

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
CHURCH COUNCIL
April 8-10, 2011
Chicago, Illinois

AGENDA

Participants

Voting Members

Pr. David Anderson	Pr. Heather Lubold
Mr. Baron Blanchard	Ms. Susan McArver
Ms. Rebecca Jo Brakke	Pr. Raymond Miller
Ms. Rebecca Carlson	Mr. John Munday
Ms. Deborah Chenoweth	Mr. Mark Myers (<i>excused</i>)
Pr. Rachel L. Connelly	Ms. Ann Niedringhaus
Mr. John R. Emery	Pr. Pablo Obregon
Pr. Amsalu Geleta	Mr. Carlos Peña, Vice President
Ms. Karin Graddy	Mr. Ivan Perez
Bp. Mark S. Hanson, Presiding Bishop	Ms. Feronika Raming
Mr. Mark S. Helmke	Ms. Lynette Reitz
Ms. Louise Hemstead (<i>excused Friday</i>)	Ms. Sandra Schlesinger
Mr. Bill Horne	Pr. Michael Schmidt (<i>excused</i>)
Pr. Keith A. Hunsinger	Mr. Blaire Smith
Ms. Christina Jackson-Skelton, Treasurer	Pr. Jeff Sorenson
Mr. Mark E. Johnson	Mr. David D. Swartling, Secretary
Pr. Susan Langhauser	Pr. Kathryn Tiede
Pr. Steven Loy	Mr. David Truland
	Pr. Phil Wold

Liaison Bishops

Bp. Allan Bjornberg (<i>excused</i>)	Bp. Gerald Mansholt
Bp. Michael Burk	Bp. Margaret Payne
Bp. Elizabeth Eaton	Bp. Harold Usgaard
Bp. Murray D. Finck	Bp. Martin D. Wells
Bp. Ralph Jones	Bp. Herman Yoos

Advisory Members

Pr. Jaime Dubon, Latino Community Association
Ms. Elizabeth Gaskins, American Indian and Alaska Native Association (*excused*)
Pr. David Keller, Lutheran Services in America (*excused*)
Ms. Katherine Long, president, European American Association
Ms. Arielle Mastellar, youth advisor
Pr. O. Dennis Mims, president, African-American Association (*excused*)
Mr. Fuad Nijim, president, Arab and Middle Eastern Association (*excused*)
Mr. Wayne Powell, ELCA colleges and universities (*excused*)
Pr. Mark Ramseth, ELCA seminaries (*excused*)
Pr. Arthur C. (Chris) Repp, chair, Global Mission program committee
Mr. Kyle Teague, youth advisor
Pr. Edmond Yee, Asian and Pacific Islander Association

Resource People

Office of the Presiding Bishop

Pr. M. Wyvetta Bullock, Assistant to the Bishop, Executive for Administration
Mr. Kenneth W. Inskip, Executive for Research and Evaluation
Pr. Marcus Kunz, Assistant to the Bishop for Theological Discernment
Pr. Donald J. McCoid, Assistant to the Bishop for Ecumenical and Inter-Religious
Affairs
Pr. Darrell D. Morton, Assistant to the Presiding Bishop for Chaplaincy
Pr. Walter May, Assistant to the Bishop for the Conference of Bishops
Ms. Myrna J. Sheie, Assistant to the Bishop for Governance
Ms. Else B. Thompson, Executive for Human Resources

Office of the Secretary

Pr. Ruth E. Hamilton, Executive for Office of the Secretary Administration
Mr. Phillip H. Harris, General Counsel
Mr. Frank F. Imhoff, Director for Official Documentation
Mr. David A. Ullrich, Associate General Counsel

Unit Executives

Program Units

Pr. Stephen P. Bouman, Executive Director, Congregational and Synodical Mission
(*excused*)
Represented by Ms. Evelyn Soto, Director for Synodical Partners for Mission
Pr. Rafael Malpica-Padilla, Executive Director, Global Mission

Separately Incorporated Ministries

Ms. Linda Post Bushkofsky, Executive Director, Women of the ELCA
Mr. Doug Haugen, Director for Lutheran Men in Mission (*excused*)
Mr. John G. Kapanke, President, Board of Pensions
Ms. Beth A. Lewis, President, Augsburg Fortress, Publishers
Ms. Eva M. Roby, Executive Vice President for Administration, MIF

Press

Mr. John R. Brooks, ELCA Media Relations and News
Ms. Elizabeth M. Hunter, *The Lutheran* magazine
Mr. Daniel Lehmann, *The Lutheran* magazine

Ecumenical Guests

Pr. André Lavergne, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada
Pr. Mary Ann Neevel, United Church of Christ (*excused*)
Ms. Lelanda Lee, The Episcopal Church
Vacant positions: Moravian Church; Presbyterian Church U.S.A.; Reformed Church

Thursday, April 7, 2011

3:00 p.m. Committee meets
Program and Services Committee, Pentecost

Friday, April 8, 2011

6:00 a.m. **Breakfast**, Marriott Hotel (Buffet opens at 6:00 a.m.)

