



Report of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Summary of Meetings

August 4, 2019

The 95th meeting of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) convened with the Conference of Bishops and synod vice presidents on Aug. 4, 2019, in the Ballroom and Ballroom Hall B at the Hyatt Regency in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Mr. William B. Horne II, vice president of the ELCA and chair of the Church Council, called the meeting to order at 2:45 p.m. (CDT).

Voted: **CC19.08.27**

To adopt the agenda and to permit the chair to call for consideration of agenda items in the order the chair deems most appropriate.

Voted: **CC19.08.28**

To thank Ms. Christina Jackson-Skelton for her faithful service as the executive director of the Mission Advancement unit; and

To extend the council's appreciation for her wisdom and insights which have assisted the Church Council in its work.

Voted: **CC19.08.29**

To take action *en bloc* on the items listed in *En Bloc* items.

Voted: En Bloc **CC19.08.29a1**

To acknowledge with appreciation the action of the Minneapolis Area Synod to maintain the percentage of sharing of 2019 Mission Support contributions by congregations for synod and churchwide ministries but estimating an adjustment in the projected amount to be shared; and

To further affirm that we will steward these gifts to maximize their impact in mission for the sake of God's Work. Our Hands. in the world.

Voted: En Bloc **CC19.08.29a1**

To acknowledge with appreciation the action of the Minneapolis Area Synod to maintain the percentage of sharing of 2019 Mission Support contributions by congregations for synod and churchwide ministries but estimating an adjustment in the projected amount to be shared; and

To further affirm that we will steward these gifts to maximize their impact in mission for the sake of God's Work. Our Hands. in the world.

Voted: En Bloc **CC19.08.29a2**

As a grateful church that affirms the partnership of congregation, synod and churchwide expressions, we affirm the percentage of sharing of 2019 Mission Support by congregations for synod and churchwide ministries by the Northern Great Lakes Synod.

As a Church Council, we 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.

We will steward these gifts to maximize their impact in mission for the sake of God's Work. Our Hands. in the world.

Voted: En Bloc **CC19.08.29b1**

As a grateful church that affirms the partnership of congregation, synod and churchwide expressions, we acknowledge the action of the Lower Susquehanna Synod and affirm the percentage of sharing of 2020 Mission Support by congregations for synod and churchwide ministries and estimating an adjustment in the projected amount to be shared;

As a Church Council, we 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;

We further affirm that we will steward these gifts to maximize their impact in mission for the sake of God's Work. Our Hands. in the world.

Voted: En Bloc

CC19.08.29b2

To acknowledge with appreciation the action of the Minneapolis Area Synod to maintain the percentage of sharing of 2020 Mission Support contributions by congregations for synod and churchwide ministries but estimating an adjustment in the projected amount to be shared; and

To further affirm that we will steward these gifts to maximize their impact in mission for the sake of God's Work. Our Hands. in the world.

Voted: En Bloc

CC19.08.29c

To ratify the following appointments of continuing members of the ELCA Church Council to Church Council committees for the 2019–2022 time period:

Budget and Finance Committee: Dena Gable, James Jennings (chair);

Legal and Constitutional Review Committee: Cheryl Chatman, Gary Pederson (chair) and Phil Wirtanen;

Planning and Evaluation Committee: Chad Huebner(chair), Lisa Burk, and Ricardo Rivera; and

Program and Services Committee: Joe Nolte, Emma Wagner (chair), and Sonja Wolfe.

Voted: En Bloc

CC19.08.29d

To recommend adoption of the following proposed action by the voting members of the 2019 Churchwide Assembly:

To adopt the "Rules of Organization and Procedure" for the 2019 Churchwide Assembly (exclusive of quoted and highlighted constitutional provisions and bylaws that are already in force).

Voted: En Bloc

CC19.08.29e1

To receive with gratitude the resolution from the New England Synod concerning Christ's Great Commission;

To acknowledge the action of the 2019 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America on "A Declaration of Inter-Religious Commitment" as the response of the Church Council;

To direct the Office of the Secretary to propose revised constitutional language to the Church Council for consideration at the 2022 Churchwide Assembly; and

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

Voted: En Bloc

CC19.08.29e2

To receive with gratitude the resolution from the Northwest Washington Synod concerning inequality, discrimination, and sexism;

To acknowledge the action of the 2019 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as the response of the Church Council; and

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

Voted: En Bloc

CC19.08.29f

To approve the amended bylaws of the Endowment Fund of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

SECTION 2.2 Terms. Individuals shall be elected by the ~~Church Council~~ Churchwide Assembly to serve ~~six~~ three-year terms as trustees of this corporation with the possibility of two consecutive re-elections. The members of the Board of Trustees initially elected by the Churchwide Assembly in 2019 shall be divided into three classes as nearly equal in number as possible, so that the terms of office of one third of the members of the Board of Trustees shall expire every second year at the conclusion of the regular Fall meeting of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America one class shall be deemed to be elected to their first term and be eligible for election to two more terms, one class shall be deemed to be elected to a second term and be eligible for election to one more term; and one class shall be deemed to be elected to a third term and not be eligible for further election. A member of the Board of Trustees shall hold office for the term for which he or she was elected through ~~the end of the meeting at which~~ January 1st after his or her successor has been elected and until such successor has qualified, or until the member's prior death, resignation or removal. A period of at least ~~two~~ three years shall have elapsed between the expiration of a member's term of office and the commencement of the member's next term of office, if any. Any member of the Board of Trustees may be removed by the ~~Secretary of the ELCA executive committee of the Board of~~

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

Voted:

CC19.08.30

To thank the Sierra Pacific Synod for its resolution forwarding the petition from Hope Lutheran Church, San Mateo, Calif. to the Church Council;

To receive and adopt the recommendation of the ELCA secretary attached hereto as the response to this petition; and
To request that the secretary of this church inform the synod and the congregation of this action.

Voted:

CC19.08.31

To recommend the following for adoption by the 2019 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:

WHEREAS, Secretary Wm Chris Boerger has excelled at preserving and promoting the importance of the LAW in the life of this church, both in his comprehensive knowledge of the *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* and in his commanding grasp of the impact of civil law on the mission of the church in the world, all while continuing to pursue with enthusiasm and clarity his life's calling to preach and teach the GOSPEL at every opportunity;

WHEREAS, Secretary Boerger has fulfilled his constitutional responsibilities as secretary with attentiveness and care, joining with his predecessors in describing the Office of the Secretary as a service unit for the whole church; and

WHEREAS, Secretary Boerger has helped the three expressions of this church realize their unique polity for the whole church; and

WHEREAS, Secretary Boerger has demonstrated that sense of interdependence in his responsiveness to congregations; his collegiality with members of the Conference of Bishops, synod officers, and staff; and his open-door policy to churchwide colleagues; and

WHEREAS, Secretary Boerger has contributed valuable insight to the boards of 1517 Media, Portico Benefit Services, and the Mission Investment Fund; and

WHEREAS Secretary Boerger has faithfully read the constitutions of this church monthly and the Augsburg Confession every Lent; and

WHEREAS, Secretary Boerger has embodied not only "God's Work. Our Hands." but also "God's Work. Our Feet." with his colorful collection of sock apparel; and

WHEREAS, Secretary Boerger in his proclamation of the Word continually points people to the "font that both claims us and sends us;" therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that this church expresses its deepest appreciation to the Rev. Wm Chris Boerger for the many ways in which he has lived out his vocation in this church through the years, but particularly as secretary of this church; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, upon action of the Church Council, confers upon the Rev. Wm Chris Boerger, secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, 2013–2019, the *Servus Dei* Award; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that this church gives thanks to God for this dedicated servant of the gospel who, in word and deed, boldly proclaims, "We are church. We are Lutheran. We are church together. We are church for the sake of the world."

The 95th meeting of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America adjourned at 4:47 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 4, 2019.

November 7–10, 2019

The 96th meeting of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) was convened in the Council Room of the Lutheran Center in Chicago, Illinois. Mr. William B. Horne II, vice president of the ELCA and the chair of the Church Council, called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. (CST).

Voted: **CC19.11.32a**

To adopt the agenda and to permit the chair to call for consideration of agenda items in the order the chair deems most appropriate.

Voted: **CC19.11.32b**

To approve the minutes of the April 4–7, 2019, June 27, 2019, and August 4, 2019 meetings of the Church Council; and

To ratify actions of the council’s Executive Committee as indicated in the minutes of the April 4, 2019, May 28, 2019, July 8, 2019, Aug. 4, 2019, Sept. 10, 2019, and Oct. 10, 2019 meetings.

Voted: **CC19.11.33**

To thank the Rev. M. Wyvetta Bullock for her faithful service as the executive for administration from 2007–2020 and for her many years of service to this church since its beginning; and

To extend appreciation for her wisdom and insights which have assisted the Church Council in its work.

Voted: **CC19.11.34**

To ratify the appointments to the Church Council standing committees for the 2019–2022 triennium.

Voted: **CC19.11.35**

To affirm the process for the election of the Executive Committee for the 2019–2022 triennium.

Voted: **CC19.11.36**

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

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

To note that expenses for attending synod council meetings and synod assemblies will be reimbursed by the churchwide organization in accordance with the ELCA travel policy.

Voted: **CC19.11.37**

To receive with gratitude the update from the Task Force to Consider a Future Campaign and Income Strategies; To thank the members of the task force for their service; and

To authorize the creation of a Resource Development Committee to continue developing strategies related to funding initiatives and future churchwide appeals, and to request that the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee consider a continuing resolution to that effect.

Voted: **CC19.11.38**

To thank the members of the Theological Education Advisory Committee for their faithful service;

To receive the final Theological Education Advisory Committee report;

To approve the transition plan as submitted; and

To approve the completion of the advisory committee’s work as of Nov. 8, 2019.

Voted: **CC19.11.39**

To approve a 2020 fiscal year current fund spending authorization of \$67,666,652.

Voted: **CC19.11.40**

To approve a 2020 ELCA World Hunger spending authorization of \$21,596,595.

Voted: **CC19.11.41**
To refer the Conference of Bishops recommendation on climate change to the Domestic Mission unit, in consultation with appropriate churchwide units, for a report or for a timeline on when this will receive further attention.

Voted: **CC19.11.42**
To receive the matrix report on “Strategy Toward Authentic Diversity” from the Domestic Mission unit and the Office of the Presiding Bishop;
To affirm the approach identified in the matrix chart;
To create an advisory team to receive updates, track progress, and provide periodic reports to the Church Council on the “Strategy Toward Authentic Diversity” recommendations; and
To request the Domestic Mission unit, in consultation with the Office of the Presiding Bishop, to identify possible individuals (including previous members of the Strategy Toward Authentic Diversity Task Force, a bishop, and a Church Council member), and to provide those names to the Executive Committee; and
To authorize the Executive Committee to appoint members to the advisory team.

Voted: **CC19.11.43**
To adopt the “Memorandum of Mutual Recognition of Relations of Full Communion” (Niagara Falls Ontario, 2018) between the churches of *Called to Common Mission* (The Episcopal Church and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) and the churches of *Called to Full Communion: The Waterloo Declaration* (The Anglican Church of Canada and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada);
To acknowledge with gratitude the affirmations of this memorandum by the Anglican Church of Canada and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada; and
To recognize that the relations of this church with the Anglican Church of Canada serve as full communion as established in bylaw 8.19.02.

Voted: **CC19.11.44**
To approve the revised Executive Committee Charter.

Voted: **CC19.11.45**
To approve the revised committee charters.

Voted: **CC19.11.46**
To take action *en bloc* for continuing resolution amendments to the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* as listed in *En Bloc* Items.

To adopt the following amendment to the *Constitution, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*.

14.41.G19. Resource Development Committee *A Resource Development Committee—composed of eight to ten members, at least one of whom shall be a member of the Budget and Finance Committee, and appointed by the Executive Committee—shall assist the Budget and Finance Committee and the Church Council in developing strategies related to funding initiatives and churchwide appeals. This committee shall oversee how to grow resources to support the ministries and priorities of the churchwide organization. The treasurer and executive director of the Mission Advancement unit shall serve as ex officio members of the committee. Church Council members shall be appointed for three-year terms, renewable for so long as they are on Church Council. Non-Church Council members, who shall be members of an ELCA congregation, shall be appointed for three-year terms with the possibility of two consecutive re-appointments. No member shall serve more than nine consecutive years. This committee shall have staff services provided by the Office of the Presiding Bishop and the Mission Advancement unit and shall relate to the work of the Office of the Treasurer.*

Voted: **CC19.11.47**
To take action *en bloc* on the remaining items listed in *En Bloc* Items, Unfinished Churchwide Assembly Business, and Responses to Churchwide Assembly Actions.

Voted: En Bloc

CC19.11.47a

To approve the appointment of Mr. Kevin Anderson, Ms. Tracey Beasley, and Mr. Keoni Newman as members to the ELCA Audit Committee for a two-year, renewable term beginning November 2019.

Voted: En Bloc

CC19.11.47b

To approve the report of the ELCA Audit Committee describing its review of the audited financial statements, management letter, and response of management for the churchwide organization's fiscal year ended January 31, 2019.

Voted: En Bloc

CC19.11.47c

To approve the engagement of Crowe LLP and Capin Crouse LLP to perform the audit service plan for the churchwide organization's year ending January 31, 2020.

Voted: En Bloc

CC19.11.47d

RESOLVED, that for the sole purpose of executing, when necessary, documents approved and authorized in accordance with actions of the Church Council, the following are hereby appointed as assistant vice presidents of this corporation: M. Wyvetta Bullock, Walter S. May, Kathryn M. Lohre, and Jodi L. Slattery, to serve until replaced or removed by subsequent appointments, with such subsequent appointments to be based upon the nomination and recommendation of the Presiding Bishop;

RESOLVED, that for the sole purpose of executing, when necessary, documents approved and authorized in accordance with actions of the Church Council, the following are hereby appointed as assistant treasurers of this corporation: Cecilia Favela, ~~Christina Jackson-Skelton~~, Kathy Freeman Summers, Santiago Padilla, and Annette Roman, to serve until replaced or removed by subsequent appointments, with such subsequent appointments to be based upon the nomination and recommendation of the Treasurer;

RESOLVED, that for the sole purpose of executing or attesting, when necessary, documents approved and authorized in accordance with actions of the Church Council, the following are hereby appointed as assistant secretaries of this corporation: Thomas A. Cunniff, ~~Sue E. Rothmeyer~~, and Aja M. Favors, to serve until replaced or removed by subsequent appointments, with such subsequent appointments to be based upon the nomination and recommendation of the Secretary.

RESOLVED, that prior resolutions adopted by this Council, including CC15.04.31b and the prior actions identified in CC15.04.31b, addressing the appointment of assistant officers are hereby rescinded and replaced by this action.

Voted: En Bloc

CC19.11.47e

To approve the revisions to the Cash Management Policy;
To approve the revisions to the Operating Investment Policy; and
To approve the revisions to the Core Investment Policy.

Voted: En Bloc

CC19.11.47f

To approve the revised Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation of the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, Chicago, Illinois.

Voted: En Bloc

CC19.11.47g1

To approve the amendments to the ELCA Survivor Benefits Plan effective Jan. 1, 2020.

Voted: En Bloc

CC19.11.47g2

To approve the amendments to the ELCA Retirement Plan effective Jan. 1, 2020.

Voted: En Bloc

CC19.11.47h

To approve the amended Churchwide Organization Personnel Policies.

Voted: En Bloc

CC19.11.47i

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

- Non-Discrimination in Business Issue Paper
- Violence in Our World Issue Paper
- Human Rights Issue Paper
- Tobacco Social Criteria Investment Screen
- Alcohol Social Criteria Investment Screen; and

To request that the original issue papers be archived for historical and research purposes.

Voted: En Bloc

CC19.11.47j

To authorize the following services as the appropriate forms to be used in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, effective January 1, 2020: Ordination to the Ministry of Word and Service; Ordination to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament; Installation of a Deacon; Installation of a Pastor.

Voted: En Bloc

CC19.11.47k

To appoint Ms. Tracey Beasley as Church Council liaison to the Justice for Women Consulting Committee for a term ending in August 2025.

Voted: En Bloc

CC19.11.47l

To elect to the board of trustees of the Board of Pensions of the ELCA—Portico Benefit Services—to fill a vacancy with a term ending in 2022: The Rev. Thomas P. Schlotterback.

Voted: En Bloc

CC19.11.47m

To elect to the board of directors of National Lutheran Campus Ministry, Inc. to an initial four-year term on the board, beginning in March 2020 and concluding in March 2024: The Rev. Carol L. Schneider.

Voted: En Bloc

CC19.11.47n

To reelect to the board of directors of Wartburg Theological Seminary to a six-year term expiring in 2025: Mr. David L. Horstmann.

To elect to the board of directors of Wartburg Theological Seminary to a six-year term expiring in 2025: Ms. Stacy L. Martin.

Voted: En Bloc

CC19.11.47o

To elect to the advisory council of Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary of Lenoir-Rhyne University to a four-year term expiring in 2024: the Rev. Angela Ford Nelson.

Voted: En Bloc

CC19.11.47p

To elect to the board of directors of Trinity Lutheran Seminary at Capital University to a three-year term expiring in 2022: Ms. Melissa Sims.

Voted: En Bloc

CC19.11.47q

To elect to the Committee of Hearing Officers for a six-year term expiring in 2025: the Rev. Jessica Crist, Ms. Linda Marousek, Ms. Lori Brown, Mr. John Emery, and Mr. Carl J. Turnquist.

Voted: En Bloc

CC19.11.47r

To elect to the Committee on Appeals for a term expiring in 2022: Mr. Murray G. Sagsveen.

Voted: En Bloc

CC19.11.47s

To receive the response on “Earth Charter” from the Domestic Mission unit;

To receive a progress report at Church Council’s Fall 2020 meeting; and

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

Voted: En Bloc

CC19.11.47n

To receive the response on “Carbon Fee and Dividend” from the Domestic Mission unit;
To affirm the proposed timeline on the deliverables and to receive a final report on the implementation of the action at the Church Council’s Fall 2020 meeting; and
To request that the secretary of this church inform the synod of this action.

Voted: En Bloc

CC19.11.47o

To receive the response on “Ethiopian Suffering” from the Domestic Mission unit; and
To request that the secretary of this church inform the synod of this action.

Voted: En Bloc

CC19.11.47p

To receive the response on “50th Anniversary of Women Ordination” from the Office of the Presiding Bishop;
To request that a report on the gap analysis results with possible recommendations be provided to the Church Council’s Spring 2021 meeting; and
To request that the secretary of this church inform the synods of this action.

Voted: En Bloc

CC19.11.47q

To receive the response on “Binary Designations” from the Office of the Presiding Bishop;
To commend the ongoing work of updating mobility documents and candidacy forms; and
To request that the secretary inform the synod of this action.

Voted: En Bloc

CC19.11.47r

To receive the response on “Deportation” from the AMMPARO (Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities) team;
To affirm the plan to produce a resource on deportation; and
To request that the secretary inform the synod of this action.

Voted: En Bloc

CC19.11.47s

To receive the response on “Migrants” from the AMMPARO (Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities) team;
To affirm the plan proposed in the response to develop two resources to guide and support this church’s members, congregations, and synods; and
To request that the secretary inform the synod of this action.

Voted: En Bloc

CC19.11.47t

To receive the response on “Sanctuary” from the AMMPARO (“Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities”) team;
To affirm the timeline proposed in the response;
To request that the definitions and guidelines about what it means to be a sanctuary church body for the three expressions of this church be provided to the Church Council’s Fall 2020 meeting;
To request a final report be provided to the Church Council’s Spring 2022 meeting in anticipation of the 2022 Churchwide Assembly; and
To request that the secretary inform the synod of this action.

Voted: En Bloc

CC19.11.47u

To receive the response on “Unaltered Augsburg Confession” from the Office of the Presiding Bishop;
To request that a report with possible recommendations be provided to the Church Council’s Spring 2021 meeting; and
To request that the secretary of this church inform the synods of this action.

Voted: En Bloc

CC19.11.47v

To receive the response on “Augusta Victoria Hospital” from the Office of the Presiding Bishop;
To commend the ongoing advocacy and to encourage the continued efforts on this action; and
To request that the secretary of this church inform the synods of this action.

Voted: En Bloc

CC19.11.47w

To authorize the development of a social message on the vocation of citizenship, civic engagement, and church and state as requested by the 2019 Churchwide Assembly, in light of existing social teaching, in accordance with “Policies and Procedures of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for Addressing Social Concerns” (2018); and
To request that the secretary of this church inform the synod of this action.

Voted: En Bloc

CC19.11.47x

To receive the response on “Gun Policy” from the Office of the Presiding Bishop; and
To defer the questions of developing a social message on U.S. National Drug Policy, aging, gender identity, or gun policy until the Fall 2020 Church Council meeting when a new assessment of each issue, staff capacity, and finances will be brought to the council; and
To request that the secretary of this church inform the synod of this action.

Voted: En Bloc

CC19.11.47y

To receive the response on “Palestine (No Way to Treat a Child)” from the Global Mission unit; and
To affirm the work on the resource toolkit to enable congregations to learn more about the matter of military detention of Palestinian children;
To commend the ongoing advocacy and to encourage the continued efforts on this action; and
To request that the secretary of this church inform the synods of this action.

Voted: En Bloc

CC19.11.47z

To receive the response on “Gender Identity” from the Office of the Presiding Bishop; and
To defer the questions of developing a social message on U.S. National Drug Policy, aging, gender identity, or gun policy until the Fall 2020 Church Council meeting when a new assessment of each issue, staff capacity, and finances will be made; and
To request that the secretary of this church inform the synod of this action.

Voted: En Bloc

CC19.11.47aa

To receive the response on “Health Care Benefits” from the Office of the Treasurer;
To anticipate a report and recommendation for this church on health insurance coverage at the Spring 2020 Church Council meeting; and
To request that the secretary of this church inform the synod of this action.

Voted: En Bloc

CC19.11.47bb

To receive the response on “Motion A: Establish June 17 as Emanuel 9 Day of Repentance” from the Office of the Presiding Bishop; and
To request that a report on the implementation of this resolution be provided at the Fall 2020 Church Council meeting.

Voted: En Bloc

CC19.11.47cc

BE IT RESOLVED to lift up to members, congregations and ministers the value of reviewing our social statements as a resource for deepening and broadening moral deliberation in personal and public life. (The social statements and messages are found at: <https://www.elca.org/Faith/Faith-and-Society/Social-Statements> <https://www.elca.org/Faith/Faith-and-Society/Social-Messages>)
To commend the social statement on Abortion for reading or rereading as the debate and discussion in public intensifies. (It was adopted by the 1991 Churchwide Assembly and reaffirmed by the 1999 Churchwide Assembly as a resource to members, congregations, and ministers.)

Voted: En Bloc

CC19.11.47dd

To refer the resolution to the Domestic Mission unit of the churchwide organization.

Voted: En Bloc

CC19.11.47ee

To receive the response on “Motion F: Assistant Program Director, Justice for Women” from the Office of the Presiding Bishop; and
To affirm the approach proposed in the response.

Voted: En Bloc

CC19.11.47ff

To receive the final report on “Motion F: Resolution on Call Process” (2016) from the Conference of Bishops;

To urge the Conference of Bishops, churchwide organization, and Church Council to continue their conversation and work to address rostered minister vacancies throughout this church; and

To encourage institutions, churchwide organization, synods, and congregations to raise up leaders in this church for rostered ministry.

Voted: En Bloc

CC19.11.47gg

We, the members of the 2019 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, give thanks to God for the members of the Church Council who will be concluding their six-year terms at this assembly. We wish to thank these 22 individuals for their dedicated service to this church during their terms, and to acknowledge that their service included membership on task forces, *ad hoc* committees, attendance at synod assemblies, and representation of this church in global, national, and local forums.

We appreciate their tireless work of renewing and growing the church’s mission. We continue to keep them and their work, which is our work, in prayer.

Voted: En Bloc

CC19.11.47hh

The members of the 2019 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America gathered in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, thank the churchwide organization and staff for their hard work and dedication to the mission of Christ in this church. We thank God for their willingness to serve as a part of the everyday lifeblood of this church both here in the United States and globally.

We thank each of the offices and units of the churchwide organization:

- Office of the Presiding Bishop
- Office of the Secretary
- Office of the Treasurer
- Mission Advancement
- Domestic Mission
- Global Mission

We are church together in Christ because of this churchwide organization’s willingness to continue renewing and growing our church in both acceptance of others and what it means to truly live the Gospel.

Voted: En Bloc

CC19.11.47ii

The members of the 2019 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America deeply thank the City of Milwaukee and the Greater Milwaukee Synod for hosting this assembly, for their drinks of barley and hops, and for their cheese curds. Our host synod is truly living the Miller High Life.

As we join in fellowship together, we are reminded of the indigenous history of the land we are on, and the Algonquian name of Milwaukee as the “gathering place.” We give thanks for the Menominee, Fox, Mascouten, Sauk, Potawatomi, Ojibwa, and other American Indian tribes that called this land home.

We are appreciative to the City of Milwaukee for allowing us the ability to walk in the Word together on Wednesday to and from the ICE detention center.

We give thanks for the Wisconsin Center for their accommodations, their assistance in helping us assemble together in prayer and business, facilitating our ability to worship boldly, for providing us with laughs in their lifelike—and creepy—police officer statue, and for serving as a focal point in the work of this church.

We give thanks for the Hyatt Regency and Hilton hotels for giving us a place to rest and reflect on our time together. We also give thanks to the hotel staff, Wisconsin Center staff, and restaurant workers of Milwaukee for their hard work.

The City of Milwaukee embodies a beautiful expression of what it means to be church, and we thank them for welcoming us into their city so warmly.

The November 2019 meeting of the Church Council adjourned at 12:09 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 10, 2019.

March 5–8, 2020

The 97th meeting of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) was convened in the Red Oak Room at the Eaglewood Resort in Itasca, Illinois. Mr. William B. Horne II, vice president of the ELCA and the chair of the Church Council, called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m. (CST).

