

November 14, 2007

TO: Bishops of synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Secretaries of synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Vice Presidents of synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Members of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Members of the Cabinet of Executives
Coordinators for Ministry Development

FROM: Secretary David D. Swartling

SUBJECT: Report of Actions of the Church Council (November 9–11, 2007)

The Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) met at the Lutheran Center, Chicago, Illinois, on November 9–11, 2007. A variety of matters received attention. Here is a summary of particular actions and background and explanatory information.

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1. LUTHERAN MALARIA INITIATIVE

The ELCA has a unique opportunity to partner with Lutheran World Relief (LWR) and the Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod (LCMS) as part of the wider global effort to end malaria, a core element in the cycle of global poverty, through a pan-Lutheran effort in a similar time frame. The ELCA, LCMS, and LWR are working together in an exploratory phase with the United Nations Foundation (UNF) to evaluate the capacities of LWR, ELCA, and the LCMS to mobilize the U.S. Lutheran community for this effort. Such an educational and fundraising effort would be funded, through the UNF by a major donor, with a multimillion dollar five-year grant. The ELCA, LCMS, and LWR are working on a campaign proposal that will be submitted to UNF by the end of November 2007. At this time no specific funding grant amount has been communicated.

In the summer of 2007, an initial feasibility study was conducted by Community Counseling Services (CCS) on behalf of LWR. CCS recommended that a campaign goal of \$75 million over five years is realistic. An initial suggested breakdown of this goal was: LWR, \$30 million; ELCA, \$25 million; and LCMS, \$20 million. Money raised in this campaign would be channeled through:

1. Church or church-related entities, specifically (a) LWR, as it builds its capacity to provide malaria-related services in Africa (particularly in West and East Africa); (b) the ELCA, as it engages companion churches in all regions of Africa and within the wider context of the Lutheran World Federation; (c) LCMS, as it develops projects in eight African countries; and
2. The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, a partnership among governments, civil

society, the private sector, and affected communities.¹

For the ELCA, the core case for support is to articulate the Lutheran Malaria Initiative as a priority among priorities of the ELCA. From the beginning, the case must integrate the opportunity in a way that allows this church's Lutheran Malaria Initiative efforts to flow out of the World Hunger Appeal and the "Stand with Africa" campaign and integrate with other strategic priorities, including the HIV and AIDS strategy, which was mandated by the 2007 Churchwide Assembly.

The ELCA will engage companion churches in other countries, seeking their leadership and guidance as anti-malaria activities are developed in those countries and as the malaria initiative is interpreted in the United States. This will be done within the context of the ELCA's relationships within the Lutheran World Federation and its bilateral relationships with companion churches. Developing synergy with existing health-related and HIV and AIDS efforts will be a high priority.

At this time, the ELCA has given a "soft" commitment to raise \$20 million for malaria and \$10 million to support the ELCA's HIV and AIDS strategy in the campaign time period (2009–2013). In addition, in 2008, the ELCA will conduct a feasibility study for a comprehensive churchwide campaign in conjunction with its 25th anniversary in 2012. If approved, such a campaign would incorporate the Lutheran Malaria Initiative and the HIV and AIDS strategy into a larger effort. A positive recommendation to move forward with a comprehensive campaign would need approval by the 2009 Churchwide Assembly. With Church Council approval in April 2008, efforts to move forward with the Lutheran Malaria Initiative prior to 2009 could be built into the World Hunger Appeal and the "Stand with Africa" campaign on a somewhat smaller scale and roll over into the larger campaign at the appropriate time. Ideally, it would be important first to have a good sense of the ELCA's direction with the 25th anniversary campaign, so the intention is to delay public Lutheran Malaria Initiative campaigning until the first or second quarter of 2009.

¹ From the Global Fund's Web Site: "The Global Fund's purpose is to attract, manage, and disburse resources to fight AIDS, TB and malaria. [The fund] does not implement programs directly, relying instead on the knowledge of local experts. As a financing mechanism, the Global Fund works closely with other multilateral and bilateral organizations involved in health and development issues to ensure that newly funded programs are coordinated with existing ones. In many cases, these partners participate in local Country Coordinating Mechanisms, providing important technical assistance during the development of proposals and implementation of programs."