8:30 a.m. Committee meets (as needed)
Program and Services Committee, Lent

10:30 a.m. Committee meets
Executive Committee, Pentecost

12:00 noon **Lunch**, Augsburg Room

1:00 p.m. Update for Net Community users, Church Council Room
John Hessian, Office of the Presiding Bishop

1:30 p.m. **Committees meet**
Budget and Finance Committee, Epiphany
Legal and Constitutional Review, Advent
Program and Services, Pentecost
Planning and Evaluation, Training Room, **10th Floor**

5:30 p.m. **Evening prayer**, 1st Floor Chapel
Leader: Michael Burk
Lector: Rebecca Carlson

6:00 p.m. **Dinner**, Augsburg Room
Wine and beer available (\$5.00 donation)

7:30 p.m. **Café Conversation with Class of 2011**, Augsburg Room – *closed session for elected Church Council members*
The Café Conversation will be planned and guided by the Board Development Committee.

Saturday, April 9, 2011

6:00 a.m. **Breakfast**, Marriott Hotel (Buffet opens at 6:00 a.m.)

7:00 a.m. Committee meets
Board Development Committee, Advent

8:00 a.m. **Worship**, Church Council Room
Leader: Jeff Sorenson

PLENARY SESSION ONE

Church Council Room
8:15 – 10:30 a.m.

1.1 Call to Order and Adoption of the Agenda

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

CC ACTION

Recommended:

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

1.2 Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the October 8, 2010, November 12-14, 2010 and January 14, 2011 meetings of the Church Council have been distributed to council members electronically on NetCommunity. Minutes for meetings held in executive session have been added to the protocol file in the Office of the Secretary.

The minutes of the council's Executive Committee meetings on November 12, 2010, January 14, 2011, February 3, 2011 and March 16, 2011 have been distributed electronically to members. Minutes for meetings held in executive session have been added to the protocol file in the Office of the Secretary.

Please provide in writing for the Executive for Office of the Secretary Administration any notations or typographical errors in the distributed text of the minutes. Proper corrections will be entered into the protocol copies of the minutes. Such corrections need not be raised in the plenary session in connection with the approval of the minutes.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To approve the minutes of the October 8, 2010, November 12-14, 2010 and January 14, 2011 meetings of the Church Council; and

To ratify actions of the council's Executive Committee as indicated in the minutes of the November 12, 2010 and January 14, 2011 meetings.

1.3 Report of the Presiding Bishop ([Exhibit A, Part 1](#))

1.4 Greetings from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

The closest neighbor of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC). For the last several years, a representative of the ELCIC has been a guest at each spring meeting of the ELCA Church Council, just as a representative of the ELCA has been a guest at each fall meeting of the ELCIC National Church Council.

The Rev. André Lavergne, Assistant to the National Bishop of the ELCIC, will be present for the April 2010 meeting of the Church Council and will bring a greeting to the Church Council.

1.5 Dwelling in the Word with Arielle Mastellar

1.6 Report of the Vice President ([Exhibit A, Part 2](#))

1.7 Report of the Executive Committee

NOTE: The Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is committed to building relationships between the churchwide organization and synods, congregations, and institutions and agencies.

At its November 2009 meeting, members of the Church Council prepared assignments for “Church Council contacts with synods: 2009-2011.” A chart with the assignments is located on Net Community under [Current Information](#).

Members are encouraged to report on synod visits regularly. A summary of the reports received since the November 2010 meeting of the Church Council are printed in Exhibit L, Part 1. A notebook including the full texts of reports submitted is available on the materials distribution table.

1.7.A Church Council Committees for the 2011-2013 Biennium

In accordance with Church Council practice, the Executive Committee recommends and the Council ratifies committee assignments for continuing members at its August meeting. This ensures efficiency as the Council prepares for the November meeting and ensures that there are continuing members assigned to committees prior to the meeting. Members elected at the Churchwide Assembly will indicate their preferences prior to the November meeting and be ratified at that meeting.

As you know, each member of the Church Council serves on one of four Church Council committees and has the option to indicate interest in others.

Most Church Council members continue serving on their current committees. For those who indicate a wish to serve on a different committee, the Executive Committee will try to align the member’s experience and interests with the needs of the committee for expertise, experience and balance among members, but it is not known how preferences will cluster. For that reason, the Executive Committee cannot guarantee that members will be assigned their top preference. Continuing members will be informed of the committee assignments at the August 2011 meeting of the Church Council.

Additional information about the committees:

1. The committees review various aspects of churchwide work and develop recommendations in their areas of responsibility for consideration by the Council.
2. The committees normally convene the day before the Church Council begins its plenary sessions. For the initial organizing meeting of the biennium, however, the committees will meet on Saturday morning, November 12.
3. The committee assignments, including newly elected members, will be reported in the first Church Council mailing for the November meeting.