Voted: **CC20.03.01**

To adopt the agenda and to permit the chair to call for consideration of agenda items in the order the chair deems most appropriate.

Voted: **CC20.03.02**

To receive with gratitude the report and recommendation of Portico Benefit Services' board of trustees, directing Portico staff to take actions necessary to provide the church with at least two health plans that have 78–82% actuarial value for sponsoring organizations to offer and for members to enroll in, and consistent with the principles underlying the ELCA Philosophy of Benefits, to endorse as a benchmark beginning with the 2021 plan year those proposed plan options that have an actuarial value of at least 78–82%; and

To encourage congregations, synods, the churchwide organization, and other ELCA-related organizations to select such options.

Voted: **CC20.03.03**

To take action *en bloc* on the remaining items listed in *En Bloc* Items.

Voted: En Bloc **CC20.03.03a**

RESOLVED, that for the sole purpose of executing, when necessary, documents approved and authorized in accordance with actions of the Church Council, the following are hereby appointed as assistant vice presidents of this corporation: M. Wyvetta Bullock, Walter S. May, Kathryn M. Lohre, and Jodi L. Slattery, to serve until replaced or removed by subsequent appointments, with such subsequent appointments to be based upon the nomination and recommendation of the Presiding Bishop;

RESOLVED, that for the sole purpose of executing, when necessary, documents approved and authorized in accordance with actions of the Church Council, the following are hereby appointed as assistant treasurers of this corporation: Cecilia Favela, Kathy Freeman Summers, Santiago Padilla, and Annette Roman, to serve until replaced or removed by subsequent appointments, with such subsequent appointments to be based upon the nomination and recommendation of the Treasurer;

RESOLVED, that for the sole purpose of executing or attesting, when necessary, documents approved and authorized in accordance with actions of the Church Council, the following are hereby appointed as assistant secretaries of this corporation: Thomas A. Cunniff, Aja M. Favors, and Norman K. Fry to serve until replaced or removed by subsequent appointments, with such subsequent appointments to be based upon the nomination and recommendation of the Secretary.

RESOLVED, that prior resolutions adopted by this Council, including CC15.04.31b and the prior actions identified in CC15.04.31b, addressing the appointment of assistant officers are hereby rescinded and replaced by this action.

Voted: En Bloc **CC20.03.03b1**

To approve a Church Council Designated Fund in the range of \$1,800,000 to \$2,100,000 representing the remaining excess revenue over expenses from fiscal year 2019 to be released to fund budget shortfall in future years.

Voted: En Bloc **CC20.03.03b2**

To re-designate the unused portion of the fiscal year 2018 Church Council Designated Fund (\$1,945,079), which was originally approved to be spent in fiscal year 2019, to be released to fund budget shortfall in future years.

Voted: En Bloc **CC20.03.03c**

To receive with gratitude the report from Portico Benefit Services on the status of the Benefits Contribution Trust;
To approve Portico's discontinuation of the collection of the 0.7 percent surcharge from participating employers, effective July 1, 2020;

To reduce the ELCA's planned contribution to the Trust for 2020–22 from \$7,000,000 to \$1,150,000, with that contribution to be made in 2020; and

To provide that, in the event that any excess remains after satisfaction of all trust liabilities and termination of the Benefits Contribution Trust, such excess be distributed back to Portico and the Churchwide Organization pro rata, with Portico Benefit Services receiving 68.6 percent and the Churchwide Organization receiving 31.4 percent.

Voted: En Bloc

CC20.03.03d

To approve the updated *Manual of Policies and Procedures for the Management of the Rosters of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* for use by synod bishops, synod staff members, and others who hold responsibilities for such matters in this church; and

To authorize the secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to provide periodic updates reflecting new or revised policies subsequently adopted by the Church Council.

Voted: En Bloc

CC20.03.03e

To approve the amended *Definitions and Guidelines for Discipline*.

Voted: En Bloc

CC20.03.03f

To approve the minutes of the November 2019 meeting of the Church Council; and

To ratify actions of the council's Executive Committee as indicated in the minutes of the November 7–10, 2019, December 3, 2019, January 14, 2020, and February 18, 2020, meetings.

Voted: En Bloc

CC20.03.03g

To receive the response on climate change from the Domestic Mission unit;

To affirm the coordinated approach and proposed timeline for this church's response to climate change; and

To anticipate progress reports at future Church Council meetings with a final report by the April 2022 Church Council meeting.

Voted: En Bloc

CC20.03.03h

To authorize the Executive Committee to elect trustees to fill, until the November 2020 meeting of the Church Council, vacancies on the board of trustees of the Endowment Fund of the ELCA.

Voted: En Bloc

CC20.03.03i1

To re-elect to the board of directors of Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago to a four-year term expiring in 2024: Ms. Karen M. McClain and Mr. Harry C. Mueller.

Voted: En Bloc

CC20.03.03i2

To elect to the board of directors of Wartburg Theological Seminary to a four-year term expiring in 2024: Ms. Debra Ann Hibbard.

Voted: En Bloc

CC20.03.03i3

To elect to the board of directors of Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary of Lenoir-Rhyne University to a two-year term expiring in 2022: The Rev. Donald Rhodes Woolly; and

To re-elect to the board of directors of Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary of Lenoir Rhyne University to a four-year term expiring in 2024: Ms. Miriam Lang David.

Voted: En Bloc

CC20.03.03i4

To elect to the board of directors of Luther Seminary to a four-year term expiring in 2024: Ms. Ruth Kimmelshue and Sr. Cynthia Dianne Williams.

Voted:

CC20.03.04

To have a formal letter written expressing the Church Council's thanks to the Conference of Bishops for gathering with the council this weekend and sharing their knowledge, experience, and perspectives with us, with the letter to be delivered to the chair of the Conference of Bishops.

Voted:

CC20.03.05

To repeal the document, *Vision and Expectations*, effective immediately and which should no longer be used in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for any purpose;

To affirm that *Definitions and Guidelines for Discipline* remains the document which describes the grounds for which officers, rostered ministers, congregations, and members of congregations may be subject to discipline according to the practice of this church;

To request the appropriate churchwide organization offices and units update all relevant documents and manuals, including candidacy and mobility documents, by June 1, 2020, to reflect the role of *Definitions and Guidelines for Discipline* as defining the grounds for discipline;

To encourage members, congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization to reflect on the aspirations this church has established for its members and rostered ministers, including the promises made at baptism, confirmation, and ordination;

To request the Domestic Mission unit engage in conversation with the Conference of Bishops at its Fall 2020 meeting and the Church Council at its November 2020 meeting to consider the goals and purpose behind a new aspirational document;

To request that the Domestic Mission unit and the Committee on Appeals engage in conversation with the Conference of Bishops to seek further information and guidance regarding the needs of bishops to apply discipline as described in *Definitions and Guidelines for Discipline*, reporting that information to the Executive Committee of the Church Council at its October 2020 meeting.

To request the Domestic Mission unit provide updates to the Executive Committee of the Church Council on these matters; and

To acknowledge that the action of the Church Council regarding *Vision and Expectations* will be the response to Motion D [CC19.11.47dd].

Voted:

CC20.03.06

To direct the Domestic Mission unit to revise the ELCA Candidacy Manual to remove this language:

“Are you familiar with the document “*Vision and Expectations*”? Do you intend to live in accord with its standards of conduct as a candidate and as a rostered minister in the ELCA?”

And, effective immediately, to replace with this language:

“As a candidate for rostered ministry in this church, I understand I will be held accountable to the synod’s candidacy committee regarding this church’s expectations for my speech and conduct as set forward in *Definitions and Guidelines for Discipline of Rostered Ministers*. I understand that my candidacy for rostered ministry brings increased attention to my life. I am responsible for informing my bishop regarding any circumstance that might subject me to discipline according to *Definitions and Guidelines* were I a rostered minister. I understand that the candidacy committee may modify my candidacy status in response to my speech and conduct.

The March 2020 meeting of the Church Council adjourned at 2:16 p.m. (CDT) on Sunday, Mar. 8, 2020.

April 8, 2020

The 98th meeting of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) was convened on Wednesday, April 8, 2020, by conference call. Mr. William B. Horne II, vice president of the ELCA and the chair of the Church Council, called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m. (CDT).

Voted: **CC20.04.07**

To adopt the agenda and to permit the chair to call for consideration of agenda items in the order the chair deems most appropriate.

Voted: **CC20.04.08**

To authorize the Executive Committee to elect members to fill vacancies in the Committee on Appeals until the June 2020 Church Council meeting.

Voted: **CC20.04.09a**

To approve a special appeal in response to COVID-19 (coronavirus disease 2019) as a fundraising effort of this church in order to support congregations, synods, relief and development, global mission, and affiliate ministries that have been negatively impacted by the pandemic;

To request that the relevant churchwide organization units and offices provide periodic reports on the appeal to the Executive Committee and to anticipate a recommendation for a timeline on the completion of the appeal; and

To give thanks to God who gives us strength to endure and peace to comfort us all.

Voted: **CC(ES)20.04.09b**

To authorize the churchwide organization of the ELCA to submit an application for a Paycheck Protection Program loan under the CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security) Act;

To request that the Office of the Treasurer provide updates on the status, usage, and forgiveness of the loan to the Executive Committee during its monthly meetings;

To request that the Office of the Treasurer provide updates on compliance with the liquidity provisions to the Executive Committee during its monthly meetings; and

To give thanks to God who provides for all our needs.

The April 2020 meeting of the Church Council adjourned at 4:51 p.m. on Wednesday, Apr. 8, 2020.

May 6, 2020

The 99th meeting of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) was convened in executive session by conference call on Wednesday, May 6, 2020. Mr. William B. Horne II, vice president of the ELCA and chair of the Church Council, called the executive session of the Church Council meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. (CDT). Minutes of executive sessions are kept in the protocol file in the Office of the Secretary.

The special meeting of the Church Council adjourned at 11:12 a.m. on Wednesday, May 6, 2020.

May 13, 2020

The 100th meeting of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) was convened by conference call on Wednesday, May 13, 2020. Mr. William B. Horne II, vice president of the ELCA and chair of the Church Council, called the executive session of the Church Council meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. (CDT). The council exited executive session at 10:18 a.m. (CDT).

Voted: **CC20.05.14**

To approve the addendum to the Cash Management Policy.

The special meeting of the Church Council adjourned at 10:23 a.m. on Wednesday, May 13, 2020.

June 24, 2020

The 101st meeting of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) was convened on Wednesday, June 24, 2020, by conference call at 1:00 p.m. Central Daylight Time (CDT).

Voted: **CC20.06.15**

To adopt the agenda and to permit the chair to call for consideration of agenda items in the order the chair deems most appropriate.

Voted: **CC20.06.16**

To elect Mr. William “Bill” Rice, Norway, MI [5G], to the Church Council for a term ending 2022.

Voted: **CC20.06.17**

To adopt “Government and Civic Engagement in the United States: Discipleship in a Democracy” as a social message of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Voted: **CC20.06.18**

To take action *en bloc* on the items listed in *En Bloc* Items.

Voted: En Bloc **CC20.06.18a**

To approve the minutes of the March 2020, April 8, 2020, May 6, 2020, and May 13, 2020 meetings of the Church Council; and

To ratify actions of the council’s Executive Committee as indicated in the minutes of the March 5, 2020, April 6, 2020, April 14, 2020, and May 21, 2020, meetings.

Voted: En Bloc **CC20.06.18b**

To elect to the Committee on Appeals to fill a vacancy with a term ending in 2025: Ms. Lana Obie; and

To authorize the Executive Committee to elect members to fill vacancies on the Committee on Appeals.

Voted: En Bloc **CC20.06.18c1**

To ratify the following amendment to the Articles of Incorporation of the Eastern North Dakota Synod Constitution:

Article XV As determined by the Synod Council, a meeting of the voting members of this corporation identified in Article VIII may, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 317A.450, be held solely by one or more means of remote communication.

Voted: En Bloc **CC20.06.18c2**

To ratify, in advance, pursuant to 10.11 of the *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the ELCA*, substantially equivalent amendments to the Articles of Incorporation or constitutions of any other synods to permit remote meetings, that are properly adopted pursuant to applicable law.

Voted: En Bloc **CC20.06.18d**

To declare that the newly elected chairs of the Planning and Evaluation Committee and the Program and Services Committee shall be members of the Executive Committee of the Church Council.

Voted: En Bloc **CC20.06.18e**

To appoint the following individual to serve on the ELCA Task Force on Church, State and Civic Participation: Ms. Isabell Retamoza.

The meeting of the Church Council adjourned at 2:15 p.m. on Wednesday, May 24, 2020.

July 20, 2020

The 102nd meeting of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) was convened in executive session by conference call on Monday, July 20, 2020. Mr. William B. Horne II, vice president of the ELCA and chair of the Church Council, called the executive session of the Church Council meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. (CDT). Executive session minutes are kept in the protocol file in the Office of the Secretary.

The special meeting of the Church Council adjourned at 11:10 a.m. on Monday, July 20, 2020.

August 26, 2020

The 103rd meeting of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) was convened in executive session by conference call on Wednesday, August 26, 2020. Mr. William B. Horne II, vice president of the ELCA and chair of the Church Council, called the executive session of the Church Council meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. (CDT). Minutes of meetings convened in executive session are kept in the protocol file in the Office of the Secretary.

The special meeting of the Church Council adjourned at 2:34 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 26, 2020.

November 5, 2020

The 104th meeting of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) was convened electronically in executive session on Nov. 5, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. (CST). Executive session minutes are kept in the protocol file in the Office of the Secretary.

The special meeting of the Church Council adjourned at 5:20 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 5, 2020.

November 12–14, 2020

The 105th meeting of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) was convened electronically Nov. 12–14, 2020. Mr. William B. Horne II, vice president of the ELCA and chair of the Church Council, called the Church Council meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. (CST).

Voted: **CC20.11.22**

To adopt the agenda and to permit the chair to call for consideration of agenda items in the order the chair deems most appropriate.

Voted: **CC20.11.23**

To adopt the Rules of Procedure for the Fall 2020 Church Council meeting.

Voted: **CC20.11.24**

To elect Ms. Alyssa J. Cobb, Pikesville, Maryland [8F], and the Rev. Daniel W. Gerrietts, Mason City, Iowa [5F], to the Church Council for a term ending in 2022.

Voted: **CC(ES)20.11.25**

To affirm the design proposed by the Future Church Implementation Team, as described in “Future Church Narrative,” to strengthen the churchwide organization and align this church for the purpose of activating all ELCA members in order that more people know the way of Jesus and discover community, justice, and love.

Voted: Two-thirds vote **CC(ES)20.11.26**

To adopt the proposed amendments to continuing resolutions in the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the ELCA* to implement the design proposal related to the administrative functions as detailed in “Future Church Continuing Resolutions;” and

To authorize the secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to make editorial revisions as necessary and report them back to the Church Council at its April 2021 meeting.

Voted: **CC(ES)20.11.27**

To approve a 2021 fiscal year current fund spending authorization of \$65,847,000.

Voted: **CC(ES)20.11.28**

To approve a 2021 ELCA World Hunger spending authorization of \$21,500,000.

Voted: **CC(ES)20.11.29**

To hold in prayer the churchwide employees who will be separated from employment as part of the implementation of the Future Church design; and

To express gratitude to all who serve on the staff of the churchwide organization for their dedication and perseverance, acknowledging the challenging context of entering this Future Church design in a time of global pandemic and work from home.

Voted: **CC20.11.30**

To thank the East-Central Synod of Wisconsin for its resolution regarding “ELCA Disability Offset for Dependents;”
To receive the report and recommendation from Portico Benefit Services on this resolution;

To refer the resolution to Portico Benefit Services for a recommendation, pursuant to 17.20.02.c. of the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the ELCA*, on a proposed change to the “ELCA Disability Offset Policy for Dependents” which excludes Social Security Disability Insurance paid to dependent children of disabled members from the offsets to the disability benefits paid to the disabled member; and

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

Voted: Two-thirds vote **CC20.11.31**

To approve the *en bloc* continuing resolution amendments to the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* as listed in *En Bloc* Items.

Voted: En Bloc **CC20.11.31a**

To adopt the following amendment to the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*.

20.61. ~~A1320~~. Rules of the Committee on Appeals

a. Any appeal to the Committee on Appeals shall be made in writing ~~within 30 days after the decision of the discipline hearing committee has been delivered to the accused and the accuser(s). Appeals may be made only~~ by the accused or the accuser(s) or their respective designated representative. Notice of the appeal shall be given by certified or registered letter addressed to the Committee on Appeals (in care of the secretary of this church, 8765 West Higgins Road, Chicago, Illinois 60631), with a copy to the other party. The letter containing the notice of appeal must be postmarked within 30 days after the discipline hearing committee has delivered its decision to the accused and the accuser(s).

m. Meetings of the Committee on Appeals may be held in person or by ~~conference telephone call~~ an aural method in which all parties can participate.

n. A majority of the members of the Committee on Appeals who are not disqualified shall constitute a quorum for the conduct of its business at a scheduled meeting, ~~and three fourths of the members of the Committee on Appeals who are not disqualified shall constitute a quorum for the conduct of its business by conference telephone call.~~

Voted: **CC20.11.32**

To approve the *en bloc* reconsideration of a social message as listed in *En Bloc* Items.

Voted: En Bloc **CC20.11.32a**

To reconsider the social message on “Suicide Prevention” (1999) for editorial changes for the sake of accuracy and relevance to the contemporary social context involving no change in substantive meaning, in accordance with “Policies and Procedures of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for Addressing Social Concerns” (2018).

Voted: **CC20.11.33**

To take action *en bloc* on the remaining items listed in *En Bloc* Items, Responses to Previous Church Council Actions, and Responses to Churchwide Assembly Actions.

Voted: En Bloc **CC20.11.33a**

To approve the report of the ELCA Audit Committee describing its review of the audited financial statements, management letter, and response of management for the churchwide organization’s fiscal year ended Jan. 31, 2020.

Voted: En Bloc **CC20.11.33b**

To extend the Mission Support Experiment to end January 31, 2022, in the following synods (Lower Susquehanna, Metropolitan Washington, D.C., Nebraska, New England, Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast); and

To affirm the previous process outlined in the CC19.04.13 resolution:

- To request for final data/report from Mission Support Experiment Synods to be presented at the April 2021 Church Council meeting;
- To request Mission Support Experiment synods to prepare two scenarios for their FY 2022 budget (Continue or End); and

- To request a final report and decision from the Budget and Finance Committee to be presented for action at the November 2021 Church Council meeting.

Voted: En Bloc

CC20.11.33c

RESOLVED, that the Church Council hereby adopts the Mission Investment Fund Deferred Compensation Plan and the Mission Investment Fund Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan, in the forms attached hereto as Exhibit A (the “Deferred Compensation Plan”) and Exhibit B (the “Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan”), for the benefit of certain employees of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (the “ELCA”) who provide services on a full-time basis to the Mission Investment Fund of the ELCA (“MIF”), effective as of January 1, 2021;

RESOLVED, that the Presiding Bishop is appointed to act on behalf of the ELCA as the “Plan Sponsor” and “Administrator” of the Deferred Compensation Plan and the Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan;

RESOLVED, that the Church Council retains the authority to amend or terminate the Deferred Compensation Plan and the Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan; provided, that, the Church Council delegates to the Presiding Bishop the authority to adopt any amendment that does not result in a material change in coverage, benefits, or costs and (i) is of an administrative or technical nature; or (ii) is deemed by the Presiding Bishop to be necessary or desirable in order to comply with legal requirements, including requirements of the Internal Revenue Code;

RESOLVED, notwithstanding any other delegation of authority by the ELCA to another person or committee with respect to similar matters, the Presiding Bishop is delegated the authority to enter into an administrative services agreement on behalf of the ELCA solely for the purpose of engaging a third-party administrator to handle the day-to-day administration of the Deferred Compensation Plan and the Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan;

RESOLVED, notwithstanding any other delegation of authority by the ELCA to another person or committee with respect to similar matters, the Presiding Bishop is delegated the authority to enter into a trust agreement on behalf of the ELCA solely for the purpose of establishing a trust to hold the assets of the Deferred Compensation Plan and the Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan and to appoint a trustee to oversee such trust; and

RESOLVED, that the Presiding Bishop keep and maintain appropriate records of all actions so authorized and, upon request, report such transactions to the Church Council.

Voted: En Bloc

CC20.11.33d

To allocate for the 2022 Churchwide Assembly one additional voting member to the West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod (8H), making a total of six voting members; and

To allocate for the 2022 Churchwide Assembly two additional voting members to the Alaska Synod (1A), Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod (4C), Slovak Zion Synod (7G), and Caribbean Synod (9F), making a total of six voting members per synod.

Voted: En Bloc

CC20.11.33e

To approve the policy change to the Churchwide Organization Personnel Policies.

Voted: En Bloc

CC20.11.33f

To approve the proposed amendments to the Restated ELCA Retirement Trust, ELCA Retirement Savings Trust, ELCA Participating Annuity Trust, and Restated ELCA Master Institutional Retirement Trust as listed in the “Church Council Summary of Plan and Trust Amendments” document.

Voted: En Bloc

CC20.11.33g

To approve the amended Articles of Incorporation of Luther Seminary.

Voted: En Bloc

CC20.11.33h

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

- Domestic Access to Health Care Issue Paper
- Extractive Industries Issue Paper
- Codes of Conduct Issue Paper
- Pornography Social Criteria Investment Screen; and

To request that the original issue papers be archived for historical and research purposes.

Voted: En Bloc

CC20.11.33i

To defer the questions of developing social messages on U.S. National Drug Policy, aging, gender identity, or gun policy until the Spring 2021 Church Council meeting, when a new assessment of each issue, staff capacity, and finances will be made; and

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

Voted: En Bloc

CC20.11.33j

To defer the question of developing an aspirational document until after Spring 2021 when *Definitions and Guidelines for Discipline* is further redeveloped.

Voted: En Bloc

CC20.11.33k

To approve the minutes of the June 24, 2020, July 20, 2020, Aug. 26, 2020, and Nov. 5, 2020, meetings of the Church Council; and

To ratify actions of the council's Executive Committee as indicated in the minutes of the July 31, 2020, Aug. 13, 2020, Sept. 15, 2020, and Oct. 15, 2020, meetings.

Voted: En Bloc

CC20.11.33l

To affirm the recommendation from the Conference of Bishops to amend the statement for the candidacy approval form and the entrance form;

To direct the Domestic Mission unit to revise the forms in the ELCA Candidacy Manual with this language, effective immediately:

“As a candidate for rostered ministry in this church, I understand I will be held accountable ~~to the synod's candidacy committee~~ regarding this church's expectations for my speech and conduct as set forward in *Definitions and Guidelines for Discipline of Rostered Ministers*. I understand that ~~my candidacy for~~ rostered ministry brings increased attention to my life. I am responsible for informing my bishop regarding any circumstance that might subject me to discipline according to *Definitions and Guidelines* were I a rostered minister. I understand that the candidacy committee may modify my candidacy status at any time in response to my speech and conduct.”

Voted: En Bloc

CC20.11.33m1

To elect to the board of trustees of the Publishing House of the ELCA—1517 Media—to fill two vacancies with the term expiring in August 2022: Mr. Brooke Selassie and the Rev. Joy J. Moore.

Voted: En Bloc

CC20.11.33m2

To elect to the board of directors of Wartburg Theological Seminary to a six-year term beginning Jan. 1, 2021 and expiring Dec. 31, 2026: The Rev. Michael D. Carlson and Mr. Anthony “Tony” Goodman.

Voted: En Bloc

CC20.11.33m3

To elect to the advisory board of Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary to a three-year term expiring in June 2023: The Rev. Jessica Crist, Mr. Justin W. Holmerud, the Rev. Sean Janssen, and the Rev. Ron C. Rucker.

Voted: En Bloc

CC20.11.33m4

To elect to the board of trustees of United Lutheran Seminary for a term expiring in 2022: The Rev. Cean R. James; and
To reelect to the board of trustees of United Lutheran Seminary for a term expiring in 2022: Ms. Cheryl Williams.

Voted: En Bloc

CC20.11.33m5

To elect to the board of directors of Trinity Lutheran Seminary at Capital University to a three-year term expiring in 2023: Mr. Allan Bernard.

Voted: En Bloc

CC20.11.33m6

To elect to the Board of Directors of National Lutheran Campus Ministry, Inc. for a four-year term expiring in 2025: Mr. Thomas V. Matthews and the Rev. Paul Collinson-Streng.

To reelect to the board of directors of National Lutheran Campus Ministry, Inc. for a second four-year term expiring in 2025: The Rev. William E. Bentzinger II, Mr. Thomas T. Chase Jr., and the Rev. Joanne Conroy.

Voted: En Bloc

CC20.11.33n1

To ratify the following amendment to the constitution of the Saint Paul Area Synod:

- S7.22.** All retired rostered ministers in this synod shall elect ~~40~~ 5 percent of their number to be voting members; all others shall be advisory members, with voice, but not vote.

Voted: En Bloc

CC20.11.33n2

To ratify the following amendments to the constitution of the Northeastern Minnesota Synod:

- S11.11.** This synod shall in its bylaws or by continuing resolution establish a process to ensure that the members of its committees and other organizational units will be persons possessing the necessary knowledge and competence to be effective members of such units, and to meet the requirements of †S6.04. With the exception of ~~ordained ministers on roster of this synod~~ ministers of Word and Sacrament and ministers of Word and Service who reside outside the territory of this synod, each member of a committee of this synod, or any other organization unit created by this synod, shall be a voting member of a congregation of this synod.

