESS

The November 2013 meeting of the Church Council recessed for the day at 6:31 P.M.

Members of the council participated in a “Welcome Banquet” in the Augsburg Room of the Lutheran Center.

**Saturday, November 9, 2013
Plenary Session III**

Members of the Church Council gathered at 8:00 A.M. in the Council Room of the Lutheran Center for Morning Prayer. For the remainder of the morning, the council's Budget and Finance, Legal and Constitutional Review, Planning and Evaluation, and Program and Services Committees met.

CALL TO ORDER

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called the third plenary session to order at 1:07 P.M. in the Council Room of the Lutheran Center.

BIBLE STUDY

(Agenda III.A.)

Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton led participants in a study of Luke 24:13–35, a Gospel account of Jesus appearing to two travelers on the road to Emmaus.

NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

FIRST BALLOT FOR 2013–2016 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

(Agenda III.B.1.)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña recalled the process for election of the Executive Committee that the Church Council had re-affirmed [CC13.11.51] earlier in the agenda. He asked that ballots be distributed.

At the invitation of the chair, Mr. Paul G. Archer led the council in prayer.

Vice President Peña instructed the Church Council members to write one name for each of the three categories—Lay Female, Lay Male, and Lay Female or Male—on the nominating ballot. After voting was completed, he declared the balloting closed. The ballots were collected for tallying.

ELECTION OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR *THE LUTHERAN MAGAZINE*

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

Background:

ELCA continuing resolution 16.12.D11. states:

- d. An advisory committee for *The Lutheran* shall have the responsibility for the church periodical. The advisory committee, in consultation with the presiding bishop of this church, shall nominate the editor for the church periodical. The advisory committee of the church periodical shall be composed of nine members elected by the Church Council.
 - 1) The members of the advisory committee of the church periodical, who shall be nominated through the Church Council's nomination process, shall include persons chosen for their understanding of periodical publishing.
 - 2) Each member of the advisory committee for *The Lutheran* shall be elected for one six-year term, with no consecutive re-election and with one-third of the members elected every two years.
 - 3) The terms of office of persons so elected to regular terms on the advisory committee of the church periodical shall begin on the first day of the month following each regular meeting of the Church Council. . . .

Church Council Action:

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on Secretary Wm Chris Boerger to introduce the names of those nominated to serve a six-year term on the advisory committee of *The Lutheran* magazine.

Secretary Boerger read the following.

Advisory Committee for *The Lutheran*

Region 1, Clergy Female [Term 2019]

- a. The Rev. Susan M. Halvor, Anchorage, Alaska (1A)
- b. The Rev. Barbara R. Rossing, Leavenworth, Wash. (1D)

Region 2, Lay Female [Term 2019]

- a. Ms. Karen A. Peters, San Rafael, Calif. (2A)
- b. Ms. Lynn M. Bulock, Agoura Hills, Calif. (2B)
- c. Ms. Marguerite B. Spencer, Greeley, Colo. (2E)

Region 7, Lay Male [Term 2019]

- a. Mr. Neal F. Fischer, Penn Yan, N.Y. (7D)
- b. Mr. Andrew Merritt, Needham, Mass. (7B)

There being no additional nominations from the floor, Vice President Peña asked that ballots be distributed.

At the invitation of the chair, Mr. Hans E. Becklin led the Church Council in prayer.

After voting was completed, Vice President Peña declared balloting closed. The ballots were collected for tallying.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

(Agenda III.C.; Exhibit A, Part 4)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña asked Treasurer Linda O. Norman to present her report.

Treasurer Norman described the financial status of the churchwide organization for the first eight months of the fiscal year from February 1, 2013, through September 30, 2013. She detailed elements of the financial report regarding budgets, current funds, actual expenses, and authorized spending. She explained the budget and receipts for Mission Support, the ELCA Vision for Mission, ELCA Global Church Sponsorship, ELCA World Hunger, the ELCA Malaria Campaign, and Lutheran Disaster Response. She also discussed investments, bequests and trusts, endowments, particularly the endowment fund pooled trust, and gifts, especially deferred gifts and an annual gift from the Mission Investment Fund. She demonstrated how the operating cash management policy had been followed for August 2012 through September 2013.

The treasurer responded to a question regarding the churchwide organization's current undesignated reserves. She also discussed the relationship of the Church Council and the Office of the Treasurer.

There being no further questions or comments, Vice President Peña thanked Treasurer Norman for her report.

REPORT OF THE BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

(Agenda III.D.; Exhibit F)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on Ms. Louise A. Hemstead, chair of the Budget and Finance Committee, who presented the committee's report.

Ms. Hemstead commended the contents of Exhibit F and agenda items dealing with interim financial statements, the 2013 expenditure authorization, the 2014 income estimate and expenditure authorization, and the Church Council designated funds. She indicated that spending by the churchwide organization was within authorization.

SYNOD MISSION SUPPORT PLANS

(Agenda III.D.5.; Exhibit F, Part 5b)

Ms. Louise A. Hemstead recounted the responsibilities of the Church Council to receive, review, and acknowledge the synods' Mission Support plans and any changes to those plans.

REVISION OF A 2013 SYNOD MISSION SUPPORT PLAN

(Agenda III.D.5.a.)

Ms. Louise A. Hemstead stated that, since the August 2013 meeting of the Church Council, one synod had submitted a revised Mission Support plan for 2013. She made the following motion on behalf of the Budget and Finance Committee.

Moved;

Seconded:

To acknowledge that circumstances in the following synod have led to the decision to seek a decrease from prior levels in the percentage of sharing of 2013 mission support contributions by congregations for synodical and churchwide ministries; to encourage the synod to continue to work to grow mission support in the synod; and to request that the synod develop a plan, in consultation with the churchwide organization, to restore or surpass the previous level of mission support sharing: Northwestern Minnesota Synod; and

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

In response to a question, Ms. Hemstead said the Northwestern Minnesota Synod had reduced its Mission Support from 51 percent to 50 percent in 2013 and from 50 percent to 49 percent in 2014.

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

VOTED:

CC13.11.55

To acknowledge that circumstances in the following synod have led to the decision to seek a decrease from prior levels in the percentage of sharing of 2013 mission support contributions by congregations for synodical and churchwide ministries; to encourage the synod to continue to work to grow mission support in the synod; and to request that the synod develop a plan, in consultation with the churchwide organization, to restore or surpass the previous level of mission support sharing: Northwestern Minnesota Synod; and

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

Vice President Peña declared the motion was adopted.

REVISION OF A 2014 SYNOD MISSION SUPPORT PLAN

(Agenda III.D.5.b.)

Ms. Louise A. Hemstead reported that, since the August 2013 meeting of the Church Council, one synod submitted a revised Mission Support plan for 2014. She made the following motion on behalf of the Budget and Finance Committee.

Moved;

Seconded:

To acknowledge that circumstances in the following synod have led to a decision to seek a decrease from prior levels in the percentage of sharing of 2014 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: Northwestern Minnesota Synod; and

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

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

VOTED:

CC13.11.56

To acknowledge that circumstances in the following synod have led to a decision to seek a decrease from prior levels in the percentage of sharing of 2014 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: Northwestern Minnesota Synod; and

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

Vice President Peña declared the motion was adopted.

MISSION SUPPORT FUNDING PROCESS PILOT STUDY UPDATE

(Agenda III.D.5.c.)

Background:

On the advice of the Mission Funding Task Force, the Church Council voted [CC12.11.32] in November 2012:

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.

Representatives of the Mission Investment Fund and the Office of the Treasurer consulted with synods of Region 1 which employed a financial services office (FSO) to process all Mission Support and other remittances from congregations to synods within the region. The FSO managed all accounting activities for the synods, such as cash management, accounts receivable, accounts payable, payroll, and general ledger accounting and reporting.

The representatives provided the following observations and comments for further study and consideration:

- This process works in Region 1 partially because of the long-term trusting relationships among the synods and the efficient, reliable, and customer-centered services performed by the FSO.
- It may not be of sufficient help to synods to consider only the function of Mission Support receipts processing.
- Does this concept require a regional organization, or could it be applied to any set of synods?
- The Region 1 data processing system is probably not scalable to larger organizations, considering information technology and human resources necessary for pilot and further implementations.

- Concern remains relative to privacy of information.

The representatives also planned to visit other regions and several additional synods of varying size and complexity; to evaluate the availability of human, financial, and systems resources; to evaluate and plan the scope of pilot projects; and to formalize a summary of benefits and challenges to successful implementation. Conclusions relative to the pilot study will be ready in early 2014.

Church Council Action:

Ms. Louise A. Hemstead presented the background information and stated that there was no recommendation for the Church Council to consider at this time.

ALWAYS BEING MADE NEW CAMPAIGN FOR THE ELCA

(Agenda III.D.6.)

Background:

The Mission Funding Task Force recommended that the ELCA consider a comprehensive campaign to coincide with its 25th anniversary. The Mission Advancement unit prepared a campaign proposal in consultation with the Conference of Bishops, synodical vice presidents, fundraising counsel, and other ELCA leaders.

The Church Council endorsed the campaign in concept in November 2012, in anticipation of a formal proposal to the 2013 Churchwide Assembly which ELCA bylaw 11.41.06. directs must give its consent.

In April 2013, the council received a proposal for the 25th anniversary campaign, reviewed the case statement and goals for the campaign, and voted [CC13.04.14] to recommend the Churchwide Assembly approve the campaign.

The 2013 Churchwide Assembly amended the Church Council's recommended action, adding \$4 million for youth and young adult involvement in the ministries of this church and \$4 million for disability ministries, and approved [CA13.05.18] the augmented Campaign for the ELCA as follows:

To approve the 25th Anniversary Campaign for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as a major fundraising effort of this church, its synods and congregations, its affiliated and related ministries, and individual members in order to grow the resources of this church to support congregations, leadership, relief and development, and global mission;

To thank the members of this church for their ongoing stewardship and generosity through regular offerings that support the breadth of ministry across the ELCA and beyond;

To invite every congregation, synod, related ministry, and individual member of this church to make a contribution toward the 25th Anniversary Campaign for the ELCA in order to achieve its goal of \$190 million over the next five years (2014–2018);

To instruct the Church Council to add an additional campaign priority of encouraging, recognizing, and forming lay youth and young adult leaders, and to add an additional \$4 million to the campaign goal specifically for the formation, recognition, and encouragement of lay young adult and youth leaders;

To call on the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit to form an advisory team, funded out of the campaign, to seek out and support the networks and efforts of lay young adult and youth leaders, to include among those on that team lay young adult leaders recommended by ELCA congregations, ELCA campus, youth, and outdoor ministers, as well as leaders from ELCA affiliated and/or associated organizations at the discretion of the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit, to charge that same team with searching for new ideas and fresh voices emerging in the church, and to charge that same team with assisting in the acquisition of and advising on the allocation of funds received as part of the additional \$4 million dollars of the campaign goal seeking to re-imagine the ministries of the ELCA through the eyes of lay young adults and youth leaders in the body of Christ;

To add a goal of \$4 million for disability ministries, to advocate for inclusion of persons with disabilities in the life of this church, to train leaders, both clergy and lay, so that they would be equipped to work with persons with disabilities, to work with synods to create local committees for disability ministries, and to equip persons living with disabilities for lives of leadership and service in this church;

To encourage conversations among members and in congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization regarding ways that the 25th Anniversary Campaign can be implemented to take advantage of synergies among all expressions of this church;

To request that the Church Council monitor and evaluate the implementation of the 25th Anniversary Campaign for the ELCA on an ongoing basis and that reports be submitted annually to the Church Council and to each Churchwide Assembly through the completion of the campaign; and

To thank God for 25 years of interdependent ministry in the ELCA and to step forward boldly in order to seek to reach more communities with the good news of Jesus Christ, train more leaders who will become missionaries, pastors, and lay leaders, and contribute to the alleviation of hunger and poverty.

Neither of the additional goals had been considered in the development of the campaign nor in planning the campaign's budget. The impact of developing strategies for implementation of these amendments and integrating them into the campaign remain to be accomplished.

Church Council Action:

Ms. Louise A. Hemstead noted that the Mission Funding Task Force had recommended the ELCA consider a comprehensive campaign to mark this church's 25th anniversary. The 2013 Churchwide Assembly received, augmented, and approved a Campaign for the ELCA. Ms. Hemstead made the following motion on behalf of the Budget and Finance Committee.

Moved;

Seconded:

To refer to the Congregational and Synodical Mission and Mission Advancement units, in consultation with the Conference of Bishops, ELCA Youth Ministry Network, ministry partners, and others as they deem appropriate, the actions taken on the floor by the Churchwide Assembly to amend the Campaign for the ELCA to add \$4 million for formation, recognition, and encouragement of lay young adult and youth leaders and \$4 million for disability ministries, for the purpose of evaluating how to implement and integrate these amendments into the campaign (including an assessment of the goal feasibility, budget, staffing, timeline, programs to be supported, and other impacts of the amendments); and

To request that a report and possible recommendations relating to these issues and an update on the campaign as a whole be brought to the April 2014 meeting of the Church Council.

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on the Rev. Stephen P. Bouman, executive director of the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit, who asked the Church Council to reconsider naming one specific network in its action at the exclusion of all other networks.

A discussion ensued about the intent of the motion to include as many ministry partners as possible.

Ms. Marjorie B. Ellis made the following motion.

Moved;

Seconded:

To amend the first paragraph of the motion by deletion:

To refer to the Congregational and Synodical Mission and Mission Advancement units, in consultation with the Conference of Bishops, ~~ELCA Youth Ministry Network~~, ministry partners, and others as they deem appropriate, the actions taken on the floor by the Churchwide Assembly to amend the Campaign for the ELCA to add \$4 million for formation, recognition, and encouragement of lay young adult and youth leaders and \$4 million for disability ministries, for the purpose of evaluating how to implement and integrate these amendments into the campaign (including an assessment of the goal feasibility, budget, staffing, timeline, programs to be supported, and other impacts of the amendments); and

The chair called for discussion of the amendment.

Council members discussed how amending the motion may address the action of the Churchwide Assembly.

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

Moved;
Seconded;
Carried:

To amend the first paragraph of the motion by deletion:

To refer to the Congregational and Synodical Mission and Mission Advancement units, in consultation with the Conference of Bishops, ELCA Youth Ministry Network, ministry partners, and others as they deem appropriate, the actions taken on the floor by the Churchwide Assembly to amend the Campaign for the ELCA to add \$4 million for formation, recognition, and encouragement of lay young adult and youth leaders and \$4 million for disability ministries, for the purpose of evaluating how to implement and integrate these amendments into the campaign (including an assessment of the goal feasibility, budget, staffing, timeline, programs to be supported, and other impacts of the amendments); and

The chair declared that the amendment had been adopted and asked for discussion of the main motion as amended. Church Council members discussed the parenthetical phrase and use of the word “disability” in the motion. At the invitation of Vice President Peña, the Rev. Vicki T. Garber led the council in prayer. There being no further discussion, the chair called for the vote.

