



Office of the Secretary

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

The Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) met at the Lutheran Center, Chicago, Illinois, on November 11-13, 2011. The council centered its work around daily worship, frequent prayer, and Dwelling in the Word reflections. It lived into its commitment to be a "Book of Faith" council by participating in a Bible study led by the Rev. Rafael Malpica Padilla, executive director of the Global Mission unit of the churchwide organization.

Among the items on which the Church Council took action were the following:

- in response to an action of the 2011 Churchwide Assembly, establishment of a process for appointment of members to a task force to review the current procedures for the development and adoption of documents addressing social concerns and approved a charter for the task force
- in response to an action of the 2011 Churchwide Assembly, establishment of an Advisory Committee and appointment of its members to assist the churchwide organization in the continuation of the work assigned to the LIFT task force
- establishment of time lines for response to actions of the 2011 Churchwide Assembly referred to the Church Council and the churchwide organization
- approval of an initial 2012 fiscal year current fund spending authorization of \$64,173,000 and an initial 2012 fiscal year World Hunger spending authorization of \$18,500,000
- approval of revisions to 2012 synodical mission-support plans
- election to the Executive Committee of the Church Council of the Rev. Susan Langhauser, Ms. Susan McArver, Mr. John R. Emery, Mr. Mark E. Johnson, Ms. Deborah L. Chenoweth, Mr. William B. "Bill" Horne II, and the Rev. Amsalu T. Geleta
- ratification of the membership of council committees
- commitment to attendance at Synod Council meetings and Synod Assemblies
- approval of charters for council committees
- allocation of additional voting members for the 2013 Churchwide Assembly
- responses to resolutions from the Southwest California Synod on the Decade of Women, the Southeastern Minnesota Synod on the ELCA Health and Benefits Program, and the Metropolitan Washington, D.C., Synod on human rights violations against the Oromo people
- amendments and additions to continuing resolutions of the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*
- amendment to the continuing resolution in the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*, adding the new assumed name of the Board of Pensions
- amendments to the bylaws of the ELCA Endowment Fund
- amendments to the bylaws of the Deaconess Community of the ELCA
- amendment to the constitution of the Lutheran Medical Center, Brooklyn, New York
- elections to the boards of Mosaic, Inc. and the Evangelical Lutheran Good Samaritan Society
- elections to the boards of directors of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, Penn.; the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago; Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minn.; and Trinity



Office of the Secretary
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Lutheran Seminary, Columbus, Ohio

- elections to the ELCA Committee of Hearing Officers
- elections to the advisory committee for *The Lutheran*
- elections to the board of trustees of the Board of Pensions
- implementing resolution to add two youth and one young adult as advisors to the Church Council
- approval of a time line for upcoming social statements and messages.

The Church Council received the following:

- reports from the officers
- reports from its committees
- a report from the executive for administration
- a report from the Conference of Bishops
- a legal briefing from the General Counsel
- remarks from the executive directors of the Congregational and Synodical Mission, Global Mission, and Mission Advancement units
- updates from presidents of separately incorporated ministries
- an update on the work of the task force on Living Into the Future Together: Renewing the Ecology of the ELCA (LIFT)
- a briefing on participants' evaluation of the 2011 Churchwide Assembly

The Church Council also participated in:

- stewardship conversations
- process observation
- board orientation primers and activities
- health and wellness activities
- sharing of joys and concerns