[Exhibit L, Part 3](#) contains a form on which continuing members of the Church Council can indicate their committee preference. This form also will be distributed in the hanging folders. Please return the form to John Hessian by the end of the meeting.

1.8 Church Council Joys and Concerns

1.9 Report of the Treasurer ([Exhibit A, Part 4](#); [Exhibit F, Part 1](#))

1.10 Report of the Budget and Finance Committee ([Exhibit F, Parts 2-5](#))

1.10.A 2010 Current Fund and World Hunger

The Report of the Treasurer summarizing the 2010 fiscal year financial results can be found in Exhibit F, Part 1a. The current fund operating results for the period are presented in Exhibit F, Part 1b. Operating results for the World Hunger program are in Exhibit F, Part 1c. The statements of financial position for the year ended January 31, 2011 are reflected in Exhibit F, Part 1d.

1.10.B 2011 Income Estimate and Expenditure Authorization

No change is being proposed for the unrestricted current fund income estimate, although continued refinement of expense allocations to better support plans in the new design involves minor changes in specific unit allocations.

The stronger end-of-year performance in World Hunger resulted in an increase in the estimated 2011 World Hunger Appeal budget to \$18,500,000. The increase in gifts received through direct giving from individuals and congregations is the primary reason for the positive variance in fourth quarter World Hunger income. Planned expenditures of World Hunger fund balances in excess of required reserves, resulting from underspending of the 2010 budget, total \$500,000, bring total anticipated expenditures in fiscal 2011 to \$19,000,000.

Exhibit F, Part 2a shows the revised 2011 income estimates. Exhibit F, Part 2b shows the revised 2011 expense authorization by unit.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

~~To affirm a revised current fund spending authorization for fiscal year 2011 of \$62,614,500; and~~

To approve a revised total World Hunger spending authorization for fiscal year 2011 of \$19,000,000.

1.10.C Proposed 2012-2013 Biennium Budget

The 2012-13 biennium budget to be proposed to the 2011 Churchwide Assembly is found in Exhibit F, Part 3a and the expense proposal in Exhibit F, Part 3b. Mission support is anticipated at the \$47,000,000 level for both years of the biennium.

Increases are anticipated in Vision for Mission (\$100,000 each year), building on the renewed focus and success of 2010. Rental income is projected to increase over the

biennium due to the potential for lease income from vacated space in the Lutheran Center. Efforts to increase gifts received in support of unit programs are expected to produce modest annual increases. Decreases in distribution of endowment income are due to a lowered five-year average market value, producing modestly lowered annual pay-outs.

The expenditure proposal for 2012 is a net decrease of \$821,600 from the 2011 revised expenditure authorization. Changes in the Office of the Presiding Bishop and Office of the Treasurer are due to slight revisions in the mapping of expenses into the new organizational structure and some adjustments for fixed costs. A compensation pool has been included as a separate line to account for the costs of normal increases in compensation and benefits for staff. The large adjustments in the allocations for Congregational and Synodical Mission and Global Mission reflect the impact of grant reductions anticipated in 2012. The new organizational design and staffing reductions implemented in 2011 made it possible to leave most grants to partner organizations untouched in the 2011 budget, but it has been expected that flat or decreased income estimates beyond 2011 would result in the need to decrease grant support to partners. Since mid-2010, the Office of the Bishop has been in conversation with the Conference of Bishops to consider, together, the best options for making the required reductions. The Conference of Bishops provided advice to the Office of the Presiding Bishop regarding the reductions that have now been incorporated in the 2012 expense proposal.

World Hunger income is anticipated to remain at \$18,500,000.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To recommend the following for adoption by the 2011 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:

2012 Budget Proposal

**To approve a 2012 current fund spending authorization of \$61,792,900; and
To approve a 2012 World Hunger income proposal of \$18,500,000.**

2013 Budget Proposal

**To approve a 2013 current fund income proposal of \$61,939,400; and
To approve a 2013 World Hunger income proposal of \$18,500,000; and
To authorize the Church Council to establish a spending authorization after periodic review of revised income estimates.**

1.10.D Revisions to 2011 Synod Mission Support Plans

The ELCA Church Council has responsibility for reviewing and taking action on synod mission support plans as an interdependent partner with congregations and synods in implementing and strengthening the financial support for the work of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA Constitution, 8.15 and 10.71). The report of the director for mission support is found in Exhibit F, Part 5a. A report of

the actual mission support received from each synod for 2010, with plans and any revisions for the 2011 and 2012 fiscal years, is provided in Exhibit F, Part 5b.

Revisions in synod plans following the November 2010 meeting of the Church Council were received and reviewed by the Conference of Bishops at its March 2011 meeting.