VOTED:
CC13.11.57

To refer to the Congregational and Synodical Mission and Mission Advancement units, in consultation with the Conference of Bishops, ministry partners, and others as they deem appropriate, the actions taken on the floor by the Churchwide Assembly to amend the Campaign for the ELCA to add \$4 million for formation, recognition, and encouragement of lay young adult and youth leaders and \$4 million for disability ministries, for the purpose of evaluating how to implement and integrate these amendments into the campaign (including an assessment of the goal feasibility, budget, staffing, timeline, programs to be supported, and other impacts of the amendments); and

To request that a report and possible recommendations relating to these issues and an update on the campaign as a whole be brought to the April 2014 meeting of the Church Council.

Vice President Peña declared that the motion had been adopted as amended.

ENTERPRISE RISK MANAGEMENT UPDATE

(Agenda III.D.7.; Exhibit F, Part 14)

Background:

The Office of the Treasurer and Office of the Secretary had been developing an enterprise risk management (ERM) initiative for the churchwide organization. The Administrative Team of the churchwide organization endorsed the initiative in 2012, and ERM principles were presented to leaders throughout the organization. Drawing upon input from staff of the churchwide organization, a risk map was drafted and provided to the Church Council among its exhibits for the meeting. Several of the risks related to activities overseen by the Budget and Finance Committee. The newly constituted Administrative Team will consider endorsing the initiative, developing risk mitigation strategies for high-risk items, and, if advisable, creating a proposal for a formal ERM program.

Church Council Discussion:

Ms. Louise A. Hemstead reported that the Budget and Finance Committee had studied the enterprise risk management initiative being developed by the Office of the Treasurer and Office of the Secretary. She called it the first step in creating strategies to mitigate and manage risk, and she recommended that Church Council members examine the draft risk map. She concluded the report of the committee.

The Rev. Jessica R. Crist, bishop of the Montana Synod and chair of the Conference of Bishops, asked that more be said about the Mission Support Funding Process Pilot Study and the financial services office of Region 1.

The Rev. Shelley R. Wickstrom, bishop of the Alaska Synod, described the centralized booking services provided the six synods of Region 1 and the relationships involved in making the system effective.

PRIMER ON MISSION ADVANCEMENT

(Agenda III.E.; Exhibit K, Part 3)

On recommendation of the Board Development Committee of the Church Council, Ms. Christina Jackson-Skelton, executive director of the Mission Advancement unit, provided a primer about the unit to help the council members better understand the purpose and functions of Mission Advancement.

Ms. Jackson-Skelton and Ms. Melissa Ramirez Cooper, manager for public relations, responded to a question about a revised website for <http://www.ELCA.org/>.

CHURCH COUNCIL JOYS AND CONCERNS

(Agenda III.F.)

Several Church Council members and resource persons shared their joys and concerns.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on Mr. Paul G. Archer, who asked specific people how the Church Council may pray for them.

At the invitation of the chair, Secretary Wm Chris Boerger led the council in prayer.

RECESS

The November 2013 meeting of the Church Council recessed at 3:04 P.M.

**Saturday, November 9, 2013
Plenary Session IV**

CALL TO ORDER

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called the fourth plenary session to order at 3:51 P.M. in the Augsburg Room of the Lutheran Center.

REPORT OF THE LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL REVIEW COMMITTEE

(Agenda IV.A.)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on the Rev. Raymond A. Miller Jr., chair of the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee, to present the committee's report.

Pr. Miller announced that a proposed action regarding amendments to the bylaws of Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minn., would be removed from *en bloc* consideration. He mentioned that the committee was working on a continuing resolution regarding the notification of nominees on an ecclesiastical ballot.

UPDATE ON THE ECCLESIOLOGY OF A GLOBAL CHURCH TASK FORCE

(Agenda IV.A.1.; Exhibit H, Part 2)

The Rev. Raymond A. Miller Jr. drew the Church Council's attention to a report in the meeting's exhibits from the Ecclesiology of a Global Church Task Force, which the council established in November 2012. He concluded the report of the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee.

REPORT FROM PORTICO BENEFIT SERVICES

(Agenda IV.B.; Exhibit P, Part 2a)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on the Rev. Jeffrey D. Thiemann, president of Portico Benefit Services, to provide an update regarding changes related to healthcare reform.

Pr. Thiemann began with a general overview of Portico's work and the people it serves. He also described planning this church had done to adapt to healthcare reform in the United States, including the revision of the ELCA Philosophy of Benefits and the creation of four health plan options.

Pr. Thiemann reported that most sponsoring employers and that most employees selected the Gold plus health plan option, which was most similar to the existing ELCA health plan. This indicated that sponsors were seeking the greatest benefit for their employees more than the least expensive plan. He also said that about a third of the employees elected to purchase supplemental life insurance.

Pr. Thiemann explained the age rating of contributions for plan members. The average age of a plan member is 52; and the contribution rate for that employee is slightly more than 100 percent of the average amount. The contribution rate for a plan member aged 64 years and older is 122 percent and for a plan member aged 30 years and younger is 61 percent. Pr. Thiemann pointed out that, even at that rate, congregations with younger employees would still subsidize congregations with older employees but not as much it had.

Pr. Thiemann stated that the Church Council will be asked to approve any plan change that would involve a significant reduction of benefits to plan members or a significant increase in cost.

There being no questions or comments, Vice President Peña thanked Pr. Thiemann for his report.

NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS (CONTINUED)

REPORT OF FIRST BALLOTS, CASTING OF SECOND BALLOTS

(Agenda IV.C.1. and IV.C.2.)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña reported that there were no elections on the first ballot for the 2013–2016 Executive Committee. He announced the number of votes received by those named on the first ballot in the category of lay female.

15 votes	Ms. Marjorie B. Ellis
7 votes	Ms. Maren Hulden

7 votes Ms. Pamela E. Pritt
6 votes Ms. Christine P. Connell
3 votes Ms. Kayla S. Koterwski
2 votes Ms. Leslie J. Swenson
1 vote Ms. Amanda E. Briggs
1 vote Ms. Cynthia M. Gustavson
1 vote Ms. Meri Jo Petrivelli
1 invalid ballot

He asked that a second ballot for the Executive Committee in the lay female category be distributed with the names of Ms. Marjorie B. Ellis, Ms. Maren Hulden, and Ms. Pamela E. Pritt.

At the invitation of the chair, Ms. Cynthia M. Gustavson led the council in prayer.

Vice President Peña instructed the Church Council members to mark their ballots. After voting was completed, he declared the balloting closed. The ballots were collected for tallying.

Vice President Peña announced the number of votes received by those nominated on the first ballot in the category of lay male.

20 votes Mr. Paul G. Archer
4 votes Mr. Allan J. Bieber
4 votes Mr. John M. Pederson
3 votes Mr. Hans E. Becklin
3 votes Mr. Clarence M. Smith
2 votes Mr. Reid A. Christopherson
2 votes Mr. Gary D. Gabrielson
1 vote Mr. John W. Lohrmann
1 vote Mr. Michael Mason
3 invalid ballots

He asked that a second ballot for the Executive Committee in the lay male category be distributed with the names of Mr. Paul G. Archer, Mr. Allan J. Bieber, and Mr. John M. Pederson.

At the invitation of the chair, Ms. Kayla S. Koterwski led the council in prayer.

Vice President Peña instructed the Church Council members to mark their ballots. After voting was completed, he declared the balloting closed. The ballots were collected for tallying.

The vice president announced the results of the first ballot for the advisory committee of *The Lutheran* magazine.

Advisory Committee for *The Lutheran*

Region 1, Clergy Female [Term 2019]

17 votes a. The Rev. Susan M. Halvor, Anchorage, Alaska (1A)
25 votes b. **The Rev. Barbara R. Rossing, Leavenworth, Wash. (1D)**

Region 2, Lay Female [Term 2019]

12 votes a. Ms. Karen A. Peters, San Rafael, Calif. (2A)
17 votes b. Ms. Lynn M. Bullock, Agoura Hills, Calif. (2B)
12 votes c. Ms. Marguerite B. Spencer, Greeley, Colo. (2E)

Region 7, Lay Male [Term 2019]

14 votes a. Mr. Neal F. Fischer, Penn Yan, N.Y. (7D)
26 votes b. **Mr. Andrew Merritt, Needham, Mass. (7B)**
2 invalid ballots

VOTED:
CC13.11.58

To elect the Rev. Barbara R. Rossing and Mr. Andrew Merritt to the Advisory Committee of *The Lutheran* magazine for a term to end in 2019.

Vice President Peña declared that the two individuals had been elected. There being no election in the category of Region 2, Lay Female, the chair asked that ballots be distributed with the names of Ms. Karen A. Peters, Ms. Lynn M. Bullock, and Ms. Marguerite B. Spencer.

At the invitation of the chair, the Rev. Raymond A. Miller Jr. led the council in prayer.

Vice President Peña instructed the Church Council members to cast their ballots. After voting was completed, he declared the balloting closed. The ballots were collected for tallying.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE FOR ADMINISTRATION

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

Vice President Carlos E. Peña asked the Rev. M. Wyvetta Bullock, assistant to the presiding bishop and executive for administration, to present her report.

Pr. Bullock drew attention to her written report and the unit reports provided in Exhibit K for the meeting. She described the implementation of the 2011–2013 Operational Plan and development of the 2014–2016 Operational Plan for the churchwide organization. She led the Church Council in small group discussions of each of the six goals outlined in Part A, the strategic intent of the plan. She explained that Part B of the 2014–2016 Operational Plan would include the objectives and program activities related to the goals identified in Part A.

Each group reported in plenary session regarding the goal it was assigned to discuss.

Pr. Bullock noted how the discussions will inform the development of the plan's Part B.

Vice President Peña requested and received the consensus of the Church Council to extend the fourth plenary session by 20 minutes.

REPORT OF THE PLANNING AND EVALUATION COMMITTEE

(Agenda IV.E.)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on Mr. William B. Horne II, chair of the Planning and Evaluation Committee, to present the committee's report.

Mr. Horne said the committee had reviewed a goal of the Mission Advancement unit to grow this church's revenue base. It also endorsed Part A of the 2014–2016 Operational Plan. He made the following motion on behalf of the committee.

Moved;

Seconded: To affirm the strategic intent of Part A of the 2014–2016 Churchwide Operational Plan.

In response to a question, the Rev. M. Wyvetta Bullock indicated that affirming the strategic intent of the plan would be the same as affirming the plan.

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

VOTED:

CC13.11.59 To affirm the strategic intent of Part A of the 2014–2016 Churchwide Operational Plan.

Vice President Peña declared the motion was adopted.

Mr. Horne noted that in November 2012 the Church Council had voted [CC12.11.33]:

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, bring a progress report to the November 2013 meeting of the Church Council addressing these subjects. He indicated that the committee had received a progress report on issues confronting small-membership congregations and asked whether simply describing the circumstances satisfied the intent of the Church Council.

A discussion ensued about congregations sharing bookkeeping responsibilities, available resources, consulting with full communion partner churches, and training evangelists to serve small-membership congregations.

The Rev. Shelley R. Wickstrom, bishop of the Alaska Synod, expanded on the need to address this church's expectations that each congregation has a building and a pastor.

DWELLING IN THE WORD

(Agenda IV.F.)

Mr. John M. Pederson reflected on Ecclesiastes 1:2 and Genesis 2:7.

PRAYER CONCERNS AND PROCESS OBSERVATIONS

(Agenda IV.G.)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on Mr. Paul G. Archer, who asked specific people how the Church Council may pray for them.

Ms. Marjorie B. Ellis provided observations about the procedures of the meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Agenda IV.H.)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña asked Secretary Wm Chris Boerger for any announcements.

Secretary Boerger provided details about evening activities and the schedule for the next day.

RECESS

The November 2013 meeting of the Church Council recessed for the day at 5:33 P.M.

Members of the council gathered at 5:40 P.M. for Evening Prayer in the Lutheran Center Chapel.

**Sunday, November 10, 2013
Plenary Session V**

Church Council members gathered at 8:30 A.M. in the Lutheran Center Chapel for a service of Holy Communion and installation of the newly elected Church Council members. Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton presided; the Rev. Kathryn A. Tiede preached; Vice President Carlos E. Peña served as assisting minister; and Mr. William B. Horne II was lector. An offering of \$2,259 was received for the Fund for Leaders in Mission in honor of the Rev. Mark S. Hanson.

CALL TO ORDER

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called the fifth plenary session to order at 9:49 A.M. in the Augsburg Room of the Lutheran Center.

REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE OF BISHOPS

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

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on the Rev. Jessica R. Crist, bishop of the Montana Synod and chair of the Conference of Bishops, for the report of the conference.

Bp. Crist outlined four recommendations that the Conference of Bishops forwarded to the Church Council:

- That the Church Council participate generously in a Mark S. Hanson Fund for Leaders Scholarship established by the Conference of Bishops.
- That the Church Council recommend review of a policy change that would allow for exceptions for first call candidates to serve full communion partner ministries.
- That the Church Council change the system of notifying people whose names appear on a first ballot in a Churchwide Assembly election, so that those not present are notified.
- That representative members of the Conference of Bishops be part of the decisions on ordination of those on a unified lay roster.

She also described the manner in which the conference would address actions in which the Churchwide Assembly mentioned the Conference of Bishops.

NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS (CONTINUED)

REPORT OF SECOND BALLOTS, CASTING OF THIRD BALLOTS

(Agenda V.B.1. and V.B.2.)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña reported the results of the second ballot for the 2013–2016 Executive Committee in the category of lay female as follows.

25 votes	Ms. Marjorie B. Ellis
13 votes	Ms. Maren Hulden
5 votes	Ms. Pamela E. Pritt

Vice President Peña announced the results of the second ballot for the 2013–2016 Executive Committee in the category of lay male as follows.

30 votes	Mr. Paul G. Archer
9 votes	Mr. Allan J. Bieber
4 votes	Mr. John M. Pederson

VOTED:

CC13.11.60

To elect Ms. Marjorie B. Ellis and Mr. Paul G. Archer to the Executive Committee of the Church Council for a term ending in 2016.

Vice President Peña declared that the two individuals had been elected.

The vice president explained how the final member of the 2013–2016 Executive Committee would be selected in the category of lay person. He presented the results of the first ballot as follows, eliminating those ineligible as a result of the previous elections.

6 votes	Ms. Christine P. Connell
5 votes	Ms. Maren Hulden
4 vote	Ms. Amanda E. Briggs
3 votes	Ms. Kayla S. Koterwski
2 votes	Ms. Pamela E. Pritt

He added that seven candidates had each received one vote and that there were seven invalid ballots. He asked that a ballot for the Executive Committee in the lay person category be distributed with the names of Ms. Christine P. Connell and Ms. Maren Hulden.

At the invitation of the chair, the Rev. Linda Nou led the council in prayer.

Vice President Peña instructed the Church Council members to mark their ballots. After voting was completed, he declared the balloting closed. The ballots were collected for tallying.

The vice president read the following results of the second ballot for the advisory committee of *The Lutheran* magazine.

<i>Region 2, Lay Female</i> [Term 2019]	
9 votes	a. Ms. Karen A. Peters, San Rafael, Calif. (2A)
19 votes	b. Ms. Lynn M. Bulock, Agoura Hills, Calif. (2B)
10 votes	c. Ms. Marguerite B. Spencer, Greeley, Colo. (2E)

Vice President Peña declared there was not an election and asked that ballots be distributed with the names of Ms. Lynn M. Bulock and Ms. Marguerite B. Spencer.

At the invitation of the chair, Mr. Paul G. Archer led the council in prayer.