At this point, the timeline is as follows:

December 2007	Decision from UNF
2008	Pre-campaign planning, coordination, leadership recruitment, ramp-up, possible pilots
2009	Introduce campaign, public launch, approval of comprehensive campaign (if recommended) at the 2009 Churchwide Assembly
2010	Full campaign roll out

Church Council Action:

To authorize staff of Development Services, Global Mission, and Church in Society, under the coordination of the Office of the Presiding Bishop:

- **to develop, in partnership with Lutheran World Relief, the Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod, and the United Nations Foundation, a proposal for a possible Lutheran Malaria Initiative, which would support the work of companion churches in the Lutheran World Federation and other international partners in ministry, as well as the Global Fund to Combat AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria; and**
- **to develop plans for integrating and coordinating such an effort with the ELCA's longstanding commitment to walk with those affected by HIV and AIDS and companion churches that are responding to this crisis, within the context of the integrated churchwide HIV and AIDS strategy that was called for by the 2007 Churchwide Assembly;**

To request Development Services, Global Mission, and Church in Society to bring through the Office of the Presiding Bishop a report and possible recommendations on this initiative to the April 2008 meeting of the Church Council;

To authorize the Executive Committee, between meetings of the Church Council, to monitor and take appropriate action relating to the development of a possible malaria appeal and program, including the possible receipt of funding from the UN Foundation;

To request that the Office of the Presiding Bishop seek input from the Cabinet of Executives and that any information relating to the development of a possible malaria appeal and program be posted to the Church Council's online meeting for input to the Executive Committee prior to any decision; and

To authorize staff of Development Services and Global Mission to include in the World Hunger program's "Stand with Africa" campaign pilot efforts in anti-malaria fundraising, education, and international programs in 2008–2009 as proposals for

action by the 2009 Churchwide Assembly on a possible churchwide appeal are developed during that period.

2. CONSULTATION ON DISASTER RESPONSE

A consultation on this church's disaster response, requested by Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson, took place September 30–October 1, 2007, in Tampa, Florida, and explored how the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in all of its expressions and institutional forms contributes to the needs of congregations and rostered leaders affected by disaster. Resolutions related to this topic also were considered as part of the consultation, including ones from the Southeastern Synod and the Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod.

Church Council Action:

To receive the report of the consultation on ELCA disaster response that was held September 30–October 1, 2007, which provides an evaluation of the contributions of the ELCA, in all of its expressions, institutions, and agencies to the needs of congregations and rostered leaders affected by disaster;

To reaffirm the guiding principles for ELCA disaster response as identified by the consultation: 1) the ELCA is a church of abundance; 2) to be Lutheran is to love the neighbor; 3) Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR) is the primary way that the ELCA provides care for the wider community; 4) synods are the primary way that the ELCA provides care for congregations and rostered leaders; and 5) support and cooperation among all expressions of the church is assumed;

To acknowledge that the consultation addressed areas of general consensus and topics to be considered in subsequent consultations;

To recognize that the consultation also sought to respond to a variety of concerns pertaining to disaster response raised by synodical resolutions from the Southeastern Synod and the Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod and to anticipate that a report and specific recommendations related to these concerns will be brought to the November 2008 meeting of the Church Council.

3. IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR THE BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE ON MISSION FUNDING

The April 2007 meeting of the Church Council acted “to delegate oversight and coordination for the implementation of the Blue Ribbon Committee's report on mission funding to the Office of the Presiding Bishop—with special responsibility assigned to the

Synodical Relations section and the Mission Funding and Interpretation Team—with an implementation plan, including specific measurements and evaluation cycles, to be presented to the November 2007 meeting of the Church Council and subsequently through regular progress reports to the Church Council, commencing in April 2008” [CC07.04.15].