Since the November 2010 Church Council meeting, we have received revisions for 2011 mission support plans from 30 synods. Five synods have increased their percentage share and five synods have decreased their percentage share. The other 20 synods remained at their previous percentage sharing plans.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To acknowledge with sadness that circumstances in the following synods have led to decisions to seek a decrease in the percentage of sharing of 2011 mission support contributions by congregations for synodical and churchwide ministries; to encourage each synod to continue to work to grow mission support in the synod; and to request that each synod develop a plan, in consultation with the churchwide organization, to restore or surpass the previous level of mission support sharing: Pacifica; Central States; Western Iowa; Upstate New York; and Florida-Bahamas synods; and

To acknowledge with thanksgiving the decision of the following synods to increase the percentage of sharing of 2011 mission support contributions by congregations for synodical and churchwide ministries: Alaska; Eastern Washington-Idaho; Northeastern Iowa; North Carolina; and South Carolina synods; and

To acknowledge with thanksgiving the decision of the following synods to maintain the percentage of sharing of 2011 mission support contributions by congregations for synodical and churchwide ministries but estimating an adjustment in the estimated amount to be shared: Sierra Pacific; Grand Canyon; Eastern North Dakota; South Dakota; Northwestern Minnesota; Saint Paul Area; Southeastern Minnesota; Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana; Metropolitan Chicago; Northern Illinois; Central/Southern Illinois; Northern Great Lakes; Northwest Synod of Wisconsin; La Crosse Area; North/West Lower Michigan; Indiana-Kentucky; Northwestern Ohio; Metropolitan New York; Northwestern Pennsylvania; Delaware-Maryland; and Southeastern synods.

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

Revised April 8, 2011

1.10.E Synod Mission Support Plans for 2012

Many synods are still in the process of preparing their 2012 mission support plans for presentation to their synod assemblies this spring and summer. To date, we have received plans from only 34 synods.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

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

To acknowledge with thanksgiving the decision of the following synods to increase the percentage of sharing of 2012 mission support contributions by congregations for synodical and churchwide ministries: Southwestern Washington; Montana; South Dakota; Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana; Indiana-Kentucky; Upstate New York; Lower Susquehanna; West Virginia-Western Maryland; **and** South Carolina **synods**; and **New England synods; and**

To acknowledge with thanksgiving the decision of the following synods to maintain the percentage of sharing of 2012 mission support contributions by congregations for synodical and churchwide ministries: Rocky Mountain; Eastern North Dakota; Northeastern Minnesota; Southeastern Minnesota; Nebraska; Central States; Southwestern Texas; Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast; Northern Illinois; Central/Southern Illinois; Northeastern Iowa; Northern Great Lakes; Northwest Synod of Wisconsin; East-Central Synod of Wisconsin; South-Central Synod of Wisconsin; La Crosse Area; North/West Lower Michigan; New Jersey; Slovak Zion; Northwestern Pennsylvania; Southwestern Pennsylvania; Metropolitan Washington, D.C.; and Southeastern synods.

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

To request that all synods submit their 2012 mission support plans prior to their 2011 synod assemblies.

1.10.F Church Council Designated Funds

The established method for funding the mission plans of the churchwide organization is through the operating budget. The operating budget, developed after review of potential income sources, is used to establish approved spending levels for the various units of the churchwide organization as they provide programs or support outlined in the ELCA governing documents.

Revised April 8, 2011

The Church Council is asked occasionally to establish designated funds for support of certain specific programs or events that may not be included in the “normal” yearly operations of the churchwide organization. Approved requests may be managed in two different ways.

The first way designated funds are managed is through investment in the ELCA Endowment Fund Pooled Trust as Church Council designated funds “functioning as endowment.” They are reported annually to the Church Council in the spring through the Budget and Finance Committee (See Exhibit F, Part 4a).

The second way designated funds are managed is through the ELCA treasury as designated funds to be used for a specific activity within a given time frame. Exhibit F, Part 4b is a summary exhibit of all active Church Council designated funds, exclusive of those “functioning as endowments.” Exhibit F, Parts 4c-e includes reports for each of the active Church Council designated funds.

10:30 a.m. Break

PLENARY SESSION TWO

Church Council Room
10:45 a.m. – 12:00 noon

2.1 Report of the Secretary ([Exhibit A, Part 3](#))

2.2 Report of the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee

2.2.A 2011 Churchwide Assembly Rules of Organization and Procedure
(Exhibit H, Part 1)

In each biennium, the Church Council submits a recommendation to the Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America on proposed rules of organization and procedure. Voting members of the assembly act on the rules in the first plenary session. A two-thirds vote of the assembly is required for adoption of the rules.

The text of the proposed rules is printed in [Exhibit H, Part 1](#). These rules have been developed and refined as a result of the experiences of the eleven previous Churchwide Assemblies as well as the experience of predecessor church bodies.

CC ACTION

Recommended: *To recommend adoption of the following resolution by the voting members of the 2011 Churchwide Assembly:*

To adopt the “Rules of Organization and Procedure” for the 2011 Churchwide Assembly (exclusive of quoted and highlighted constitutional provisions and bylaws that are already in force).