Vice President Peña instructed the Church Council members to mark their ballots. After voting was completed, he declared the balloting closed. The ballots were collected for tallying.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on Mr. Paul G. Archer, who asked specific people how the Church Council may pray for them.

DWELLING IN THE WORD

(Agenda V.C.)

Ms. Christine P. Connell reflected on Genesis 21:14–19.

PRIMER ON GLOBAL MISSION

(Agenda V.D.; Exhibit K, Part 2)

On recommendation of the Board Development Committee of the Church Council, the Rev. Rafael Malpica Padilla, executive director of the Global Mission unit, provided a primer about the unit to help the council members better understand the purpose and functions of Global Mission.

Pr. Malpica was assisted by Ms. Antoinette “Toni” J. Daniels, director for relationships and operations of the Global Mission unit.

NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS (CONTINUED)
REPORT OF THIRD BALLOTS

(Agenda V.B.1.)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña reported the results of the final ballot for the 2013–2016 Executive Committee in the category of lay person as follows.

27 votes **Ms. Maren Hulden**
13 votes Ms. Christine P. Connell

VOTED:

CC13.11.61 **To elect Ms. Maren Hulden to the Executive Committee of the Church Council for a term to end in 2016.**

Vice President Peña declared that Ms. Hulden had been elected and that the 2013–2016 Executive Committee had been constituted. The chair read the following results of the final ballot for the advisory committee of *The Lutheran* magazine.

Region 2, Lay Female [Term 2019]

25 votes **b. Ms. Lynn M. Bullock, Agoura Hills, Calif. (2B)**
16 votes c. Ms. Marguerite B. Spencer, Greeley, Colo. (2E)

VOTED:

CC13.11.62 **To elect Ms. Lynn M. Bullock to the Advisory Committee of *The Lutheran* magazine for a term to end in 2019.**

Vice President Peña declared that Ms. Bullock had been elected.

REPORT OF THE PROGRAM AND SERVICES COMMITTEE

(Agenda V.E.; Exhibit D)

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

Ms. McArver summarized the content of the committee's meeting, drew attention to several items that would be considered *en bloc*, and presented background information on the following motions.

SOCIAL TEACHING DOCUMENTS

(Agenda V.E.2.; Exhibit J, Parts 5 and 6, and Exhibit K, Part 4)

Background:

The ELCA Task Force on Women and Justice: One in Christ requested that a social message be developed to address violence correlated with gender. The theological discernment team in the Office of the Presiding Bishop provided the Program and Services Committee with a response to the request.

Church Council Action:

Ms. Susan W. McArver made the following motion on behalf of the Program and Services Committee.

Moved;

Seconded: To thank the ELCA Task Force on Women and Justice: One in Christ for directing the attention of this church to the levels of gender-based violence in U.S. society and globally; and

To authorize staff of the theological discernment team, in accordance with “Policies and Procedures of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for Addressing Social Concerns” (2011), to initiate an ELCA social message development process on gender-based violence with council action to be taken at the November 2014 Church Council meeting.

Ms. McArver described the differences between a social message and a social statement. There being no further discussion, the chair called for the vote.

VOTED:

CC13.11.63 **To thank the ELCA Task Force on Women and Justice: One in Christ for directing the attention of this church to the levels of gender-based violence in U.S. society and globally; and**
To authorize staff of the theological discernment team, in accordance with “Policies and Procedures of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for Addressing Social Concerns” (2011), to initiate an ELCA social message development process on gender-based violence with council action to be taken at the November 2014 Church Council meeting.

Vice President Peña declared the motion was adopted.

CATEGORY A4: SAME-GENDER COUPLES AND THEIR FAMILIES (CA13.03.12)

(Agenda V.E.4.)

Background:

At the recommendation of its Memorials Committee, the 2013 Churchwide Assembly voted [CA13.03.12]:

To receive with the gratitude the memorials of the Eastern North Dakota, South-Central Synod of Wisconsin, Saint Paul Area, Sierra Pacific, Northwest Washington, Metropolitan Chicago, Minneapolis Area, Metropolitan New York, Northeastern Pennsylvania, Indiana-Kentucky, Southwestern Minnesota, Southwestern Pennsylvania, and Metropolitan Washington, D.C., synods regarding Conversations about Ministering to Same-Gender Couples and Families;

To affirm the commitment made in the social statement *Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust* for “pastoral responsibility to all children of God,” recognizing “familial relationship as central to nurturing and sustaining trust and security in human relationships and to advocate for public policies that support and protect families” (pp. 19, 24);

To invite and encourage conversations and resource sharing among this church’s congregations, rostered and lay leaders and the Conference of Bishops on changing family configurations and their impact on society and the ministry of this church; and

To request the Church Council, in keeping with the recommendations of the Addressing Social Concerns Review Task Force, to authorize a group to explore this concern and to bring a report and possible recommendations to the fall 2014 meetings of the Conference of Bishops and Church Council regarding appropriate next steps in carrying out these commitments to pastoral care for same-gender couples and their families.

Church Council Action:

Ms. Susan W. McArver made the following motion on behalf of the Program and Services Committee.

Moved;

Seconded: To affirm the 2013 Churchwide Assembly action to invite and encourage conversations and resource sharing among this church’s congregations, rostered and lay leaders, and the Conference of Bishops on changing family configurations and their impact on society and the ministry of this church;

To authorize a working group to explore this social concern and to bring recommendations regarding appropriate next steps in carrying out these commitments to pastoral care for same-gender couples and their families;

To request a sub-group of the Program and Services Committee of the Church Council, in consultation with the Conference of Bishops and Office of the Presiding Bishop, to identify and recommend individuals to serve on a working group, with voices representing the breadth of viewpoints identified in the social statement, *Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust*, and including, specifically, representation by members of the LGBTQ community;

To authorize the Executive Committee to appoint a working group; and

To request that the working group bring progress reports to the Conference of Bishops and Church Council beginning in fall 2014 and that a final report and possible recommendations be brought to the November 2015 Church Council meeting.

Ms. McArver noted that the motion would affirm conversations across this church and not only in a working group. She emphasized that the 2009 Churchwide Assembly identified at least four viewpoints to be represented in such conversations.

In response to a question, Ms. McArver indicated that the working group would include at least one synodical bishop.

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

VOTED:

CC13.11.64

To affirm the 2013 Churchwide Assembly action to invite and encourage conversations and resource sharing among this church's congregations, rostered and lay leaders, and the Conference of Bishops on changing family configurations and their impact on society and the ministry of this church;

To authorize a working group to explore this social concern and to bring recommendations regarding appropriate next steps in carrying out these commitments to pastoral care for same-gender couples and their families;

To request a sub-group of the Program and Services Committee of the Church Council, in consultation with the Conference of Bishops and Office of the Presiding Bishop, to identify and recommend individuals to serve on a working group, with voices representing the breadth of viewpoints identified in the social statement, *Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust*, and including, specifically, representation by members of the LGBTQ community;

To authorize the Executive Committee to appoint a working group; and

To request that the working group bring progress reports to the Conference of Bishops and Church Council beginning in fall 2014 and that a final report and possible recommendations be brought to the November 2015 Church Council meeting.

Vice President Peña declared the motion was adopted.

UPDATE ON WORD AND SERVICE TASK FORCE

(Agenda V.E.1., Exhibit J, Part 1)

Background:

In November 2012, the Church Council 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.

During deliberations of the Word and Service Task Force, the question of whether those on the unified roster should be ordained arose. The task force determined that the question was beyond the scope of its responsibilities and asked the Church Council to appoint a working group that would deal specifically with the matter of ordination and its implications and would bring recommendations to the 2016 Churchwide Assembly. The task force recommended that the working group include representatives of the Church Council, Office of the Presiding Bishop, Conference of Bishops, Word and Service Task Force, and Association of Teaching Theologians.

Church Council Action:

Ms. Susan W. McArver made the following motion on behalf of the Program and Services Committee.

Moved;

Seconded:

To thank the Word and Service Task Force for its ongoing work to manage the transition from three lay rosters to one unified Word and Service roster;

To receive the request of the task force to appoint a separate working group to consider the question of ordination for this roster;

To request the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit, in consultation with the Conference of Bishops and Office of the Presiding Bishop, to identify possible individuals, including bishops, to serve on a working group and to provide those names to the Executive Committee;

To authorize the Executive Committee to appoint a working group to consider the question of ordination of the unified Word and Service roster; and

To request that the working group bring progress reports to Conference of Bishops and Church Council beginning in fall 2014.

A discussion ensued about previous studies regarding ordination and rostered leaders, the possible cost and time line of the working group, the status of rostered leaders during the work of the working group and task force, the mission needs to be addressed by the working group and task force, and consultations with full communion partner church bodies.

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

VOTED:

CC13.11.65

To thank the Word and Service Task Force for its ongoing work to manage the transition from three lay rosters to one unified Word and Service roster;

To receive the request of the task force to appoint a separate working group to consider the question of ordination for this roster;

To request the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit, in consultation with the Conference of Bishops and Office of the Presiding Bishop, to identify possible individuals, including bishops, to serve on a working group and to provide those names to the Executive Committee;

To authorize the Executive Committee to appoint a working group to consider the question of ordination of the unified Word and Service roster; and

To request that the working group bring progress reports to Conference of Bishops and Church Council beginning in fall 2014.

Vice President Peña declared the motion was adopted.

UPDATE ON THE 500TH ANNIVERSARY OBSERVANCE

(Agenda V.E.3.; Exhibit J, Part 2)

Ms. Susan W. McArver drew the Church Council's attention to an update the theological discernment team in the Office of the Presiding Bishop provided regarding the ELCA's observance of the 500th Anniversary of the Evangelical or Lutheran Reformation. She concluded the Program and Services Committee report.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE: CHURCH COUNCIL RETREAT

(Agenda V.F.)

Background:

The Board Development Committee had asked that the Church Council enter a committee of the whole to discuss board governance, leadership, and the council's retreat to be held at the Camp Carol Joy Holling Conference and Retreat Center in Ashland, Neb., August 15–17, 2014.

Church Council Action:

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on Secretary Wm Chris Boerger, who made the following motion.

Moved;

Seconded:

To go into a committee of the whole for a period of 40 minutes to discuss board governance and leadership matters as it pertains to the Church Council retreat and to be led by the Board Development Committee. During the committee of the whole no parliamentary motions will be in order and no votes will be taken.

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

VOTED:

CC13.11.66

To go into a committee of the whole for a period of 40 minutes to discuss board governance and leadership matters as it pertains to the Church Council retreat and to be led by the Board Development Committee. During the committee of the whole no parliamentary motions will be in order and no votes will be taken.

Vice President Peña declared the motion was adopted.

The Church Council entered into a committee of the whole at 10:50 A.M.

RECESS

At the invitation of Vice President Carlos E. Peña, the Rev. Kathryn A. Tiede closed the committee of the whole and the fifth plenary session with a table grace.

**EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
CHURCH COUNCIL
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The November 2013 meeting of the Church Council recessed for lunch at 11:23 A.M.

The Executive Committee of the council reconvened its meeting at 11:30 A.M. in the Pentecost Conference Room of the Lutheran Center.

**Sunday, November 10, 2013
Plenary Session VI**

CALL TO ORDER

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called the sixth plenary session to order at 1:01 P.M. in the Augsburg Room of the Lutheran Center.

DWELLING IN THE WORD

(Agenda VI.A.)

Ms. Susan W. McArver reflected on Genesis 32:24–28.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on Mr. Paul G. Archer, who asked specific people how the Church Council may pray for them.

UPDATE ON DECLARATION ON THE WAY

(Agenda VI.B.)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on the Rev. Donald J. McCoid, assistant to the presiding bishop for ecumenical and inter-religious relations, for an update on work to develop a summary declaration with the Roman Catholic Church.

Pr. McCoid reported that The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) and The Vatican had produced a book, *From Conflict to Communion*, including five ecumenical imperatives for the two traditions of which one is to begin dialogue from a perspective of unity. He described the work of representatives of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and the ELCA to develop a “Declaration on the Way” that compiles all agreements between the churches, such as dialogue reports and the Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification, as a gift to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation in 2017.

REPORT OF THE BOARD DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

(Agenda VI.C.)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on the Rev. Kathryn A. Tiede, chair of the Board Development Committee, to present the committee’s report.

Pr. Tiede announced that Mr. Paul A. Archer would serve with her as co-chair of the committee. She described the work of the committee and several elements of the meeting for which the committee is responsible. She requested that Church Council members complete their evaluations of the meeting.

Mr. Archer spoke of ways that council members relate to the synods of this church.

CONSIDERATION OF AN ITEM REMOVED FROM *EN BLOC*

(Agenda VI.D.)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña announced that one item regarding amendments to seminary governing documents had been removed from *en bloc* consideration.

AMENDMENTS TO SEMINARY GOVERNING DOCUMENTS

(Exhibit H, Part 3)

Background:

ELCA bylaw 8.31.02. states:

Amendments to the governing documents of each separately incorporated seminary and each seminary cluster shall be submitted, upon recommendation of the appropriate unit of the churchwide organization, to the Church Council for approval.

Proposed amendments to the bylaws of Luther Seminary, Saint Paul, Minn., were provided to the Church Council in an exhibit of the meeting.

Church Council Action:

Secretary Wm Chris Boerger made the following motion on behalf of the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee.

Moved;

Seconded: To approve the amended bylaws of Luther Seminary, with the exception of amendments to Articles IV and V; and

To authorize the Executive Committee, in consultation with the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee and the appropriate churchwide unit, to approve any changes to the seminary bylaws that are submitted prior to the spring 2014 Church Council meeting.

A discussion ensued about the proposed amendments to Article IV (Confession of Faith) and Article V (Membership of the Board of Directors) of the Luther Seminary bylaws.

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

VOTED:

CC13.11.67 To approve the amended bylaws of Luther Seminary, with the exception of amendments to Articles IV and V; and

To authorize the Executive Committee, in consultation with the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee and the appropriate churchwide unit, to approve any changes to the seminary bylaws that are submitted prior to the spring 2014 Church Council meeting.

Vice President Peña declared the motion was adopted.

EN BLOC APPROVAL OF CERTAIN ITEMS

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

Background:

An *en bloc* resolution or consent calendar was presented to the Church Council of routine or noncontroversial actions prepared by staff of the churchwide organization (Exhibit B) and by the council's committees (Exhibit D). Opportunity was provided to members of the Church Council to remove items from *en bloc* for separate consideration by the council. A single vote on those items remaining *en bloc* is taken without debate or amendment.

Church Council Action:

Vice President Carlos E. Peña indicated that, since the proposed amendments to continuing resolutions required a two-thirds vote, they would be considered *en bloc* separately from the rest of the *en bloc* resolution which required a majority vote.

Secretary Wm Chris Boerger made the following motion.

Moved;

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

There being no discussion, the chair called for the vote by show of hands.

VOTED:

TWO-THIRDS VOTE REQUIRED

CC13.11.68

To approve the continuing resolution amendments to the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* as listed below.

7.52.A0513. Sources of Calls for Associates in Ministry, Deaconesses, and Diaconal Ministers

- ...
- 4.0 Churchwide ministry
 - 4.1 Officer's staff Church Council
 - 4.2 Unit executive director Church Council
 - 4.3 ~~Section executive Church Council~~
 - 4.4 Other churchwide unit staff Church Council
- ...