The 2007 Churchwide Assembly adopted recommendations based on the report of the Blue Ribbon Committee on Mission Funding, “Mission Flowing from God's Abundance,” including the following recommendation:

To foster renewed commitment to vigorous mission-support efforts throughout the congregations, synods, and churchwide ministries of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in a wide variety of ways, including:

- a. examination of “best practices” for mission funding, alternative methods of generating mission-support income, and an improved consultation process for synods and the churchwide organization;
- b. commitment by the churchwide organization to convene stewardship leaders—including synodical stewardship committees, Lutheran professional advisors, and others—to encourage greater widespread ownership of stewardship endeavors throughout this church and to provide training, motivation, and inspiration;
- c. evaluation of stewardship education programs as well as the development and implementation of a strategy for stewardship leadership and staffing;
- d. presenting to the 2009 Churchwide Assembly a proposal for the development and implementation of a resource to help congregations assess their responsible and accountable use of God's resources commended to their care;
- e. development of educational opportunities for all those preparing for rostered leadership in this church through seminaries, programs of theological education for emerging ministries, and lay schools of theology;
- f. establishment of a requirement, by autumn 2009, for continuing education (6–10 hours) in financial stewardship for first-call rostered leaders to help them build upon competencies learned and practiced during their seminary education;

- g. engagement of new models for the role of churchwide organization in financial leadership; and
- h. dissemination by the churchwide organization and synods to an increasing number of member households of regular, clear, and concise communication that is focused on mission interpretation.

Church Council Action:

To receive the implementation plan for coordination of the recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Committee on Mission Funding as requested by the Church Council at its April 2007 meeting;

To express gratitude for the specific information provided, including coordinating units, specific measurements, and evaluation cycles; and

To anticipate that the ELCA Church Council will receive regular progress reports beginning in April 2008 through the Planning and Evaluation Committee.

4. SOCIAL POLICY RESOLUTION ON THE SPONSORSHIP OF LEGAL GAMING BY AMERICAN INDIAN TRIBES

The Church in Society unit, in accordance with “Policies and Procedures of the ELCA for Addressing Social Concerns,” requested that a social policy resolution be developed to clarify the position of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America related to legal gaming sponsored by American Indian tribes. Social policy resolutions refer to actions, other than social statements, of the Churchwide Assembly or Church Council on matters of social concern.

The introduction to the document indicates: “ELCA social policy documents express serious concerns about all forms of gambling,² and call for opposition to lotteries and other state-sponsored gambling”³ as exploitative, wasteful, and detrimental.⁴ This church also explicitly affirms the sovereignty of American Indian tribes and

²The ALC social statement on gambling offers the following definition: “Gambling has been described as involving three elements: (a) *a valuable consideration*, mutually risked in the hope of (b) *winning a significant prize*, which is awarded (c) not primarily for skill or ability but largely by the *caprice of chance*” *Gambling and the Public Good: A Statement of the American Lutheran Church*” (page 2).

³1999 ELCA social statement on economic life, “Sufficient, Sustainable Livelihood for All,” (page 12).

⁴(Op cited) “*Gambling and the Public Good...*”

supports the aspirations of American Indians for self-determination, self-sufficiency and cultural identity.⁵ Many American Indians and others—including persons in this church—testify that opposition to tribal gaming adopted under these sovereign powers threatens both these powers and this viable means to advance tribal economic and social development. ELCA documents do not address the specific issue of legal gaming sponsored by American Indian nations. There is need, therefore, to clarify the ELCA public policy position on tribal gaming.”

The proposed social policy resolution was prepared by the Church in Society unit in consultation with the Office of the Presiding Bishop, other appropriate units, the Church in Society program committee, and the Program and Services Committee of the Church Council.

Church Council Action:

To approve the social policy document on legal gaming sponsored by American Indian Tribes.

Summary:

The social policy resolution on the sponsorship of legal gaming by American Indian tribes consists of an introduction; a review of the historical context and contemporary situation, including a discussion of the importance of tribal sovereignty, an explanation of the sponsorship of gaming by American Indian tribes, a statement of the concerns surrounding the sponsorship of gaming as a form of gambling; and moral and ethical reflection, including ELCA policy precedents and moral tensions. The following is the concluding sections of the document:

Drawing upon these insights, the following four resolutions seek to affirm the historic and ongoing ethical concerns of this church related to gambling and the effects of gambling on individuals and communities, while also recognizing the governing authority of American Indian tribes and their essential responsibilities to create viable economic opportunities and institutions for the sustainability and survival of their communities.