Voted: En Bloc

CC20.11.33p

To receive the response from the Office of the Presiding Bishop on the implementation of the resolution of the “Declaration of the ELCA to the People of African Descent” (a statement of apology for this church’s complicity in the legacy of slavery);

To thank the churchwide staff for their efforts in providing educational resources to support the apology and encouraging members, congregations, and synods to find ways to share this apology broadly;

To encourage the continuation of the research and work toward economic justice and the study of reparations and engagement in anti-racism and racial justice work; and

To request a further report from the Office of the Presiding Bishop on the naming of an annual Day of Repentance, including a liturgical resource of lamentation and repentance to accompany this annual Day of Repentance, to the Spring 2021 Church Council meeting.

Voted: En Bloc

CC20.11.33q

To receive the final report from the Domestic Mission unit on the implementation of a plan that promotes educational resources on Carbon Fee and Dividend to assist in forming the basis for any potential advocacy strategy; and

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

Voted: En Bloc

CC20.11.33r

To receive the progress report on “Earth Charter” from the Domestic Mission unit;

To request that a final report be provided at the fall 2021 Church Council meeting; and

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

Voted: En Bloc

CC20.11.33s

To receive the report on “Motion A: Establish June 17 as Emanuel 9 Day of Repentance” from the Office of the Presiding Bishop;

To thank the churchwide staff implementation team and the consultation team for its comprehensive efforts to commemorate June 17 as a day of repentance in the ELCA for the martyrdom of the Emanuel 9 (Clementa C. Pinckney, Cynthia Marie Graham Hurd, Susie Jackson, Ethel Lee Lance, Depayne Middleton-Doctor, Tywanza Sanders, Daniel L. Simmons, Sharonda Coleman-Singleton, and Myra Thompson);

To encourage the ongoing conversations with the African Methodist Episcopal Church to deepen our partnership in future commemoration services and events, including on the matters of white supremacy and racism; and

To urge this church to continue its efforts to repe

Voted: En Bloc

CC20.11.33t

To receive the update from the AMMPARO (“Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities”) Team on definitions and guidelines about what it means to be a sanctuary church body;

To extend the deadline for these definitions and guidelines to the Spring 2021 Church Council meeting; and

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

The 105th meeting of the Church Council adjourned at 2:59 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 14, 2020.

March 3, 2021

The 106th meeting of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), a specially called meeting, was convened electronically on Wednesday, March 3, 2021, at 2:30 p.m. (CST). Mr. William B. Horne II, vice president of the ELCA and chair of the Church Council, called the Church Council meeting to order at 2:32 p.m. (CST).

Voted: **CC21.03.01**

To adopt the agenda and to permit the chair to call for consideration of agenda items in the order the chair deems most appropriate.

Voted: **CC(ES)21.03.02**

To elect the Rev. Louise N. Johnson as the executive for administration for a term coterminous with the term of the presiding bishop, as provided in churchwide continuing resolution 15.12.A20.

The meeting of the Church Council adjourned at 3:59 p.m. (CST) on Wednesday, Mar. 3, 2021.

April 15–17, 2021

The 107th meeting of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) was convened electronically on Wednesday, April 15, 2021, at 2:00 p.m. (CDT). Mr. William B. Horne II, vice president of the ELCA and chair of the Church Council, called the Church Council meeting to order at 2:18 p.m. (CDT).

Voted: **CC21.04.03**

To adopt the agenda and to permit the chair to call for consideration of agenda items in the order the chair deems most appropriate.

Voted: **CC21.04.04**

To adopt the Rules of Procedure for the Spring 2021 Church Council meeting.

Voted: **CC21.04.05**

To receive the report and recommendation from Portico Benefit Services regarding a proposed change to the “ELCA Disability Offset for Dependents” to exclude Social Security Disability Insurance paid to dependent children of disabled members from the offsets to the disability benefits paid to the disabled member;

To affirm Portico’s recommendation not to change the ELCA Disability Offset for Dependents;

To encourage Portico to fund health coverage, retirement contributions, and survivor benefits, consistent with the ELCA Philosophy of Benefits and this church’s social teachings; and

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

Voted: **CC21.04.06**

To take action *en bloc* on the remaining items listed in *En Bloc* Items, Responses to Previous Church Council Actions, Responses to Synod Council Actions, and Responses to Churchwide Assembly Actions.

Voted: En Bloc **CC21.04.06a**

RESOLVED, that for the sole purpose of executing, when necessary, documents approved and authorized in accordance with actions of the Church Council, the following are hereby appointed as assistant treasurers of this corporation: Cecilia Favela, ~~Kathy Freeman Summers~~, Santiago Padilla, and Annette Roman, to serve until replaced or removed by subsequent appointments, with such subsequent appointments to be based upon the nomination and recommendation of the Treasurer;

RESOLVED, that for the sole purpose of executing or attesting, when necessary, documents approved and authorized in accordance with actions of the Church Council, the following are hereby appointed as assistant secretaries of this corporation: Thomas A. Cunniff, Aja M. Favors, and Norman K. Fry to serve until replaced or removed by subsequent appointments, with such subsequent appointments to be based upon the nomination and recommendation of the Secretary.

RESOLVED, that prior resolutions adopted by this Council, including CC15.04.31b and the prior actions identified in CC15.04.31b, addressing the appointment of assistant officers are hereby rescinded and replaced by this action.

Voted: En Bloc

CC21.04.06b

RESOLVED, that the Treasurer and the Executive ~~for Development Director of the Mission Advancement unit~~ are appointed as a committee having the authority of the Church Council in the management of the business and fiscal affairs of any trust for which the churchwide organization is acting as trustee to authorize and approve, on behalf of this corporation as trustee, transactions to which such trust is a party.

RESOLVED, that the Treasurer and the Executive ~~for Development Director of the Mission Advancement unit~~ are appointed as a committee having the authority of the Church Council to authorize and approve establishment of any gift annuity agreement for which the churchwide organization is guarantor, on behalf of this corporation as guarantor.

RESOLVED, that the Treasurer or the Executive ~~for Development Director of the Mission Advancement unit~~, or in absence of both of the foregoing, any two assistant treasurers may execute, and the Secretary or any assistant secretary may attest, any document previously authorized and approved as provided in this resolution, which is required or desirable in connection with the establishment of any gift annuity agreement for which the churchwide organization is guarantor or which is necessary and appropriate for the management of the business and fiscal affairs of any trust for which the churchwide organization is acting as trustee.

RESOLVED, that the ~~Development team within the Office of the Presiding Bishop Mission Advancement unit~~ must keep and maintain appropriate records of all transactions so authorized and, upon request, report such transactions to the Budget and Finance Committee of the Church Council.

Voted: En Bloc

CC21.04.06c

To revise the 2021 fiscal year ELCA World Hunger spending authorization from \$21,500,000 to \$23,500,000.

Voted: En Bloc

CC21.04.06d

To approve an addition to the Church Council Designated Fund in the amount of \$1.3 million representing excess revenue over expenses from fiscal year 2020 to be released to fund budget shortfall in future years.

Voted: En Bloc

CC21.04.06e

To adopt the revision to the *Manual of Policies and Procedures for Management of the Rosters of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* related to protocols for rostered ministers from member churches of The Lutheran World Federation who wish to serve in ELCA ministry settings; and

To authorize the Office of the Secretary to make any necessary editorial corrections to the manual for clarity and accuracy.

Voted: En Bloc

CC21.04.06f

To ratify the following amendments to the constitution of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod:

†**S8.51.c.** The treasurer of this synod shall be ~~elected~~**appointed** to a four-year term and may be re-elected or reappointed. The treasurer shall serve until his or her successor takes office.

S8.55. Should the vice president ~~or~~ secretary ~~or treasurer~~ die, resign, or be unable to serve, the bishop, with the approval of the Executive Committee of the Synod Council, shall arrange for the appropriate care of the responsibilities of the officer until an election of a new officer can be held, or, in the case of temporary disability, until the officer is able to serve again. The term of the successor officer, elected by the Synod Assembly, shall be four years.

~~**S9.07.** The Synod Council shall nominate at least two persons for treasurer; additional nominations may be made from the floor.~~

Voted: En Bloc

CC21.04.06g

To approve the amended bylaws of the Endowment Fund of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America—ELCA Foundation.

Voted: En Bloc

CC21.04.06h

To approve the amended bylaws of the United Lutheran Seminary.

Voted: En Bloc

CC21.04.06i

To approve the amended bylaws of Luther Seminary.

Voted: En Bloc

CC21.04.06j

To receive the ELCA Churchwide Organization Annual Report for 2020; and
To thank the staff of the churchwide organization for their ongoing work.

Voted: En Bloc ***CC21.04.06k***
To approve the amended Corporate Social Responsibility Roles and Responsibilities Chart.

Voted: En Bloc ***CC21.04.06l***
To defer the questions of developing a social message on U.S. National Drug Policy, aging, gender identity, or gun policy until the Fall 2021 Church Council meeting, when a new assessment of each issue, staff capacity, and finances will be made; and
To request that the secretary of this church inform the synods of this action.

Voted: En Bloc ***CC21.04.06m***
To approve the minutes of the Nov. 12–14, 2020, and Mar. 3, 2021, meetings of the Church Council; and
To ratify actions of the council’s Executive Committee as indicated in the minutes of the Nov. 12, 2020, Dec. 8, 2020, Jan. 19, 2021, Feb. 23, 2021, and Mar. 16, 2021, meetings.

Voted: En Bloc ***CC21.04.06n***
RESOLVED, that for the sole purpose of permitting St. John Lutheran Home to refinance the mortgage of the property at County Road 5 in Springfield, Minnesota, the ELCA shall subordinate, but not release, its right of reverter and re-entry as it pertains to the property; and
Be it further RESOLVED, that St. John Lutheran Home shall have the authority to sign the mortgage and other loan documents relevant to the transaction without any further action required by the ELCA or its Church Council (Board of Directors).

Voted: En Bloc ***CC21.04.06o1***
To elect to the board of trustees of the Endowment Fund of the ELCA—ELCA Foundation—to fill a vacancy with the term expiring in August 2022: Ms. Ingrid S. Stafford.

Voted: En Bloc ***CC21.04.06o2***
To re-elect to the board of directors of Mosaic, Inc. to a three-year term expiring in 2024: Ms. Patricia A. Nimtzt and the Rev. Keith D. Hohly.

Voted: En Bloc ***CC21.04.06o3***
To elect to the board of directors of Wartburg Theological Seminary to a six-year term beginning April 2021 and expiring Dec. 31, 2026: Ms. Miji Bell.

Voted: En Bloc ***CC21.04.06o4***
To elect to the board of directors of Luther Seminary to a four-year term beginning July 1, 2021 and expiring June 30, 2025: The Rev. Jeanne Hartfield and the Rev. Linda Norman.

Voted: En Bloc ***CC21.04.06o5***
To elect to the advisory board of Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary to a term expiring in June 2023: The Rev. Jim Johnson; and
To elect to the advisory board of Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary to a three-year term beginning in June 2021 and expiring in June 2024: Ms. Kara Lynne Benson-Haug.

Voted: En Bloc ***CC21.04.06o6***
To elect to the board of directors of Trinity Lutheran Seminary at Capital University to a term expiring June 30, 2023: Ms. Marla Butke; and
To elect to the board of directors of Trinity Lutheran Seminary at Capital University to a three-year term beginning July 1, 2021 and expiring June 30, 2024: The Rev. Abraham Allende.

Voted: En Bloc ***CC21.04.06o7***
To elect to the board of trustees of United Lutheran Seminary to a three-year term expiring in 2024: Sr. Marianne Brock.

Voted: En Bloc ***CC21.04.06o8***
To elect to the board of directors of Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago to a term beginning Oct. 1, 2021 and expiring Sept. 30, 2024: Mr. Oswald Gregory Lewis.

Voted: En Bloc ***CC21.04.06p***
To receive the response from the Office of the Presiding Bishop on the naming of an annual Day of Repentance, including a liturgical resource of lamentation and repentance to accompany this annual Day of Repentance;
To affirm the presiding bishop's decision to name the Tuesday following the celebration of the birth of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. as an annual ELCA Day of Repentance from Racism; and

To encourage members, congregations, and synods to use the “Lamenting Racism” resource in *All Creation Sings* and other liturgical resources of lamentation and repentance offered by the worship team to accompany this annual Day of Repentance.

Voted: En Bloc

CC21.04.06q

To receive the update from the Christian Community and Leadership unit on a unified cross design for ministers of Word and Service; and

To request a final design be presented to the Fall 2021 Church Council meeting.

Voted: En Bloc

CC21.04.06r

To refer the “ELCA Advocacy Support for the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act” resolution from the Northeastern Iowa Synod Council to the Service and Justice unit for a report or for a timeline on when this will receive further attention; and

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

Voted: En Bloc

CC21.04.06s

To receive the request from the Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod Council requesting guidance regarding the review of retired ministers on the roster of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America;

To refer the matter to the Office of the Secretary for further research and to request that a response be provided at the Fall 2021 Church Council meeting; and

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

Voted: En Bloc

CC21.04.06t

To receive the update from Portico Benefit Services on an educational campaign for plan members designed to increase awareness of the Social Purpose Investment Funds; and

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

Voted: En Bloc

CC21.04.06u

To receive the response on “Unaltered Augsburg Confession” from the Office of the Presiding Bishop;

To request that a progress report with possible recommendations be provided to the Fall 2022 Church Council meeting; and

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

Voted: En Bloc

CC21.04.06v

To receive the gap analysis of rostered women, with a particular focus on challenges faced by rostered women of color, from the Office of the Presiding Bishop;

To commend the ongoing efforts of congregations, synods, and churchwide organization to address compensation disparities; and

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

Voted: En Bloc

CC21.04.06w

To receive the response and recommendations for “Seminary Tuition” from the Christian Community and Leadership unit;

To continue supporting the Resourceful Servants program;

To continue supporting ELCA Fund for Leaders as an intentional strategy to provide for seminarians and address educational debt in this church’s theological education system;

To request the churchwide organization to broaden the call for comprehensive reporting on full tuition and request reports from ELCA seminaries on seminarian’s educational debt and cost of attendance;

To direct the churchwide organization to explore alternatives to address educational debt and cost of attendance of seminarians;

To ask the seminaries of this church and the churchwide organization to include Theological Education for Emerging Ministries (TEEM) students in full tuition programs, scholarships, and this church’s educational debt and cost of attendance efforts; and

To encourage this church’s congregations, synods, and churchwide organization to explore financial alternatives to address educational debt of first call pastors.

Voted:

CC21.04.07

To recognize that the ELCA’s ministry as a sanctuary church body is a public witness that calls ELCA members to value the dignity of each human being made in God’s image;

To thank the churchwide staff for the development of additional resources that provided education and discernment around sanctuary;

To encourage an understanding of the word ‘sanctuary’ that is rooted in the principles of walking alongside, or accompanying, immigrants and refugees while acknowledging that the word ‘sanctuary’ has no legal or universally accepted definition; and

To affirm the guidance provided in the “ELCA Sanctuary Church Guidelines” for ways congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization can accompany and support the ministry of sanctuary.

Voted: **CC21.04.08**

To receive the final data/report from the Mission Support Experiment Synods (Lower Susquehanna, Metropolitan Washington, D.C., Nebraska, New England, Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast);

To urge the churchwide organization and the synods to incorporate the learnings from the mission support experiments into future collaboration, as appropriate; and

To encourage the formation of a project team (including bishops, churchwide organization staff, and others) to discuss future strategies for mission support sharing between synods and the churchwide organization, including discussion on how revenue received from congregations can best be shared to support the ministries of this church.

Voted: **CC21.04.09**

To approve the revised version as amended of *Definitions and Guidelines for Discipline*, effective immediately, but applicable only to conduct occurring (or alleged to occur) after the date of adoption of this resolution;

To confirm that the version of *Definitions and Guidelines for Discipline*, as in effect immediately prior to the adoption of this resolution, shall be applied to conduct that occurred (or is alleged to have occurred) on or prior to the date of adoption of this resolution; and

To authorize the Office of the Secretary to make any necessary non-substantive editorial corrections.

Voted: **CC21.04.10**

To encourage the Committee on Appeals to add a definition of “promiscuity” to the definitions section within *Definitions and Guidelines for Discipline*.

Voted: **CC21.04.11**

To ratify the amendments to the constitution of the Southwestern Texas Synod as outlined in the “4E SWTX CBCR Ratification” document.

~~**S9.03.** There shall be a Nominating Committee composed of nine persons appointed by the Synod Council. One of the appointees shall be a youth or young adult who shall be appointed for a two-year term. Other members shall be appointed for six-year terms. The appointees shall reflect the male/female and lay/clergy representation guidelines for the Synod. Additional nominations may be made from the floor for all elections for which nominations are made by the Nominating Committee.~~

S9.03 Nominating Committee: There shall be a Nominating committee consisting of 5 members who shall be appointed by the Synod Council to serve for each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly. Additional nominations may be made from the floor for all elections for which nominations are made by the Nominating Committee.

†**S10.01.** The Synod Council, consisting of the four officers of the synod, 10 to 24 other members, and at least one youth and at least one young adult shall be elected by the Synod Assembly.

a. Each person elected to the Synod Council shall be a voting member of a congregation of this synod, with the exception of ministers on a roster of this synod who reside outside the territory of this synod. The process for election and the term of office when not otherwise provided shall be specified in the bylaws. A member of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, unless otherwise elected as a voting member of the Synod Council, may serve as an advisory member of the Synod Council with voice but not vote.

b. The term of office of members of the Synod Council, with the exception of the officers and the youth member, shall be ~~four~~ three years.

S10.08. Robert’s Rules of Order, latest edition, shall govern parliamentary procedure of all meetings of the Synod Council.

Voted: **CC21.04.12**

To authorize an extension of a revised committee structure for Church Council to be presented to the April 2022 Church Council meeting.

The 107th meeting of the Church Council adjourned at 4:07 p.m. on Saturday, Apr. 17, 2020.

September 27, 2021

The 108th meeting of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) was convened electronically on Monday, September 27 at 7:00 p.m. (CDT). Mr. Carlos E. Peña, interim vice president of the ELCA and chair of the Church Council, called the special meeting of the Church Council to order at 7:00 p.m. (CDT).

Voted: **CC21.09.13**

To adopt the agenda and to permit the chair to call for consideration of agenda items in the order the chair deems most appropriate.

Voted: **CC21.09.14**

To elect Ms. Kerry A. Fehrman, Wausau, Wisconsin [5I], to the Church Council for a term ending 2025.

Voted: **CC21.09.15**

To adopt “A Declaration of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to American Indian and Alaska Native People” as a statement of repentance and reconciliation to native nations in this country for this church’s damage done in the name of Christianity;

To thank the Repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery Task Force for their diligence in preparing the statement; and

To encourage congregations, synods and the churchwide organization to find ways to share this statement broadly.

November 11–13, 2021

The 109th meeting of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) convened Nov. 11–13, 2021, at the Marriott Chicago O’Hare, Chicago, Illinois. Mr. Carlos E. Peña, interim vice president of the ELCA and chair of the Church Council, called the Church Council meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. (CST).

Voted: **CC21.11.16**

To adopt the agenda and to permit the chair to call for consideration of agenda items in the order the chair deems most appropriate.

Voted: **CC21.11.17**

The ELCA Church Council gives thanks to God for the life and faithful service of William “Bill” Burt Horne II. As it meets for its biannual meeting, the council offers its prayers for comfort and peace for his family and friends upon Bill’s death. The council expresses its appreciation for his wise, fair, and strong leadership as vice president of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and his collaborative spirit, steadfast commitment, and genuine compassion for the congregations and communities throughout the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Voted: **CC21.11.18**

To adopt the proposed revisions to “A Declaration of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to the Jewish Community” as an expression of this church’s continual opposition to rising anti-Semitism and ongoing work to repudiate the Doctrine of Discovery;

To reaffirm “A Declaration of the ELCA to the Jewish Community” as an enduring message for this church, this church’s Jewish neighbors, and all of this church’s ecumenical, inter-religious, and global partners; and

To call the ELCA into a time of study and reflection using the Declaration and other Lutheran-Jewish relations resources available from the Office of the Presiding Bishop.

Voted: **CC21.11.19**

To direct the churchwide organization to require all participants (i.e., voting members, visitors, volunteers, contract staff, and churchwide staff) attending the 2022 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to either show proof of being fully vaccinated for COVID-19 or provide upon arrival a negative COVID-19 test result taken 1–3 days prior to traveling to the assembly for unvaccinated individuals, in accordance with the guidance from public health officials.

Voted: Two-thirds required **CC21.11.20**

To adopt the proposed editorial update as the revised text of the ELCA social message on “Suicide Prevention” (1999) in order to provide accuracy and relevance to the contemporary social context;

To encourage conversation within ELCA congregations and to invite similar conversations with ecumenical and inter-religious partners to study this social message; and

To direct the churchwide organization to promote communication of this message throughout this church.

Voted: **CC21.11.21**

To receive the working document entitled “A Fresh Perspective: ELCA Church Council Young Adults” and prayerfully consider it;

To create a working group composed primarily of Youth and Young Adult members of the council, with additional youth and young adults of this church and other members of this church to be lifted up by the Executive Committee; and

To direct this group in consultation with other Church Council members, and churchwide staff, to discuss the ELCA goal to reach one million new, young, and diverse people, and to prepare a report consisting of ideas, concerns, recommendations, and aspirations to be given at the next regular meeting of the Church Council.

Voted: **CC21.11.22**

To revise the 2022 fiscal year current fund income proposal from \$68,507,018 to \$65,816,150; and

To approve a 2022 fiscal year current fund spending authorization of \$65,816,150.

Voted: **CC21.11.23**

To revise the 2022 fiscal year World Hunger income proposal from \$21,500,000 to \$22,665,000; and

To approve a 2022 ELCA World Hunger spending authorization of \$22,665,000.

Voted: Two-thirds required **CC21.11.24**

To adopt the amendments to the Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as described in “Proposed Amendments—Continuing Resolutions.”

Chapter 5: Principles of Organization

5.01.C00C21. *The term, “persons of color and/or persons whose primary language is other than English,” shall be understood to mean African American, African Descent, Black, Arab and Middle Eastern, Asian and Pacific Islander, Latino, American Indian, and Alaska Native people. This definition, however, shall not be understood as limiting this church’s commitment to inclusive participation in its life and work.*

~~**5.01.H21.** *For purposes of the representational principles set forth in 5.01.e. and f., the percentage of laypersons that is not allocated to women or men may be allocated to persons who identify as gender non-binary, gender fluid, women, men, or other genders.*~~

Chapter 7: Ministry

7.74.A19A21. **Sources of Calls for Ministers of Word and Service**

...
b. *Table of Sources of Calls for Ministers of Word and Service*

	Setting	Calling Body
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12.0	Independent Lutheran Organization	Church Council <u>upon request of appropriate churchwide unit</u>
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Chapter 12: Churchwide Assembly

12.41.C04C21. *Congregation Observers. Each congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America may register with the secretary of this church one congregation observer for the Churchwide Assembly prior to May 31 in the year of a Churchwide Assembly.*

a. *Provision shall be made for such an individual to have reserved seating in the observers section of the plenary hall. Such congregation observers will ~~receive~~ have access to a copy of the report of recommendations for assembly action and also materials distributed ~~on the plenary floor~~ to voting members, advisory members, and non-voting members during the assembly. Such observers shall have neither voice nor vote in plenary sessions of the assembly.*

Chapter 15: Churchwide Offices and Administration

15.12.B20B21. **Responsibility for Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Relations**

Responsibility for ecumenical and inter-religious relations shall be exercised by the Office of the Presiding Bishop.

- a. ~~The presiding bishop shall appoint An-an executive for ecumenical and inter-religious relations, appointed by the presiding bishop, who~~ shall coordinate the ecumenical, inter-Lutheran, and inter-religious activities of this church, and shall recommend, through the presiding bishop, policies to the Church Council and the Churchwide Assembly. To fulfill these responsibilities, the executive ~~for ecumenical and inter-religious relations~~ shall:

15.12.~~C20~~C21. Responsibility for ~~Human Resources~~ **People Solutions and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion**

Responsibility for ~~human resources~~ **people solutions and diversity, equity, and inclusion** shall be exercised by the Office of the Presiding Bishop, which shall develop and manage the personnel policies and procedures for the churchwide organization, including policies and procedures regarding equal-employment opportunity; recruitment, interview, and selection of staff; compensation and benefits; employee-assistance programs; just and equitable employee-relations practices; performance evaluation; maintenance of personnel records; and training. In accordance with bylaw 14.21.06., the Church Council shall adopt personnel policies upon recommendation of the Office of the Presiding Bishop. The ~~presiding bishop shall appoint an executive for human resources who~~ shall be responsible for **people solutions and** this church's commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion, ~~and shall be appointed by the presiding bishop.~~

15.12.~~D20~~D21. Responsibility for Theological Discernment

Responsibility shall be exercised in the Office of the Presiding Bishop for serving the Church's theological work by promoting, coordinating, and facilitating theological discernment of the Church's message and its theological foundations in collaboration with all who share in the responsibilities to be teachers of the faith in the Church, including the Conference of Bishops, the seminary faculties, the convocation of teaching theologians, networks such as Lutheran ethicists and women theologians, the editorial staff of the publishing ministry and publications, and all rostered ministers. This responsibility for serving the Church's theological work also shall encompass theological work in and commitment to discern, understand, and respond to racism, classism, and sexism and issues of justice for women in the Church and in society in order to advance full participation, equal opportunity, and justice for all. To fulfill these responsibilities, the presiding bishop shall appoint an executive ~~for theological discernment~~, who will assist the presiding bishop and coordinate the service of staff groups that provide theological resources and assistance in programmatic implementation.

15.12.~~E20~~E21. Responsibility for Development

Responsibility for planning, coordination, and management of the execution of this church's fundraising efforts and donor communications shall be exercised by the Office of the Presiding Bishop. To fulfill these responsibilities, the presiding bishop shall appoint an executive ~~for development~~, who, in collaboration with the Endowment Fund of the ELCA, shall:

15.14.~~B20~~B21. Responsibility for Information Technology

The treasurer shall provide for information technology in support of the work of the churchwide organization. The treasurer shall appoint an executive ~~for information technology~~, who shall be responsible for the development and review of guidelines and policies for computer standards, security of electronic data, application development, data storage and data retrieval, and shall enable use of electronic technologies for churchwide staff to assist in support of congregations, synods, and related institutions and agencies of this church.