Revised April 8, 2011

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To authorize the presiding bishop and secretary of this church to prepare further editing and scheduling revisions that may be found necessary for the Rules prior to their publication in the *Pre-Assembly Report*; and

To report any changes to the Church Council at its August 2011 meeting.

2.2.B Continuing Resolutions Related to the Redesign of the Churchwide Organization

The Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America states in provision 22.31.: “Continuing resolutions not in conflict with the constitution or bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America may be adopted or amended by a majority vote of the Churchwide Assembly or by a two-thirds vote of the Church Council. Such continuing resolutions become effective immediately upon adoption. Matters related to the administrative functions of this church shall be set forth in the continuing resolutions.”

The following amendments are proposed to allow for the work for justice for women and for changes to the relationship of some separately incorporated ministries with the churchwide organization. The amendments are highlighted and underlined below:

CC ACTION

Two-Thirds Vote Required

Recommended:

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

15.12.G10. 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 association of teaching theologians, networks such as Lutheran ethicists and women theologians, the editorial staff of the ELCA publishing ministry and publications, and all rostered leaders. 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.H10. Responsibilities for Relationships with Separately Incorporated Ministries

~~The Office of the Presiding Bishop shall be the primary liaison between the churchwide organization and Women of the ELCA, the Publishing House of the ELCA, the Deaconess Community of the ELCA, Lutheran Men in Mission, and National Lutheran Campus Ministry, Inc. The Office of the Secretary shall be the primary liaison between the churchwide organization and ELCA Risk Management, Inc. The Office of the Treasurer shall be the primary liaison between the churchwide organization and the Mission Investment Fund, the Endowment Fund of the ELCA, and the Board of Pensions of the ELCA.~~

16.12.A10. Congregational and Synodical Mission Unit

The Congregational and Synodical Mission unit shall foster and facilitate the work of synods, congregations, and partners in making congregations vital centers for mission and in creating coalitions and networks to promote justice and peace. Its work includes creating and revitalizing congregations; leadership development; providing worship and liturgical resources; enhancing discipleship; supporting multicultural ministries and the commitment of this church to inclusivity, fostering relationships with educational partners; facilitating the engagement of this church in advocacy; and related activities that serve the evangelical mission of synods and congregations. The Congregational and Synodical Mission unit shall relate to the Deaconess Community, Lutheran Men in Mission, National Lutheran Campus Ministry, Inc, and ELCA Risk Management, Inc.

a. The Deaconess Community of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is a separately incorporated ministry of theologically trained, professionally prepared women called to ministry and service by congregations, synods, and agencies of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada. Its mission is "Compelled by the love of the Christ and sustained by community, we devote our lives to proclaiming the Gospel through ministries of mercy and servant leadership." Deaconesses are consecrated by the ELCA and the ELCIC.

b. Lutheran Men in Mission is a separately incorporated, self-supporting ministry whose vision is for every man to have a growing relationship with Jesus Christ through an effective men's ministry in every congregation. The purpose of Lutheran Men in Mission is, by God's grace, to build men's faith, relationships, and ministry through events, resources, and ongoing leadership development.

c. National Lutheran Campus Ministry, Inc. is a separately incorporated ministry that helps to provide and support suitable facilities to carry out ELCA campus ministry at state-supported and non-ELCA-related colleges and universities.

d. Risk Management, Inc. (ELCARM) is a separately incorporated ministry that provides risk management and insurance services to colleges, universities, and seminaries related to the ELCA.

2.2.C Churchwide Assembly Recommendations: Governing Documents

The Church Council has the responsibility for submitting recommendations for action by the 2011 Churchwide Assembly. While amendments to provisions of the constitutions of this church require a six-month notice to synods, amendments to bylaws and continuing resolutions do not require such notice. The following proposed amendments to bylaws and continuing resolutions, if recommended by the Church Council, will be distributed to the voting members of the Churchwide Assembly in the *Pre-Assembly Report*.

The following amendment to a continuing resolution is proposed because the publishing house is no longer doing the work specified. (The proposed changes to paragraph m. are highlighted and underlined. The proposed changes in the numbering of the continuing resolution were recommended to the Churchwide Assembly at the November 2010 meeting.)