Resolutions

- 1. This church reaffirms its ongoing moral and ethical concerns about gambling and its opposition to lotteries and other state-sponsored gambling, particularly where gambling is targeted toward vulnerable groups and adversely impacts**

⁵ “1992: Year of Remembrance, Repentance, and Renewal,” a resolution adopted by the 1991 Churchwide Assembly.

the lives of people, especially those living in poverty; it encourages institutions and individuals engaged in such activities to weigh carefully the consequences of these activities.

2. This church reaffirms its respect for the inherent sovereignty of American Indian tribes and Alaska Native peoples and its commitment to support American Indian self-determination, address racism, and promote social justice.

3. With regard to the sponsorship of legal gaming by American Indian tribes, and within the context of this church's continuing moral and ethical concerns about gambling, this church strongly encourages the exercise of social responsibility by all parties involved. These responsibilities include but are not limited to the following:

- a. That the federal government:
 - 1) Respect treaty obligations with Native Americans and in particular provide adequate resources to ensure the health, education, housing, employment and other social needs of Indians,
 - 2) Strengthen actions to honor its trust responsibility to tribes and interact with tribes on a mutually respectful and appropriate government-to-government basis; and furthermore,
 - 3) Allocate revenues from trust lands and investments to strengthen tribal self-determination, self-sufficiency, and cultural vitality.
- b. That states negotiate fair agreements in good faith with tribal governments regarding gaming operations, respect tribal sovereignty, and relate to tribes on an appropriate government-to-government basis.
- c. That this church, while it continues to have serious concerns about all forms of gambling, including Indian gaming, acknowledges the initiatives and achievements of American tribes to promote the well-being of their members; and urges those tribes that have decided to sponsor gaming to:
 - 1) Assess the physical and social impacts both on their own communities and the communities adjacent to reservations when

sponsoring gaming enterprises and work with these communities to alleviate negative impacts;

- 2) Utilize revenues from gaming to fund diversified economic development and to explore development opportunities other than gaming;
- 3) Share revenues from very profitable gaming operations with other tribes and American Indians or Alaskan Natives not residing on reservations.

d. That both state and tribal governments intensify effective preventative measures to reduce or eliminate problem and pathological gambling, and provide adequate funding for gambling addiction counseling and treatment services.

e. That federal, state, and tribal governments exercise full disclosure, transparency, and accountability to their respective constituencies in their management of Indian gaming revenues.

4. This church in all its expressions reaffirms the importance of building positive and supportive relationships with North American Indians and Alaskan Natives and recommitts itself to promote dialogue and moral deliberation regarding Indian gaming and other American Indian concerns, and to intensify advocacy with, and on behalf of, tribes. Toward that end this church:

- a. Reaffirms the resolution, "1992: Year of Remembrance, Repentance and Renewal," adopted by the 1991 Churchwide Assembly and will ensure its public availability and use for social policy and advocacy.
- b. Will contribute tangibly to the health and welfare of American Indian and Alaska Native communities by promoting tribal self-sustainability and supporting the diversification of economic development approaches.
- c. Will foster understanding and reconciliation between Indian reservations and local communities and develop resources for congregations bordering reservations to be agents of dialogue and reconciliation.
- d. Will encourage synods to nurture positive relationships between American Indian tribes, state authorities and congregations around issues of tribal gaming and other issues to strengthen American Indian communities.
- e. Will encourage the continuing study of American Indian concerns and urge respective churchwide units to promote wider use of the document, *A Vision of Partnership and Unity: A Guide to Ministry with American Indian and*

⁶ It is recognized that many tribes that have sponsored gaming have adopted one or more of these measures. The intent of these recommendations is to encourage both new and continued measures of social responsibility that might enhance mutual accountability and beneficial outcomes.

*Alaska Native People*⁷ and the resource, *Gambling: A Study for Congregations*.⁸ Further, to request that the program unit for Multicultural Ministry, in consultation with the program unit for Church in Society, develop a brief resource that assists synods and congregations to understand the issues facing American Indians and Alaska Native people, including attention to the matter of gaming.

- f. Will encourage Lutheran social ministry organizations, congregations, and other institutions of the church to work with American Indian tribes to establish and strengthen gambling addiction counseling and treatment programs.
- g. Will encourage those engaged in advocacy, such as this church's Washington Office and state public policy offices, to work with tribes to address issues that impact the lives of American Indians and Alaskan Native people.