14.41.F0713. Board Development Committee

A Board Development Committee—composed of six to eight members, at least one of whom shall be a member of the Executive Committee, and of which at least two shall be from each elected class of the Church Council—shall be appointed by the Executive Committee of the Church Council for two-year, renewable terms to assist the presiding bishop and the Church council in developing and implementing efforts to help members of the Church Council to demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of the council's role and fiduciary responsibility as the board of directors of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America....

16.12.B1013. Global Mission Unit

The Global Mission unit shall provide integrated support of this church's work in other countries and be the means through which churches in other countries engage in mission to this church and society.

- a. The Global Mission unit shall build capacity and provide support for mission in the following areas:
 - a1. Global Community: maintaining church-to-church relationships and mutual endeavors for evangelical witness, leadership development, sharing of mission personnel, and collaborative work;
 - b2. Mission Formation and Relationships: mutual learning and growth with companion churches and ELCA synods and congregations in the accompaniment model for mission, companion synod relationships, young adults in global mission, relationships with independent Lutheran organizations related to global mission, and mission efforts for full communion partners;
 - c3. Diakonia: meeting human need and working collaboratively with partners toward the flourishing of human community through engagement in international development and disaster response.
- b. The Global Mission unit will develop personnel policies for long-term and other missionaries in consultation with the Human Resources of the Office of the Presiding Bishop, and administer such policies after their approval by the Church Council.

20.61.A0913. Rules of the Committee on Appeals

- ...
- q. See 20.52.A9211. and 20.53.A9211. for additional rules of procedure applicable in proceedings for recall or dismissal.
- ...

Vice President Peña declared the motion was adopted.
Secretary Boerger made the following motion.

Moved;

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

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

VOTED:

CC13.11.69 To take action *en bloc* on the remaining items listed below.

Vice President Peña declared the motion was adopted.

RESPONSES TO SYNOD RESOLUTIONS

A. Analysis, Assessment and Measurement of New Starts

Southwest California Synod Council (2B) [2012]

WHEREAS, since 2004, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA) has spent \$80,627,031 on new and renewing congregations. According to outside statistics, of the \$80 million invested over the past eight years, \$36 million has not produced lasting viable congregations; and

WHEREAS, in the past decade, no Southwest California Synod mission start has become self-sustaining; and

WHEREAS, within the territory of the Southwest California Synod, the level of investment through 2011 for existing mission starts and redevelopments was \$1,292,281, and, of that amount, \$145,700 went to new congregations that have, as yet, failed to organize; and

WHEREAS, the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit has expressed a need to reduce financial support for five mission start congregations in the Southwest California Synod; and

WHEREAS, overall, Protestant denominations and the Catholic Church have raised and spent over one trillion dollars on domestic ministry during the past two decades, yet there has been no measurable increase in one of the primary expressed purposes of the Church: to lead people to Christ and have them commit their lives to him; and

WHEREAS, the churchwide organization does not keep failure statistics but current inter-denominational statistics show, at worst, the failure rate of mission developments and redevelopments as an 80 percent failure rate over a 10-year period, and at best, within the first four years, the failure rate is over 45 percent. These percentages lead one to the conclusion that the ELCA has a 55 percent success rate for mission developments, inferring that, of every dollar being invested in mission starts, 45 cents has no return. Most organizations would understand these numbers to be a sign of poor stewardship and flawed methodology; and

WHEREAS, studies indicate that mission starts that have more than three set years of funding have a declining opportunity for viability and sustainability; and

WHEREAS, coaching is seen as “the most effective means of empowering missional leaders in a changing world.” Furthermore, mission developers that have met with a mentor weekly have congregations that are more than twice the size of mission developers that did not have mentors; and

WHEREAS, research shows that pastors who experience a traumatic failure in their first mission start never overcome that experience; and

WHEREAS, mission developers with a clear picture of the process, risks, possibilities, goals, and expectations have a 400 percent increased chance at successful development; and

WHEREAS, mission developers that have clear modes of accountability from their denomination, their local network (i.e., synod) within the areas of finances, entrepreneurial leadership, mentorship, and call expectations have an increased opportunity toward viability by over 563 percent. Where assessment is done early and often, by year four those communities are 27 percent larger than communities where little to no assessment was done; and

WHEREAS, three of our Synod Goals focus on intentional outreach and two other Goals focus on development of new congregations and the transformation of existing congregations; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Southwest California Synod Council request that the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America direct the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit to create a research design using appropriate methodology and standardized measurement scales for mission starts and redeveloping congregations, specifically looking at early qualitative and quantitative assessments of mission development pastors, realistic financial

support strategies, concurrent assessment practices, and further diversification of church planting strategies, including concepts for further long-term development and support for developing pastors, inner-city, and ethnocentric specific mission start strategies and early viability and sustainability assessments; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this church use additional psychological and behavioral standardized assessment tools in the process of identifying mission developers; and to implement a mentoring program for every mission developer; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this church looks toward our full-communion partnerships for alternative methodologies and analytical tools, for direct partnerships and for church developer peer support teams.

Executive Committee Action (EC12.04.12)

To receive the resolution of the Southwest California Synod Council related to new mission starts and congregations in redevelopment;

To refer the resolution to the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit with a request that a report and possible recommendations be brought to the November 2012 meeting of the ELCA Church Council; and

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

Response from the Congregational and Synodical Mission Unit (November 2012)

We addressed this request with the Program and Services Committee of the Church Council at the April 2012 meeting. At that time, Kenneth Inskeep of Research & Evaluation worked with the CSM unit on a process for this study. After an initial review of the literature and additional conversation with CSM and the Office of the Presiding Bishop, Research and Evaluation is proposing a comprehensive review of the actions of this church with regard to new mission starts and congregations. Over the years, both the environment for starting new missions and the increasingly participatory approach to new mission development have added to the complexity of evaluation. The important and significant involvement of synods and local congregations deserves attention and this takes time. We also want to more fully explore the strategies of other religious groups. A preliminary report, which gives initial results of the church's actions from 2006 to the present, will be available by the November 2012 meeting of the Church Council, but we are requesting additional time to fully engage developers, synods, congregations, and other religious groups in the review. We are proposing a full report be made to the November 2013 meeting of the Church Council.

Church Council Action (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 ELCA Church Council; and

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

Response from the Congregational and Synodical Mission Unit (November 2013)

Due to the complexity and importance of this issue, a New and Renewing Congregations Working Group was established to undertake a full review of the new and renewing congregations enterprise as part of an expanded response to the Southwest California Synod resolution. The response from the working group of the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit is extensive (45 pages including appendices). The report is divided into three sections. Section 1 includes a brief rationale for Lutheran mission in the United States and the Caribbean, a review of the current broader social context for mission, a case for the missional strength of ELCA Lutheran theology, and a review of ELCA Lutherans in the present context. Section 2 includes a review of this church's most recent efforts in starting new ministries. Section 3 is a direct response to the memorial from the Southwest California Synod.

The full text of the response was provided to the Church Council in Exhibit G, Part 1.

VOTED:

CC13.11.69a

To thank the Southwest California Synod for its resolution related to New Mission Starts and Redevelopment;

To acknowledge the work of the New and Renewing Congregations Working Group;

EN BLOC

To request that the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit implement the recommendations provided in the New and Renewing Congregations Working Group report as financial and personnel resources become available;

To request the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit provide a progress report on the implementation of the recommendations by the November 2014 Church Council meeting; and

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

**B. A Churchwide Policy of Parental Leave for Rostered Persons
Lower Susquehanna Synod (8D) [2013]**

WHEREAS, questions arise between rostered persons and congregations concerning the compensation and benefit package for parental leave; and

WHEREAS, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) document, “Definition of Compensation Benefits, and Responsibilities of the Pastor,” item D.6. states, “Where applicable, parental leave up to six weeks with full salary, housing and benefits;” and

WHEREAS, the ELCA document, “Definition of Compensation, Benefits, and Responsibilities for Associate in Ministry, Deaconess, or Diaconal Minister Under Call,” item D.6. states, “Where applicable, parental leave up to six weeks with full salary and benefits;” and

WHEREAS, ordained persons and congregations have not been consistent with the application of the parental leave benefit as stated in the “Definition of Compensation Benefits, and Responsibilities of the Pastor;” and

WHEREAS, the church is called to support and uplift parents and families; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Lower Susquehanna Synod memorialize the Churchwide Assembly to direct the Office of Secretary to amend the documents, “Definition of Compensation, Benefits, and Responsibilities of the Pastor” and “Definition of Compensation, Benefits, and Responsibilities for Associate in Ministry, Deaconess, or Diaconal Minister Under Call,” items D.6. to state “parental leave of at least six weeks with full salary and benefits;” and further be it

RESOLVED, that the Lower Susquehanna Synod memorialize the Churchwide Assembly to encourage all congregations to adopt a parental leave policy consistent with the above-referenced documents and in which congregations are encouraged to offer all employees the same benefit.

The Office of the Secretary determined that the Lower Susquehanna Synod Assembly memorial, “Churchwide Policy of Parental Leave for Rostered Persons,” was a resolution that more properly should have been submitted to the Synod Council for referral to a churchwide office through the Church Council’s Executive Committee.

Executive Committee Action (EC13.07.21c)

To receive the resolution of the Lower Susquehanna Synod regarding A Churchwide Policy of Parental Leave for Rostered Persons;

To refer the resolution to the Office of the Secretary, in consultation with the Office of the Presiding Bishop and the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit; and

To request that a report with recommendations be brought to the November 2013 Church Council meeting.

Response from the Office of the Secretary (November 2013)

After reviewing the resolution more extensively, we request additional time in order to consult with colleagues to properly address the resolution. This additional time will also be helpful as the newly elected Secretary is acclimated to the position and responsibilities.

VOTED:

CC13.11.69b

**To receive the response from the Office of the Secretary;
To postpone the report with recommendations to the April 2014 Church Council meeting; and
To request the secretary of this church to inform the synod of this action.**

EN BLOC

**C. Boy Scouts of America Units Sponsored by Congregations of the ELCA
Metropolitan Chicago Synod (5A) [2013]**

WHEREAS, there are numerous Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) congregations which are chartering organizations for Boy Scout units throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS, these units and are re-chartered annually; and

WHEREAS, the current policy of the Boy Scouts of America which bans homosexuals from serving as Boy Scout leaders is contrary to the ELCA's social statement, *Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust*, which opposes all forms of violence or discrimination against homosexuals and is committed to welcoming all people, regardless of sexual orientation, and their families into our congregations; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan Chicago Synod Assembly, commend the National Council of Boy Scouts of America for its recent change in policy that excluded gay youth from participating in Boy Scouts of America (BSA) and encourage the National Council of the BSA to re-examine its policy banning homosexual persons in leadership roles; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan Chicago Synod Assembly encourage congregations which charter BSA units to engage unit leaders at the time of charter renewal, encouraging them to communicate with the National Council and the executive board of the BSA to rescind the policy banning homosexual persons from serving as Boy Scout leaders and volunteers; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan Chicago Synod Assembly encourage synod congregations to affix an addendum to their charters, advising the BSA that the congregation opposes the BSA's discriminatory policy, urging full inclusion for all leaders; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan Chicago Synod Assembly direct the Synod Council to forward this resolution to the National Council of the BSA: and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan Chicago Synod Assembly direct the Synod Council to forward this resolution to the Church Council for consideration and action.

Church Council Action (CC13.07.35a)

To receive the resolution of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod regarding Boy Scouts of America units sponsored by congregations of the ELCA;

To refer the resolution to the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit in consultation with the Conference of Bishops and the Office of the Presiding Bishop;

To request that a report and possible recommendations be presented to the November 2013 meeting of the Church Council; and

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

Response from the Congregational and Synodical Mission Unit

Although many congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) are chartered organizations recognized by the Boy Scouts of America (BSA), the ELCA as a church body has no formal relationship with the BSA. It would be most appropriate for each congregation associated with the BSA as a chartered organization to speak for itself by responding on the basis of its own understanding of BSA policies and of its own teaching and practice as a community of Christian faith.

The Congregational and Synodical Mission unit continues to feel that this issue is best considered and decided in conversation between the sponsoring congregation and the local BSA troop leadership. We believe this position makes the most sense in light of the 2009 Churchwide Assembly actions with respect to "bound conscience." CSM will continue to advise congregations to ask serious questions about their sponsorship of BSA troops in light of their teaching and practice as a community of faith.

ELCA congregations may refer to the following public ELCA statements for guidance:

- "To fulfill these purposes, this church shall ... Lift its voice in concord and work in concert with forces for good, to serve humanity, cooperating with church and other groups participating in activities that promote justice, relieve misery, and reconcile the estranged." (ELCA Constitution 4.03.g; see www.ELCA.org/constitutions)
- "While Lutherans hold various convictions regarding lifelong, monogamous, same-gender relationships, this church is united on many critical issues. It opposes all forms of verbal or physical harassment and assault based on sexual orientation. It supports legislation and policies to protect civil rights and to prohibit discrimination in housing,

employment, and public services. It has called upon congregations and members to welcome, care for, and support same-gender couples and their families and to advocate for their legal protection.” (*Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust*, a social statement adopted by the ELCA Churchwide Assembly in 2009; see www.ELCA.org/sexuality)

- “We also call attention to the action of the 1991 Churchwide Assembly that declared ‘gay and lesbian people, as individuals created by God, are welcome to participate fully in the life of the congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.’ At the 1993 assembly, that declaration was extended to express ‘strong opposition to all forms of verbal or physical harassment or assault of persons because of their sexual orientation,’ and support for the civil rights of all persons, regardless of their sexual orientation. Taken together, these clear actions remind us that our congregations should reflect our Lord’s invitation to all (Matthew 11:28) by being safe places for those who are persecuted or harassed in our society. We repudiate all words and acts of hatred toward gay and lesbian persons in our congregations and in our communities, and extend a caring welcome for gay and lesbian persons and their families. We call upon all our pastors, as they exercise pastoral care, to be sensitive to the gifts and needs of gay and lesbian members. We urge our congregations to reach out to all God’s people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.” (“A Word of Welcome to Gay and Lesbian Persons,” a pastoral letter from the ELCA Conference of Bishops in 1996; see <http://archive.ELCA.org/synods/bishopswelcome.html>)

VOTED:

EN BLOC

CC13.11.69c

To receive the response from the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit and to thank the Metropolitan Chicago Synod for their resolution on Boy Scouts of America units sponsored by congregations of the ELCA;

To acknowledge that there is no formal relationship between the ELCA as a church body and the Boy Scouts of America;

To encourage each congregation which charters a Boy Scouts of America unit to engage unit leaders at the time of charter renewal to speak for itself by responding on the basis of the congregation’s own understanding of Boy Scouts of America policies and of the congregation’s own teaching and practice as a community of Christian faith; and

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

D. To Commission an Adult Catechism

Metropolitan New York Synod (7C) [2013]

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod memorialize the Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to request the Church Council to commission, through the appropriate channels with appropriate funding, the development of an Adult Catechism as a resource for the church; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod memorialize the Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to request that this catechism be prepared as an educational resource to supplement Luther’s Catechisms, not as a vehicle for establishing specific policies or norms within this church or for binding the consciences of its members; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod memorialize the Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to request that the Church Council invite full communion partner churches to participate in this project so that continued inter-church dialogue may be enriched and shared throughout the churches, and so that this church may further live out the promise of its partnerships; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this catechism take into account and reference the extensive bilateral ecumenical dialogues of the past 50 years.