Chapter 16: Units of the Churchwide Organization

16.11.A21. *As it pertains to the churchwide organization, a unit may also be described as a home area.*

16.12.A20A21. Responsibilities of the Christian Community and Leadership Unit

The Christian Community and Leadership unit shall foster and facilitate the work of synods, congregations, the churchwide organization, and others in reaching and welcoming more people into the Christian faith. It energizes and engages the core membership and works with the whole of this church to recruit, develop, and deploy lay and rostered leadership to fulfill the Church's purpose. It works across all expressions of this church to accomplish these goals domestically and internationally.

This unit shall:

- a. create and revitalize congregations and ministries;

- b. enhance evangelism and discipleship;
- c. ~~support multicultural ministries and the commitment of this church to become more ethnically diverse~~ oversee the development of multicultural ministries and collaborate on the commitment of this church to diversity and inclusivity;
- d. support efforts to reach new people, young people, and to become more economically diverse;
- e. foster relationships with educational institutions, including participation in and support of the Network of Colleges and Universities of this church;
- f. recruit, train, and help to deploy lay and rostered leaders;
- g. support the candidacy and assignment processes;
- h. coordinate the work of Young Adults in Global Mission and the ELCA Youth Gathering;
- i. oversee the chaplaincies of this church in domestic specialized ministry settings as well as federal chaplaincies both the U.S. armed forces at home and abroad, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and other federal agencies and institutions; and

16.12.D210.

Responsibilities of the Service and Justice Unit

The Service and Justice unit shall foster and facilitate this church's engagement in service and promote efforts to call and act for justice. It shall engage in mission, service, and justice in accompaniment with churches and organizations in other countries; serve as the means through which churches in other countries engage in mission to this church and society; engage with communities, coalitions and networks, congregations, and synods in service and justice work within the territorial jurisdiction of this church; and provide guidance to members on matters of social justice.

The Service and Justice unit shall support the freedom of Christians to love and serve their neighbor through the following areas:

- a. Peoples and Communities: maintain global church-to-church relationships and mutual endeavors for evangelical witness and sharing of mission personnel; ~~support ethnic specific and multicultural ministries and the commitment of this church to diversity and inclusivity~~ oversee the work of the ethnic specific ministries and collaborate on multicultural ministries and the commitment of this church to diversity and inclusivity;
- ...
- c. Witness in Society: empower members to engage with systems and processes to promote the well-being of the human community and creation in the public square, local and federal government, and the international community; equip and encourage members to seek dignity and peace; advance justice in response to human suffering, marginalization, and exclusion; and promote equality, justice, and respect for the value of every person to reduce the systemic injustices impacting communities and societies; to advance corporate social responsibility through environmental, social, and justice principles to create a just and sustainable society.

Chapter 17

17.20.A19A21.

Responsibilities of the Board of Pensions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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

- a. manage and operate the Pension and Other Benefits Program for this church and plans for other non-profit organizations; operated exclusively for religious purposes having a formal affiliation with a church or a religious organization, and ~~shall~~ invest the assets according to fiduciary standards set forth in the plans and trusts.
- b. provide retirement, health, and other benefits for the benefit of eligible members working within the structure of this church and other non-profit organizations; operated exclusively for religious purposes having a formal affiliation with a church or a religious organization.
- ...
- j. not be responsible, nor assume any liability for, health-insurance programs provided by ~~colleges and universities of~~ this church through voluntary employees' beneficiary associations or similar arrangements.

17.30.A19A21.

Operation of the Mission Investment Fund of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

The Mission Investment Fund of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America shall:

- a. have primary responsibility for the development, administration, promotion, and sale of ~~Mission Investments~~investment obligations;
- b. develop and administer a loan program, including management responsibilities for the underwriting, legal, accounting, reporting, servicing, marketing, and other related functions;
- c. provide expertise for management of real property and execute all necessary documents for the acquisition and disposition of such property;
- d. relate to the Christian Community and Leadership~~Domestic Mission~~ unit, which ~~shall may~~ request real estate acquisition for new and existing ministries within the limits of the capital funds available and within established criteria;
- e. confer with the ~~Domestic Mission~~Christian Community and Leadership unit on any loans to developing ministries;
- ~~f. offer building and architectural consultative services to new congregations entering first unit construction, to congregations relocating with synod approval, to other congregations, and to other organizations and institutions that are affiliated with this church;~~
- ~~g. offer building and property consultative services to congregations of this church; and~~
- ~~h. offer financial management and consulting services to synods including, for example, banking and treasury management services, accounting services, payroll management services, audit coordination, financial reporting services, and budgeting services.~~

Chapter 18: Regions

18.01.A08A21. The regions shall be numbered 1 through 9 and ~~comprised~~composed of the following synods (as designated in bylaw 10.01.01.): ...

Chapter 19: Nominations and Election Process

19.01.A18A21. In a year when the vice president or secretary shall be elected, those who will serve as voting members of the upcoming Churchwide Assembly~~the voting members elected to serve at the Churchwide Assembly~~ shall be invited to identify the names of up to three persons who might be considered for election as vice president or secretary. Names shall be submitted to the Office of the Secretary at least four months prior to the assembly. The Office of the Secretary shall contact those persons identified and request biographical information. At least 60 days prior to the Churchwide Assembly, the biographical information received from those persons open to consideration shall be distributed to the voting members.

19.01.D19D21. Election Procedures Utilizing the Ecclesiastical Ballot

- a. For each election by ecclesiastical or nominating ballot, the exact number of appropriate ballot sets equal to the number of voting members from each synod will be given to the bishop of ~~that~~each synod. Unless an electronic or computerized voting system is being utilized, the bishops ~~of the synod~~, or ~~his or her~~their designees, will be responsible for distributing the ballot sets to each of the voting members from their synods. The Elections Committee will be responsible for distributing the ballot sets to each officer and member of the Church Council serving as an ex officio voting member of the assembly.
- ...
- i. When the results of the first ballot are presented, the chair of the assembly will announce when and how persons nominated may withdraw their names prior to the casting of the second ballot.

19.02.A11A21. On behalf of the Nominating Committee, the secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America—in the year preceding each regular meeting of the Churchwide Assembly—shall solicit from eligible synods on a rotating basis the names of two persons in specified categories, in keeping with the representation principles of this church, for possible election to the Church Council. Upon their selection as nominees by the assemblies of the respective synods, the names of the two persons shall be presented to the Nominating Committee for submission to the Churchwide Assembly. In the event that any nominee withdraws or is disqualified from possible service, the Nominating Committee shall submit request that the nominee's synod provide a replacement name ~~from the same synod as the original nominee~~. In the event that the vacancy occurs subsequent to the preparation of the report of the Nominating Committee to the Churchwide Assembly, a floor nomination shall be provided from the same synod as the original nominee. Except as provided herein, no floor nominations for positions on the Church Council shall be permitted at the Churchwide Assembly.

- 19.03.A91A21.** *With respect to committees that consider disciplinary cases or appeals:*
- a. *Any member of the churchwide Committee on Discipline who has been appointed to serve on a discipline hearing committee for a particular pending case shall continue to serve to discharge that appointment notwithstanding that ~~his or her~~ a successor has been subsequently elected at a Churchwide Assembly.*
 - b. *Any member of the synod Committee on Discipline who is serving at the time that the Executive Committee of the Church Council appoints members from the churchwide Committee on Discipline to a discipline hearing committee shall continue as a member of that discipline hearing committee for the particular pending case, notwithstanding that ~~his or her~~ a successor has been subsequently elected at a Synod Assembly.*
 - c. *Any member of the Committee on Appeals who is serving at the time that an appeal is made shall continue to serve to decide that appeal, notwithstanding that ~~his or her~~ a successor has been subsequently elected at a Churchwide Assembly.*
- 19.11.A16A21.** ***Churchwide Assembly Nominations Desk and Nominations Form***
- a. *Nominations from the floor at the Churchwide Assembly shall be made at the Nominations Desk, which shall be maintained under the supervision of the secretary of this church.*
- 19.11.B19B21.** ***Churchwide Assembly Floor Nominations***
- a. *Floor nominations for the Church Council, the Nominating Committee, or other committee or board to be elected by the Churchwide Assembly require, in addition to the nominator, the ~~written~~ documented support of at least 20 other voting members.*
- 19.11.C05C21.** ***Restrictions on Churchwide Assembly Floor Nominations for Boards and Committees***
- a. *Nominations from the floor for positions on ~~churchwide~~ boards or committees shall comply with criteria and restrictions established by the Nominating Committee and set forth in materials provided to each voting member of the assembly.*
- 19.11.D16D21.** ***Restrictions on Churchwide Assembly Floor Nominations for Church Council***
- Nominations for positions on the Church Council shall comply with criteria and restrictions established by the Church Council and Nominating Committee and set forth in materials provided to each voting member of the assembly.*
- 19.11.E98E21.** ***Restrictions on Churchwide Assembly Floor Nominations for Nominating Committee***
- a. *Nominations from the floor for positions on the Nominating Committee shall comply with criteria and restrictions established by the Church Council and set forth in materials provided to each voting member of the assembly.*
- 19.11.F19F21.** ***Election Procedures Utilizing the Common Ballot***
- a. *The common ballot is used in those elections when the ecclesiastical or nominating ballot is not used.*
 - b. *Unless an electronic or computerized voting system is being utilized, the exact number of ballot forms equal to the number of voting members from each synod will be given to the bishop of ~~that~~ each synod. When instructed by the chair, the bishops ~~of the synod~~, or ~~his or her~~ their designees, will be responsible for distributing the ballot forms to each of the voting members from their synods. The vice president of this church will be responsible for distributing the ballot forms to each member of the Church Council serving as an ex officio voting member of the assembly. The Elections Committee will be responsible for distributing the ballot forms to each officer of this church.*
- 19.11.G2198.** ***Breaking Ties in Elections***
- b. *On the first common ballot, the blank ballots of the treasurer and vice president shall be held by the chair of the Elections Committee to be presented to the treasurer for ~~her or his~~ vote only in those elections where a tie would otherwise exist, and to be presented to the vice president for ~~his or her~~ vote only in those elections to break a tie remaining after the ballot of the treasurer has been counted.*

Chapter 20: Consultation, Discipline, Appeals, and Adjudication

20.61.A20A21. p. No member of the Committee on Appeals shall serve on any case if such a member is related (as defined in 19.06.07.) to the accused, the accuser(s), any witness who testified before the discipline hearing committee, or a member of the consultation or discipline hearing committee that considered the case, or where such member is a member or former member of a congregation that was an accuser or an accused. ~~A member~~ Members of the Committee on Appeals also may voluntarily disqualify themselves himself or herself.

Voted: **CC21.11.25**

To take action *en bloc* on the remaining items listed in *En Bloc* Items, Responses to Churchwide Assembly Actions, Responses to Previous Church Council Actions, and Responses to Synod Actions.

Voted: En Bloc **CC21.11.25a**

To approve the additional definition of ‘promiscuity’ to the definitions section within *Definitions and Guidelines for Discipline*.

Voted: En Bloc **CC21.11.25b**

To approve the reappointment of Mr. Kevin Anderson, Ms. Tracey Beasley, Mr. Gary Hecht, Mr. Keoni Newman, and Ms. Ingrid Stafford as members to the ELCA Audit Committee for a two-year, renewable term beginning November 2021; and

To approve the appointment of Ms. Kerry Fehrman as a member to the ELCA Audit Committee for a two-year, renewable term beginning November 2021.

Voted: En Bloc **CC21.11.25c**

To receive the preliminary report of the ELCA Audit Committee for the churchwide organization’s fiscal year ended January 31, 2021; and

To authorize the Executive Committee to approve the final report.

Voted: En Bloc **CC21.11.25d**

To express gratitude for all those who participated in the planning, implementation and assessment of the Synod Mission Support Experiment;

To recommend that changes to congregational vitality grants and the funding/employment model for the Director for Evangelical Mission position (DEM) include a review of possible implications to future models of Mission Support sharing between synods and the churchwide expression (to be completed June 30, 2022), and these implications be shared with the Budget and Finance Committee;

To recommend that the five synods which participated in the Synod Mission Support Experiment (4A-Nebraska, 4F-Texas Louisiana Gulf Coast, 7B-New England, 8D-Lower Susquehanna, 8G-Metropolitan Washington, D.C.) continue their models of Mission Support sharing with the churchwide expression until decisions have been made with respect to the Director for Evangelical Mission position and congregational vitality grants. At that time, it is recommended each synod meet with staff from the churchwide Christian Community and Leadership home area and the Mission Support team to discuss how their current models of funding and decision-making with respect to the DEM position and congregational vitality grants compares with the revisions that may be made to these ministry areas. It is recommended that these discussions include ways to move toward closer alignment if areas of difference remain between a synod’s model and the revised Christian Community and Leadership model;

To remind all synods that any proposed changes in their models of Mission Support sharing between synods and the churchwide expression are to be undertaken through mutual conversation between representatives of the synod and of the churchwide organization. Section 10.71 of the ELCA Constitution states, “Each synod shall remit to the churchwide organization a percentage of amount of all donor-unrestricted receipts contributed to it by the congregations of the synod. The actual percentage or amount shall be determined through individual consultations with each synod;” and

To recommend that the Resource Development Committee (RDC) continue to review strategies for increasing Mission Support shared with the churchwide organization, as outlined in the RDC charter.

Voted: En Bloc **CC21.11.25e**

To approve the revisions to the ELCA Church Council Governance Policy Manual; and

To authorize the Office of the Secretary to make any necessary editorial corrections for accuracy.

Voted: En Bloc

CC21.11.25f

To appoint the members of the Memorials Committee for the 2022 ELCA Churchwide Assembly:

1. Ms. Cheryl Chatman [3G; POC] (co-chair)
2. Mr. Joseph Nolte [5D] (co-chair)
3. The Rev. Joanne Engquist [1B]
4. Bp. Laurie Larson Caesar [1E]
5. Bp. Yehiel Curry [5A; POC]
6. Mr. Randall Foster [2B; POC]
7. Mr. Glenn Austad [2D]
8. Mr. Mark Hollabaugh [3E]
9. Mx. Joan Saltzman [4B; YA]
10. Ms. Melissa Peper-Firestone [6D]
11. The Rev. Carey Hovland [6F]
12. Mr. Arundel Clarke [7A; POC]
13. Mr. Christopher Vergara [7C; POC]
14. Deacon Alicia Anderson [8C]
15. The Rev. Viktoria Parvin [9A]; and

To authorize the Executive Committee of the Church Council to appoint additional members to the Memorials Committee for the 2022 ELCA Churchwide Assembly as needed.

Voted: En Bloc

CC21.11.25g

To appoint the members of the Reference and Counsel Committee for the 2022 ELCA Churchwide Assembly:

1. Ms. Tracey Beasley [7F; POC] (co-chair)
2. Mr. David Lenz [6E] (co-chair)
3. Mr. Kevin Anderson [8G]
4. Bp. Regina Hassanally [3I]
5. Bp. Paul Erickson [5J]
6. Ms. Marjorie Fiedler [1F]
7. Ms. Dorothy Arata [2A]
8. Mr. Jason Langworthy [3H]
9. Deacon Timothy Siburg [4A]
10. Ms. Brenda Pinero [4E; POC]
11. The Rev. Michael Ashman [5F]
12. Ms. Hannah Limbong [6C; POC; YA]
13. The Rev. John Longworth [7B]
14. The Rev. Stephen Herr [8D]
15. Ms. Esther Smith [9F; POC]; and

To authorize the Executive Committee of the Church Council to appoint additional members to the Reference and Counsel Committee for the 2022 ELCA Churchwide Assembly as needed.

Voted: En Bloc

CC21.11.25h

To delegate to the Executive Committee of the Church Council responsibility for review and evaluation of and recommendations for Part 16 of the draft Rules of Organization and Procedure for the 2022 Churchwide Assembly, particularly the assembly discernment process; and

To bring to the Church Council recommendations for Part 16 of the Rules of Organization and Procedure for the 2022 Churchwide Assembly no later than the April 2022 meeting.

Voted: En Bloc

CC21.11.25i

To recommend the following for ratification by the 2022 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:

To ratify, *en bloc*, the actions of the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly regarding amendments to constitutional provision 4.02.c. and related provisions in the *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*.

4.02. To participate in God's mission, this congregation as a part of the Church shall:

- c. Serve in response to God's love to meet human needs, caring for the sick and the aged, advocating dignity ~~and~~, justice, and equity for all people, working for peace and reconciliation among the nations, caring for

the marginalized, embracing and welcoming racially and ethnically diverse populations, and standing in solidarity with the poor and ~~powerless-oppressed~~ and committing itself to their needs.

- 7.31.02. Responsibilities.** Consistent with the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, a. Every minister of Word and Sacrament shall:
- 8) speak publicly to the world in solidarity with the poor and oppressed, ~~calling for justice and proclaiming God's love for the world~~advocating dignity, justice and equity for all people, working for peace and reconciliation among the nations, caring for the marginalized, and embracing and welcoming racially and ethnically diverse populations.
- 7.61.02. Responsibilities.** Consistent with the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, every minister of Word and Service shall:
- c. speak publicly to the world in solidarity with the poor and oppressed, ~~calling for justice and proclaiming God's love for the world, witnessing to the realm of God in the community, the nation, and abroad~~advocating dignity, justice, and equity for all people, working for peace and reconciliation among the nations, caring for the marginalized, and embracing and welcoming racially and ethnically diverse populations;
- †S6.02.** To participate in God's mission, this synod as a part of the Church shall:
- c. Serve in response to God's love to meet human needs, caring for the sick and the aged, advocating dignity, ~~and justice, and equity~~ for all people, working for peace and reconciliation among the nations, caring for the marginalized, embracing and welcoming racially and ethnically diverse populations, and standing in solidarity with the poor and ~~oppressed powerless~~ and committing itself to their needs.
- †S14.12.** Consistent with the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, a. Every minister of Word and Sacrament shall:
- 8) speak publicly to the world in solidarity with the poor and oppressed, ~~calling for justice and proclaiming God's love for the world~~advocating dignity, justice, and equity for all people, working for peace and reconciliation among the nations, caring for the marginalized, and embracing and welcoming racially and ethnically diverse populations.
- †S14.32.** Consistent with the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, every minister of Word and Service shall:
- c. Speak publicly to the world in solidarity with the poor and oppressed, ~~calling for justice and proclaiming God's love for the world, witnessing to the realm of God in the community, the nation, and abroad~~advocating dignity, justice, and equity for all people, working for peace and reconciliation among the nations, caring for the marginalized, and embracing and welcoming racially and ethnically diverse populations;
- *C4.02.** To participate in God's mission, this congregation as a part of the Church shall:
- d. Serve in response to God's love to meet human needs, caring for the sick and the aged, advocating dignity ~~and justice, and equity~~ for all people, working for peace and reconciliation among the nations, caring for the marginalized, embracing and welcoming racially and ethnically diverse populations, and standing in solidarity with the poor and ~~powerless-oppressed~~ and committing itself to their needs.
- *C9.03.** Consistent with the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, a. Every minister of Word and Sacrament shall:
- 8) speak publicly to the world in solidarity with the poor and oppressed, ~~calling for justice and proclaiming God's love for the world~~advocating dignity, justice, and equity for all people, working for peace and reconciliation among the nations, caring for the marginalized, and embracing and welcoming racially and ethnically diverse populations.
- *C9.23.** Consistent with the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, every minister of Word and Service shall:
- c. Speak publicly to the world in solidarity with the poor and oppressed, ~~calling for justice and proclaiming God's love for the world, witnessing to the realm of God in the community, the nation, and abroad~~advocating dignity, justice, and equity for all people, working for peace and

reconciliation among the nations, caring for the marginalized, and embracing and welcoming racially and ethnically diverse populations;

Voted: En Bloc

CC21.11.25j

To recommend the following for adoption by the 2022 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:

To adopt, *en bloc*, with the exception of such amendments as may be considered separately, the amendments to the *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*; and

To authorize the Office of the Secretary to make appropriate changes in the *Constitution for Synods* and the *Model Constitution for Congregations* congruent with the ELCA Constitution as amended.

Chapter 5: Principles of Organization

5.01. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America shall be one church. This church recognizes that all power and authority in the Church belongs to the Lord Jesus Christ, its head. Therefore, all actions of this church by congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization shall be carried out under his rule and authority in accordance with the following principles:

- e. Except as otherwise provided in this constitution and bylaws, the appropriate office or unit of the churchwide organization, through the Church Council, shall establish processes that will ensure that at least 60 percent of the members of its assemblies, councils, committees, boards, and other organizational units shall be laypersons; that, as nearly as possible, at least 45 percent of the lay members of these assemblies, councils, committees, boards, or other organizational units shall be women and, as nearly as possible, at least 45 percent shall be men, and that, ~~where possible~~, the representation of rostered ministers of Word and Sacrament shall include both men and women. At least 10 percent of the members of these assemblies, councils, committees, boards, or other organizational units shall be persons of color and/or persons whose primary language is other than English. Processes shall be developed that will assure that in selecting staff there will be a balance of women and men, persons of color and persons whose primary language is other than English, laypersons, and persons on the rosters of this church. This balance is to be evident in the selection of staff consistent with the inclusive policy of this church.
- f. Except as otherwise provided in this constitution and bylaws, synods, through synod councils, shall establish processes that will ensure that at least 60 percent of the members of their assemblies, councils, committees, boards, and other organizational units shall be laypersons; that, as nearly as possible, at least 45 percent of the lay members of their assemblies, councils, committees, boards, or other organizational units shall be women and, as nearly as possible, at least 45 percent shall be men, and that, ~~where possible~~, the representation of rostered ministers of Word and Sacrament shall include both women and men. Each synod shall establish processes that will enable it to reach a minimum goal that 10 percent of the membership of its assemblies, councils, committees, boards, or other organizational units be persons of color and/or persons whose primary language is other than English.

Chapter 7: Ministry

7.31.03. Preparation and Approval. Except as provided in 7.31.04., a candidate for the ministry of Word and Sacrament shall have:

- b. been granted entrance to candidacy by and under the guidance and supervision of the appropriate committee ~~for at least a year~~ before being approved for call;
- c. satisfactorily completed the requirements for the Master of Divinity degree from an accredited theological school in North America or completed a program of study for those accepted into the TEEM program (Theological Education for Emerging Ministries), including practical preparation, as defined by the appropriate churchwide unit, such as internship and supervised clinical work;
- d. completed ~~at least one year of residency~~ the expectations and outcomes established for Lutheran learning and formation in a seminary of this church or of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, except when waived by the appropriate committee in consultation with the faculty of a seminary of this church or of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada;

...

- g. been recommended to a congregation ~~or other entity~~ by the bishop of the synod to which the candidate has been assigned for first call ~~in accordance with the procedures recommended by the appropriate churchwide unit, reviewed by the Conference of Bishops, and adopted by the Church Council~~; and
- 7.41.07. Retirement.** Ministers of Word and Sacrament may retire upon ~~attainment~~attaining the earlier of age 60; or ~~after~~ 30 years on the roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament of this church or one of its predecessor bodies, and continue to be listed on the roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament of this church, upon endorsement by the synod bishop, by action of the Synod Council in the synod in which the minister of Word and Sacrament is listed on the roster.
- 7.46. The provisions for termination of the mutual relationship between a minister of Word and Sacrament and a congregation shall be as follows:**
- a. The call of a congregation, when accepted by a pastor, shall constitute a continuing mutual relationship and commitment which shall be terminated only by the pastor's death or, following consultation with the synod bishop, for any of the following reasons:
 - 4) inability to conduct the pastoral office effectively in view of ~~physical~~-disability or ~~mental~~ incapacity of the pastor;
 - b. When allegations of ~~physical~~-disability or ~~mental~~-incapacity of the pastor under paragraph a.4) above, or ineffective conduct of the pastoral office under paragraph a.3) above, have come to the attention of the bishop of this synod,
 - 1) the bishop, ~~in his or her~~ who has sole discretion, may investigate such conditions personally together with a committee of two rostered ministers and one layperson, or
 - c. In case of alleged ~~physical~~-disability or ~~mental~~-incapacity under paragraph a.4) above, the bishop's committee shall obtain and document competent medical opinion concerning the pastor's condition. When a disability or incapacity is evident to the committee, the bishop of this synod may declare the pastorate vacant. When the pastorate is declared vacant, the Synod Council shall list the pastor on the roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament with disability status. Upon ~~removal~~ resumption of the ~~ability to conduct the office effectively~~disability and restoration of the pastor to health, the bishop shall take steps to enable the pastor to resume the ministry, either in the congregation last served or in another appropriate call.
- 7.61.03. Preparation and Approval.** Except as provided in 7.61.04., a candidate who is to be called and received onto the roster as a minister of Word and Service shall have:
- b. been granted entrance to candidacy by and under the guidance and supervision of the appropriate committee ~~for at least a year~~ before being approved for call;
 - ...
 - e. been recommended to a congregation or other entity by the bishop of the synod ~~to~~in which the candidate ~~has been assigned~~is being considered for first call in accordance with the procedures recommended by the appropriate churchwide unit, reviewed by the Conference of Bishops, and adopted by the Church Council; and
- 7.71.04. Retirement.** Ministers of Word and Service may retire upon ~~attainment~~attaining the earlier of age 60; or ~~after~~ 30 years on a roster of this church or one of its predecessor bodies, and continue to be listed on the roster of Ministers of Word and Service of this church, upon endorsement by the synod bishop, by action of the Synod Council in the synod in which the minister of Word and Service is listed on the roster.
- 7.75. The provisions for termination of the mutual relationship between a minister of Word and Service and a congregation shall be as follows:**
- a. The call of a congregation, when accepted by a minister of Word and Service, shall constitute a continuing mutual relationship and commitment which shall be terminated only by the deacon's death or following consultation with the synod bishop for any of the following reasons:
 - 4) inability to conduct the office effectively in view of ~~physical~~-disability or ~~mental~~-incapacity of the minister of Word and Service;
 - b. When allegations of ~~physical~~-disability or ~~mental~~-incapacity of the deacon under paragraph a.4) above, or ineffective conduct of the office under paragraph a.3) above, have come to the attention of the bishop of this synod,

- 1) the bishop, ~~in his or her who has~~ sole discretion, may investigate such conditions personally together with a committee of two rostered ministers and one non-rostered person, or
- c. In case of alleged ~~physical~~ disability or ~~mental~~ incapacity under paragraph a.4) above, the bishop's committee shall obtain and document competent medical opinion concerning the minister of Word and Service's condition. When a disability or incapacity is evident to the committee, the bishop of this synod may declare the position vacant. When the position is declared vacant, the Synod Council shall list the deacon on the roster of Ministers of Word and Service with disability status. Upon ~~removal~~ resumption of the ability to conduct the office effectively ~~disability and restoration of the minister of Word and Service to health~~, the bishop shall take steps to enable the minister of Word and Service to resume the ministry, either in the congregation last served or in another appropriate call.