5. 2008 CURRENT FUND AND WORLD HUNGER SPENDING AUTHORIZATIONS

Current fund income for 2008 is estimated to increase by \$325,650 to \$81,995,650 from the income proposal approved at the 2007 Churchwide Assembly. The largest budget increase is in mission-support income, with an expected increase of \$500,000 to \$66,600,000. This is an increase of \$300,000 from the revised 2007 fiscal year estimate and equals 98.7 percent of synod mission-support plans for the 64 synods from whom plans have been received and 97.5 percent if level support from the outstanding synod is anticipated. Endowment distributions for churchwide support are based on a five-year rolling average of market value. The five years included for the 2008 estimates reflect the addition of a good year in market value and the subtraction of a down year, resulting in an estimated total increase of \$147,635.

Investment income is anticipated to decrease by \$214,000 as a result of lower levels of cash balances. A \$57,985 decrease in rental income is primarily due to adjusting the estimate of available space in the Lutheran Center that is able to be leased. Other income generated by programs has been decreased by \$50,000, reflecting changes in expectations and focus of those programs.

⁷ An ecumenical resource available from the ELCA Multicultural Ministries program unit and available through Augsburg Fortress.

⁸ Produced by the ELCA program unit for Church in Society and available from Augsburg Fortress.

The proposed 2008 expenditure authorization includes the following major features and revisions to the 2008 budget submitted to the 2007 Churchwide Assembly.

As reported to the 2007 assembly, the expenditure authorization reflects the distribution to units of a compensation increase pool based on an average of three percent increases for approximately 522 full-time, part-time, and term staff, 185 missionary positions, and 170 mission developers supported either on the ELCA payroll or through grants, as well as increases in the cost of benefits, especially health care premiums. The earlier calculation of this expense was \$1,400,000. The final calculation of the expense, based on September 15, 2007, payroll records, is \$1,250,480. Likewise, the earlier calculation of the churchwide organization's 2008 depreciation expense was \$1,690,000. The final calculation, based on lower-than-projected reconfiguration costs, is \$1,650,000.

The 2008 expense proposal incorporates distribution to units of \$349,666 set aside in the budget proposal to fund expenses associated with the 2007 Churchwide Assembly-adopted report of the Blue Ribbon Committee on Mission Funding. These allocations include \$33,222 each to Evangelical Outreach and Congregational Mission (EO), Vocation and Education (VE), and Communication Services (CO) for convening groups on stewardship education and mission interpretation; \$150,000 to Research and Evaluation (RE) for an additional staff position and related expenses focused on the report's goals; and \$100,000 to CO for staffing expanded mission interpretation.

The combination of lower-than-projected expenses in the compensation and depreciation areas and increased income projections for 2008 created an opportunity for revised allocations to units in several key areas. The revised proposal includes \$132,000 in increased funding to VE for the Book of Faith initiative; \$360,000 in increased funding to CO for the ELCA ad campaign based on the theme "God's Work, Our Hands;" and \$15,000 to the Office of the Presiding Bishop for a hospitality fund for global and ecumenical guests.

Anticipating an external consultation on ELCA financial services units (Mission Investment Fund, ELCA Foundation, Board of Pensions), \$62,500 is allocated in the General Treasury for one-quarter of the estimated cost of this study. The \$72,000 increased allocation to Office of the Treasurer relates to rent increases in the ELCA's Washington, D.C., office, other management services' increases, and maintenance and support of the churchwide organization's new content management system. The remaining allocations in the revised budget are for compensation equity increases.

Church Council Action:

To approve an initial 2008 fiscal year current fund spending authorization of \$81,995,650; and

To approve an initial 2008 fiscal year World Hunger spending authorization of \$19,250,000.

6. SYNODICAL-CHURCHWIDE CONSULTATION ON MISSION-SUPPORT PLANS

The Church Council has responsibility for reviewing and approving synodical mission-support plans.

A. REVISIONS TO 2007 MISSION-SUPPORT PLANS

Church Council Action:

To affirm with sincere appreciation the increase in the percentage for the sharing of 2007 mission-support contributions by congregations for synodical and churchwide ministries of the following synod: Pacifica Synod.