The Office of the Secretary determined that the Metropolitan New York Synod Assembly memorial, “To Commission an Adult Catechism,” was a resolution that more properly should have been submitted to the Synod Council for referral to the Church Council. The resolution was transmitted to the Church Council through its Executive Committee.

Executive Committee Action (EC13.07.21b)

To receive the resolution of the Metropolitan New York Synod regarding To Commission an Adult Catechism;
To refer the resolution to the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit in consultation with Office of the Presiding Bishop and the Conference of Bishops; and
To request that a report with possible recommendations be brought to the November 2013 Church Council meeting.

Response from the Congregational and Synodical Mission Unit (November 2013)

In conversations with other churchwide staff, we recommend that this resolution be reassigned to the Office of the Presiding Bishop. The staff in that office is primarily responsible for theological discernment, 500th anniversary work and has direct contact with our full communion partners. They are in a better position to review the various aspects of the resolution recommended by the Metropolitan New York Synod.

In reassessing this resolution, we further recommend additional time is granted so that the Office of the Presiding Bishop can consult with colleagues in our unit as well as with the Conference of Bishops and Augsburg Fortress.

VOTED:

EN BLOC

CC13.11.69d

**To receive the response from the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit;
To refer the resolution to the Office of the Presiding Bishop, in consultation with the Conference of Bishops, Augsburg Fortress, and the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit;
To request that a report with possible recommendations be brought by the April 2014 meeting of the ELCA Church Council; and
To request that the secretary of this church inform the synod of this action.**

E. The Isolation of Individuals Living in Our Communities

Virginia Synod (9A) [2013]

WHEREAS, we are called by the Gospel to live in community; and

WHEREAS, we are called to love and care for our neighbor in body, mind, and soul, including the fullness of mental health; and

WHEREAS, isolation separates individuals of all ages from the love and support of a helping community; and

WHEREAS, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) calls us to do God's work with our hands; and

WHEREAS, our synodical leadership encourages mutual support and accountability; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that members of the Virginia Synod Assembly encourage their congregations to pray for those living in isolation; and be it further

RESOLVED, that members of the Virginia Synod Assembly encourage their congregations to identify and reach out to those who are living in isolation; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Virginia Synod encourage congregations and individuals to partner with institutions and agencies who work with children, youth, adults, and senior citizens to identify and reach out to those who are living in isolation; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Virginia Synod of the ELCA forward this to the ELCA Church Council for further consideration.

Church Council Action (CC13.07.35c)

To receive the resolution of the Virginia Synod on The Isolation of Individuals Living in Our Communities;

To refer the resolution to the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit;

To request that a report be brought to the November 2013 meeting of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; and

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

Response from the Congregational and Synodical Mission Unit

The Congregational and Synodical Mission unit is requesting an extension to our response to this Church Council action until April 2014 due to limited staff capacity.

VOTED:

EN BLOC

CC13.11.69e **To receive the response from the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit; To postpone the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit report, with possible recommendations, to the April 2014 meeting of the ELCA Church Council; and To request that the secretary of this church inform the synod of this action.**

REFERRALS OF CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY ACTIONS

F. Category A1: Gender Identity Discrimination

CA13.03.07a

To receive with gratitude the memorials of the Eastern North Dakota, Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana, Eastern Washington-Idaho, South-Central Synod of Wisconsin, Southwestern Texas, Saint Paul Area, Sierra Pacific, Northwest Washington, Greater Milwaukee, Southwest California, Minneapolis Area, Metropolitan New York, Northwestern Minnesota, Upstate New York, Northeastern Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Southwestern Minnesota, Southwestern Pennsylvania, Metropolitan Washington, D.C., and Indiana/Kentucky synods regarding their concern for the important issue of employment non-discrimination and their common cause in memorializing the 2013 Churchwide Assembly;

To acknowledge the continued lack of state and federal anti-discrimination workplace laws addressing the categories of sexual identity and gender identity and the recent and recurring proposals concerning the employment non-discrimination legislation, including a proposal to provide a religious exemption;

To recommit this church to principles of non-discrimination in employment and to call for other employers to engage in similar practices;

To affirm the work by the ELCA advocacy ministries and Corporate Social Responsibility Team in supporting employment non-discrimination legislation and request that they continue to support legislation that opposes workplace discrimination;

To request that the presiding bishop of this church communicate to members of Congress the support of the ELCA for legislation that prohibits employment discrimination on the basis of actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity while providing for religious exemptions; and

To encourage all ELCA synods, congregations, and members to add their voices in support of legislation that prohibits employment discrimination on the basis of actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity.

VOTED:

EN BLOC

CC13.11.69f **To ask the Congregational and Synodical Mission Unit, in consultation with the Office of the Presiding Bishop, to bring a report on the ELCA advocacy activities related to Gender Identity Discrimination by the November 2014 meeting of the Church Council.**

G. Category A2: Uniting American Families

CA.13.03.07b

To receive with gratitude the memorials of the Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana, Eastern Washington-Idaho, South-Central Synod of Wisconsin, Southwestern Texas, Saint Paul Area, Oregon, Florida-Bahamas, Sierra Pacific, Northwest Washington, Southwest California, Minneapolis Area, Central States, Metropolitan New York, Northwestern Minnesota, Upstate New York, Northeastern Pennsylvania, Southwestern Pennsylvania, Metropolitan Washington, D.C., and Indiana/Kentucky synods related to the Uniting American Families Act;

To affirm the Uniting American Families Act or its equivalent in the Congress of the United States;

To request the presiding bishop of this church to communicate to the president and members of Congress the action of the 2013 ELCA Churchwide Assembly; and

To encourage rostered leaders and members of congregations in this church, if consistent with their individual bound consciences, to support the Uniting American Families Act, or its equivalent, to their elected representatives and encourage them to co-sponsor and to support a just, comprehensive reform of U. S. immigration law that includes the principles of the Uniting American Families Act.

VOTED:

EN BLOC

CC13.11.69g To ask the Office of the Presiding Bishop, in consultation with the Congregational and Synodical Mission Unit, to bring a report on its activities related to Uniting American Families Act by the April 2014 meeting of the Church Council.

H. Category A6: Immigration Reform

CA.13.03.08

To receive with gratitude the memorials of the Northeastern Pennsylvania, Lower Susquehanna, New Jersey, Southwestern Pennsylvania, and Metropolitan Washington, D.C., synods regarding comprehensive immigration reform;

To advocate for the adoption of comprehensive immigration reform legislation, consistent with guidance articulated in the ELCA message on “Immigration” and as set forth by Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services:

- Provide an earned pathway to lawful permanent residency and eventual citizenship for undocumented immigrants and their families
- Ensure the humane and just enforcement of U.S. immigration laws, specifically by reducing the use of immigration detention and expanding the use of community support programs for immigrants who do not need to be detained
- Protect families from separation and ensure an adequate supply of visas for families seeking to reunite
- Provide adequate resources and protections to ensure the successful integration of refugees, asylees, survivors of torture and trafficking, unaccompanied minors, and other vulnerable migrants
- Ensure the protection of U.S. citizen and migrant workers;

This legislation should provide a reasonable path to citizenship for undocumented individuals currently living and working in the United States, and set fair immigration quotas that are not discriminatory;

To call on rostered leaders, in their preaching and teaching, to promote an understanding of immigration issues that addresses welcome, promotes concern for the vulnerable, and calls believers to foster the highest possible level of moral discourse in church and society;

To call on congregations to engage in prayerful, reasoned discussion and education on issues related to immigration, availing themselves of resources prepared by the ELCA and Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service;

To call on rostered leaders and congregations of the ELCA to communicate with the President of the United States, Senators, and Members of Congress, to develop and pass such comprehensive immigration reform legislation in the current session; and

To call on the presiding bishop of this church to continue to communicate to members of Congress the ELCA’s position on immigration reform.

VOTED:

EN BLOC

CC13.11.69h To ask the Congregational and Synodical Mission Unit, in consultation with the Office of the Presiding Bishop and the Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, to bring a report on the ELCA advocacy activities related to comprehensive immigration reform by the November 2014 meeting of the Church Council.

I. Category A6: Immigration Reform – Welcoming Migrants and Refugees

CA13.03.09

To receive with gratitude the memorial from the Metropolitan Washington, D.C., Synod related to 75 years of welcoming immigrants and refugees through Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS);

To declare Sunday, June 22, 2014, as Refugee Sunday; and

To request the presiding bishop to:

- invite congregations to tell the stories of their acts of welcome to refugees and immigrants—signs of witness, mercy, and life together;
- utilize ELCA communications mechanisms to share these stories and inspire action throughout 2014; and
- encourage congregations and organizations to engage with and support the LIRS mission of welcoming the stranger through gifts of time, talent, and treasure.

VOTED:

EN BLOC

CC13.11.69i To request the Office of the Presiding Bishop, in consultation with the Congregational and Synodical Mission Unit and the Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, to bring a report on its activities related to welcoming migrants and refugees by the April 2015 meeting of the Church Council.

**J. Motion H: A Social Policy Resolution Concerning the Guarantee of Voting Rights to All Citizens
CA13.06.27**

WHEREAS, the guarantee that all citizens may exercise the right to vote on an equal basis is a fundamental requirement for a just society; and

WHEREAS, the laws and practices that, in effect, exclude whole groups of citizens from fully and equally exercising this right; and

WHEREAS, the Voting Rights Act of 1965 was passed and subsequently reauthorized by the United States Congress to remedy or prevent patterns of discrimination that preclude racial-minority groups from fully and equally exercising the right to vote; and

WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court has recently held Section 4(b) of the Voting Rights Act unconstitutional, a holding that four of the Court's nine justices believe "terminates the remedy that proved to be best suited to block that discrimination" (US Supreme Court, *Shelby County v. Holder*, 570 US_ (2013), dissenting opinion by Justice Ginsburg); and

WHEREAS, this church has recognized that "many find it difficult to participate in public life because of racial or ethnic barriers...", and it has committed to "actively promote a public life worthy of the name. We encourage public witness by members, and stand publicly as a church against injustice." (ELCA Social Statement on Race, Ethnicity, and Culture, p. 6); and

WHEREAS, this church has established, as a matter of social policy, that it "will support legislation, ordinances, and resolutions that guarantee ... to all citizens, the right to vote" (ELCA Social Statement on Race, Ethnicity, and Culture, p. 7); and

WHEREAS, this church continues to "encourage members, congregations, synods, and agencies and institutions to join the churchwide organization in its commitment ... to confront the scandalous realities of racial, ethnic, cultural ... barriers that often manifest themselves in exclusion, poverty, hunger, and violence; and pursue ardently the ELCA's commitment to becoming more diverse, multicultural, and multigenerational in an ever-changing and increasingly pluralistic context" (ELCA Churchwide Assembly Action CA03.06.22, "Working Against Racism"); therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America call upon local, state, and federal governments to guarantee the right to vote to all citizens and to discourage or eliminate all laws, ordinances or regulations that would have the effect of racial and ethnic discrimination in the exercise of that right; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Presiding Bishop and synodical bishops of this church be urged to support publically and stand as an advocate to proposed local, state, or federal legislation and regulations that, consistent with this church's social teaching, seek to guarantee to all citizens the right to vote; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Conference of Bishops be requested to include, as part of one of its 2014 meetings, an educational session on voting rights; and be it further

RESOLVED, that members, congregations, and synods of this church be encouraged to "promote public lifeworthy of the name" by speaking out as an advocate and engaging in local efforts such as voter registration and supporting legislation to guarantee the right to vote to all citizens; and be it further

RESOLVED, that appropriate churchwide staff be requested to identify and publicize resources for members, congregations, and synods of this church to advocate for voting rights for all citizens.

VOTED:

EN BLOC

CC13.11.69j To refer Motion H: A Social Policy Resolution Concerning the Guarantee of Voting Rights to All Citizens to the Office of the Presiding Bishop, in consultation with the Conference of Bishops and the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit; and To request that a report be presented by the April 2015 Church Council meeting.

K. Motion I: Term Limits
CA13.06.28

Motion I: Term Limits

To amend the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* by inserting the following provisions:

- 13.23. No person shall be eligible to be elected to a third consecutive six-year executive term to the office of presiding bishop.
- 13.33. No person shall be eligible to be elected to a third consecutive six-year term to the position of vice president.
- 13.43. No person shall be eligible to be elected to a third consecutive six-year term to the office of secretary.

Rationale of the Reference and Counsel Committee

The Reference and Counsel Committee receives the motion with gratitude. We are not advocating for or against term limits.

The proposed resolution requested consideration of term limits for all officers selected by the Churchwide Assembly. In the coming days, we will have many conversations about this assembly's decisions. The conversations about leadership needs and our future elections are already taking place. The proposed motion engages one of many points of conversation.

Recommendation of the Reference and Counsel Committee

To refer this resolution to the ELCA Church Council and Conference of Bishops for broad-based conversation beginning in spring 2014 (for example – inviting the input of our vice presidents) with a possible report by the November 2015 meeting of the Church Council with sufficient time for potentially bringing action to the 2016 Churchwide Assembly.

The items for attention include:

- Identification of the needs of the Churchwide Organization for each office (that are deeper than the constitutional descriptions);
- Identifying leaders to potentially serve; and
- Conversation about possible limitation of duration in terms.

Churchwide Assembly Action (CA13.06.28)

To refer Motion I to the Church Council and Conference of Bishops for broad-based conversation (e.g. inviting the input of synodical vice presidents) beginning in spring 2014 with a possible report to the Church Council at its November 2015 meeting and recommendations to the 2016 Churchwide Assembly.

The items for attention include identifying the needs of the churchwide organization for each office that are deeper than the constitutional descriptions, identifying leaders to potentially serve, and discussing the possible limitation of duration in terms.