Chapter 8: Relationships

- 8.14. The churchwide organization shall implement the extended mission of the Church, developing churchwide policies in consultation with the synods and congregations, entering into relationship with institutions of higher education and with governmental, ecumenical, and societal agencies in accordance with accepted resolutions and/or in response to specific agreed-upon areas of responsibility.
- 8.21.04. Each unincorporated seminary shall have an advisory council or ~~governing~~ board distinct from the board of directors of the college or university of which the seminary is a school, department, or unit. The seminary advisory council or ~~governing~~ board shall relate to the Church Council through the appropriate churchwide unit. The members of the unincorporated seminary's advisory council or ~~governing~~ board shall be elected as specified in the governing documents of the related college or university, and shall consist of 12 to 30 members, as follows:
- a. at least one-fifth nominated by the Church Council upon recommendation of the appropriate churchwide unit after consultation with the seminary's advisory council or ~~governing~~ board;
 - b. two members nominated by the bishops of the supporting synods from among their number;
 - c. one member, who shall serve as chair of the advisory council or ~~governing~~ board and as a voting member of the board of directors of the college or university, nominated by the Church Council, upon recommendation of the appropriate churchwide unit after consultation with the seminary's advisory council or ~~governing~~ board; and
 - d. the remaining members to be from the supporting synods, nominated by the seminary's advisory council or ~~governing~~ board in consultation with the supporting synods.
- 8.21.06. Each unincorporated seminary shall have a chief administrative officer, such as an academic dean, seminary provost, or vice president, who is on the roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament of this church. In the appointment or election of the chief administrative officer of the seminary, the college or university shall consult with the seminary advisory council or ~~governing~~ board, the presiding bishop of this church, and the appropriate churchwide unit. The college or university board shall exercise all other normal governance functions, including the appointment of tenured faculty, in consultation with the seminary's advisory council or ~~governing~~ board, and shall have authority to recruit students throughout this church.
- 8.22. ~~Colleges and Universities. This church shall express its responsibility for higher education through~~ relate to its colleges and universities in their mission to educate students for vocations in the Church and the world. The churchwide organization, through the appropriate churchwide unit, shall support an association of this church's colleges and universities, the appropriate churchwide unit as determined by the Church Council, and its synods. While variation is possible in college or university relationships across this church, this church recognizes the desirability of some degree of uniformity of relationship for colleges and universities within the same region.
- ~~8.22.01. The relationship of this church to its colleges and universities shall be guided by policies fostering educational institutions dedicated to the Lutheran tradition wherein such institutions are an essential part of God's mission in the world; faithful to the will of God as institutions providing quality instruction in religion and a lively ministry of worship, outreach, and service; diligent in their preparation of leaders committed to truth, excellence, and ethical values; and pledged to the well-being of students in the development of mind, body, and spirit.~~

- 8.22.012.** ~~Colleges~~ Each college and ~~universities~~ university of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America ~~this church shall establish a may relate to this church in various ways, including relationship with: the Churchwide Assembly, the Church Council,~~
a. ~~a synod assembly~~ or synods; ~~or~~
b. a corporation whose voting members are, ~~or have been~~ elected or appointed by; a synod or synods assemblies, other organizational units (conferences, clusters, etc.), or congregations; ~~or, Subject to approval by the appropriate synods, a college or university may be owned by a not for profit~~
c. a corporation
(1) that has voting members, at least a majority of whom shall consist of members of the Churchwide Assembly or the Church Council, and
(2) that shall hold the meeting of such a corporation in conjunction with the Churchwide Assembly or the Church Council for the purpose of approving amendments to the articles of incorporation, and approving amendments to other governing documents which affect the relationship between the college or university and this church. A majority of the members of the governing board of a corporation that meets in conjunction with the Churchwide Assembly or Church Council shall be members of this church or of a church body with which this church is in a relationship of full communion, but under no circumstances shall fewer than forty (40) percent of the members of such board be members of this church.
- 8.22.0302.** ~~Primary~~ Responsibility for the size and composition of a college or university's board of directors, including recruiting and electing board members, for its board belongs to each college or university of this church. This responsibility ~~is best~~ shall be exercised congruent with the form of relationship, as provided in 8.22.01, established by the college or university with this church, when appropriate structures of this church are substantially involved. The college or university and the appropriate synods shall determine how many of the college or university board members are to be elected or ratified by the approved form of relationship as provided in 8.22.02.
- 8.22.034.** ~~The~~ Responsibility for initiating changes in constitutional governance and governance documents rests with each college or university of this church. This responsibility shall be exercised congruent with the form of relationship as provided in 8.22.01., established by the college or university with this church. Each college or university will reach agreement with the appropriate structures of this church as identified in 8.22.02, regarding changes in constitutional documents. This church's participation may range from prior consultation to final approval.
- ~~8.22.05. Representation of members of this church on college or university boards, limitation of terms for board members, whether or not college or university presidents shall be members of this church, and representation of bishops of synods on college or university boards shall be determined by each institution and the appropriate synods.~~
- 8.22.046.** In addition to and consistent with the above provision 8.22 and bylaws 8.22.01 through 8.22.035, colleges and universities of this church where a school, department, or unit of that institution is a seminary of this church must comply with all requirements, policies, procedures, and standards specified in provision 8.21 and bylaws 8.21.01 through 8.21.08.
- 8.63.01.** A minister of Word and Sacrament of this church or a minister of Word and Service, serving temporarily in a church body with which a relationship of full communion has been declared and established by a Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, may be retained on the roster—upon endorsement by the synod bishop and by action of the Synod Council in the synod in which the minister is listed on the roster—under policies developed at the direction of the presiding bishop and secretary, reviewed by the Conference of Bishops, and adopted by the Church Council.
b. A letter of call may be issued to a minister of Word and Service of this church, serving temporarily in such a church body, by the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America or a Synod Council, in accord with the Table of Sources of Calls (7.74.A19A21.b.).
- 8.63.05.** The availability of a minister of Word and Sacrament from a church body with which a relationship of full communion has been declared and established by a Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America shall be understood normally in three categories: availability to serve in an occasional situation; availability to meet an extended need, including service in “yoked parish” settings; and availability for a transfer of roster status.

- b. *Extended service:* A minister of Word and Sacrament of a church body with which a relationship of full communion exists may be invited to serve as the pastor of a congregation of this church for an extended period of time, yet remain a minister of Word and Sacrament of ~~his or her~~ the minister's present church body. Such a person would be expected to preach, teach, and administer the sacraments in a congregation of this church in a manner that is consistent with the Confession of Faith of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and to live in a manner consistent with the ministerial policy of this church. Such service shall be rendered only as authorized by the synod bishop in order to serve the ministry and mission needs of this church in a given situation.

Chapter 9: Congregations

- 9.21.02.** Under special circumstances, subject to the approval of the synod bishop and the concurrence of the congregation, a minister of Word and Sacrament of a church body with which ~~this church the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America~~ officially has established a relationship of full communion by action of a Churchwide Assembly may serve temporarily under contract as pastor of a congregation of this church.
- 9.23.** In accord with constitutional provision 9.21.d. and its accompanying bylaws ~~9.21.01.~~ and without invoking the provisions of Chapter 20, a congregation that calls or otherwise maintains as its pastor a person who is neither:
- a. ~~minister of Word and Sacrament who has resigned or been removed from~~ this church's roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament; nor
 - b. ~~or that calls as its pastor one who has not been~~ approved for the roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament and called pursuant to bylaw 9.21.01; nor
 - c. authorized as a minister pursuant to bylaw 7.31.10; nor
 - d. a minister of Word and Sacrament of a church body with which this church has established a relationship of full communion and contracted with pursuant to bylaw 9.21.02;
- may be removed from the roster of congregations of this church by the Synod Council upon recommendation of the synod bishop.
- 9.24.** A recognized and received congregation that is part of this church shall, when legally possible, be incorporated and may, in its sole discretion:
- a. own property and be responsible for its care; and
 - b. call or employ staff.
- 9.27.** Each congregation, except those which are in ~~partner~~relationship with the Slovak Zion Synod, shall establish a relationship with the synod in whose territory it is located.
- 9.62.** A congregation may terminate its relationship with this church by the following procedure:
- a. A resolution indicating the intent to terminate its relationship must be adopted at two legally called and conducted special meetings of the congregation by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present at each meeting. The first such meeting may be held no sooner than 30 days after written notice of the meeting is received by the bishop of the synod, during which time the congregation shall consult with the bishop and the bishop's designees, if any. The times and manner of the consultation shall be determined by the bishop in consultation with the Congregation Council. Unless ~~he or she is a~~ the bishop and/or the bishop's designees are voting members of the congregation, ~~the bishop and the bishop's designees, if any, they~~ shall have voice but not vote at the meeting.
- ...
- d. If the congregation, after such consultation, is still considering termination of its relationship with this church, such action may be taken at a legally called and conducted special meeting by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present. Notice of the meeting shall be sent to all voting members and to the bishop at least 10 days in advance of the meeting. Unless ~~he or she is a~~ the bishop and/or the bishop's designees are voting members of the congregation, ~~the bishop and the bishop's designees, if any, they~~ shall have voice but not vote at the meeting.
- 9.81.02.** A federated congregation may be formed by two or more separate congregations that shall continue to exist as separate but cooperating entities. The separate congregations in a federated congregation shall be related to their respective church bodies that have established a relationship of full communion in accord with 8.61. and 9.81. A federated congregation shall conduct its life and work under a plan of agreement approved by the two

or more separate congregations upon recommendation of the synod in which the congregation is located, with the synod acting in concert with the comparable ecclesiastical entity of a church body with which a relationship of full communion exists.

Chapter 10: Synods

10.01.01. Names and Boundaries. The names and boundaries of the synods shall be:

Synod 2.C—Pacifica. The counties of Imperial, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego in the state of CALIFORNIA; the congregations St. Andrew, Salem Evangelical, Shepherd of the Hills, Good Shepherd Evangelical, and Prince of Peace, Los Angeles County, in the state of CALIFORNIA; the state of HAWAII; the territories of the U.S. in the Pacific Ocean.

...

Synod 5.L—La Crosse Area. The counties of Adams, Buffalo (south), Crawford, Jackson (south), Juneau, La Crosse, Monroe, Trempealeau (south), Vernon in the state of WISCONSIN; and parishescongregations in or near the towns of La Crescent, Caledonia, and Spring Grove in the state of MINNESOTA.

...

Synod 6.C—Indiana-Kentucky. The states of INDIANA and the commonwealth of KENTUCKY.

...

Synod 6.F—Southern Ohio. The counties of Adams, Athens, Belmont, Brown, Butler, Champaign, Clark, Clermont, Clinton, Coshocton, Darke, Delaware, Fairfield, Fayette, Franklin, Gallia, Greene, Guernsey, Hamilton, Highland, Hocking, Jackson, Knox, Lawrence, Licking, Logan, Madison, Meigs, Miami, Monroe, Montgomery, Morgan, Muskingum, Noble, Perry, Pickaway, Pike, Preble, Ross, Scioto, Shelby, Union, Vinton, Warren, Washington in the state of OHIO; the congregation St. Mark, Auglaize County, in the state of OHIO, and the congregation Bethel, Greenup County, in the state-commonwealth of KENTUCKY.

...

Synod 7.B—New England. The states of CONNECTICUT; MAINE; ~~MASSACHUSETTS;~~ NEW HAMPSHIRE; RHODE ISLAND; and VERMONT; the commonwealth of MASSACHUSETTS; and the counties of Clinton, Essex, and Franklin in the state of NEW YORK.

...

Synod 7.E—Northeastern Pennsylvania. The counties of Berks, Bradford, Carbon, Lackawanna, Lehigh, Luzerne, Monroe, Northampton, Pike, Schuylkill, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Wayne, Wyoming in the state commonwealth of PENNSYLVANIA.

Synod 7.F—Southeastern Pennsylvania. The counties of Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, Philadelphia in the state-commonwealth of PENNSYLVANIA.

...

Synod 8.A—Northwestern Pennsylvania. The counties of Armstrong (part), Cameron, Clarion, Crawford, Elk, Erie, Forest, Indiana (part), Jefferson, McKean, Mercer, Potter, Venango, Warren in the state-commonwealth of PENNSYLVANIA.

Synod 8.B—Southwestern Pennsylvania. The counties of Allegheny, Armstrong (part), Beaver, Butler, Fayette, Greene, Indiana (part), Lawrence, Washington, Westmoreland in the state-commonwealth of PENNSYLVANIA.

Synod 8.C—Allegheny. The counties of Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Centre, Clearfield, Huntingdon, Somerset in the state-commonwealth of PENNSYLVANIA; the congregation Christ, Garrett County, in the state of MARYLAND.

Synod 8.D—Lower Susquehanna. The counties of Adams, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Fulton, Lancaster, Lebanon, Perry, York in the state-commonwealth of PENNSYLVANIA; the congregations St. Michael and Zion in Schuylkill County in the state-commonwealth of PENNSYLVANIA.

Synod 8.E—Upper Susquehanna. The counties of Clinton, Columbia, Juniata, Lycoming, Mifflin, Montour, Northumberland, Snyder, Tioga, Union in the state-commonwealth of PENNSYLVANIA; the congregation Trinity, Luzerne County, and the congregation Zion, Dauphin County, in the state commonwealth of PENNSYLVANIA.

Synod 8.F—Delaware-Maryland. The state of DELAWARE; the city of Baltimore and the counties of Allegany, Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Caroline, Carroll, Cecil, Dorchester, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Kent, Queen Anne's, Somerset, Talbot, Washington, Wicomico, Worcester in the state of MARYLAND; the congregation of Holy Trinity, Prince George's County, in the state of MARYLAND; the congregation of Mt.

Joy, Adams County, in the ~~state-commonwealth~~ of PENNSYLVANIA; the counties of Accomack, Northampton in the ~~state-commonwealth~~ of VIRGINIA.

Synod 8.G—Metropolitan Washington, D.C. The District of Columbia; the counties of Calvert, Charles, Montgomery, Prince George’s, St. Mary’s in the state of MARYLAND; the counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun, Prince William, and the independent cities within the territory of these counties in the ~~state commonwealth~~ of VIRGINIA; BERMUDA.

Synod 8.H—West Virginia-Western Maryland. The county of Garrett in the state of MARYLAND; the state of WEST VIRGINIA; the congregation Mount Calvary, Allegany County, the congregations Holy Trinity Memorial and Salem, Washington County in the state of MARYLAND; the congregation Fairview, Frederick County, in the ~~state-commonwealth~~ of VIRGINIA.

Synod 9.A—Virginia. The counties of Albemarle, Alleghany, Amelia, Amherst, Appomattox, Augusta, Bath, Bedford, Bland, Botetourt, Brunswick, Buchanan, Buckingham, Campbell, Caroline, Carroll, Charles City, Charlotte, Chesterfield, Clarke, Craig, Culpeper, Cumberland, Dickenson, Dinwiddie, Essex, Fauquier, Floyd, Fluvanna, Franklin, Frederick, Giles, Gloucester, Goochland, Grayson, Greene, Greensville, Halifax, Hanover, Henrico, Henry, Highland, Isle of Wight, James City, King and Queen, King George, King William, Lancaster, Lee, Louisa, Lunenburg, Madison, Mathews, Mecklenburg, Middlesex, Montgomery, Nelson, New Kent, Northumberland, Nottoway, Orange, Page, Patrick, Pittsylvania, Powhatan, Prince Edward, Prince George, Pulaski, Rappahannock, Richmond, Roanoke, Rockbridge, Rockingham, Russell, Scott, Shenandoah, Smyth, Southampton, Spotsylvania, Stafford, Surry, Sussex, Tazewell, Warren, Washington, Westmoreland, Wise, Wythe, York, and the independent cities within the territory of these counties in the ~~state-commonwealth~~ of VIRGINIA; the congregation of Immanuel in Mercer County in the state of WEST VIRGINIA; the congregation Lakeside in Halifax County in the state of NORTH CAROLINA.

10.01.03. Any congregation in a border area desiring to change its synod relationship may do so upon approval of the synod assemblies of the synods concerned, which shall report any such change to the Churchwide Assembly through the Office of the Secretary.

10.31. **The officers of each synod shall be a bishop, a vice president, a secretary, and a treasurer.**

a. As the synod’s pastor, the bishop shall:

...

6) ~~Exercise supervision over~~ Direct and guide the work of the other officers.

10.32.01. Whenever a synod bishop determines that a matter of the kind described in 10.32.02. may require ~~his or her~~ the bishop’s determination or action with respect to a related individual as defined in 10.32.03., the synod bishop shall withdraw from personal involvement in such matter and shall so notify the presiding bishop. The presiding bishop shall then appoint another synod bishop from the same region to handle the matter to conclusion. In dealing with such matter, the appointed bishop shall exercise all of the functions and authority to the same extent as if the appointed bishop were the elected bishop of the withdrawing bishop’s synod.

10.41.01. Membership of the Synod Assembly, of which at least 60 percent of the voting membership shall be composed of laypersons, shall be constituted as follows:

c. A minimum of one lay member elected by each congregation with fewer than 175 baptized members and a minimum of two lay members elected by each congregation with 175 or more baptized members related to the synod, typically one of whom shall be a man and one of whom shall be a woman, shall be voting members. The Synod Council shall establish a formula to provide additional lay representation from congregations on the basis of the number of baptized members in the congregation. The Synod Council shall seek to ensure that, as nearly as possible, at least 45 percent of the lay members of the assembly shall be women and, as nearly as possible, at least 45 percent shall be men.

Chapter 11: Churchwide Organization—Definition and Purposes

11.41.01. A single treasury shall be maintained for the receipt and disbursement of unrestricted funds for the churchwide organization and its units receiving budgetary support, except as otherwise provided in the constitution and bylaws or as approved by the Church Council. Restricted and designated funds are maintained separately.

Chapter 12: Churchwide Assembly

- 12.31.03.** At least 20 days prior to an assembly the secretary shall prepare and distribute to each congregation and to the voting members-elect a ~~pre-assembly report~~bulletin of reports. Distribution to congregations may be accomplished by posting the report on the website of this church. Distribution to voting members-elect may be accomplished electronically to those who have provided email addresses. A written copy of the ~~Pre-Assembly Report~~bulletin of reports will be mailed to any voting member-elect who does not provide an email address and to any congregation or voting member-elect who requests a written copy.
- 12.31.05.** Physical-Logistical arrangements for churchwide assemblies shall be made by the secretary or by an assembly manager working under the secretary's supervision. Such committees as may be necessary to facilitate the planning for and operation of the assembly may be established by the secretary in consultation with the presiding bishop.
- 12.41.15.** Except as defined in 12.41.16., employees of the churchwide organization or of a separately incorporated ministry, including those serving under call, appointment, employment agreement, or contract, shall not be eligible for election and service as voting members of the Churchwide Assembly.
- 12.51.** The Churchwide Assembly shall have a Reference and Counsel Committee, a Memorials Committee, ~~and a Nominating Committee, and an Elections Committee~~. The description of these committees shall be in the bylaws. The Churchwide Assembly may authorize such other committees as it deems necessary.
- 12.51.04.** Elections Committee. An Elections Committee, appointed by the Church Council, shall be responsible for the conduct and supervision of elections.

Chapter 13: Officers

- 13.21.** The presiding bishop shall be a minister of Word and Sacrament of this church who, as its pastor, shall be a teacher of the faith of this church and shall provide leadership for the life and witness of this church. The presiding bishop shall:
- c. ~~In collaboration with the leadership of each group, provide for the preparation of the agenda for the Churchwide Assembly, Church Council, Executive Committee, and Conference of Bishops, and preside~~Preside at the Churchwide Assembly.
 - ...
 - e. Supervise-Oversee the work of the other officers.
 - ...
 - j. ~~Be responsible for~~Relate, through the appropriate churchwide unit, to the chaplaincies of this church in federal agencies, institutions, and armed forces ~~and provide for the pastoral care of those called to these ministries.~~
- 13.41.01.** The secretary, as the recording officer of this church, shall keep the minutes, have responsibility for rosters, records, and reporting of parochial-congregation statistics, oversee the archives, attest to all documents that require such signature, be the custodian of the seal, and perform other duties as prescribed by the *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*.
- 13.41.02.** The secretary shall:
- c. Provide for the publication of official documents and policies of this church, ~~pre-assembly reports,~~ assembly minutes, a directory of congregations, rostered ~~persons~~ministers, and entities of this church, and other informational and statistical material.
 - ...
 - h. In collaboration with the presiding bishop and the leadership of each group, provide for the preparation of the agenda for the Churchwide Assembly, Church Council, Executive Committee, and Conference of Bishops.
 - i. Arrange for and manage churchwide meetings, including the Churchwide Assembly, Church Council, Conference of Bishops, and others.
 - ji. Have custody of the seal, maintain a necrology, and attest documents.

13.41.04. The secretary shall prepare interpretations, as necessary, of the *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*. If a board (including a board of a separately incorporated ministry), committee, or synod disagrees with the interpretations, as rendered, the objecting entity may appeal the secretary's interpretation to the Church Council.

~~**13.41.05.** The secretary may, upon two successive unexcused absences of a member of the Church Council, board, or committee of the churchwide organization, declare that member's position vacant.~~

~~**13.41.0506.** The secretary shall provide staff services to the Nominating Committee of the Churchwide Assembly and the nomination process of the Church Council; shall be responsible for declaring an interim vacancy resulting from the resignation, death, removal, disqualification, or disability of a member of a board (including a board of a separately incorporated ministry), committee, or council; and shall arrange for an election by the Church Council to fill the vacancy consistent with Chapter 14.~~

13.51.01. The treasurer shall propose policy for review and action by the Church Council and provide for the implementation, within such policies, of the financial, accounting, ~~insurance, property management,~~ investment, and money management systems, and related services for the units of the churchwide organization.

Chapter 14: Church Council

14.15. The Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America may remove for cause a voting member of the Church Council, other than an officer or the chair of the Conference of Bishops, at a duly held regular meeting by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the voting members of the Church Council, provided that at least 30 days written notice shall be given to each voting member of the Church Council that removal of a specific member of the Church Council will be on the agenda for such a meeting. The Church Council may remove an advisory member for cause, provided notice has been given as specified in this provision, by a majority vote of the voting members of the council.

14.22. The Church Council shall fulfill responsibilities for elections as provided in the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* and, in the event that a vacancy on the council or on a board (including the board of a separately incorporated ministry) or committee of the churchwide organization is declared by the secretary, the Church Council shall elect an individual to serve the balance of the term.

14.22.01. Before electing an individual to fill a vacancy on a board (including the board of a separately incorporated ministry) or committee, the Church Council shall consult with the board or committee.

14.32.03. Any Church Council members appointed to fill a vacancy of less than three years in a Church Council position not restricted to a specific synod shall not be deemed to have served a term and ~~is~~ are eligible for election to a full term if ~~she or he~~ they otherwise satisfy ~~ies~~ the criteria for election.

Chapter 15: Churchwide ~~Offices and Administration~~ and Offices

15.10. OFFICES AND ADMINISTRATION

15.11.02. Administrative Team. The presiding bishop, secretary, treasurer, and executive for administration, along with the executive directors of the churchwide units, shall function as an administrative team, directed by the presiding bishop. The presiding bishop may appoint up to two additional members to the administrative team for terms of one year with the possibility of reappointment. This administrative team shall assist the presiding bishop in providing leadership, planning, oversight, management, supervision, and coordination in the operation of the churchwide organization.

~~**15.21.03.** In conformity with this church's commitment to inclusive practice, churchwide units and offices will ensure that staff include a balance of genders, persons of color and persons whose primary language is other than English, laypersons, and rostered ministers.~~

Chapter 16: Units of the Churchwide Organization

~~**16.11.01.** In conformity with this church's commitment to inclusive practice, churchwide units and offices will assure that staff include a balance of women and men, persons of color and persons whose primary language is other than English, laypersons, and rostered ministers.~~

Chapter 17: Separately Incorporated Ministries

~~17.10. SEPARATELY INCORPORATED MINISTRIES~~

~~17.11.0. This church may fulfill some of its purposes, as described in Chapter 4, through separately incorporated ministries.~~

~~17.11. Each member of the board of directors of a separately incorporated ministry described in this chapter shall be a voting member of a congregation of this church, unless otherwise specified in the constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions of this church.~~

~~17.11.01. A board of a separately incorporated ministry described in this chapter may remove a director or trustee from the board, if done in accordance with the governing documents of such corporation after at least 30 days' prior notice to the secretary of this church. The decision to remove a director or trustee shall be reported to the Church Council by the secretary, who shall then declare a vacancy.~~

~~17.11.02. The nominations and elections processes for separately incorporated ministries shall be more fully specified in Chapter 19.~~

~~17.11.03. When used in Chapters 17 and 19, the term "board" shall include the boards of separately incorporated ministries unless expressly excluded. When used other than in Chapters 17 and 19, the term "board" shall not include the boards of separately incorporated ministries unless expressly included.~~

17.20.01. The Churchwide Assembly shall:

- a. approve amendments to the documents governing the Pension and Other Benefits Program-ELCA Philosophy of Benefits that have been referred by the Church Council; and
- b. refer any amendments to the Pension and Other Benefits Program-ELCA Philosophy of Benefits initiated by the Churchwide Assembly to the Board of Pensions for recommendation before final action by the Church Council, assuring that no amendment shall abridge the rights of sponsored members in the ELCA Retirement Plan.