1. Amendments Related to the Redesign of the Churchwide Organization

a. CC ACTION

Recommended:

To recommend the following for adoption by the 2011 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:

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

16.31.A05.17.40.A11. Responsibilities of the Publishing House of the ELCA

The Publishing House of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America—also known as Augsburg Fortress, Publishers—shall:

- a. *be responsible for the publishing, production, and distribution of publications to be sold to accomplish the mission of this church.*
- b. *work in close cooperation with congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization to provide a diversity of published resources.*
- c. *relate to other churchwide units through resource planning groups. Materials published to assist congregations in fulfilling their life in mission shall be developed in coordination with other appropriate churchwide units. Development costs will be paid by the unit developing the publication.*
- d. *develop, produce, and distribute materials required to carry out its functions.*
- e. *be financed from the distribution of materials, not from the budget of this church.*
- f. *create, develop, and publish a diversity of resources in various media; make available other publications, materials, and church supplies; produce the official documents and publications of this church; and produce materials in a manner that assures their ready availability.*

- g. *establish a distribution center, as well as utilize other means for the wide distribution of resources within and beyond this church.*
- h. *manage its finances and other resources in a manner that assures the continuity and extension of its activities. This publishing house shall maintain its own accounting, data processing, personnel, pension, and other functions essential to a cohesive, efficient, and effective operation.*
- i. *identify and nurture talented authors, composers, artists, and others involved in creating various media.*
- j. *produce and distribute the church periodical in accord with provisions of this church's constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions.*
- k. *determine its necessary financial reserves, appropriations, and publishing subsidies.*
- l. *make available resources to meet unique language and cultural needs.*
- ~~m. *provide for production and distribution services for materials that originate in churchwide units, including the option of providing for competitive printing costs and delivery from independent printers, with costs for these services paid by the originating unit.*~~

b. CC ACTION

Recommended:

To delete the following amendments to the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* from the Church Council's recommendation to the 2011 Churchwide Assembly concerning amendments to the governing documents concerning the reorganization of the churchwide organization:

~~17.70.A11. The Deaconess Community of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is a separately incorporated ministry of theologically trained, professionally prepared women called to ministry and service by congregations, synods, and agencies of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada. Its mission is "Compelled by the love of the Christ and sustained by community, we devote our lives to proclaiming the Gospel through ministries of mercy and servant leadership." Deaconesses are consecrated by the ELCA and the ELCIC.~~

~~17.70.B11. Lutheran Men in Mission is a separately incorporated self-supporting ministry whose vision is for every man to have a growing relationship with Jesus Christ through an effective men's ministry in every congregation. The purpose of Lutheran Men in Mission is, by God's grace, to build men's faith, relationships, and ministry through events, resources, and ongoing leadership development.~~

~~17.70.C11. National Lutheran Campus Ministry, Inc. is a separately incorporated ministry that helps to provide and support suitable~~

~~facilities to carry out ELCA campus ministry at state-supported and non-ELCA-related colleges and universities.~~

~~17.70.D11. Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Risk Management, Inc. (ELCARM) is a separately incorporated ministry that provides risk management and insurance services to colleges, universities, and seminaries related to the ELCA.~~

2. Other Amendments

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To recommend the following for adoption by the 2011 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:

To adopt the following amendments to the Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:

- 10.31.04.** The treasurer ~~may shall~~ be elected by the Synod Assembly ~~or may be appointed by the Synod Council~~. The treasurer may be either a layperson or an ordained minister.
- 12.41.11.** Each synod shall elect one voting member of the Churchwide Assembly for every 5,800 baptized members in the synod. In addition, each synod shall elect one voting member for every 50 congregations in the synod. The synodical bishop, who is *ex officio* a member of the Churchwide Assembly, shall be included in the number of voting members so determined. There shall be at least two voting members from each synod. ~~The Church Council may allocate up to ten additional voting members among synods in order to further the principles of organization, commitment to inclusiveness, and interdependence as specified in Chapter 5 of this constitution, but no single synod may be allocated more than two additional voting members.~~ The secretary shall notify each synod of the number of assembly members it is to elect.
- 19.21.04.** ~~It shall be the responsibility of the The~~ Church Council ~~to make certain shall endeavor to ensure~~ that every synod has at least one person serving on the ~~Church Council or~~ churchwide boards, ~~or~~ committees, ~~task forces, or other groups~~. Among those persons elected by the assembly, no more than two persons from any one synod shall serve on ~~the Church Council~~ or any one board, ~~or~~ committee, ~~task force, or other group~~.
- 2.2.D** **Report of Changes in Proposed Amendments Recommended by the Church Council to the 2011 Churchwide Assembly ([Exhibit H, Part 3](#))**

2.2.E Proposed 2011 Amendments to the *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

The Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is responsible for recommendations for action by the 2011 Churchwide Assembly. The Church Council—in preparation for the twelfth Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, to be held in Orlando, Florida, August 15–19, 2011—recommended adoption of amendments to the *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* at its November 2011 meeting, as detailed in [Exhibit H, Part 2](#). This report is provided for information.

2.3 Church Council Nominations and Elections

Between meetings of the Churchwide Assembly, the Church Council has the responsibility of electing people to fill unexpired terms on churchwide boards, steering committees of churchwide commissions and certain advisory committees. Biographical information is provided in [Exhibit C, Part 1](#).