B. REVISIONS TO 2008 MISSION-SUPPORT PLANS

Church Council Action:

To affirm with sincere appreciation the increases in the percentage for the sharing of 2008 mission-support contributions by congregations for synodical and churchwide ministries of the following synod: Pacifica Synod;

To affirm the revised 2008 mission-support dollar estimates for the sharing of mission-support contributions by congregations for synodical and churchwide ministries of the following synod: Northwestern Ohio Synod; and

To acknowledge the percentage change in mission-support resulting from revised estimates of congregational mission-support for the following synod: Southern Ohio Synod.

7. ELECTION OF THE ELCA TREASURER

Section 13.50. of the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* describes the position, responsibilities, and process for election of the treasurer of this church. According to provision 13.52., "The treasurer shall be elected by the Church Council to a six-year term and shall be a voting member of a congregation of this church." Churchwide bylaw 19.31.01.d. specifies "The treasurer shall be elected by a two-thirds vote of the Church Council."

In accordance with provision 13.51, "The treasurer of this church shall serve under the presiding bishop of this church," and in acknowledgment of Treasurer Christina

Jackson-Skelton's leadership as an officer of this church, Presiding Bishop Hanson nominated her to a second term.

Church Council Action:

To re-elect Ms. Christina Jackson-Skelton to a six-year term beginning February 1, 2008, as treasurer of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; and

To determine that the treasurer shall continue to serve simultaneously as president of the Mission Investment Fund as provided in bylaw 17.51.01. in the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.*

8. ELECTION TO THE CHURCH COUNCIL

Between meetings of the Churchwide Assembly, the Church Council has the responsibility of electing people to fill unexpired terms on the Church Council and boards and committees of the churchwide organization, once the secretary has declared a vacancy [provision 14.15.].

Church Council Action:

To elect the following:

Clergy [Term 2009] *Vacancy due to the resignation of Pr. Jennifer J. Thomas, Milwaukee, Wisc. (5J)*

Pr. Norene A. Smith, Milwaukee, Wisc. (5J)

Executive Committee [Term 2009]

Ms. Norma J. Hirsch

Pr. Susan Langhauser

Mr. Gary Wipperman

Other members of the Executive Committee include the four officers and the chairs of the four standing committees: Mr. William R. Lloyd, Pr. Steven P. Loy, Pr. Jeffrey "Jeff" B. Sorenson, and Ms. Phyllis L. Wallace.

9. ELECTIONS OF CHURCHWIDE ORGANIZATION EXECUTIVES

A. EXECUTIVE FOR ADMINISTRATION

The executive for administration is the chief administrator of the churchwide organization and one of the three executive assistants to the presiding bishop. According to continuing resolution 15.11.A04. of the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:*

The executive for administration shall be elected by the Church Council upon nomination of the presiding bishop and shall have an appointment coterminous with the term of the presiding bishop.

Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson nominated the Rev. M. Wyvetta Bullock as executive for administration.

Church Council Action:

To elect 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 15.11.A04.

B. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF GLOBAL MISSION

According to bylaw 14.21.21. of the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:*

Unless otherwise specified in this constitution and bylaws, the Church Council shall elect the executive director for each churchwide program unit to a four-year term in consultation with and with the approval of the presiding bishop of this church. Nomination of a candidate for election shall be made by the presiding bishop after consultation with the appropriate program committee for each position. . . .

The Church Council received from Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson the nomination of the Rev. Rafael Malpica Padilla for re-election as executive director of the Global Mission program unit.

Church Council Action:

To re-elect the Rev. Rafael Malpica Padilla to a four-year term as executive director of the Global Mission program unit beginning August 1, 2007.

C. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF EVANGELICAL OUTREACH AND CONGREGATIONAL MISSION

The Church Council received from Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson the nomination of the Rev. Stephen P. Bouman as executive director of Evangelical Outreach and Congregational Mission.

Church Council Action:

To elect the Rev. Stephen P. Bouman as executive director of the Evangelical Outreach and Congregational Mission program unit for a four-year term beginning January 1, 2008.

10. OTHER ELECTION RESULTS

Between meetings of the Churchwide Assembly, the Church Council has the responsibility of electing people to fill unexpired terms on the Church Council and boards and committees of the churchwide organization, once the

secretary has declared a vacancy [provision 14.15.].