VOTED:

EN BLOC

CC13.11.69k

**To refer Motion I: Term Limits to the Office of the Secretary, in consultation with the Conference of Bishops and the Office of the Presiding Bishop; and
To request that a report with possible recommendations be brought to the November 2015 meeting of the Church Council.**

L. Motion N: American Indian and Alaska Native Peoples
CA13.06.29

Motion N: American Indian and Alaska Native Peoples

WHEREAS, the ELCA has proclaimed its welcoming of all people with special emphasis on immigrants from all parts of the world; and

WHEREAS, the ELCA, as do so many institutions and people, often forgets the people who were and are native to these lands before and while immigrants arrived to these lands; and

WHEREAS, most of the population of the United States of America and most of the membership of our church are uneducated about American Indian and Alaska Native People and their history, culture, and oppression and atrocities suffered, and

WHEREAS, Lutheran church bodies were once the leaders of advocacy for American Indian and Alaska Native legal rights, most directly when partnered with and supporting the American Indian Movement during the 1960s and 1970s, and the development of the National Indian Lutheran Board; and

WHEREAS, all treaties made by the United States of America with tribal nations and governments have been broken, and promises made 25 years ago by this church to American Indian and Alaska Native leaders and the National Indian Lutheran Board, when it was encouraged to dissolve, have not been kept; and

WHEREAS, American Indian and Alaska Native Peoples have suffered tremendously for too many years, and continue to suffer rates of poverty, homelessness, disease, addiction, violence against women, among a list that is too long to list here, is much higher than the national average; our faith tells us that when one suffers, we all suffer; and

WHEREAS, culture and language is important to our American Indian and Alaska Native sisters and brothers, and supporting their needs and rights to preserve and live out and share their culture in all regards should also be important, even within the church; and

WHEREAS, there has been a decline in some congregations of participation by American Indian and Alaska Native Peoples, leadership in the ELCA among American Indian and Alaska Native Peoples has declined; presently there are only three students who are members or citizens of a federally recognized tribe who are seeking ordination in the ELCA through the Theological Education for Emerging Ministries program, and presently there are zero full or part-time Master of Divinity students and one part-time Master of Theology student attending our eight seminaries; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that this assembly commits this church, the ELCA, to go beyond apologies and begin working on renewed, healthy and responsible relationships with American Indian and Alaska Native Peoples; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the ELCA commits to becoming the leader among churches in the area of advocacy and active support of justice, self-determination, sovereignty, and advancement of American Indian and Alaska Native Peoples and their nations and governments; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the ELCA endorses the U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples adopted by the U.N. General Assembly on September 13, 2007, adopts the declaration as the standard for our own practices, and commits to implementing the values and principles of the declaration within the work and structure of this church; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this assembly asks the presiding bishop to write to the president of the United States of America, encouraging the president to continue building strong government-to-government relationships with all of the federally recognized tribes, as well as to work collaboratively with tribes and the National Congress of American Indian on discerning how to best fully and effectively implement the U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples for the sake of justice in the lives and communities of American Indian and Alaska Native Peoples; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the ELCA actively supports the work and goals of the ELCA's director of American Indian and Alaska Native Ministries, the American Indian and Alaska Native Advisory Team, and the American Indian and Alaska Native Lutheran Association and, further, that this church will actively seek their counsel, in order to deepen our understanding of the oppression and colonized histories lived and remembered by American Indian and Alaska Native Peoples, as well as to gain insight on the present situations of injustices experienced by and opportunities that lie before American Indian and Alaska Native Peoples; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the ELCA encourage its membership, and especially its leadership, to educate themselves about American Indian and Alaska Native Peoples; starting with the tribes and Peoples whose reservations and/or nations are nearest us, then the tribes and Peoples who first inhabited the lands whereupon church buildings now sit; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the ELCA actively explore funding opportunities to better serve American Indian and Alaska Native Peoples and social services organizations that provide direct services such as the Oaks Indian Mission, Lakota Lutheran Center, Navajo Lutheran Mission and others, so that they may have sufficient resources to feed and house children and families in serious poverty; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the ELCA periodically encourage synods and congregations to go beyond mission trips to American Indian and Alaska Native communities and become active advocates for and supporters of them; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the ELCA commits to being a part of dreaming, praying and working together with American Indian and Alaska Native Peoples for a reconciled and hopeful future, recognizing that immediate action and long-term commitment are required for renewed, healthy and responsible relationships to be built.

Rationale of the Reference and Counsel Committee

The Reference and Counsel Committee receives the motion with gratitude. We acknowledge ongoing efforts of American Indian and Alaska Native Ministries in the ELCA. We also recognize that we have for too long as a church failed to act more intentionally on and to educate each other about issues of justice for American Indian and Alaska Native peoples. The Churchwide Assembly is unable to endorse the United Nations document that it has not yet read and studied. There is further work to be done if we are to seriously move forward with the goals of this motion.

Churchwide Assembly Action (CA13.06.29)

To refer Motion N to the Congregational and Synodical Mission and Global Mission units.

VOTED:

CC13.11.691

EN BLOC

To refer Motion N: American Indian and Alaska Native Peoples to the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit, in consultation with the Global Mission unit and the working group of the ELCA American Indian and Alaska Native Ministries Program; and

To request that a report and possible recommendations be presented to the November 2014 meeting of the Church Council.

M. Motion O: Confirmation

CA13.06.30

Motion O: Confirmation

WHEREAS, the word “confirmation” does not appear in Scripture or in the Confessions; and

WHEREAS, the ritual and tradition of “confirmation” no longer confers real responsibility for discipleship, leadership, or vocation from congregational leaders to youth emerging from “childish ways”, and only really frees most youth from needing to continue to attend to study, worship, service, and receiving the Sacraments with this church once the requisite number of recorded instances of study, worship, service, and receiving the sacraments needed to achieve “confirmation” have been achieved; and

WHEREAS, the youth are not the future of the Church, but the once and immediate Church; and

WHEREAS, the congregations of this church who grow spiritually also study, worship, serve, and pray intergenerationally; and

WHEREAS, various (though few) congregations of this church have discovered avenues toward lifelong intergenerational discipleship among their members either by delaying such rituals of passage known as “confirmation”, or by replacing a “confirmation” tradition with an intergenerational model of faith formation and discipleship training; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the ELCA discontinue published use of the term “confirmation” as it relates to the education tradition of the ELCA from all future publications (curricula, model constitutions, hymnals, etc.); and be it further

RESOLVED, that the congregations of the ELCA discontinue practice of “confirmation” as it relates to the ritual of passage for youth or young adults into voting membership in congregations; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the ELCA fully implement Luther’s doctrine of vocation as the rationale and basis for preparation for lifelong discipleship; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the ELCA encourage congregations to develop and establish rituals of passage into adult discipleship and ministry, such that those congregations’ baptized members who recognize and who are able to articulate God’s call to practice their various vocations and Spiritual gifts as disciples of Christ in the world also receive the public recognition and affirmation of those gifts and vocations by the congregations into which and among whom those individuals live out their vocations and Spiritual gifts; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the congregations of the ELCA become centers of lifelong and intergenerational study of Scripture and catechesis, worship and service, prayer and giving; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the congregations of the ELCA end “confirmation” as ritualized right of youth who have completed required steps and requirements.

Rationale of the Reference and Counsel Committee

The Reference and Counsel Committee receives the motion with gratitude. We share these concerns and join the lament that, for many, confirmation is understood to mark the end of faith formation. We lift up resolves 3, 4 and 5. However, the discontinuation of the word and practice of confirmation has ecclesiastical, constitutional and pragmatic implications.

Churchwide Assembly Action (CA13.06.30)

To refer Motion O to the Church Council in consultation with the Conference of Bishops.

VOTED:

CC13.11.69m **To refer Motion O: Confirmation to the Office of the Presiding Bishop, in consultation with the Conference of Bishops and the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit; and**
To request that a report and possible recommendations be presented to the April 2015 meeting of the Church Council. *EN BLOC*

RESPONSES TO CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY ACTIONS

N. Motion B: Perpetual Prayer Vigil

CA11.05.30

Submitted by: Philip K. Van Dam, Southern Ohio Synod

WHEREAS, the Apology to the Augsburg Confession Ch. V 71 Article XIII says that we can consider prayer a sacrament, and
WHEREAS, we seek to be moved by the Holy Spirit, and
WHEREAS, prayer helps this to happen, and
WHEREAS, prayer vigils help to motivate people to pray, and
WHEREAS, the Moravians had an international prayer vigil for over 100 years, be therefore
RESOLVED, that the synods of the ELCA hold prayer vigils for the entirety of Lent in 2012 and be it further
RESOLVED, that by Lent 2013 the ELCA have a plan in place for a perpetual prayer vigil.

Rationale of the Reference and Counsel Committee

We receive with appreciation and acknowledge the need for more study and review of the dynamics of such a sweeping proposal, specifically inclusion of synod directives, and refer the motion to the Office of the Presiding Bishop in consultation with the Conference of Bishops.

Churchwide Assembly Action (CA11.05.30)

To refer Motion B to the Office of the Presiding Bishop in consultation with the Conference of Bishops.

Church Council Action (CC11.11.83j)

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

Response from Office of the Presiding Bishop (April 2013)

The Office of the Presiding Bishop is requesting an extension to our response to this motion until November 2013. The proposal's request is broad and thus requires further conversation and study. This extension would offer time to facilitate additional discussion about the proposal's request with the Conference of Bishops and for a possible recommendation in sufficient time for Lent 2014.

Church Council Action (CC13.04.27j)

To receive the response from the Office of the Presiding Bishop;

To authorize a delay in the response of the Office of the Presiding Bishop to Motion B: Perpetual Prayer Vigil; and

To request that a report and possible recommendations be brought to the November 2013 meeting of the ELCA Church Council.

Background and response from Office of the Presiding Bishop (November 2013)

Prayer has been a mainstay of Christian communities for centuries. As a church, the ELCA continues in the tradition and practice of grounding our life and work in prayer. Daily, we seek God’s guidance in all that we do as we beseech the Holy Spirit to lead us. Prayer is also an embodied expression of the unity we share. Such an understanding is presented in chapter three of our ELCA Constitution and is outlined in chapter four.

Chapter 4.02.d. Worship God in proclamation of the Word and administration of the sacraments and through lives of prayer, praise, thanksgiving, witness, and service.

Chapter 4.02.f. Manifest the unity given to the people of God by living together in the love of Christ and by joining with other Christians in prayer and action to express and preserve the unity which the Spirit gives.

The ELCA is deeply committed to a life of prayer not only on Sundays but also each and every day. The introduction of the *Daily Prayer* section of *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* reads:

... the Christian life is prayer: openness to the presence of God, responsiveness to the word of God, recognition that all of life is in Christ, and engagement in care for one another and for the whole creation. Daily prayer is a gift that nourishes growth toward living all of daily life in prayer.” (ELW Assembly Edition, p. 295)

Prayer is one dimension of living every day in relationship with God, with the church, and with the neighbor—a relationship that is marked at various times by conversation, listening, responding, waiting, watching, even wrestling with God. In its deepest expression, daily prayer includes an active reflection of the self in the context of faith and the needs of the world.

It needs to be noted that contrary to the language of the original resolution, the Augsburg Confession does not encourage the consideration of prayer as a sacrament. Indeed, prayer is sacramental in nature, but for all purposes here and in our prayer life, prayer is not a sacrament.

As Lutherans, we understand our daily prayer to flow from the assembly of God’s people around word and sacrament—the Sunday celebration deepens our prayer and our daily prayer informs the Sunday celebration. Daily prayer is an opportunity to be nourished each day in the word of God and to turn to God for help and support, for guidance, and for understanding—the ongoing benefits of baptism. Daily prayer calls the people of God back to baptism and sends them forth renewed in their baptismal vows. The prayerful reminder of baptism is the mediation on the daily dying and rising with Christ.

The practice of continual prayer, and/or daily prayer, is often related to Paul’s admonition to the church in Thessalonika, “pray without ceasing...for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” (1 Thessalonians 5:17-18) Continuous prayer vigils have been practiced by many churches, societies and communities throughout the history of Christianity. The most popular and often cited example is the 100+ year Prayer Vigil started by the Moravian community in Herrnhut, Saxony, 1727. A more recent movement is the 24-7 Prayer, begun in England in 1999. Since its “accidental” beginning, 24-7 Prayer has grown to 111 communities throughout the world, 40 of which are located in the United States of America.

The idea of a perpetual prayer vigil in this church is well intended and calls this church to prayer. Yet, as noted above, this church is already deeply committed to a life of prayer. Daily, across all expressions of this church worldwide—across many time zones, we give thanks to God for gifts of creation and our lives of faith, we call upon the Holy Spirit to guide our church, we seek healing for all people in need, we plead for justice and peace in the world, we beg for mercy, and we listen for God’s call to us. To engage in a perpetual prayer vigil in some ways would seem to ignore the deep prayer life this church already has. In the same manner, assigning a period of time, or a season in the church year, as a time for the church to enter into special prayer practice would also run contrary to our current prayer life. Rather than create a prayer vigil that would be extraordinary to our current life, we find it would be more effective to encourage prayer as an integral part of our life together as a church.

With this understanding we recommend the following actions be taken to continue to encourage this church to engage in daily prayer.

- Highlight the Daily Prayer patterns in our current worship resources.
- Draw attention to the ELCA Prayer Ventures at www.elca.org.

- Provide information about other daily prayer resources available.
- Encourage synods, congregations and members to engage in daily prayer practices through small groups, meetings, and other possible venues.
- Highlight communities of this church that are engaged in the practices of daily prayer.

With these actions we hope to foster growth in the prayer life of this church seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit, which is, to our understanding, the main goal of this resolution.

**Portions of this proposal were taken and/or adapted from *Renewing Worship 7: Daily Prayer*, copyright 2004 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

VOTED:

EN BLOC

CC13.11.69n

**To receive the response from the Office of the Presiding Bishop;
To affirm that the ELCA is deeply committed to a life of daily prayer, seeking the
guidance of the Holy Spirit; and
To encourage ELCA synods, congregations, and members to continue to engage
in daily prayer practices through small groups, meetings, and other possible venues.**

O. Motion J: Native Americans and Alaska Natives

CA11.04.18

To refer Motion J to the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit for consultation with the American Indian and Alaska Native Ministries to identify ways to address the intent of the motion.

Submitted by Mr. Vance Blackfox, Metropolitan Chicago Synod (5A)

WHEREAS, the historic relationship between predecessor/partner Lutheran church bodies and American Indian and Alaska Natives peoples was so significant during the struggle for American Indian and Alaska Native civil rights, known as the American Indian Movement; and

WHEREAS, support of American Indian and Alaska Native peoples has declined significantly since the constituting of the ELCA in 1988; and

WHEREAS, all ELCA churchwide organization's events and participants are hosted in and participants enter into various sovereign American Indian and Alaska Native nations, geographically, and/or historic tribal lands that have systematically been taken from American Indian and Alaska Native peoples by extinction/termination or by the removal of the original tribal inhabitants; and

WHEREAS, the general population of the United States and the general membership of the ELCA is largely uneducated about American Indian and Alaska Native cultures and histories, as well as uninformed about American Indian and Alaska Native sovereignty, their nations, and present challenges; and

WHEREAS, American Indian and Alaska Native people are under-represented in our church usually under-represented at churchwide and synodical events; and

WHEREAS, this church's purpose, in part, is to "Serve in response to God's love to meet human needs, caring for the sick and the aged, advocating dignity and justice for all people, working for peace and reconciliation among the nations, and standing with the poor and powerless and committing itself to their need;" [ELCA Constitution 4.02.C] and

WHEREAS, contrary to popular belief, American Indian and Alaska Native people continue to statistically be the poorest populations in the countries in the "western hemisphere" with, reportedly, the greatest needs related to poverty, e.g. disease, lacking clean water, addiction, length of life expectancy, education, unemployment, and access to nutrient rich foods; and

WHEREAS, organizations that are working to make a difference and honoring the lands and original people of the "western hemisphere," such as the International Olympic Committee when they partnered with and honored as dignitaries the leaders of the First Nations peoples in and around the region near Vancouver, British Columbia, during the 2010 Winter Olympics; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the ELCA churchwide organization be committed to inviting the tribal leader or a representative of the sovereign tribal or region wherein any and at ever ELCA churchwide organization-sponsored event held—e.g. Churchwide Assemblies, Global Mission Events, ELCA Youth Gatherings, smaller or regional events, etc.—with costs incurred to be supported by each event's budget, to bring a word of welcome/greetings from their nations or peoples; and that consultation with the ELCA director for American Indian and Alaska Native Ministries be done so as to ensure the invitation is extended appropriately; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the ELCA Churchwide Organization be committed to ensuring at least one educational component is developed and offered to participants at every Church Organization sponsored event—e.g. Churchwide Assemblies, Global Mission Events, ELCA Youth Gatherings, smaller or regional events, etc.—regarding American Indian and Alaska Native tribal peoples of the nation or region where in the Churchwide Organization sponsored events is being held, with costs incurred to be supported by each event’s budget; and that consultation with the ELCA’s director for American Indian and Alaska Native Ministries be done so as to ensure such and educational experience is developed and presented appropriately.