Church Council

Clergy [Term 2015] – to replace resignation of Pr. Michael Schmidt, Sioux City, Iowa (5E)

- a. Pr. Yvonne Marshall, Council Bluffs, Iowa (5E)
- b. Pr. Vance Lee Toivonen, Armstrong, Iowa (5E)

2.4 Dwelling in the Word with Jeff Sorenson

2.5 Announcements

12:00 noon *Deadline for Removal of Items from En Bloc*
Deadline for New Business
See [Church Council Orientation Manual](#), pp. 38-39 (Order of Business, pp. 41-42 in PDF)

12:00 noon **Lunch**, Augsburg Room
Executive Committee meets with officers
With Bishop Hanson, 11A
With Treasurer Jackson-Skelton, Advent
With Secretary Swartling, OS Conference Room

PLENARY SESSION THREE

Church Council Room
1:30 – 3:15 p.m.

3.1 Bible Study: Pr. Dee Pederson, LIFT Task Force Chair

3.2 Report of the Executive for Administration ([Exhibit A, Part 5](#))

NOTE: Reports of churchwide ministries are provided in Exhibit K and reports of separately incorporated ministries are provided in Exhibit P.

3.3 Report on Nominations, Appointments and Elections

3.4 Report of the Planning and Evaluation Committee

3.4.A Report of the LIFT Task Force ([Exhibit I, Parts 1a – 1h](#))

At its March 2009 meeting, the ELCA Church Council authorized Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson, in collaboration with the Executive Committee of the Church Council and the Conference of Bishops, to appoint a study design group. The task of the study design group was to design a charter for a task force “... to evaluate the organization and governance of this church and the interrelationships among its expressions and partner agencies and institutions for the purpose of bringing a comprehensive report and recommendations to the 2011 Churchwide Assembly.”

The study design group was formed and met three times from June–September 2009. In fulfillment of the Church Council’s assignment, the study design group created a charter to describe the context, scope, membership, budget, timeline and process for the work of the ELCA Ecology Study Task Force.

The task force for “Living into the Future Together: Renewing the Ecology of the ELCA” (LIFT) was formed and met for the first time in January 2010. The task force’s purpose is stated in its charter, “The ELCA Ecology Study task force intends to study the evolving societal and economic changes that have occurred in the twenty years since the formation of this church and to evaluate the organization, governance and interrelationships among this church’s expressions in the light of those changes. The result of the Ecology Study task force’s work will be a report and recommendations that will position this church for the future and explore new possibilities for participating in God’s mission.”

The LIFT progress report submitted to the Church Council in November 2010 indicated, “...the task force has been engaged in prayerful study and conversation about both the relationships and interdependence that characterize the ELCA and its partners, and the context, or environment, in which we live today. The LIFT study has responded to questions prompted by increasingly evident changes in the cultural, religious, financial and global environment in which ELCA congregations and its partners seek to carry out God’s mission. The task force was charged with asking how this church, in its various expressions, can participate most effectively in carrying out God’s mission in the world.

The two overarching questions guided the LIFT task force in its work:

What is God calling this church to be and to do in the future?

What changes are in order to help us respond most faithfully?

The task force intentionally titled its task “renewing the ecology.” The phrase first was used by Dr. Craig Dykstra, vice president for religion at the Lilly Endowment, to describe the ELCA as a living organism with its own interrelated ecosystems. Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson further elaborated on the term when he said at the 2005 Churchwide Assembly, “...we are a community in Christ of vitality and life. And within this vitality and this community, there is rich diversity and there’s complexity that can’t be described or captured or understood in a kind of flat, one-dimensional way. So we talk about each the three expressions of this church as one part of that interdependent ecosystem.”

Within their changing environment, the systems of the ELCA find themselves in the midst of dramatic changes resulting from influences at work in the history of the last twenty years. The change is not peculiar to the ELCA, but permeates both United States and global secular and religious cultures. In her popular book, *The Great Emergence*, Phyllis Tickle describes the historically significant change in which the church finds itself and describes it as The Great Emergence:

Like every “new season,” this one we recognize as the Great Emergence affects every part of our lives. In its totality, it interfaces with, and is the context for, everything we do socially, culturally, intellectually, politically, economically. (Tickle, Phyllis, *The Great Emergence: How Christianity is Changing and Why*, Baker Books, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 2008, p. 14.)

The factors promoting change contribute to trends evident to observers of Christianity in the United States. Trends of the times that dictate change in the churches include:

- Declining participation in Christian churches;
- Growth in “no religious affiliation;”
- Becoming more “spiritual” and less “religious;”
- Influence of individualism on Christian identity and community life;
- Increasing social, cultural and religious diversity in the U.S.;
- Growing influence of Hispanic/Latino religious faith;
- Identifying a new stage of life: “Emerging Adulthood;”
- The rise of a distinctive post-boomer faith and spirituality;
- Changing structures and patterns of family life in the United States;
- Rediscovering the impact of parents and families on faith practice;
- Living in a digital world;
- Educating in new ways; and
- Increasing numbers of adults 65 and older. (Lifelong Faith Journal, summer 2009. www.lifelongfaith.com)

In an address to the LIFT task force, Dr. Ozan Sevimli of the World Bank office in Washington, D.C., spoke to the global situation. His purpose was to clarify how the economic situation in transition poses a challenge for the ELCA. He said, “This global crisis has left us with a global landscape that has been transformed....The ELCA is a

fantastic organization, which is doing great work in many different areas. But it needs to design a new approach to how it lives out the Gospel. It needs a vision for the future and a clear strategy needs to be developed, well articulated and executed.”