Church Council Action:

To elect the following:

A. CHURCHWIDE COMMITTEES AND BOARDS **EVANGELICAL OUTREACH AND** **CONGREGATIONAL MISSION**

Clergy [Term 2009] *Vacancy due to the resignation of Pr. Pamela R. Fickenscher, Minneapolis, Minn. (3G)*

Pr. Robert W. Fritch, Jamaica, N.Y. (7C)

Clergy [Term 2011] *Vacancy due to resignation of Pr. Angela L. Shannon, Fort Wayne, Ind. (6C)*

Pr. Kristine L. Carlson, Minneapolis, Minn. (3G)

Lay Female [Term 2011] *Vacancy due to the resignation of Marilyn Liden Bode, Kingston, Wash. (1B)*

Ms. Barbara R. Dowdy, Richmond, Va. (9A)

VOCATION AND EDUCATION

Clergy [Term 2011] *Vacancy due to the resignation of Pr. Gerald A. Spice, Grosse Pointe Farms, Mich. (6A)*

Pr. Heidi M. Murken, Grafton, Wisc. (5J)

ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR THE LUTHERAN **MAGAZINE**

Clergy [Term 2013] *Vacancy due to the resignation of Pr. Karen G. Bockelman, Duluth, Minn. (3E)*

Pr. Pamela S. Russell, Seattle, Wash. (1B)

BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE BOARD OF **PENSIONS**

Lay Female [Term 2011] *Vacancy due to the resignation of Ms. Ivy S. Bernhardson, Bloomington, Minn. (3G)*

Ms. Ingrid S. Stafford, Evanston, Ill. (5A)

Lay Male [Term 2011] *Vacancy due to the resignation of Mr. David D. Swartling, Bainbridge Island, Wash. (1B)*

Mr. Bruce D. George, Westborough, Mass. (7B)

CHURCHWIDE COMMITTEE ON DISCIPLINE

Lay Female [Term 2009] *Vacancy due to the resignation of Mr. Aureo Andino, San Juan, P.R. (9F)*

Ms. Kathryn E. Baerwald, Washington, D.C. (8G)

BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE ENDOWMENT **FUND OF THE ELCA AND BOARD OF ADVISORS** **OF THE ELCA FOUNDATION**

Lay Female [Term 2013] *Vacancy due to the resignation of Ms. Tonia J. Lindquist, Gresham, Ore. (1E)*

Ms. Kathleen M. Rehl, Tampa, Fla. (9E)

CHURCHWIDE COMMITTEE OF HEARING OFFICERS

Clergy [2013] *Vacancy due to the resignation of Pr. Leslie G. Svendsen, Sioux Falls, S.D. (3C)*

Pr. Charles H. Maahs, Olathe, Kans. (4B)

Clergy [2013] *Vacancy due to the resignation of Pr. J. Phillip Wahl, Worthington, Ohio (6F)*

Pr. Paul J. Blom, Houston, TX (4F)

Lay Male [2013] *Vacancy due to the resignation of Mr. Bradford E. Cook, Manchester, N.H. (7B)*

Mr. Kevin D. Anderson, Gaithersburg, Md. (8G)

B. BOARDS OF ELCA SEMINARIES

Bylaw 8.31.02. outlines basic parameters for the election of members to the boards of ELCA seminaries. Subsection 8.31.02.a. provides for churchwide representation: "At least one-fifth nominated, in consultation with the seminaries, by the appropriate churchwide unit and elected by the Church Council." This process of nomination and election is accomplished by these steps:

1. The appropriate seminary president notifies the director for theological education of an upcoming board vacancy and the term of that board position (as specified in the seminary's governing documents).
2. The director for theological education contacts the seminary president in order to consult on filling the vacancy and, with the concurrence of the executive director of Vocation and Education, reaches an agreement on a single nomination.
3. The director for theological education submits that nomination in a letter also signed by the executive director to the secretary of the ELCA for inclusion in the agenda of the Church Council. This letter will include a brief candidate *vita* and a summary of the gifts this person brings to this service.
4. The Church Council is asked to ratify the nomination at its next meeting.
5. The Office of the Secretary notifies the seminary president of the action taken on the nomination, sending a copy to the director for theological education for the unit's records.