Church Council Action (CC11.11.83p)

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

Response from the Congregational and Synodical Mission Unit (November 2012)

The Congregational & Synodical Mission unit is requesting an extension to our response to this Church Council motion until April 2013. This is due to the unexpected vacancy with our Program Director for American Indian/Native Alaska position in the CSM unit. We feel that the unit response would benefit from the leadership of the primary staff person who would be facilitating our response efforts as well as providing implementation and follow up. We are hoping that we would have staffing in place by the end of 2012.

Church Council Action (CC.12.11.34n)

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 ELCA Church Council.

Background and response from the Congregational and Synodical Mission Unit (April 2013)

We recognize and appreciate the past efforts of congregations and synods, particularly the Montana Synod and Grand Canyon Synod, in making apologies to tribal councils and illustrating support of American Indians and Alaska Natives. We also welcome the recent action taken by the ELCA Church Council at its November 2012 meeting to “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.” (CC12.11.42)

Therefore, it is a welcomed opportunity to provide a report and recommendations to the Church Council in responding to the Churchwide Assembly action “to address the intent of the motion.” (CA11.04.18)

The new program director for American Indian and Alaska Native Ministries convened a teleconference to discuss recommendations for a response to Motion J on February 8, 2013. Present at the meeting were the following people: The Rev. Mark Allred (Inupiat Eskimo), Program Director for the ELCA American Indian and Alaska Native Ministries program (AIANMP); Elizabeth Gaskins (Muscogee-Creek), President of the American Indian Alaska Native Lutheran Association (AIAN); The Rev. Marlene “White Rabbit” Helgemo (Ho-Chunk), Executive Director for the Council for American Indian Ministry (United Church of Christ) and Sr. Pastor at All Nations Indian Church in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

All participants at the meeting stated that Motion J is a wonderful and respectful acknowledgment of American Indian and Alaska Native ancestral lands and further that Motion J affirms our people. We offer the following recommendations to the Church Council as to the intent of Motion J.

As to the first resolve in seeking to provide invitations to “the tribal leader or a representative of the sovereign tribal or region,” we recommend that a working group of the AIANMP be created. The working group will recommend guidelines for this church on ways to approach and offer invitation to Indian Nations. For example, who is the proper person to invite from a region? What do you do if multiple Indian Nations are within the region where your meeting is being held?

These and other questions including the types and sizes of events that might be appropriate will be recommended by the group to the Congregational and Synodical Mission Unit. The working group would also recommend guidelines to the American Indian and Alaska Native community on acceptable ways to provide greetings at ELCA events like synod assemblies. In addition, the considerations will include cost estimates for participation in such events and consideration of how they will be funded.

As to the second resolve in seeking to provide an “educational component” at appropriate events, we offer the following recommendations. A series of six 5-minute professionally produced educational videos would be planned and used at appropriate events introducing participants to the Lutheran historical commitment to accompany American Indian and Alaska Native Christian peoples of North America throughout the past century and to lift up the current concerns in Indian Country. The AIANMP and the AIAN association will serve as consultants to the production of the videos.

While we understand that this would require funding, the AIANMP, in consultation with the AIAN association, commits to making every effort at finding partners and advocates who are sensitive to the plight of the American Indian people to provide joint funds for the proposed recommendation.

This step is a welcome one in lifting up and honoring America’s First people.

Church Council Action (CC13.04.27f)

To receive the report of the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit in response to Motion J: Native Americans and Alaska Natives;

To thank the Rev. Mark Allred (Inupiat Eskimo), Program Director for the ELCA American Indian and Alaska Native Ministries program (AIANMP); Elizabeth Gaskins (Muscogee-Creek), President of the American Indian Alaska Native Lutheran Association (AIAN); the Rev. Marlene “White Rabbit” Helgemo (Ho-Chunk), Executive Director for the Council for American Indian Ministry (United Church of Christ) and Sr. Pastor at All Nations Indian Church in Minneapolis, Minnesota, for their attentive recommendations to raise awareness and honor America’s First people;

To recommend the establishment of a working group of the ELCA American Indian and Alaska Native Ministries Program for the purpose of recommending guidelines for this church on ways to approach and offer invitations to the American Indian and Alaska Native community, guidelines for the American Indian and Alaska Native community on acceptable ways to provide greetings at ELCA events, suggestions for which events or opportunities might be most appropriate for greetings, a possible educational experience, and consideration of the costs and monies of funding such participation; and

To request that a report of the findings from the working group be brought to the Congregational and Synodical Mission (CSM) unit and a report from CSM be made to the ELCA Church Council at its November 2013 meeting.

Response from the Congregational and Synodical Mission Unit (November 2013)

Since the 2013 Churchwide Assembly, another resolution was adopted related to the American Indian and Alaska Native community. The working group of the ELCA American Indian and Alaska Native Ministries Program will be working on both resolutions. The working group has also invited representatives from the Church Council and the Conference of Bishops to assist in its work. Due to this additional work, the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit is requesting an extension until the November 2014 Church Council meeting in order to provide adequate time for a comprehensive response on both motions.

VOTED:

EN BLOC

**CC13.11.69o 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 November 2014 meeting of the ELCA Church Council.**

P. Category D2: Sacramental Obedience in Holy Communion

CA11.03.06f

Upper Susquehanna Synod

WHEREAS, our Lord said, “You are my friends if you do what I command you” (John 15:14); and

WHEREAS, St. Paul indicated an enduring tradition when he repeated the Lord’s command: “For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, [gave] thanks...broke it and said ‘This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me’” (1 Corinthians 11:23-24); and

WHEREAS, Christ established a covenantal relationship in this sacrament when he said, “. . . for this is the blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many . . .” (Matthew 26:28), and as children of God we have a duty and delight to obey his will: “Take, eat; this is my body. . . . Drink from it, all of you” (Matthew 26:26-27); and

WHEREAS, our Lord warned us, “Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you” (John 6:53); and

WHEREAS, the Augsburg Confession claimed, “Our churches are falsely accused of abolishing the Mass. In fact, the Mass is retained among us and is celebrated with the greatest reverence” (CA XXIV, 1); and “. . . one common Mass is held on every holy day, and it is administered on other days if there are those who desire it. . . . Chrysostom says that the priest stands daily at the altar, inviting some to Communion and keeping others away” (CA XXIV, 34, 36); and

WHEREAS, Martin Luther in the Large Catechism observed, “. . . we go to the sacrament because there we receive a great treasure . . . as a daily food and sustenance so that our faith may be refreshed and strengthened” (LC V, 22, 24), “. . . those who want to be Christians should prepare themselves to receive this blessed sacrament frequently” (LC V, 39), “. . . no one under any circumstances should be forced or coerced. . . . Nevertheless, it must be understood that such people who abstain and absent themselves from the sacrament over a long period of time are not to be considered Christians” (LC V, 42), “As in other matters . . . there must also be daily exhortation, so that on this subject we must be persistent in preaching” (LC V, 44), “What should move and induce you is that he [Christ] desires it, and it pleases him” (LC V, 52), “For if you wait until you are rid of your burden in order to come to the sacrament purely and worthily, you will have to stay away from it forever” (LC V, 73); and

WHEREAS, our congregational constitutions call the Augsburg Confession “a true witness to the Gospel” (*C2.05.), accept the other confessional writings including the Large Catechism as “further valid interpretations of the faith of the Church” (*C2.06.), and state that the congregation “accepts the canonical Scriptures of Old and New Testaments as the inspired Word of God and the authoritative source and norm of its proclamation, faith, and life” (*C2.03.); and

WHEREAS, the Apology of the Augsburg Confession professed, “Among us the Mass is celebrated every Lord’s day and on other festivals” (Ap XXIV, 1), and all Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) congregations by ratifying the ELCA model constitution for congregations have already accepted their responsibility to defend and implement the practice of celebrating the Eucharist weekly; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that, in obedience to the unquestionable command of Christ and in concord with this church’s Confessions and constitutions, the Upper Susquehanna Synod in annual assembly memorialize the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) in its next biennial assembly to embrace this Gospel treasure with joy; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Upper Susquehanna Synod in annual assembly memorialize the ELCA in its next biennial assembly to recognize that this is a divine mandate and not a human agenda, and is already firmly established in Scripture, confessional documents, and constitutions of this church; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Upper Susquehanna Synod in annual assembly memorialize the ELCA in its next biennial assembly to devise and implement a plan to encourage all of the congregations of the ELCA to exhort one another to obedience to Christ’s command to the desirable end that all congregations share in the Holy Communion weekly by Reformation Sunday in 2012.

Background and response from the Office of the Presiding Bishop Theological Discernment Team (August 2011)

The Use of the Means of Grace: A Statement on the Practice of Word and Sacrament, adopted by the 1997 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, affirms the Scriptures and Lutheran confessional writings, which teach that Holy Communion is a great treasure, a gift of grace from God to be received by Christians joyfully, thankfully and frequently. “At the table of our Lord Jesus Christ, God nourishes faith, forgives sin, and calls us to be witnesses to the Gospel” (Principle 31; p. 36). “According to the Apology of the Augsburg Confession, Lutheran congregations celebrate the Holy Communion every Sunday and festival. This confession remains the norm for our practice” (Principle 35; p. 39). The encouragement to celebrate the Lord’s Supper weekly (Principle 35B) is rooted in “Christ’s command, his promise, and our deep need” (Principle 35A, quoting A Statement on Communion Practices, adopted by the 1989 ELCA Churchwide Assembly).

Nonetheless, weekly observance of the Lord’s Table as the primary worship service of the congregation or local assembly has not been a uniform practice throughout the ELCA. In some remote locations or in places where there is no resident ordained minister, a Sunday service of Holy Communion every week is not yet or no longer feasible. Moreover, while circumstances have changed for other Lutheran worshipping communities, the community’s practice of less frequent observance was established already and has become the tradition in that community. Some congregations have a living memory of changing from quarterly celebration of Holy Communion to their current practice of monthly celebration.

For these reasons and others, weekly observance of Holy Communion, including both Word and Sacrament, as the central worship service in all congregations remains a goal that calls for renewed attention throughout the ELCA. Gracious invitation and encouragement to individuals and congregations to make full use of means of grace is one part

of the needed attention. Policies and procedures that promote the availability of ordained ministers and lay presiders in all locations are another factor that may affect the feasibility of weekly observance in some congregations. Toward this end, an arbitrary deadline is less likely to be helpful than clear authorization and support for the actions needed to make weekly observance both feasible and graciously inviting for all in every place.

Churchwide Assembly Action (CA11.03.06f)

To receive with gratitude the memorial of the Upper Susquehanna Synod concerning Holy Communion and to affirm its commendation of faithful and joyful reception of this sacrament; and

To refer the memorial to the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit in consultation with the Conference of Bishops for consideration of actions that will promote more frequent reception of Holy Communion by ELCA members and weekly observance of Holy Communion as the primary worship service of each ELCA congregation.

Church Council Action (CC.11.11.83h)

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

Response from the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit (April 2013)

The Congregational & Synodical Mission unit is requesting an extension to our response to this Church Council motion until November 2013. This extension would offer time to facilitate discussion about the proposal in the memorial with the Office of the Presiding Bishop and the Conference of Bishops.

Church Council Action (CC13.04.27i)

To receive the response from the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit;

To authorize a delay in the response of the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit to the memorial on Sacramental Obedience in Holy Communion;

To request that a report and possible recommendations be brought to the November 2013 meeting of the ELCA Church Council; and

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

Response from the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit (November 2013)

Due to unforeseen circumstances and limited staffing capacity, the Congregational and Synodical Mission (CSM) unit was unable to facilitate a discussion by the requested deadline. In addition, at the 2013 Churchwide Assembly another memorial was received referencing the Sacrament of Holy Communion. This memorial was also directed to CSM for a response and possible recommendations. Therefore, CSM needs additional time to consult with the Conference of Bishops and the Office of the Presiding Bishop and requests an extension to the April 2014 Church Council meeting to appropriately address the memorial.

VOTED:

EN BLOC

CC13.11.69p

**To receive the response from the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit;
To postpone the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit report with possible
recommendations to the April 2014 meeting of the ELCA Church Council; and
To request that the secretary of this church inform the synod of this action.**

Q. Category A3: Community Violence

CA13.06.24

To receive with gratitude the memorials of the Sierra Pacific and New Jersey synods concerning gun violence and the memorials of the Pacifica, Southwest California, New England and Metropolitan Washington, D.C., synods concerning confronting the culture of violence;

To reaffirm this church's commitment to addressing issues of violence through worship, education, service, advocacy, ongoing moral deliberation and the work called for in the 1993 Churchwide Assembly resolution, the 1994 social message on Community Violence and the 2013 Conference of Bishops' Pastoral letter on Violence;

To educate members of this church that more people die from suicide than from homicide in the United States and to lift up the ELCA social messages on suicide prevention, community violence, mental health, and to call upon congregations and synods to engage their members on ways to prevent suicide;

To refer the matter of evaluating the feasibility and advisability of developing additional investment screens and related recommendations to the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit with the request that it ask the Corporate Social Responsibility Team to provide a report with possible recommendations to the Church Council at its November 2013 meeting; and

To refer requests for education and resource development on issues of violence in society to the ELCA Church Council for appropriate action in keeping with the recommendations of the Addressing Social Concerns Review Task Force.

Response from the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit (November 2013)

Due to limited staffing capacity, the Congregational and Synodical Mission (CSM) unit was unable to adequately evaluate the feasibility and advisability of developing additional investment screens and related recommendations. CSM is requesting an extension to the April 2014 meeting of the ELCA Church Council.

VOTED: *EN BLOC*
CC13.11.69q **To receive the response from the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit;
To postpone the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit response of the fourth
resolve including possible recommendations to the April 2014 meeting of the ELCA
Church Council; and
To request that the secretary of this church inform the synod of this action.**

CHURCH COUNCIL COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

R. Audit Committee Membership

The Audit Committee consists of six members. A minimum of two members should be members of the Church Council's Budget and Finance Committee. Members of the committee are appointed by the Budget and Finance Committee and forwarded to the Church Council for approval. Budget and Finance Committee members are appointed for a two-year term with the possibility of reappointment up to their Church Council term. Non-Church Council members should be appointed for a two-year term, renewable for two additional terms. Terms are to be staggered in recognition of the need for continuity of committee membership from year to year. Biographical information of the nominees was provided in Exhibit C. The term of Mr. James Zils on the Audit Committee is to end in November 2014.

VOTED: *EN BLOC*
CC13.11.69r **To elect Ms. Marjorie B. Ellis, Ms. Louise A. Hemstead, Ms. Debra R. Hopkins,
Mr. Clarence M. Smith, and Ms. Ingrid S. Stafford to the ELCA Audit Committee for
two-year terms beginning November 2013.**

S. Audit Committee Report

At its June 4, 2013, meeting, the ELCA Audit Committee reviewed the audited financial statements for the year ended January 31, 2013. Its report was provided to the Church Council as Exhibit F, Part 6a.