17.20.02. The Church Council shall:

- d. approve any changes to the ELCA Philosophy of Benefits.
- ed. refer, as it deems appropriate, proposed amendments to the Pension and Other Benefits Program-ELCA Philosophy of Benefits to the Churchwide Assembly for final action. Provisions a., b., and c. of this bylaw do not apply to benefit programs offered by the Board of Pensions to entities other than the ELCA, its separately incorporated ministries, its synods, and its congregations.

17.20.03. The Board of Pensions shall have a board of trustees composed of 14–18 persons elected by the Churchwide Assembly for three-year terms with the possibility of two consecutive re-elections. The terms of members of the board of trustees elected by the Churchwide Assembly shall begin at the commencement of the first board meeting following the assembly.

- a. The composition of the board of trustees shall comply with the representational principles described in constitutional provision 5.01.e. The board of trustees of the Board of Pensions shall include persons with expertise in investments, insurance, and retirement plans, and at least four persons who are members of the plan, at least one of whom shall be a lay plan member or lay recipient of plan benefits and at least one of whom shall be a rostered minister of Word and Sacrament who is a plan member. Up to two trustees may be members of congregations of church bodies with which this church is in a relationship of full communion, provided that both are not from the same church body.

17.20.05. Constitutional provision 16.12. and bylaws 11.34.01., 14.21.02., and ~~16.11.01~~ 15.21.03. shall apply to the operation of this organization.

17.20.07. The specific responsibilities of the Board of Pensions shall be enumerated in continuing resolutions. ~~Such continuing resolutions may be amended by a majority vote of the Churchwide Assembly or by a two-thirds vote of the Church Council. Should the board disagree with the action of the Church Council, it may appeal the decision to the Churchwide Assembly.~~

- 17.30. This church shall have a separately incorporated ministry, known as the Mission Investment Fund of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, to provide investment opportunities to individuals, congregations, synods, institutions, agencies, and organizations, and administer loans to congregations, synods, the churchwide organization, and other organizations and institutions that are related to this church. ~~The Mission Investment Fund of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America shall be incorporated.~~ The president of the corporation shall serve as its chief executive officer.
- 17.30.01. The Mission Investment Fund of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America shall have a board of trustees composed of 9–12 persons elected by the Churchwide Assembly ~~to one for three~~six-year terms ~~with and shall not the possibility of be eligible for two~~-consecutive re-elections. The terms of members of the board of trustees elected by the Churchwide Assembly shall begin at the commencement of the first board meeting following the assembly. The composition of the board of trustees shall comply with the representational principles described in constitutional provision 5.01.e. Up to two trustees may be members of congregations of church bodies with which this church is in a relationship of full communion, provided that both are not from the same church body.
- a. The presiding bishop shall serve as an advisory member of the board of trustees, with voice but not vote, or shall designate a person to serve as the presiding bishop's representative as provided in constitutional provision 13.21.
- b. The Conference of Bishops shall elect one bishop to serve as an advisory member of the board of trustees with voice but not vote.
- 17.30.03. Constitutional provision 16.12. and bylaws 11.34.01., 14.21.02., 14.21.06., and ~~16.11.01~~ 15.21.03. shall apply to the operation of this organization.
- 17.30.04. The specific responsibilities of the Mission Investment Fund of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America shall be enumerated in ~~a~~-continuing resolutions.
- 17.40.01. This publishing house shall have a board of trustees composed of 11–15 persons elected by the Churchwide Assembly for three-year terms with the possibility of two consecutive re-elections. The terms of members of the board of trustees elected by the Churchwide Assembly shall begin at the commencement of the first board meeting following the assembly.
- a. The composition of the board of trustees shall comply with the representational principles described in constitutional provision 5.01.e. Laypersons on the board of trustees shall include persons with expertise in publishing, education, business management, finance and investment. ~~Rostered Ministers of Word and Sacrament~~ shall include persons with expertise in rural, urban, and suburban ~~parish~~-ministry in small and large congregations and in advanced theological study. Up to two trustees may be members of congregations of church bodies with which this church is in a relationship of full communion, provided that both are not from the same church body.
- 17.40.02. Constitutional provision 16.12. and bylaws 11.34.01., 14.21.02., and ~~16.11.01~~ 15.21.03. shall apply to the operation of this organization.
- 17.40.04. The specific responsibilities of this publishing house shall be enumerated in ~~a~~-continuing resolutions. ~~The continuing resolution may be amended by a majority vote of the Churchwide Assembly or a two-thirds vote of the Church Council. Should the board disagree with the action of the Church Council, it may appeal the decision to the Churchwide Assembly.~~
- 17.50.03. Constitutional provision 16.12. and bylaws 11.34.01., 14.21.02., and 14.21.06. shall apply to this organization. Bylaw ~~16.11.01~~ 15.21.03. shall apply to the women's organization with the exception of the balance provisions for women and men and for laypersons and rostered ministers.
- 17.50.04. This organization shall have a board of ~~24~~15 members elected by the assembly of this organization for one three-year term with eligibility for one consecutive re-election. At least 10 percent of the members of this board shall be persons of color or persons whose primary language is other than English. No more than one elected board member shall be from any one synod. Board members are to serve with the perspective of the interdependence of all units of this church. In the event of a vacancy, the board shall elect a member to serve the balance of the term. The Conference of Bishops shall select one bishop to serve as an advisory member of the board of this organization with voice but not vote.

17.50.07. The specific responsibilities of the women's organization shall be enumerated in ~~a~~ continuing resolutions. ~~The continuing resolution may be amended by a majority of the Churchwide Assembly or two-thirds of the Church Council. Should the board disagree with the action of the Church Council, it may appeal the decision to the Churchwide Assembly.~~

17.60. This church shall have a separately incorporated ministry, the Endowment Fund of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, to hold and manage endowment assets, to offer pooled investment services for endowment funds of this church and its related congregations, synods, agencies, and institutions, and to provide planned giving programs that support this church's mission and ministry. ~~The Endowment Fund shall be incorporated.~~ The president of the corporation shall serve as its chief executive officer.

17.60.02. The advisory members of the board of trustees of the Endowment Fund shall have voice but not vote and shall include: the treasurer of this church, a synod bishop elected by the Conference of Bishops of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and such other persons as may be designated by the board of trustees.

17.60.05. Constitutional provision 16.12. and bylaws 11.34.01., 14.21.02., 14.21.06., and ~~16.11.01~~ 15.21.03. shall apply to the operation of this organization.

17.60.06. The specific responsibilities of the Endowment Fund shall be enumerated in ~~a~~ continuing resolutions.

Chapter 18: Regions

18.01.03. Additional programs or services may be ~~developed in~~ offered by each region upon the request of two or more synods, or upon the request of the churchwide organization and one or more synods, providing that each requesting synod and the churchwide organization supply the necessary financial support for the services requested.

~~18.01.04. The funding of the region shall be shared by the participating synods and the churchwide organization according to a cost allocation as decided jointly by the synods and the churchwide organization.~~

Chapter 19: Nominations and Elections Process

19.01.02. The presiding bishop shall be elected by the Churchwide Assembly by ecclesiastical ballot. The election shall proceed without oral nominations. If the first ballot for presiding bishop does not result in an election, it shall be considered a nominating ballot. On the first ballot, three-fourths of the votes cast shall be necessary required for election on the first ballot. If no one is elected, the first ballot shall be considered the nominating ballot. Thereafter only such votes as are cast for persons who received votes on the first or nominating ballot shall be valid. On the second ballot, three-fourths of the votes cast on the second ballot shall be necessary required for election. On the third ballot, the voting shall be limited to the seven persons (plus ties) who receivedreceiving the greatest number of votes on the second ballot, and two-thirds of the votes cast shall be necessary required for election. On the fourth ballot, voting shall be limited to the three persons (plus ties) who receiverreceiving the greatest number of votes on the third-previous ballot, and 60 percent of the votes cast shall be necessary for electionelect. On subsequent ballots, voting shall be limited to the two persons (plus ties) receiving the greatest number of votes on the previous ballot, and a majority of the votes cast shall be necessary for electionelect. These ballots shall be limited to the two persons (plus ties) who receive the greatest number of votes on the previous ballot.

19.01.03. The vice president shall be elected by the Churchwide Assembly by ecclesiastical ballot. The election shall proceed without oral nominations. If the first ballot for vice president does not result in an election, it shall be considered a nominating ballot. On the first ballot, three-fourths of the votes cast shall be required for election. Thereafter only such votes as are cast for persons who received votes on the first or nominating ballot shall be valid. On the second ballot, three-fourths of the votes cast shall be required for election. On the third ballot, the voting shall be limited to the seven persons (plus ties) receiving the greatest number of votes on the second ballot, and two-thirds of the votes cast shall be ~~necessary required~~ necessary required for election. On the fourth ballot, voting shall be limited to the three persons (plus ties) receiving the greatest number of votes on the previous ballot, and 60 percent of the votes cast shall elect. On subsequent ballots, voting shall be limited to the two persons (plus ties) receiving the greatest number of votes on the previous ballot, and a majority of ~~the~~ the votes cast shall elect.

19.01.04. The secretary shall be elected by the Churchwide Assembly by ecclesiastical ballot. The election shall proceed without oral nominations. If the first ballot for secretary does not result in an election, it shall be considered a

nominating ballot. On the first ballot, three-fourths of the votes cast shall be required for election. Thereafter only such votes as are cast for persons who received votes on the first or nominating ballot shall be valid. On the second ballot, three-fourths of the votes cast shall be required for election. On the third ballot, the voting shall be limited to the seven persons (plus ties) receiving the greatest number of votes on the second ballot, and two-thirds of the votes cast shall be ~~necessary-required~~ for election. On the fourth ballot, voting shall be limited to the three persons (plus ties) receiving the greatest number of votes on the previous ballot, and 60 percent of the votes cast shall elect. On subsequent ballots, voting shall be limited to the two persons (plus ties) receiving the greatest number of votes on the previous ballot, and a majority of the votes cast shall elect.

19.02. The members of the Church Council, except the chair of the Conference of Bishops and the treasurer of this church, shall be elected by the Churchwide Assembly.

a. In preparation for the Churchwide Assembly, the Church Council shall determine how this church's commitment to inclusive representation will affect the next election to the Church Council. For 32 of the council members, the Nominating Committee shall invite each eligible synod to submit suggested nominees and shall then nominate persons who fulfill the categories assigned by the Church Council. With respect to the other nominees, the Church Council shall review its size and composition and take into consideration the experience and expertise of existing members and synod nominees as well as the needs of the council in seeking to fulfill its duties and responsibilities. Based upon this analysis, the Church Council shall instruct the Nominating Committee to provide nominations in specific categories for the remaining positions up to 13.

b. Excluding the churchwide officers and the chair of the Conference of Bishops, there shall not be more than two members of the Church Council from a synod. The Church Council shall have at least two members from each region.

c. No synod bishop, with the exception of the chair of the Conference of Bishops, shall serve as a voting member of the Church Council.

d. The terms of office of persons elected to regular terms on the Church Council by the Churchwide Assembly shall begin at the conclusion of the Churchwide Assembly at which such persons were elected.

19.04.01. Each voting member of the Church Council, board, or committee of the churchwide organization shall cease to be a member of the Church Council, board, or committee if no longer a voting member of a congregation of this church. ~~Upon two successive absences that have not been excused by the Church Council, board, or committee, a member's position may be declared vacant by the secretary of this church, who shall arrange for election by the Church Council to fill the unexpired term.~~

19.04.02. For purposes of nomination to and service on the Church Council, a committee of the churchwide organization, or a board of a separately incorporated ministry, "synod membership" shall be defined as follows:

a. A layperson shall be recorded in the synod that includes the congregation in which such a person holds voting membership, with the recognition that such a person shall reside within the territory of the synod or in an area immediately adjacent to the territory in the case of border areas.

b. A rostered minister ~~of Word and Sacrament~~ shall be recorded in the synod on whose roster such a minister's name is maintained.

~~e. A minister of Word and Service shall be recorded in the synod on whose roster such a minister's name is maintained.~~

~~**19.04.03.** A board of directors or trustees of a separately incorporated ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America may remove a director or trustee from the board, if done in accordance with the governing documents of such corporation after at least 30 days' prior notice to the secretary of this church. The decision to remove a director or trustee shall be reported to the Church Council by the secretary.~~

19.05. Further procedures for elections and qualifications for office may be set forth in the bylaws and continuing resolutions, ~~provided that such provisions do not conflict with any other provisions in this constitution.~~

~~**19.05.03.** Each triennium the Conference of Bishops shall select a bishop to serve as an advisory member of each board of a separately incorporated ministry and advisory committee of the churchwide organization. No synod bishop, with the exception of the chair of the Conference of Bishops, shall serve as a voting member of the Church Council.~~

~~19.05.04. The Church Council shall from time to time, by continuing resolution, establish committees and procedures for the conduct of elections at the Churchwide Assembly.~~

~~19.05.0503.~~ No member of the Church Council, a committee of the Church Council, a board of a separately incorporated ministry, or committee of the churchwide organization shall receive emolument for such service. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit the payment of salaries and benefits of the officers of this church, nor to prohibit the payment of the costs of insurance on behalf of a person who is or was a member of the Church Council, a committee of the Church Council, or committee against any liability asserted against and incurred by such person in or arising from that capacity, whether or not the churchwide organization would have been required to indemnify such person against the liability under provisions of law or otherwise.

~~19.05.0604.~~ No employee of the churchwide organization of this church or its regions, nor any individual under contract to any unit of the churchwide organization or a region shall be eligible for nomination to or membership on the Church Council, an advisory committee, a board of a separately incorporated ministry, the Committee on Appeals, the Committee on Discipline, or the churchwide Nominating Committee during the period of employment or service under contract, except the full-time salaried officers as specified in the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*. (The phrase “under contract” shall not mean short-term contracts for specific, limited purposes, usually not to exceed six months.)

~~19.05.0705.~~ No person related to a staff member of the churchwide organization shall be eligible for nomination to or membership on the Church Council or a committee that advises the unit in which the person’s relative is employed. For this purpose, a related individual is one who, with respect to the churchwide employee, is a spouse, parent, son, daughter, sibling, uncle, aunt, niece, nephew, grandparent, grandchild, including corresponding members of blended families and in-laws (parent, son, daughter, or sibling of a spouse, spouse of a sibling, or the parent or sibling of the spouse of a sibling).

~~19.11. There shall be a Nominating Committee. Further procedures relating to nominations may be set forth in the bylaws and continuing resolutions.~~

~~19.11.01.~~ The Nominating Committee shall consist of 12–18 members elected by the Churchwide Assembly. Each member shall be elected to one six-year term and shall serve until a successor is elected. Members of the Nominating Committee shall not be eligible for consecutive re-election. The Church Council shall place in nomination the names of two persons for each position. The committee shall consist of at least one member but no more than three members from any region. Nominations from the floor shall also be permitted, but each floor nomination shall be presented ~~as an alternative to a~~ in the specific category named by the Church Council and shall therefore meet the same criteria as the persons against whom the nominee is nominated. In the materials provided in advance to each member of the assembly, the Church Council shall set forth the specific criteria applicable to each category that must be met by persons nominated from the floor.

~~19.11.02.~~ Except as otherwise provided, the Nominating Committee shall nominate two persons for each council ~~board,~~ or committee position, according to the process described in continuing resolutions, for which an election will be held by the Churchwide Assembly. ~~In the case of re-election, if authorized, or for nominees from church bodies with which this church is in a relationship of full communion, only one person need be nominated.~~ Nominations from the floor, where permitted in the nomination process, shall be presented ~~as an alternative to a~~ in the specific category named by the Nominating Committee and shall therefore meet the same criteria as the persons against whom the nominee is nominated. In the materials provided in advance to each member of the assembly, the Nominating Committee shall set forth the specific criteria applicable to each category that must be met by persons nominated from the floor.

~~19.11.03.~~ The Nominating Committee shall nominate at least one person for each position on the board of trustees of each of the separately incorporated ministries identified in Chapter 17 of this constitution, according to the process described in continuing resolutions, for which an election will be held by the Churchwide Assembly. ~~In the case of re-election, if authorized, or for nominees from church bodies with which this church is in a relationship of full communion, only one person need be nominated.~~ Nominations from the floor, where permitted in the nomination process, shall be presented ~~as an alternative to a~~ in the specific category named by the Nominating Committee and shall therefore meet the same criteria as the persons against whom the nominee is nominated. In the materials provided in advance to each member of the assembly, the Nominating

Committee shall set forth the specific criteria applicable to each category that must be met by persons nominated from the floor.

Chapter 20: Consultation, Discipline, Appeals, and Adjudication

20.20. There shall be a Committee on Appeals to which may be referred appeals from disciplinary proceedings and petitions for the recall of an officer as described in this chapter, as well as petitions for recall of synod officers as described in chapter 8 of the Constitution for Synods. The Committee on Appeals shall be composed of six rostered ministers, at least one of whom shall be a minister of Word and Service, and six laypersons, elected by the Churchwide Assembly for a term of six years, without consecutive re-election. The Committee on Appeals shall elect its own officers.

20.21.01. The churchwide Committee on Discipline shall consist of 24–36 members, half of whom shall ~~be~~ be rostered ministers (including at least two ministers of Word and Service) and half of whom shall ~~be~~ be laypersons, elected by the Churchwide Assembly for a term of six years. Each member will serve until a successor is elected, without consecutive re-election, and will serve as needed on a discipline hearing committee in any of the synods in this church.

20.22.02. The disciplinary actions which may be imposed are:
c. removal from the roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament

20.22.03. Charges against a minister of Word and Sacrament which could lead to discipline must be specific and in writing, subscribed to by the accuser(s), and be made by one or more of the following:

a. at least two-thirds of the members of the Congregation's Council of a congregation the congregation in which served by the minister of Word and Sacrament is serving, submitted to the synod bishop;

b. at least one-third of the voting members of the a congregation in which the served by the minister of Word and Sacrament is serving, submitted to the synod bishop;

...

d. at least 10 rostered ministers of Word and Sacrament or ministers of Word and Service of the synod on whose roster the accused minister of Word and Sacrament is listed, submitted to the synod bishop;

20.22.04. When there are indications that a cause for discipline may exist and before charges are made, efforts shall be made by the bishop of the synod to resolve the situation by consultation; for assistance in these efforts, the bishop may utilize either a consultation panel or an advisory panel as herein provided:

a. When requested by the synod bishop, a consultation panel consisting of five persons (three rostered ministers of Word and Sacrament and two laypersons) appointed from the members of the Consultation Committee of the synod by the synod bishop, or, at the request of the synod bishop, by the Synod Council's Executive Committee or other committee authorized to do so by the Synod Council, shall assist the synod bishop in efforts to resolve a situation by consultation.

b. When requested by the synod bishop, an advisory panel consisting of five persons (three rostered ministers of Word and Sacrament and two laypersons) appointed by the synod bishop shall assist the synod bishop in efforts to resolve a situation by consultation.

20.23.02. The disciplinary actions that may be imposed are:

b. suspension from the role and functions of a minister of Word and Service in this church for a designated period or until there is satisfactory evidence of repentance and amendment; or

20.23.03. Charges against a minister of Word and Service of this church that could lead to discipline must be specific and in writing, subscribed to by the accuser(s), and be made by one or more of the following:

a. at least two-thirds of the members of the Congregation Council of the a congregation in which served by the minister of Word and Service is serving, submitted to the synod bishop;

b. at least one-third of the voting members of the a congregation in which the served by the minister of Word and Service is serving, submitted to the synod bishop;

...

d. at least 10 rostered ministers of Word and Sacrament or ministers of Word and Service on the rosters of the synod on whose roster the accused minister of Word and Service is listed, submitted to the synod bishop; or

20.24.01. Where the written charges specify that the accuser(s) will not seek the rostered minister's removal from the ministry of this church or suspension from the office/role and functions of the ministry of this church for a period not exceeding three months, 20.24.01. through 20.24.09. shall apply to the exclusion of 20.22.08. through 20.22.24. and 20.23.05. through 20.23.07.

20.31.02. The disciplinary actions which may be imposed are:
b. suspension from this church for a designated period, the consequences of such suspension being the loss of voting rights of any member (including ministers of Word and Sacrament and ministers of Word and Service) of the congregation at synod or churchwide assemblies, the loss of the right to petition, and the forfeiture of eligibility by any member of the congregation to serve on any council, board (including the board of a separately incorporated ministry), committee, or other group of this church, any of its synods, or any other subdivision thereof;

20.72. When there is disagreement on a substantive issue between or among churchwide units and offices of the churchwide organization that cannot be resolved by the parties, the aggrieved party or parties may appeal to the presiding bishop, or ~~his or her~~ the presiding bishop's designee, for consultation. If this consultation fails to resolve the issue, a petition may be addressed by the parties to the Church Council requesting a resolution of the matter.

Chapter 22: Amendments, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions

22.21. Bylaws not in conflict with this constitution may be adopted or amended at any regular meeting of the Churchwide Assembly when presented in writing by the Church Council or by at least 15 members of the assembly. An amendment proposed by at least 15 members of the assembly shall immediately be submitted to the Committee of Reference and Counsel for its recommendation. ~~†† no event shall a~~ An amendment may not be placed before the assembly for action sooner than the day following its presentation to the assembly unless it has been presented in writing by the Church Council and sent with an official notice to the synods at least six months prior to the next regular meeting of the Churchwide Assembly. A two-thirds vote of the members present and voting shall be necessary for adoption.

CONSTITUTION FOR SYNODS

Chapter 6: Statement of Purpose

†S6.03.01. The responsibilities of the synod include the following:
a. providing for pastoral care of congregations, ministers of Word and Sacrament, and ministers of Word and Service in the synod, including:
1) approving candidates for ~~rostered ministry~~ ~~the ministry of Word and Sacrament~~ in cooperation with the appropriate seminaries of this church, which may be done through multi-synod committees;
2) authorizing ordinations and ordaining ~~rostered~~ ministers ~~of Word and Sacrament~~ on behalf of this church;
~~3) approving candidates for the ministr~~ ~~ers of Word and Service, which may be done through multi-synod committees;~~
~~4) authorizing ordinations and ordaining ministers of Word and Service on behalf of this church;~~ ~~and~~
~~3) consulting in the call process for rostered ministers.~~

†S6.04. Except as otherwise provided in this constitution and bylaws, the Synod Council shall establish processes that will ensure that at least 60 percent of the members of the synod assemblies, councils, committees, boards, and other organizational units shall be laypersons; and that, as nearly as possible, at least 45 percent of the lay members of assemblies, councils, committees, boards, or other organizational units shall be women and, as nearly as possible, at least 45 percent shall be men; and that, where possible, the representation of ~~rostered~~ ~~ministers of Word and Sacrament~~ shall include both men and women. This synod shall establish processes that will enable it to reach a minimum goal that 10 percent of its assemblies, councils, committees, boards, or other organizational units be persons of color and/or persons whose primary language is other than English.

~~†S6.04.01. It is the goal of this synod that 10 percent of the membership of synod assemblies, councils, committees, boards and/or other organizational units be persons of color and/or persons whose primary language is other than English.~~

†S6.04.0201. It is the goal of this synod that at least 10 percent of the voting members of the Synod Assembly, Synod Council, committees, and organizational units of this synod be youth and young adults. The Synod Council shall establish a plan for implementing this goal. For purposes of the constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions of this synod, the term “youth” means a voting member of a congregation who has not reached the age of 18 at the time of election or appointment for service. The term “young adult” means a voting member of a congregation between the ages of 18 and 30 at the time of election or appointment for service.

Chapter 7: Synod Assembly

S7.14. ~~One-half~~One-third of the members of the Synod Assembly shall constitute a quorum.

†S7.21. The membership of the Synod Assembly, of which at least 60 percent of the voting membership shall be composed of laypersons, shall be constituted as follows:

a. All ~~rostered~~ ministers ~~of Word and Sacrament~~ under call on the roster of this synod ~~in attendance at the Synod Assembly~~ shall be voting members ~~of the Synod Assembly~~.

~~b. All ministers of Word and Service, under call, on the roster of this synod shall be voting members in the Synod Assembly.~~

~~eb.~~ A minimum of one lay member elected by each congregation with fewer than 175 baptized members and a minimum of two lay members elected by each congregation with 175 or more baptized members related to this synod, typically one of whom shall be a man and one of whom shall be a woman, shall be voting members. The Synod Council shall establish a formula to provide additional lay representation from congregations on the basis of the number of baptized members in the congregation. The Synod Council shall seek to ensure that, as nearly as possible, at least 45 percent of the lay members of the assembly shall be women and, as nearly as possible, at least 45 percent shall be men.

~~ec.~~ Voting membership shall include the officers of this synod.

†S7.21.01. Voting members shall begin serving with the opening of a regular Synod Assembly and shall continue serving until ~~voting members are seated at the opening of~~ the opening of the next regular Synod Assembly.

†S7.21.02. If a special Synod Assembly is called and voting members at the previous assembly are unable to serve as voting members, where permitted by state law, the congregation through the Congregation Council may elect new members who shall continue to serve until the next regular Synod Assembly.