Church Council Action:

To elect Ms. Emma Graeber Porter as an at-large member of the board of directors of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, Pa., to a three-year term expiring in 2011;

To elect Mr. Fred Fritz as an at-large member of the board of directors of Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minn., to a four-year term expiring in 2011;

To elect Dr. John Marr as an at-large member of the board of directors of the Trinity Lutheran Seminary, Columbus, Ohio, to a four-year term expiring in 2011;

To elect the Rev. Lowell G. Almen as an at-large member of the board of directors of the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, Columbia, S.C., to a three-year term expiring in 2011; and

To elect Mr. Dan Yeiser as an at-large member of the board of directors of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, Gettysburg, Pa., to a three-year term expiring in 2011.

C. SOCIAL MINISTRY ORGANIZATIONS

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America serves as a corporate member of certain inter-Lutheran organizations and affiliated social ministry organizations. The role of corporate members includes the responsibility to elect ELCA representatives to the organization's board of directors as prescribed in the organization's governing documents. The relationship of the ELCA to certain inter-Lutheran organizations and affiliated social ministry organizations is expressed through the Church in Society unit.

The ELCA serves as a corporate member of Lutheran Medical Center, Brooklyn, New York; the Evangelical Lutheran Good Samaritan Society, Sioux Falls, S.D.; Lutheran Services in America, Baltimore, Md.; Mosaic, Inc., Omaha, Neb.; and Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, Baltimore, Md. The Church in Society program unit forwarded to the Church Council the following nominations for positions on the boards of these organizations.

Church Council Action:

To elect to the board of directors of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, Baltimore, Md., Mr. J. David Ellwanger, Ms. Betty Boyd, Ms. Judith Diers, and Pr. Rebecca S. Larson to three-year terms beginning January 1, 2008 and expiring December 31, 2010;

To elect Bp. E. Roy Riley to the remainder of a three-year term, ending on December 31, 2008, on the board of directors of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service;

To elect to the board of trustees of Lutheran Medical Center, Brooklyn, N.Y., Mr. Joseph Lodato as a member-at-large, for a term expiring in 2008;

To elect to the board of trustees of Lutheran Medical Center, Brooklyn, N.Y., as members-at-large Ms. Maria Carlson, Mr. Dale Christensen, Mr. Frank Comerford, Mr. Thomas Edwards, Ms. Kristine M. Gebbie, Ms. Emma Graeber Porter, Ms. Marilyn

Gulin Santomauro, Mr. Gerald Luterman, Pr. Jeanne R. Warfield, and Bp. Stephen P. Bouman for terms expiring in 2010; and

To elect to the board of directors of the Evangelical Lutheran Good Samaritan Society Mr. David J. Horazdovsky for an unlimited term and Mr. Timothy J. Penny for a term expiring in 2011.

D. AUDIT COMMITTEE

The membership of the Audit Committee is defined by ELCA continuing resolution 14.41.E02. The Audit Committee is composed of six members. A minimum of two members should be members of the Church Council's Budget and Finance Committee. Members are appointed by the Budget and Finance Committee and their names are forwarded to the Church Council for approval. Budget and Finance Committee members are appointed for two-year terms with the possibility of reappointment throughout their Church Council term. Non-Church Council members are appointed for two-year terms, renewable for two additional terms. Terms are staggered to provide for continuity in committee membership from year to year.

Members of the Audit Committee and current term end dates are: Pr. John C. Richter (April 2009); Ms. Ann F. Niedringhaus (August 2009); Mr. John F. Timmer (August 2008); and Mr. Timothy L. Stephan (August 2009). Ms. Michele Harbeck Haley has resigned from the committee. A vacancy for an additional Church Council member also existed. Biographical information for the first nominee below had been reviewed by the Budget and Finance Committee and was available on the resource table.

Church Council Action:

To elect Mr. Philip W. Bertram to the Audit Committee for a two-year term beginning April 2008; and

To elect Ms. Deborah Chenoweth to the Audit Committee for a two-year term beginning April 2008.

11. OTHER MATTERS

The Church Council received reports and considered a number of other matters relating to the mission and ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Complete minutes of the November 2007 meeting of the Church Council will be available online at www.elca.org/secretary/governance.