VOTED: *EN BLOC*
CC13.11.69s **To receive and approve the report of the ELCA Audit Committee describing their
review of the audited financial statements, management letter, and response of
management for the fiscal year ended January 31, 2013.**

T. Charter for the ELCA Consultative Panel on Lutheran-Jewish Relations

The ELCA Consultative Panel on Lutheran-Jewish Relations drafted a charter to help guide its work. The charter was provided to the Church Council as Exhibit G, Part 2.

VOTED: *EN BLOC*
CC13.11.69t **To thank the ELCA Consultative Panel on Lutheran-Jewish Relations for their ongoing work to assist the various expressions of the ELCA to increase cooperation and understanding between Lutheran Christians and the Jewish community; To affirm the charter for the ELCA Consultative Panel on Lutheran-Jewish Relations; and To request that the secretary of this church inform the consultative panel of this action.**

U. Approval of Committee Charters

At the first meeting of the newly constituted Church Council and its Executive Committee, each committee is to review its charter. The Executive Committee is responsible for reviewing and making recommendations regarding committee charters. All amended charters were reviewed by the Executive Committee at its November 2013 meeting.

VOTED: *EN BLOC*
CC13.11.69u **To approve the revised Executive Committee Charter; and To approve the revised committee charters as amended.**

V. Amendments to the Deaconess Community bylaws

The Rev. Stephen P. Bouman, executive director of the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit, has requested that the amendments to bylaws for the Deaconess Community of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America be approved. The revised bylaws were provided to the Church Council in Exhibit H, Part 1.

VOTED: *EN BLOC*
CC13.11.69v **To approve the amendments to the bylaws of the Deaconess Community of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as printed below.**

B Y L A W S

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 ~~director of operations 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 ~~leadership team 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 ~~leadership team 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, ~~director of operations~~ 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 board chairperson with the concurrence of the board of directors, except for the executive committee, which is elected by the board. 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 Members of each committee shall be appointed for a four-year term, and are eligible to serve one additional consecutive four-year term. A member may be appointed to a subsequent four-year term on the same committee after four or more years' break from service.

- 7.1.21 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.
- 7.1.32 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.
- 7.1.43 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.
- 7.1.5 The dismissal of a committee 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 committee meetings;
 - c. for such physical or mental disability as renders the member incapable of performing the duties of the office; or
 - d. for such conduct as would subject the 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.
- 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 coordinator 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 team staff members (being the directing deaconess, the executive director director of operations, and the director of vocation and education) shall be responsible to the Deaconess Community, the and board of directors, and one another 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 director of operations 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 director of operations hires, supervises and provides for performance appraisals evaluates of all 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.
- 8.2.4 Background checks and screening shall be required and completed for persons nominated to become directing deaconess or recommended for appointment to a leadership team position, prior to their election or appointment if possible, or as soon as practical thereafter. The specific procedures and timing of background checks and screening shall be determined by the Committee on Governance.

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 appraisal of the senior leadership team. In consultation with the board of directors, the executive director director of operations 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**.

And

As amended by the Deaconess Assembly, September 28, 2013, submitted to the ELCA Office of the
Presiding Bishop, and approved by the ELCA Church Council, November 10, 2013. **CC13.11.69v**.

W. Acknowledgment of Independent Lutheran Organizations

Bylaw 14.21.16. in the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* states:

The Church Council shall establish the criteria and policies for the relationship between this church and independent, cooperative, and related Lutheran organizations. The policies adopted by the Church Council shall be administered by the appropriate unit of the churchwide organization. The determination of which organization shall relate to a specific unit of the churchwide organization shall be made by the Church Council.

At its April 2006 meeting, the Church Council voted [CC06.04.27] to approve a revised “Policy on Relationships of Churchwide Units with Independent Lutheran Organizations.” The revision was made necessary by changes in structure, governance, and the Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

In accordance with the revised policy, the Rev. Stephen P. Bouman, executive director of the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit, recommended that the Lutheran Suicide Prevention Ministry be acknowledged as an Independent Lutheran Organization in relationship to the ELCA through the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit.

VOTED:

EN BLOC

CC13.11.69w To acknowledge, in accordance with bylaw 14.21.16. of the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* and the “Policy on Relationships of Churchwide Units with Independent Lutheran Organizations,” the Lutheran Suicide Prevention Ministry as an Independent Lutheran Organization which will relate to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America through the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit.

X. Amendments to the ELCA Articles of Incorporation

The 2011 Churchwide Assembly changed the composition of the Church Council by approving new language to ELCA constitutional provision 14.31.:

14.30. COMPOSITION OF THE CHURCH COUNCIL

14.31. The voting members of the Church Council shall consist of the four churchwide officers, the chair of the Conference of Bishops, and at least 33 and not more than 45 other persons, elected by the Churchwide Assembly.

The 2013 Churchwide Assembly adopted additional changes to the constitution, detailing the manner in which the Church Council was to be elected and elections took place, in conformity with the 2011 constitutional changes.

The ELCA is a Minnesota nonprofit corporation that has members with voting rights (the Churchwide Assembly voting members). Those voting members authorized a new composition for the Church Council at the 2011 and 2013 Churchwide Assembly and those constitutional changes require that the ELCA Articles of Incorporation be amended to comply.

The process for amending the Articles is set forth in Minnesota Nonprofit Corporate Statute 317A.133: 317A.133 PROCEDURE FOR AMENDMENT OF ARTICLES.

Subd. 3. Approval by board where members have voting rights.

(a) The members with voting rights may authorize the board of directors, subject to paragraph (c), to exercise from time to time the power of amendment of the articles without approval of the members with voting rights.

(b) When the members with voting rights have authorized the board of directors to amend the articles, the board of directors, by the affirmative vote of a majority of all directors, unless the articles, bylaws, or the members’ resolution authorizing the board action require a greater vote, may amend the articles at a meeting of the board. Notice of the meeting and of the proposed amendment must be given to the board.

(c) The members with voting rights may prospectively revoke the authority of the board to exercise the power of the members to amend the articles at a meeting duly called for that purpose.

Therefore, the Church Council, as authorized by Minnesota law, may by a majority vote, amend the Articles of Incorporation to conform with the constitutional amendments changing the membership of the Church Council.

On advice of legal counsel in Minnesota, it was determined that it is unnecessary to continue to leave in the names and addresses of the original members of the Church Council, and that language is to be deleted.

The proposed amendment to Article VII of the ELCA Articles of Incorporation were provided to the Church Council in Exhibit H, Part 4.

VOTED:

EN BLOC

CC13.11.69x To approve the amended Articles of Incorporation of Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

ARTICLE VII

~~The Church Council shall consist of thirty-seven (37) persons. The names and addresses of the members of the Church Council and the expiration date of their respective terms of office, are as follows:~~

Name	Post Office Address	Expiration Date of Term— Close of the Church's Convention in the Year:
<i>Names of the members of the Church Council elected at the Constituting Convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and, in the case of the treasurer, at the first meeting of the Church Council, were filed in the Restated Articles of Incorporation and appear in the minutes of the convention and council meeting.</i>		

The voting members of the Church Council shall consist of the four churchwide officers, the chair of the Conference of Bishops, and at least 33 and not more than 45 other persons elected by the Churchwide Assembly.

Y. Corporate Social Responsibility Issue Papers and Economic Social Criteria Investment Screens

The ELCA has a long history of working for justice through corporate social responsibility. The corporate social responsibility work of this church is mandated in its constitution:

- 14.21.14. The Church Council may direct the churchwide organization to exercise the corporate social responsibility of this church by filing shareholder resolutions, casting proxy ballots, and taking other actions as it deems appropriate.

At its April 2012 meeting, the Church Council voted [CC12.04.09]:

To express thanks and appreciation to the Corporate Social Responsibility Review Team, and especially to Ms. Patricia Zerega, for its commitment to advocacy and representing this church in a socially responsible way in the corporate arena;

To adopt the process described in the Corporate Social Responsibility Roles and Responsibilities chart as an interim process for addressing functions and issues involving corporate social responsibility until a long-term recommendation is adopted;

To approve the following documents to serve as the basis for ongoing corporate social responsibility work in this church:

- Social Criteria Investment Screens Criteria, as revised;
- Corporate Social Responsibility Issue Paper Policy and Procedures, as revised;
- Boycott Policy and Procedures, as revised; and
- Genetics Issue Paper; and

To encourage the churchwide organization, synods, congregations, members, and affiliated and related institutions and agencies to study documents and information provided by this church concerning issues of corporate social responsibility, to make investment decisions recognizing these principles, and to advocate for socially responsible decision-making in the corporate arena, consistent with the social policies of this church.

That chart appears in the minutes of that meeting and states that the Church Council must approve issue papers with boundaries for voting proxies and filing resolutions on an annual basis. The corporate social responsibility issue papers and economic social criteria screens and their proposed amendments were provided to the council in Exhibit J, Part 3.

VOTED: *EN BLOC*
CC13.11.69y **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:**

- **Pornography Social Criteria Screen**
- **Sufficient Sustainable Livelihood for All: Codes of Conduct**
- **Caring for Health: Domestic Access to Health Care**
- **Freed in Christ: Nondiscrimination in Business Activities; and**

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 until a long-term recommendation is adopted by the Church Council in 2014.

Z. Implementing Resolution #8: *Genetics, Faith and Responsibility* Social Statement

Beginning with the 2003 ELCA statement on health care, social statement implementing resolutions (IR) have directed or called on a unit of the churchwide organization to provide a process for accountability and a report regarding the implementation of the resolutions associated with each statement. The 2011 social statement on *Genetics, Faith and Responsibility* specified a more elaborate process in its IR#9 and the report provided to the Church Council in Exhibit J, Part 6, fulfilled the assessment called for regarding activities during 2013.

Limited staff capacity has also inhibited completion of the assessment required by IR#8 regarding “the feasibility of developing a social message on regenerative medicine, including, but not limited to, a range of stem cell technologies” for the November 2013 meeting of the Church Council. Continuing social discussion of the moral questions surrounding regenerative medicine suggests an assessment remains relevant.

VOTED: *EN BLOC*
CC13.11.69z **To acknowledge both the existing limited staff capacity and the continuing presence of important moral and social questions around regenerative medicine; and**
To postpone a report and possible recommendations from the Theological Discernment Team staff in the Office of the Presiding Bishop regarding the feasibility of developing a social message on regenerative medicine, including, but not limited to, a range of stem cell technologies, until the November 2014 meeting of the Church Council.

AA. Nominations, Appointments, and Elections

Between meetings of the Churchwide Assembly, the Church Council has the responsibility of electing people to fill terms on certain boards, committees, and advisory committees. Biographical information was provided in Exhibit C.

VOTED: *EN BLOC*
CC13.11.69aa **To elect as members of the Board of Trustees of the Endowment Fund of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to six-year terms expiring in 2019: The Rev. Kenneth J. Feinour Jr., Ms. Anna L. Geleske, The Rev. Ruth Ann Loughry and Ms. Lauren M. Williams; and**
To elect as members of the Committee of Hearing Officers to one six-year term expiring in 2019: The Rev. Lowell G. Almen, Ms. Jewelie A. Grape, and Mr. Mark S. Helmke.

CHURCH COUNCIL JOYS AND CONCERNS

(Agenda VI.F.)

Several Church Council members and resource persons shared their joys and concerns.

The Rev. Amsalu T. Geleta announced his resignation from the Church Council due to his acceptance of a call to ministry in another synod.

EVALUATION OF 2013 CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY, PLANNING FOR FUTURE CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLIES

(Agenda VI.G.; Exhibit Q)

Background:

Planning for Churchwide Assemblies is a cooperative endeavor involving the Office of the Presiding Bishop, the Office of the Secretary, churchwide units, host synods, and many volunteers. The presiding bishop of this church is responsible for the preparation of the agenda for the assembly, as well as the assembly worship and program (ELCA bylaw 12.31.04). The secretary is responsible for the management of the physical arrangements for the assembly, for the preparation and distribution of the *Pre-Assembly Report*, and for the establishment, in consultation with the presiding bishop, of committees that “may be necessary to facilitate the planning for and operation of the assembly” (ELCA bylaws 12.31.03. and 12.31.05.). Churchwide units assist the officers to carry out their responsibilities. Local arrangements committees help to coordinate the use of volunteers in close cooperation with the host synods. An assembly planning committee helps to plan for and coordinate this complex partnership.

The Church Council plays an important role in the development of agenda items for a Churchwide Assembly, since it reviews all recommendations from churchwide units that are to be considered by the Churchwide Assembly (ELCA bylaw 14.21.03.). The council also proposes a budget for consideration by the assembly, upon recommendation by the presiding bishop. In carrying out its review of unit proposals, the Church Council works closely with the churchwide units and the boards of separately incorporated ministries. Between Churchwide Assemblies, the council is in regular communication with the churchwide units, boards, and committees as actions are being shaped.

A report summarizing the evaluations provided by voting members of the 2013 Churchwide Assembly was presented to the Church Council among the meeting’s exhibits. Those evaluations and the evaluation of others who attended that assembly will inform planning for the 2016 Churchwide Assembly, which will be held August 8–14, 2016, in New Orleans, La.

Church Council Discussion:

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on Mr. Kenneth W. Inskeep, executive for research and evaluation, and Ms. Jodi L. Slattery, assistant to the presiding bishop for governance, to report on evaluations of the 2013 Churchwide Assembly and planning for future Churchwide Assemblies.

Mr. Inskeep drew the Church Council’s attention to the written report summarizing evaluations of the 2013 Churchwide Assembly and extrapolated on the findings.

Ms. Slattery discussed the council’s relationship with a Churchwide Assembly. She lead the council in small group discussions of the following three questions.

- Do you have comments about the work of the Reference and Counsel Committee or the Memorials Committee? From the perspective of the voting members, do you have any suggestions to improve the committee work?
- As we prepare for future officer elections, do you have suggestions for issues to be evaluated? How can this church raise up possible nominees and provide voting members information about them in advance of an assembly?
- If you could make one suggestion to improve the next Churchwide Assembly, what would it be?

She asked that each small group send notes of its discussion to her by email.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on Mr. Paul G. Archer, who asked specific people how the Church Council may pray for them.

NEW BUSINESS

(Agenda VI.H.)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña announced there was no new business.

REMARKS FROM ECUMENICAL GUESTS

Vice President Carlos E. Peña invited the Rev. Lisa Vander Wal of The Reformed Church in America and Ms. Stephanie Cheney of The Episcopal Church to address the Church Council.

EVALUATION AND DEBRIEFING

(Agenda VI.I.)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña asked newly elected members of the Church Council to share their thoughts regarding their first council meeting. Several spoke of the hospitality they experienced, complimenting the mentor system and meeting in the Augsburg Room of the Lutheran Center.

PROCESS OBSERVATION

(Agenda VI.J.)

At the invitation of Vice President Carlos E. Peña, Ms. Marjorie B. Ellis provided observations about the procedures of the meeting.

Vice President Peña reminded Church Council members to complete and return forms evaluating this meeting.

CLOSING PRAYER AND ADJOURNMENT

(Agenda VI.K.)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on Mr. Hans E. Becklin, who closed the meeting with prayer.

The eighty-first meeting of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America adjourned Sunday, November 10, 2013, at 2:28 P.M.

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CHURCH COUNCIL
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