S7.22. This synod may establish processes that permit retired rostered ministers, or those granted disability status, or on leave from call, on the roster of the synod to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly, provided that such processes may not result in fewer than 60% of the voting members of the Synod Assembly being laypersons in contravention of ~~consistent with~~ †S7.21.e. If the synod does not establish processes to permit the rostered ministers specified above to serve as voting members, they shall have voice but not vote in the meetings of the Synod Assembly.

S7.24. Ministers under call on the rosters of this synod shall remain as members of the Synod Assembly so long as they remain under call and so long as their names appear on the rosters of this synod. Lay members of the Synod Assembly representing congregations shall continue as such until the opening of the next regular synod assembly, or unless replaced by the election of new members for a special synod assembly, or until they have been disqualified by termination of congregation membership. ~~Normally, congregations will hold elections prior to each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.~~

S7.26. This synod may establish processes through the Synod Council that permit lay representatives of authorized worshipping communities of the synod, which have been authorized under ELCA bylaw 10.01.04., to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly, consistent with †S7.21.

S7.27. This synod may establish processes through the Synod Council to grant a minister of Word and Sacrament from a church body with which a relationship of full communion has been declared and established by the

Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America the privilege of both voice and vote in the Synod Assembly during the period of that minister's service in a congregation of this church.

Chapter 8: Officers

†S8.12. As this synod's pastor, the bishop shall:

- i. Oversee and administer the work of this synod and in so doing:
 - 4) ~~exercise supervision over~~ direct and guide the work of the other officers;
 - 5) ~~coordinate exercise supervision over~~ the work of all synod staff members;
 - ...
 - 12) appoint a statistician of the synod, who shall secure the ~~parochial~~ reports of the congregations and make the reports available to the secretary of this church for collation, analysis, and distribution of the statistical summaries to this synod and the other synods of this church.

†S8.16.01. The following procedures shall govern matters of potential conflicts of interest for synod bishops:

- a. Whenever a synod bishop determines that a matter of the kind described in †S8.16.01.b. may require ~~his or her~~ the bishop's determination or action with respect to a related individual as defined in †S8.16.01.c., the synod bishop shall withdraw from personal involvement in such matter and shall so notify the presiding bishop. The presiding bishop shall then appoint another synod bishop from the same region to handle the matter to conclusion. In dealing with such matter, the appointed bishop shall exercise all of the functions and authority to the same extent as if the appointed bishop were the elected bishop of the withdrawing bishop's synod.
- b. Matters include any proceedings under Chapter 20, proceedings under provisions 7.46. and 7.75. of the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* (†S14.18. and †S14.43), candidacy, reinstatement, and similar matters where determinations or actions by the synod bishop could change, limit, restrict, approve, authorize, or deny the related individual's ministry on one of the official rosters of this church.

~~†S8.23. In the event of the death, resignation, or disability of the bishop, the vice president, after consultation with the presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, shall convene the Synod Council to arrange for the conduct of the duties of the bishop until a new bishop shall be elected or, in the case of temporary disability, until the bishop resumes full performance of the duties of the office.~~

†S8.32. The secretary shall:

- a. Keep the minutes of all meetings of the Synod Assembly and Synod Council, be responsible for ~~the printing and~~ distribution of such minutes, and perform such other duties as this synod may from time to time direct.

S8.42. The treasurer shall provide and be accountable for:

- c. Receipt and acknowledgment of offerings, contributions, and bequests made to this synod, collecting interest and income from its invested funds, and paying regular appropriations and orders on the several accounts as approved and directed by the Synod Council. The treasurer shall transmit each month to the treasurer of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America the funds received by this synod for the general work of this church as well as any funds to support restricted programs of this church.

...

~~f. Obtaining a fidelity bond in the amount determined by the Synod Council for persons handling synod funds, which bond shall be in the custody of the secretary. The premium for the bond shall be paid by this synod. Fidelity coverage provided by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America shall be deemed a fulfillment of this requirement.~~

†S8.51. The terms of office of the officers of this synod shall be as follows:

- b. The vice president and secretary of this synod shall be elected to a term of _____ years and may be re-elected. The officer shall serve until ~~his or her~~ a successor takes office.
- c. The treasurer of this synod shall be [elected] [appointed] to a term of _____-years term and may be [re-elected] ~~or~~ [reappointed]. The treasurer shall serve until ~~his or her~~ a successor takes office.

[Becomes required]

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

- †S8.57. The recall or dismissal of an officer and the vacating of office may be effected for willful disregard or violation of the constitutions, bylaws, and continuing resolutions of this church; for such physical or mental disability as renders the officer incapable of performing the duties of office; or for such conduct as would subject the officer to disciplinary action as a rostered minister or as a member of a congregation of this church.
- e. In the case of alleged physical or mental incapacity of an officer of the synod, the procedures outlined in †S8.56. shall be followed, and such officer shall comply with the decision of the Synod Council. If such officer fails or refuses to comply, the Synod Council may proceed to petition for recall or dismissal as follows:
- 2) the Committee on Appeals, ~~exclusive of any members other than those~~ who are disqualified, shall review the findings and decision of the Synod Council and by an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of those present and voting may adopt the findings and grant the petition.

†S8.58. If the bishop is to be temporarily absent from the synod for an extended period not to exceed 90 days, the bishop, after consultation with the presiding bishop and with the consent of the Synod Council, may appoint as acting bishop for such period a minister of Word and Sacrament of this church. Except as limited by action of the Synod Council, an acting bishop shall possess all of the powers and authority of a regularly elected bishop other than authority to ordain or to authorize the ordination of properly approved candidates for ordination.

Chapter 11: Committees (names of other organizational units)

†S11.02. The Consultation Committee of this synod shall consist of at least six persons and not more than 12 persons, of whom half shall be rostered ministers ~~of Word and Sacrament~~ and half shall be laypersons, who shall each be elected by the Synod Assembly for a term of six years without consecutive re-election. The functions of the Consultation Committee are set forth in Chapter 20 of the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* and in Chapter 17 of this constitution. The size of the Consultation Committee, in accord with this provision, shall be defined in this synod's bylaws.

†S11.03. The Committee on Discipline of this synod shall consist of 12 persons, of whom six shall be rosted ministers ~~of Word and Sacrament~~ and six shall be laypersons, who shall each be elected by the Synod Assembly for a term of six years without consecutive re-election.

~~S11.10. — General Provisions~~

[Becomes required]

†S11.11. This synod shall in its bylaws or by continuing resolution establish a process to ensure that the members of its committees and other organizational units will be persons possessing the necessary knowledge and competence to be effective members of such units, and to meet the requirements of †S6.04. With the exception of ministers on the rosters of this synod who reside outside the territory of this synod, each member of a committee of this synod, or any other organizational unit created by this synod, shall be a voting member of a congregation of this synod.

Chapter 13: Congregations

†S13.02. It shall be the responsibility of each congregation of this synod to ~~elect~~choose from among its voting members laypersons to serve as members of the Synod Assembly as well as persons to represent it at meetings of any conference, cluster, coalition, or other area subdivision of which it is a member. Normatively, congregations should hold elections prior to each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly. The number of persons to be elected by each congregation and other qualifications shall be as prescribed in guidelines established by this synod.

Chapter 14: Rostered Ministers

S14.13. The pastor (a) shall keep accurate ~~parochial~~ records of all baptisms, confirmations, marriages, burials, communicants, members received, members dismissed, or members excluded from the congregation, (b) shall submit a summary of such statistics annually to this synod, and (c) shall become a member of the congregation upon receipt and acceptance of the letter of call. In a parish of multiple congregations, the pastor shall hold membership in one of the congregations.

S14.15. Each minister of Word and Sacrament on the roster of this synod shall submit a report of ~~his or her~~ ministry to the bishop of the synod at least 90 days prior to each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.

- †S14.18. The provisions for termination of the mutual relationship between a minister of Word and Sacrament and a congregation shall be as follows:
- a. The call of a congregation, when accepted by a pastor, shall constitute a continuing mutual relationship and commitment which shall be terminated only by the pastor's death or, following consultation with the synod bishop, for any of the following reasons:
 - 4) inability to conduct the pastoral office effectively in view of physical disability or mental incapacity of the pastor;
 - b. When allegations of physical disability or mental incapacity of the pastor under paragraph a.4) above, or ineffective conduct of the pastoral office under paragraph a.3) above, have come to the attention of the bishop of this synod,
 - 1) the bishop, in his or her who has sole discretion, may investigate such conditions personally together with a committee of two rostered ministers and one layperson, or
 - c. In case of alleged physical disability or mental incapacity under paragraph a.4) above, the bishop's committee shall obtain and document competent medical opinion concerning the pastor's condition. When a disability or incapacity is evident to the committee, the bishop of this synod may declare the pastorate vacant. When the pastorate is declared vacant, the Synod Council shall list the pastor on the roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament with disability status. Upon removal-resumption of the ability to conduct the office effectively ~~disability and restoration of the pastor to health~~, the bishop shall take steps to enable the pastor to resume the ministry, either in the congregation last served or in another appropriate call.
- †S14.21. The parochial records of all baptisms, confirmations, marriages, burials, communicants, members received, members transferred or dismissed, members who have become inactive, or members excluded from the congregation shall be kept accurately and permanently. They shall remain the property of each congregation. At the time of the closure of a congregation, such records shall be sent to the regional archives. The secretary of the congregation shall attest to the bishop of this synod that such records have been placed in the secretary's his or her hands in good order by a departing pastor before:
- †S14.23. During service to a congregation, an interim pastor shall have the rights and duties in the congregation of a regularly called pastor. The interim pastor may delegate the same in part to an interim supply pastor with the consent of the bishop of this synod. The interim pastor and any rostered minister who may assist shall refrain from exerting influence in the selection of a pastor. Upon completion of service, the interim pastor shall certify to the bishop of this synod that the congregation parochial records, for the period for which the interim pastor was responsible, are in order.
- S14.34. Each minister of Word and Service on the roster of this synod shall submit a report of his or her ministry to the bishop of the synod at least 90 days prior to each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.
- †S14.43. The provisions for termination of the mutual relationship between a minister of Word and Service and a congregation shall be as follows:
- a. The call of a congregation, when accepted by a minister of Word and Service, shall constitute a continuing mutual relationship and commitment which shall be terminated only by the deacon's death or, following consultation with the synod bishop, for any of the following reasons:
 - 4) inability to conduct the office effectively in view of physical disability or mental incapacity of the minister of Word and Service;
 - b. When allegations of physical disability or mental incapacity of the minister of Word and Service under paragraph a.4) above, or ineffective conduct of the ministry of Word and Service under paragraph a.3) above, have come to the attention of the bishop of this synod,
 - 1) the bishop, in his or her who has sole discretion, may investigate such conditions personally together with a committee of two rostered ministers and one layperson, or
 - c. In case of alleged physical disability or mental incapacity under paragraph a.4) above, the bishop's committee shall obtain and document competent medical opinion concerning the minister of Word and Service's condition. When a disability or incapacity is evident to the committee, the bishop of this synod may declare the position vacant. When the position is declared vacant, the Synod Council shall list the deacon on the roster of Ministers of Word and Service with disability status. Upon removal-resumption of the ability to conduct the office effectively ~~disability and restoration of the minister of Word and Service~~

~~to health~~, the bishop shall take steps to enable the minister of Word and Service to resume the ministry, either in the congregation last served or in another appropriate call.

Chapter 15: Financial Matters

†S15.11. Since the congregations, synods, and churchwide organization are interdependent expressions that share in God's mission, all share in the responsibility to develop, implement, and strengthen the financial support of the whole church. The gifts and offerings of the members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America are given to support all parts of this church; ~~thus~~ the unity of this church should be evidenced in determining each part's share of the gifts and offerings. Therefore:...

†S15.31. This synod shall arrange to have an annual audit of its financial records conducted by a certified public accountant firm recommended by the synod Audit Committee and approved by the Synod Council. The audited annual financial report shall be submitted by this synod to the churchwide Office of the Treasurer and to the congregations of this synod. ~~The financial reports shall be in the format approved from time to time by the churchwide Office of the Treasurer.~~

Chapter 16: Indemnification

†S16.01. Subject to the limitations and duties imposed 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 Synod Council member, officer, employee, or committee member of this synod shall be indemnified against all costs and expenses incurred by that person in connection with the proceeding. Indemnification of any person by reason of that person's capacity as a director, officer, employee, or committee member of any other organization, regardless of its form or relationship to this synod, is subject to the provisions of ~~section~~ †S16.02.

†S16.03. This synod 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 synod or by such other person in or arising from a capacity described in ~~section~~ †S16.01. or ~~section~~ †S16.02.

†S16.04. When written charges against a rostered minister of this church are made in disciplinary proceedings under Chapter 20 of the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* by the synod bishop or when written charges against a congregation are made in disciplinary proceedings by the Synod Council or the synod bishop, and the discipline hearing committee determines that no discipline shall be imposed, then if such determination is not reversed or set aside on appeal, indemnification shall be made by the synod to the accused for reasonable attorney's fees and other reasonable expenses related to the defense of the charges. The determination of the reasonableness of such fees and expenses shall be ~~made~~ decided by the Synod Council.

Chapter 18: Amendments, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions

†S18.31. This synod may adopt continuing resolutions not in conflict with this constitution or its bylaws or the constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions of the churchwide organization. Such continuing resolutions may be adopted or amended by a majority vote of the Synod Assembly or by a two-thirds vote of the Synod Council. Newly adopted continuing resolutions and amendments to existing continuing resolutions shall be reported to the secretary of this church.

MODEL CONSTITUTION FOR CONGREGATIONS OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

Chapter 6: Church Affiliation

*C6.05. This congregation may terminate its relationship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America by the following procedure:

- a. A resolution indicating the intent to terminate its relationship must be adopted at two legally called and conducted special meetings of this congregation by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present at each meeting. The first such meeting may be held no sooner than 30 days after written notice of the meeting is received by the bishop of the synod, during which time this congregation shall consult with the bishop and the bishop's designees, if any. The times and manner of the consultation shall be determined by the bishop in consultation with the Congregation Council. Unless ~~he or she~~ the bishop and/or the bishop's designees ~~is-are a~~ is-are voting members of this congregation, ~~the bishop and the bishop's designees, if any,~~ they shall have voice but not vote at the first meeting.

- ...
- d. If this congregation, after such consultation, is still considering termination of its relationship with this church, such action may be taken at a legally called and conducted special meeting by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present. Notice of the second meeting shall be sent to all voting members and to the bishop at least 10 days in advance of the meeting. Unless ~~he or she is the bishop and/or the bishop's designees are~~ voting members of this congregation, ~~the bishop and the bishop's designees, if any, they~~ shall have voice but not vote at the second meeting.

Chapter 9: Rostered Minister

***C9.05.** The provisions for termination of the mutual relationship between a minister of Word and Sacrament and this congregation shall be as follows:

- a. The call of this congregation, when accepted by a pastor, shall constitute a continuing mutual relationship and commitment, which shall be terminated only by the pastor's death or, following consultation with the synod bishop, for **any of** the following reasons:
- 4) inability to conduct the pastoral office effectively in view of ~~physical~~ disability or ~~mental~~ incapacity of the pastor;
- ...
- b. When allegations of ~~physical~~ disability or ~~mental~~ incapacity of the pastor under paragraph a.4) above, or ineffective conduct of the pastoral office under paragraph a.3) above, have come to the attention of the bishop of this synod,
- 1) the bishop, ~~in his or her who has~~ sole discretion, may investigate such conditions personally together with a committee of two rostered ministers and one layperson, or
- ...
- c. In case of alleged ~~physical~~ disability or ~~mental~~ incapacity under paragraph a.4) above, the bishop's committee shall obtain and document competent medical opinion concerning the pastor's condition. When a disability or incapacity is evident to the committee, the bishop of this synod may declare the pastorate vacant. When the pastorate is declared vacant, the Synod Council shall list the pastor on the roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament with disability status. Upon ~~removal-resumption~~ of the ~~disability and the restoration of the pastor to health,~~ ability to conduct the office effectively the bishop shall take steps to enable the pastor to resume the ministry, either in the congregation last served or in another appropriate call.

***C9.12.** The pastor of this congregation:

- a. shall keep accurate ~~parochial~~ records of all baptisms, confirmations, marriages, burials, communicants, members received, members dismissed, or members excluded from this congregation;

***C9.13.** The pastor(s) shall submit a report of ~~his or her~~ ministry to the bishop of the synod at least 90 days prior to each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.

***C9.14.** The ~~parochial~~ records of this congregation shall be maintained by the pastor and shall remain the property of this congregation. The secretary of this congregation shall attest in writing to the bishop of this synod that such records have been placed in ~~his or her~~ the secretary's hands in good order by a departing pastor before the installation of that pastor in another call or approval of a request for change in roster status.

***C9.25.** The provisions for termination of the mutual relationship between a minister of Word and Service and this congregation shall be as follows:

- a. The call of this congregation, when accepted by a deacon, shall constitute a continuing mutual relationship and commitment, which shall be terminated only by the deacon's death or, following consultation with the synod bishop, for **any of** the following reasons:
- 4) inability to conduct the office effectively in view of ~~physical~~ disability or ~~mental~~ incapacity of the deacon;
- ...
- b. When allegations of ~~physical~~ disability or ~~mental~~ incapacity of the deacon under paragraph a.4) above, or ineffective conduct of the office of minister of Word and Service under paragraph a.3) above, have come to the attention of the bishop of this synod,
- 1) the bishop, ~~in his or her who has~~ sole discretion, may investigate such conditions personally together with a committee of two rostered ministers and one layperson, or
- ...

- c. In case of alleged ~~physical~~ disability or ~~mental~~ incapacity under paragraph a.4) above, the bishop's committee shall obtain and document competent medical opinion concerning the deacon's condition. When a disability or incapacity is evident to the committee, the bishop of this synod may declare the position vacant. When the position is declared vacant, the Synod Council shall list the deacon on the roster of Ministers of Word and Service with disability status. Upon ~~removal-resumption~~ of the ~~disability and the restoration of the deacon to health~~ability to conduct the office effectively, the bishop shall take steps to enable the deacon to resume the ministry, either in the congregation last served or in another appropriate call.

Chapter 10: Congregation Meeting

[New footnote]

C10.02. A special Congregation Meeting may be called by the [senior] pastor, the Congregation Council, or the president¹ of this congregation, and shall be called by the president of this congregation upon the written request of ___[number][percent] of the voting members. The president of the Congregation Council shall call a special meeting upon request of the synod bishop. The call for each special meeting shall specify the purpose for which it is to be held, and no other business shall be transacted.

C10.08. This congregation may hold meetings by remote communication, including electronically and by telephone conference, as long as there is an opportunity for simultaneous aural communication or its equivalent. To the extent permitted by state law, notice of all meetings may be provided electronically.

C10.09. "Ex officio" as used herein means membership with full rights of voice and vote unless otherwise expressly limited.

Chapter 12: Congregation Council

C12.05. The Congregation Council shall be responsible for the financial and property matters of this congregation.

- e. The Congregation Council shall ascertain that the financial affairs of this congregation are being conducted efficiently, giving particular attention to the prompt payment of all obligations and to the regular forwarding of mission support monies to the synod ~~treasurer~~.

[New footnote]

C12.11. The Congregation Council shall normally meet once a month. Special meetings may be called by the pastor or the president², and shall be called by the president at the request of at least one-half of its members. Notice of each special meeting shall be given to all who are entitled to be present.

C12.13. The Congregation Council and its committees may hold meetings by remote communication, including electronically and by telephone conference, as long as there is an opportunity for simultaneous aural communication or its equivalent. ~~and, to~~ the extent permitted by state law, notice of all meetings may be provided electronically.

Chapter 13: Congregation Committees

[New footnote]

C13.08. The [senior] pastor of this congregation shall be *ex officio* a member of all committees and boards of this congregation. [The president⁴ vice president] of this congregation shall be *ex officio* a member of all committees and boards of this congregation, except the Nominating Committee.]

Chapter 15: Discipline of Members and Adjudication

***C15.02.** The process for discipline of a member of this congregation shall be governed as prescribed by the chapter on discipline in the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*. If the counseling, censure, and admonitions pursuant to *C15.01. do not result in repentance and amendment of life, charges against the accused member(s) that are specific and in writing may be prepared by the Congregation Council, signed, and submitted to the vice president of the synod. The vice president shall select from the synod's Consultation Committee a panel of five members (three laypersons and two rostered ministers ~~of Word and Sacrament~~). A copy of the written charges shall be provided to the consultation

¹ If the pastor is the president of the congregation, the congregation may consider giving the vice president the authority to call a special meeting.

² If the pastor is the president of the congregation, the congregation may consider giving the vice president the authority to call a special meeting.

⁴ If the pastor is the president of the congregation, the congregation may consider selecting the vice president.

panel and the accused member(s). The consultation panel, after requesting a written reply to the charges from the accused member(s), shall consider the matter and seek a resolution by means of investigation, consultation, mediation, or whatever other means may seem appropriate. The panel's efforts to reach a mutually agreeable resolution shall continue for no more than 45 days after the matter is submitted to it.

- *C15.11. When there is disagreement between or among factions within this congregation on a substantive issue which cannot be resolved by the parties, members of this congregation may petition the synod bishop for consultation after informing the president [~~vice president~~] of this congregation of their intent to do so. The synod bishop shall seek a timely resolution of the dispute. If the issue relates directly to the pastor, the bishop may begin the process in †S14.18.d. In all other matters, if the bishop's consultation fails to resolve the issue, the bishop shall refer the matter to the Consultation Committee of the synod, which shall undertake efforts to find an appropriate solution. If the Consultation Committee's efforts fail to resolve the dispute, the entire matter shall be referred to the Synod Council for adjudication by whatever process the Council deems necessary. The Synod Council's decision shall be final.

Chapter 16: Amendments

- *C16.02. An amendment to this constitution, proposed under *C16.01., shall:
- be approved at any legally called meeting of this congregation by a majority vote of those voting members present and voting; ~~and~~
 - be ratified without change at the next regular meeting of this congregation ~~held pursuant to C10.01.~~ by a two-thirds vote of those voting members present and voting; ~~and,~~
 - ~~have the effective date included in the resolution⁵ and noted in the constitution.~~
- *C16.04. This constitution may be amended to bring any section into conformity with a section or sections, either required or not required, of the *Model Constitution for Congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* as most recently amended by the Churchwide Assembly. Such amendments may be approved by a majority vote of those voting members present and voting at any legally called meeting of this congregation without presentation at a prior meeting of this congregation, provided that the Congregation Council has submitted by mail or electronic means, as permitted by state law, notice to this congregation of such an amendment or amendments, together with the council's recommendations, at least 30 days prior to the meeting. Upon the request of at least two (2) voting members of this congregation, the Congregation Council shall submit such notice. Following the adoption of an amendment, the secretary of this congregation shall submit a copy thereof to the synod. Such provisions shall become effective immediately following ~~the congregation's~~ a vote of approval.

Chapter 20: Parish Authorization

- *C20.02. One congregation of a parish shall issue a call on behalf of the member congregations to a minister of Word and Sacrament or a candidate for the roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament who has been recommended by the synod bishop to serve the congregations of the parish. Such a call shall be approved prior to issuance by a two-thirds vote at a congregation~~al~~ meeting of each congregation forming the parish. If any congregation of the parish should fail to approve the call, the other congregations of the parish shall have the right to terminate the parish agreement.
- *C20.03. One congregation of a parish may issue a call on behalf of the member congregations to a minister of Word and Service or a candidate for the roster of Ministers of Word and Service who has been recommended by the synod bishop to serve the congregations of the parish. Such a call shall be approved prior to issuance by a two-thirds vote at a congregation~~al~~ meeting of each congregation forming the parish. If any congregation of the parish should fail to approve the call, the other congregations of the parish shall have the right to terminate the parish agreement.

Voted: En Bloc

To approve the amended bylaws of the Mission Investment Fund.

CC21.11.25k

Voted: En Bloc

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

CC21.11.25l

⁵~~Such an effective date must be stated in relation to the requirements of *C16.03. to allow time for the synod's review of the amendment.~~

- Private Prison Social Criteria Investment Screen
- Environmental Topics Issue Paper
- Climate Change Issue Paper
- Health Issue Paper; and

To request that the original issue papers be archived for historical and research purposes.

Voted: En Bloc

CC21.11.25m1

To thank the Southwestern Minnesota Synod for encouraging the ELCA Church Council to authorize the use of existing resources to create a message on climate change;

To authorize the development of a social message on climate change, in light of existing social teaching and in accordance with “Policies and Procedures of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for Addressing Social Concerns” (2018), with council action to be taken at the November 2022 Church Council meeting; and

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

Voted: En Bloc

CC21.11.25m2

To receive the assessment from the Theological Discernment Team in the Office of the Presiding Bishop on the feasibility of developing a social message on U.S. national drug policy and to decline to initiate the development of a social message on that topic.

Voted: En Bloc

CC21.11.25m3

To thank the Virginia Synod for drawing attention to this social issue with its request that the ELCA “bring the 1978 statement, ‘Aging and the Older Adult,’ out of retirement and revise it as appropriate to make it a living document;”

To release the request for the development of a social message on aging, with the understanding that an ELCA study on aging should be developed when possible as a means to foster discernment, especially in congregations; and

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

Voted: En Bloc

CC21.11.25m4

To release the request to develop a social message on gender identity and gender expression in light of the various actions already underway to address the topic, with the understanding that the ELCA will continue its ongoing efforts to address the concerns expressed in the “Gender Identity” memorial [CA19.02.091].

Voted: En Bloc

CC21.11.25m5

To maintain the request for consideration of developing a social message on U.S. national gun policy as pending and to be assessed by the Theological Discernment Team in the Office of the Presiding Bishop for possible recommendation to the Church Council at its November 2022 meeting.

Voted: En Bloc

CC21.11.25n

To receive with gratitude the response and recommendation from the Christian Community and Leadership unit regarding the question of developing an aspirational document; and

To suspend the consideration of developing an aspirational document until a need arises.

Voted: En Bloc

CC21.11.25o

To approve the minutes of the Apr. 15–17, 2021, and Sept. 27, 2021, meetings of the Church Council; and

To ratify actions of the council’s Executive Committee as indicated in the minutes of the Apr. 15, 2021, May 11, 2021, June 29, 2021, Aug. 24, 2021, Sept. 21, 2021, and Oct. 26, 2021, meetings.

Voted: En Bloc

CC21.11.25p1

To elect to the advisory board of Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary to a term expiring in June 2024: The Rev. Jessica Obrecht.

Voted: En Bloc

CC21.11.25p2

To elect to the board of directors of Trinity Lutheran Seminary at Capital University to a term expiring June 30, 2024: The Rev. Niklaus C. Schillack.

Voted: En Bloc

CC21.11.25p3

To re-elect to the board of directors of Mosaic, Inc. to a three-year term expiring in 2024: Ms. Megan M. Gustafson.

Voted: En Bloc

CC21.11.25p4

To elect to the board of trustees of the Board of Pensions of the ELCA—Portico Benefit Services—to fill a vacancy with the term expiring in August 2022: Mr. Todd J. Maloy.

Voted: En Bloc

CC21.11.25p5

To authorize the Executive Committee of the Church Council to fill vacancies on the board of trustees to the Endowment Fund of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America—ELCA Foundation between now and the next meeting of the Church Council.

Voted: En Bloc

CC21.11.25p6

To approve the classification of board of trustees to the Endowment Fund of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America—ELCA Foundation:

Class 1 (term limit ends in 2022):

Kristy Albrecht, Liza Canino, Pr. Kelly France, and John Quello

Class 2 (term limit ends in 2025):

Karen Bohn, Eric Brudos, Keith Christensen, and Eric Golberg

Class 3 (term limit ends in 2028):

Bruce George, Naomi Horsager, Kori Reed, and Chuck Self

Voted: En Bloc

CC21.11.25q

To receive with gratitude the final report on the implementation of the “Earth Charter” memorial from the Service and Justice unit; and

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

Voted: En Bloc

CC21.11.25r

To receive the report from the Office of the Presiding Bishop in response to the 2019 Churchwide Assembly action related to the implementing resolutions for the social statement, *Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Call to Action*.

Voted: En Bloc

CC21.11.25s

To receive the update from the Christian Community and Leadership unit on a unified cross design for ministers of Word and Service; and

To postpone a final design recommendation to the Spring 2022 Church Council meeting.

Voted: En Bloc

CC21.11.25t

To receive the progress report on climate change from the Service and Justice unit; and

To request the final report at the April 2022 Church Council meeting.

Voted: En Bloc

CC21.11.25u

To receive the update from the Christian Community and Leadership unit and Portico Benefit Services on the research work related to the discriminatory treatment within the call process and the inequitable compensation of rostered ministers of color; and

To request a progress report be presented at the Spring 2022 Church Council meeting with a final report at the Fall 2022 Church Council meeting.

Voted: En Bloc

CC21.11.25v

To receive the response on “Guidance on Retired or Retiring Ministers for the Roster of the ELCA” from the Office of the Secretary;

To anticipate a progress report at the Spring 2022 Church Council meeting with possible updates to the roster manual; and

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

Voted: En Bloc

CC21.11.25w

To receive the response on “ELCA Advocacy Support for the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act” from Service and Justice;

To commend the ELCA Advocacy staff for their overarching support of carbon tax legislation given the current impasse on such legislation, and their continued advocacy for climate justice and equity; and

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

Voted: En Bloc

CC21.11.25x

- To receive the response on “Gender Representation and Inclusion” from the Office of the Secretary;
- To acknowledge the action taken on proposed continuing resolution 5.01.H21 as the response of the Church Council to this resolution from the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod; and
- To request that the secretary of this church inform the synod of this action.

Voted:

CC21.11.26

- To approve the proposed Church Council committee restructure as detailed in “Proposed CC Committee Restructure” for full implementation immediately following the 2022 ELCA Churchwide Assembly;
- To direct the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee to prepare and forward to the Church Council the revisions to the continuing resolutions under constitutional provision 14.41. to establish each of the new standing committees, to remove provisions for committees that will be discontinued and to present the continuing resolution amendments to the Spring 2022 Church Council meeting;
- To direct the Board Development Committee to plan for the size and composition of the new standing committees and to forward preliminary committee assignments to the Executive Committee;
- To direct the Executive Committee to review the proposed committee assignments and to forward to the Church Council for ratification;
- To direct all new standing committees of the Church Council to prepare committee charters for alignment with the proposed restructure; and
- To express appreciation to the members of the Temporary Select Committee on Committees for their diligent and thoughtful work.

Voted:

CC21.11.27

To recommend the following for adoption by the 2022 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:

To adopt the following amendment to the *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*:

- 14.41.01. Executive Committee.** The Church Council shall have an Executive Committee composed of the churchwide officers, the chair of the Conference of Bishops, and ~~seven~~eight members of the Church Council elected by the council. The vice president of this church shall chair this committee. The Executive Committee shall:
- f. demonstrate concern for the spiritual, emotional, and physical well-being of the ~~full-time salaried~~ officers of this church; and

The 109th meeting of the Church Council adjourned at 11:32 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 13, 2021.

March 31–April 2, 2022

The 110th meeting of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) was convened Mar. 31–Apr. 2, 2022, at the Eaglewood Resort, Itasca, Illinois. Mr. Carlos E. Peña, interim vice president of the ELCA and chair of the Church Council, called the Church Council meeting to order at 4:22 p.m. (CDT).

Voted:

CC22.04.01

To adopt the agenda and to permit the chair to call for consideration of agenda items in the order the chair deems most appropriate.

Voted:

CC22.04.02

To ratify the following appointments of continuing members of the ELCA Church Council to Church Council committees for the 2022–2025 time period beginning at the close of the Churchwide Assembly on August 12, 2022:

- Budget and Finance Committee: Tracey Beasley, Kerry Fehrman, Cherrish Holland, Keoni Newman;
- Legal and Constitutional Review Committee: Kevin Anderson, Emily Hartner, David Lenz, Noah Roux;
- Faith, Society, and Innovation Committee: Divine, Marcus Bigott, Tara Lynn, Loren Solberg; and
- Christian Community and Leadership Committee: Nick Billardello, Pamela Hoh, Valerie Shaw, Kjersten Sullivan; and
- Service and Justice Committee: Susan Boxberger, Bill Callister, Karn Carroll, Joanne Engquist, Loni Taylor.

Voted:

CC22.04.03

To declare that the newly elected chairs of the Budget and Finance Committee; Christian Community and Leadership Committee; Faith, Society, and Innovation Committee; Legal and Constitutional Review Committee; and Service and Justice Committee shall be members of the Executive Committee of the Church Council beginning at the close of the Churchwide Assembly on August 12, 2022.

Voted:

CC22.04.04

To authorize the creation of a task force charged with reviewing the current process for discipline and its impact on persons of color and other historically marginalized groups, considering recommendations for staffing, community healing and restoration, and learning best practices from full communion partners;

To authorize the Executive Committee to appoint members to the task force composed of representation from the Strategy Toward Authentic Diversity Advisory Table, Conference of Bishops, Committee on Appeals, ethnic-specific associations, and churchwide staff from the Office of the Presiding Bishop (i.e., Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Relations, director for racial justice, chief diversity officer, senior director for diversity, equity and inclusion), the Office of the Secretary (i.e., general counsel), and the Service and Justice home area (i.e., ethnic-specific ministries); and

To request a report with possible recommendations be provided to the Spring 2023 Church Council meeting.

Voted:

CC22.04.05

To authorize the creation of a task force charged with studying the issue of addressing educational debt among rostered ministers and developing a comprehensive strategy to provide educational debt relief to as many rostered ministers as possible;

To authorize the Executive Committee to appoint members to the task force composed of representation from across the ELCA ecology (e.g., the churchwide organization, synod staff to include bishops and/or directors for evangelical mission, congregations, seminaries, colleges/universities, Mission Investment Fund, Portico Benefit Services, ELCA Federal Credit Union, ELCA Foundation, etc.); and

To request that the first progress report be provided to the Fall 2023 Church Council meeting and a final report with possible recommendations be provided to the Spring 2025 Church Council meeting.

Voted:

CC22.04.06

To adopt “A Declaration of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to the Muslim Community” as a statement on Lutheran-Muslim Relations.

Voted:

CC22.04.07

To adopt the amendments to the *Constitution, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* as described in “Proposed Amendments–Continuing Resolutions,” effective pursuant to Church Council action CC21.11.26, which calls for full implementation immediately following the 2022 ELCA Churchwide Assembly.

14.41.B22. Christian Community and Leadership Committee

A Christian Community and Leadership Committee shall be composed of members of the Church Council elected by the council and shall relate to the work of the Christian Community and Leadership unit and have staff services provided by the Christian Community and Leadership unit. This committee shall receive reports from Christian Community and Leadership unit, act upon policies and strategies recommended from this unit to the Church Council and provide periodic review of this unit.

14.41.CHC22. Planning and Evaluation Committee Faith, Society, and Innovation Committee

A Planning and Evaluation Faith, Society, and Innovation Committee shall be composed of members of the Church Council elected by the council and shall relate to the work of the Office of the Presiding Bishop and the Innovation unit and have staff services provided by the Office of the Presiding Bishop and the Innovation unit. This committee shall assist the presiding bishop in coordinated, strategic planning for the work of the churchwide organization. Further, in consultation with the executive for administration, this committee shall evaluate and report annually to the Church Council and to the Churchwide Assembly on how the churchwide organization complies with and implements commitments and policies adopted by the Churchwide Assembly and the Church Council. This committee shall be responsible for reviewing policies related to the ecumenical, inter-Lutheran, and inter-religious activities, and make recommendations to the Church Council and the Churchwide Assembly. It shall provide ongoing review of the development of this church's social teaching documents and act upon recommendations from the Office of the Presiding Bishop. All churchwide policies and strategies

recommended by the Office of the Presiding Bishop that have implications for congregations, synods, other churchwide units, or institutions and agencies of this church shall be considered by this committee for recommendation to the Church Council. This committee also shall receive reports from the Innovation unit, act upon policies recommended from the Innovation unit to the Church Council and provide periodic review of the Innovation unit. This committee also shall be responsible for the ongoing evaluation of churchwide units and the structure of the churchwide organization, making recommendations to the Churchwide Assembly through the Church Council. This committee shall establish a process for a periodic review of all churchwide units.

14.41.B15D22. Legal and Constitutional Review Committee

A Legal and Constitutional Review Committee shall be composed of members of the Church Council elected by the council. The secretary of this church shall serve as an ex officio member of the committee. This committee shall have staff services provided by the Office of the Secretary. This committee shall provide ongoing review of legal and constitutional matters. It shall review all proposed amendments to the constitutions, bylaws, and continuing resolutions.

14.41.D20E22. ~~Program and Services~~Service and Justice Committee

A ~~Program and Services~~Service and Justice Committee shall be composed of members of the Church Council elected by the council, and shall relate to the work of the Service and Justice unit and have staff services provided by the ~~Office of the Secretary~~Service and Justice unit. This committee shall receive reports from this unit, and act upon policies and strategies recommended from this unit to the Church Council and provide periodic review of the Service and Justice unit. This committee shall assist the council in assuring that churchwide purposes, policies, and objectives are being fulfilled through the programs and services of the units of the churchwide organization. All churchwide policies and strategies recommended by units that have implications for congregations, synods, other churchwide units, or institutions and agencies of this church shall be considered by this committee for recommendation to the Church Council.

(Renumbering to allow for standing committees to be placed together alphabetically in constitution)

14.41.E20F22. Audit Committee

14.41.F20G22. Board Development Committee

14.41.G20H22. Resource Development Committee

15.12.A20A22. Responsibilities of the Executive for Administration

- e. provide staff services and documentation to the ~~Planning and Evaluation~~Faith, Society, and Innovation Committee and the Board Development Committee of the Church Council.

Voted: **CC22.04.08**

To approve the establishment of a Church Council designated fund, entitled Campaign Readiness Fund, in the amount of \$3.0 million to be used to assess the feasibility of a fundraising campaign at a future date.

Voted: **CC22.04.09**

To add \$1.5 million to the Youth Gathering designated fund, to be used to offset losses incurred by the Youth Gathering related to the cancellation of the 2022 ELCA Youth Gathering and to provide start up support for the future ELCA Youth Gathering events.

Voted: **CC22.04.10**

To increase the FY22 spending authorization in the Current Fund by \$650,271, from \$65,816,150 to \$66,466,421.

Voted: **CC22.04.11**

To increase the FY22 spending authorization in ELCA World Hunger by \$3,321,700, from \$22,665,000 to \$25,986,700.

Voted: **CC22.04.12**

To recommend the following for adoption by the 2022 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:

2023 Budget Proposal

To approve a 2023 current fund spending authorization of \$68,814,000;
To approve a 2023 ELCA World Hunger spending authorization of \$22,869,000; and
To authorize the Church Council to revise the spending authorizations after periodic review of revised income estimates.

2024 Budget Proposal

To approve a 2024 current fund income proposal of \$70,191,000;
To approve a 2024 ELCA World Hunger income proposal of \$22,930,000; and
To authorize the Church Council to establish a spending authorization after periodic review of revised income estimates.

2025 Budget Proposal

To approve a 2025 current fund income proposal of \$71,594,000;
To approve a 2025 ELCA World Hunger income proposal of \$22,960,000; and
To authorize the Church Council to establish a spending authorization after periodic review of revised income estimates.

Voted: **CC22.04.13**

To authorize the formation of an *ad hoc* committee tasked with guiding a process for public repentance and a churchwide day of confession and repentance regarding the sins of patriarchy and sexism;
To appoint the following individuals to serve on the *ad hoc* committee: Ms. Tracey Beasley (chair), Bishop Anne Svennungsen, the Rev. Viviane Thomas-Breitfeld, and Ms. Sonja Wolfe;
To authorize the Executive Committee to appoint additional members to the *ad hoc* committee; and
To request the *ad hoc* committee provide periodic updates to the Faith, Society, and Innovation Committee through at least the 2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly.

Voted: **CC22.04.14**

To approve the revised Executive Committee Charter; and
To authorize the Office of the Secretary to make any necessary editorial corrections for accuracy.

Voted: **CC22.04.15**

To approve the new and revised committee charters; and
To authorize the Office of the Secretary to make any necessary editorial corrections for accuracy.

Voted: Two-Thirds Vote **CC22.04.16**

To adopt, *en bloc*, the following amendment to the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*:

19.06.A2213. A former full-time or part-time employee shall not be eligible for ~~a minimum of six~~ **three** years subsequent to such employment; for nomination or election to the board of ~~a the~~ separately incorporated ministry or committee related to the churchwide unit or office in which the employee served.

Voted: **CC22.04.17**

To take action *en bloc* on the remaining items listed in *En Bloc* Items, Responses to Churchwide Assembly Actions, Responses to Previous Church Council Actions, and Responses to Synod Actions.

Voted: En Bloc **CC22.04.17a**

To adopt the amendments to the “Rules Governing Disciplinary Proceedings against Rostered Ministers and Congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America”; and
To authorize the Office of the Secretary to make any necessary editorial corrections for accuracy.

Voted: En Bloc **CC22.04.17b1**

To recommend adoption of the following proposed action by the 2022 ELCA Churchwide Assembly:
To adopt the “Rules of Organization and Procedure” for the 2022 Churchwide Assembly (exclusive of quoted and highlighted constitutional provisions and bylaws that are already in force).

Voted: En Bloc **CC22.04.17b2**

To authorize the presiding bishop and secretary of this church to prepare further editorial and scheduling revisions that may be found necessary for the Rules prior to their publication in the *Pre-Assembly Report*; and
To report any changes to the Church Council at its August 2022 meeting.

Voted: En Bloc **CC22.04.17c**

To adopt the rule to hold hearings prior to the 2022 ELCA Churchwide Assembly.

Voted: En Bloc **CC22.04.17d**

To recommend the following for adoption by the 2022 ELCA Churchwide Assembly:

To adopt, *en bloc*, the following amendments to the *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*.

7.31.10. Synod-authorized Ministry. When need exists to render Word and Sacrament ministry for a congregation or ministry of this church where it is not ~~possible~~ feasible to provide ~~appropriate pastoral leadership~~ rostered ministers of Word and Sacrament, the synod bishop—acting with the consent of the congregation or ministry, in consultation with the Synod Council, and in accord with standards and qualifications developed by the appropriate churchwide unit, reviewed by the Conference of Bishops, and approved by the Church Council—may authorize a person who is a member of a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to offer this ministry. Such an individual shall be supervised by a minister of Word and Sacrament appointed by the synod bishop; such service shall be rendered during its duration under the sacramental authority of the bishop as the synod’s pastor. Such an individual will be trained to fulfill this ministry for a specified period of time and in a given location only. Authorization, remuneration, direct supervision, and accountability are to be determined by the appropriate synod leadership according to churchwide standards and qualifications for this type of ministry. Authorization for such service shall be reviewed annually and renewed only when a demonstrated need remains for its continuation.

10.01.01. Names and Boundaries. The names and boundaries of the synods shall be:

...

Synod 8.E—Upper Susquehanna. The counties of Clinton, Columbia, Juniata, Lycoming, Mifflin, Montour, Northumberland, Snyder, Tioga, Union in the state commonwealth of PENNSYLVANIA; the congregation Trinity, Luzerne County, and the congregation Zion, Pillow, Dauphin County, in the state commonwealth of PENNSYLVANIA.

Voted: En Bloc **CC22.04.17e**

To approve the amended Restated Articles of Incorporation of the Board of Pensions of the ELCA—Portico Benefit Services.

Voted: En Bloc **CC22.04.17f**

To affirm the design concept for a unified cross design for ministers of Word and Service;

To request that the Christian Community and Leadership home area programs for worship and candidacy, in consultation with the Office of the Secretary, proceed with executing an agreement with a manufacturer and distributor;

To request that the churchwide organization create appropriate communication to ministers of Word and Service and synods about the process to purchase deacon cross pins; and

To update existing or create new guidance and educational resources related to the symbols of the ministry of Word and Service.

Voted: En Bloc **CC22.04.17g**

To recommend adoption of the following proposed en bloc action by the 2022 ELCA Churchwide Assembly:

To archive the social policy resolutions identified in the “2022 Archiving of Certain Social Policy Resolutions” document, in accordance with the “Policies and Procedures of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for Addressing Social Concerns” (2018).

Voted: En Bloc **CC22.04.17h**

To approve the minutes of the Nov. 11–13, 2022, meeting of the Church Council; and

To ratify actions of the council’s Executive Committee as indicated in the minutes of the Nov. 11, 2021, Dec. 13, 2021, Jan. 25, 2022, and Feb. 22, 2022, meetings.

Voted: En Bloc

CC22.04.17i1

To elect to the board of directors of United Lutheran Seminary to a term beginning July 1, 2022 and expiring June 30, 2025: Mr. Bernie S. Annor and the Rev. Judith Anne Sullivan.

Voted: En Bloc

CC22.04.17i2

To elect to the board of directors of Luther Seminary to a four-year term beginning July 1, 2022, and expiring June 30, 2026: Ms. Maria G. Cowles, Mr. Steven D. Huseh, Mr. Michael M. Jerstad, Ms. Brenda Skelton-Bendtsen, and Mr. Clarence M. Smith.

Voted: En Bloc

CC22.04.17i3

To elect to the board of directors of Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago to a term beginning Oct. 1, 2022, and expiring Sept. 30, 2024: The Rev. Bridget P. Jones.

Voted: En Bloc

CC22.04.17i4

To elect to the advisory board of Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary at California Lutheran University to a term beginning in June 2022 and expiring in June 2025: The Rev. Manuel Retamoza, the Rev. John M. Reutter-Harrah, and the Rev. Kirsten Sauey Hofmann.

Voted: En Bloc

CC22.04.17i5

To elect to the board of directors of Trinity Lutheran Seminary at Capital University to a term beginning July 1, 2022, and expiring June 30, 2025: The Rev. Jack Sullivan, Jr.

Voted: En Bloc

CC22.04.17j

To receive the written report of the Office of the Secretary on nominees for the Churchwide Nominating Committee;

To note that bylaw 19.11.01. states in regard to the Nominating Committee: “The Church Council shall place in nomination the names of two persons for each position. The committee shall consist of at least one member but no more than three members from any region. Nominations from the floor shall also be permitted, but each floor nomination shall be presented as an alternative to a specific category named by the Church Council and shall therefore meet the same criteria as the persons against whom the nominee is nominated. In the materials provided in advance to each member of the assembly, the Church Council shall set forth the criteria applicable to each category that must be met by persons nominated from the floor;”

To request, therefore, that the Church Council restrict the tickets to the following: lay woman; lay man (YA); lay man (PC/L); lay man (Region 6); minister of Word and Service (Region 3); minister of Word and Sacrament (PC/L); and minister of Word and Sacrament; and

To request that the Church Council transmit the following slate of nominees to the 2022 Churchwide Assembly:

Churchwide Nominating Committee

Group 1: Lay Woman

- A. Ms. Susan Humphrey, Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod (4C)
- B. Ms. Rachel Line, Pacifica Synod (2C)

Group 2: Lay Man (YA)

- A. Mr. Carlos F. Ferrufino, Rocky Mountain Synod (2E)
- B. Mr. Matthew Lang, Southeastern Iowa Synod (5D)

Group 3: Lay Man (PC/L)

- A. Mr. Christopher A. Vergara, Metropolitan New York Synod (7C)
- B. Mr. Nathaniel P. Viets-VanLear, Metropolitan Chicago Synod (5A)

Group 4: Lay Man (Region 6)

- A. Mr. Ethan A. Roberts, Southern Ohio Synod (6F)
- B. Mr. George Watson, Southeast Michigan (6A)

Group 5: Minister of Word and Service (Region 3)

- A. Deacon Krista Lind, Saint Paul Area Synod (3H)
- B. Deacon Amanda Randall, South Dakota Synod (3C)

Group 6: Minister of Word and Sacrament (PC/L)

- A. The Rev. Eleanor Dutta, Central States Synod (4B)
- B. The Rev. Kwame Pitts, Upstate New York Synod (7D)

Group 7: Minister of Word and Sacrament

- A. The Rev. Jonathan Hemphill, Southeastern Synod (9D)
- B. The Rev. Bradley E. Schmeling, Saint Paul Area Synod (3H)

Voted: En Bloc

CC22.04.17k

To authorize the Executive Committee to approve the amended Churchwide Organization Personnel Policies prior to the August 2022 Church Council meeting.

Voted: En Bloc

CC22.04.17l

To receive with gratitude the final report on “Sanctuary” from the AMMPARO (“Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities”) Team in the Service and Justice unit; and

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

Voted: En Bloc

CC22.04.17m

To receive with gratitude the final report on climate change from the Witness in Society Team in the Service and Justice unit.

Voted: En Bloc

CC22.04.17n

To receive the progress report from the Christian Community and Leadership unit regarding the research work related to discriminatory treatment within the call process and the inequitable compensation of rostered ministers of color; and

To request a progress report be presented at the Fall 2022 Church Council meeting and a final report be presented at the Spring 2023 Church Council meeting.

Voted: En Bloc

CC22.04.17o

To receive the resolution on “Ethiopia” from the Minneapolis Area Synod and the response from the Service and Justice home area;

To request that the presiding bishop consider the resolution and inform the Lutheran Office for World Community, Service and Justice home area, and other relevant churchwide home areas of the contents of the “Ethiopia” resolution;

To direct the Office of the Presiding Bishop to take the actions deemed most appropriate; and

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

Voted: En Bloc

CC22.04.17p

To receive the response on “Amending Gendered Constitutional Language” resolution from the Office of the Secretary;

To request that the Office of the Secretary consider the amendment to the constitutional provision 5.01. and related bylaw and continuing resolution references as it reviews possible amendments to the *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* for the 2025 Churchwide Assembly;

To direct the churchwide organization to adhere to the “ELCA Style Guide” to ensure the appropriate usage of gender inclusive language in ELCA communications and documents; and

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

Voted: En Bloc

CC22.04.17q

To receive the progress report on “Guidance on Retired or Retiring Ministers for the Roster of the ELCA” from the Office of the Secretary;

To anticipate a report and a possible revision of the “Manual of Policies and Procedures for Management of the Rosters of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America”; and

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

The 110th meeting of the Church Council adjourned at 11:19 a.m. (CDT) on Saturday, Apr. 2, 2022.

June 27, 2022

The 111th meeting of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) was convened electronically at 2:00 p.m. Central Daylight Time (CDT). Mr. Carlos E. Peña, interim vice president of the ELCA and chair of the Church Council, called the Church Council meeting to order at 2:02 p.m. (CDT).

Voted: ***CC22.06.18***

To adopt the agenda and to permit the chair to call for consideration of agenda items in the order the chair deems most appropriate.

Voted: ***CC22.06.19***

To urge the Churchwide Assembly Planning Team, in consultation with the Church Council and the leaders of the ELCA Latiné community, to find ways to incorporate into the 2022 Churchwide Assembly a public apology from this church to the Latiné community and a public commitment to anti-racism.

Voted: ***CC22.06.20***

To receive the request to explore creation of the position of a Racial Justice Ombudsperson with a report from the Office of the Presiding Bishop delivered to the Church Council at its Fall 2022 meeting;

To acknowledge the previous action of the council to create “a task force charged with reviewing the current process for discipline and its impact on persons of color and other historically marginalized groups, considering recommendations for staffing, community healing and restoration, and learning best practices from full communion partners” (CC22.04.04); and

To review the role and membership of the ELCA Response Team.

Voted: ***CC22.06.21***

To receive with gratitude today’s report of Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton and officers of this church related to the Sierra Pacific Synod.

The 111th meeting of the Church Council adjourned at 3:51 p.m. (EDT) on Monday, June 27, 2022.