The breadth and depth of change is daunting, but the task force report recognizes that the current situation offers both opportunities and challenges. It points to specific strengths within the ecology of the ELCA:

- The ELCA’s history and practice equip it to offer its distinctive gifts to the world.
- The various interrelated constituencies within this church possess a tradition of active and effective worship and service.
- The tradition shows itself in an active posture that seeks to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ in all its rich dimensions.
- The church’s service agencies reach one in fifty-five American households annually.
- Partnership activities have produced a reputation for leadership in ecumenism and inter-faith dialogue.
- The ELCA seeks to be a public church as it speaks to the issues of its day while remaining faithful to its confessional heritage.

The most compelling challenge for the LIFT project is to recommend ways to renew the ecology of this church so that it can give its gifts most effectively today. The two questions noted above demonstrate the desire of this church to give its distinctive gifts to the environment in which it finds itself.

While the new environment provides opportunities, it also brings challenges. They include declining membership in the ELCA and lower attendance at worship. The ethnic diversity of the United States population is not reflected adequately in this church. Membership is aging. While individual contributions increase, overall financial giving is lower in both designated and undesignated contributions. As a result, there is decreased support for regional and national expressions of the church. The most recent national and global recession also is reflected in church finances.

The LIFT project is not a process peculiar to the ELCA. Nearly every mainline church (including the African Methodist Episcopal Church, Christian Church [Disciples of Christ], Seventh-day Adventist, Southern Baptist Convention, The United Methodist Church) in the United States has been or is examining what changes are necessary as they confront a radically changing environment. In addition, many religious groups formerly seen as prospering in the current environment also are finding that circumstances are leading them to reexamine their institutions.

In order to do its work, LIFT recruited representatives from across the ELCA for the task force. It also brought in participants as it consulted with other groups. Its planning team exchanged information with the churchwide organization’s design team, which was working on reconfiguration. It worked closely with the ELCA Conference of Bishops and submitted periodic updates to the ELCA Church Council. It presented its final report to the Conference of Bishops at its March 2011 meeting.

At its November 2010 meeting, the Church Council received and voted to transmit to the 2011 Churchwide Assembly recommendations from the LIFT task force related to structure and governance. These recommendations are summarized in [Exhibit H, Part 2](#).

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At its April 2011 meeting the Church Council will review the report of the LIFT task force as provided in [Exhibit I, Parts 1a-1h](#) and consider the task force's recommendations for possible transmission to the 2011 Churchwide Assembly for action.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To receive with gratitude the report and recommendations of the Living into the Future Together (LIFT) task force in response to its call to “study the evolving societal and economic changes that have occurred in the twenty years since the formation of this church and to evaluate the organization, governance and interrelationships among this church’s expressions in the light of those changes”;

To recognize the vital input provided by ELCA members, congregations, synods and related agencies and institutions in the development of the report and recommendations;

To acknowledge with deep appreciation the work of the LIFT task force and its significant and comprehensive documentation in response to the questions that have guided their work: What is God calling this church to be and to do in the future? What changes are in order to help us respond most faithfully?; and

To anticipate joyful response by the 2011 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to the LIFT task force recommendations as this church and its various expressions participate in carrying out God’s mission in this changing world.

3.4.B Recommendations of the LIFT Task Force ([Exhibit I, Part 1a](#))

1. LIFT Task Force Recommendation: Congregations

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To recommend the following for adoption by the 2011 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:

To adopt the recommendations of the Living into the Future Together (LIFT) task force related to congregations:

- 1. Congregations and synods in partnership develop a mission plan that will strengthen the congregation. We recommend that, in concert with their synod bishop and the director for evangelical mission, the congregation develop a plan to achieve as many of the following characteristics of vital congregations as are realistic for their life together. These plans will vary from congregation to congregation as leaders take seriously the context in which God has placed them (e.g., rural, urban, suburban) and as congregations discern the leading of the Spirit at various stages in a congregation’s life. Characteristics of vital congregations include:**

- fostering mature faith and discipleship in members.**

- understanding God's grace as the foundation of restored relationships with God, one another and the world.
 - worshipping God in word and sacrament.
 - strengthening evangelical outreach.
 - supporting lay, lay rostered and clergy leaders.
 - serving others in the way the congregation uses its resources.
 - learning about the congregation's surrounding community, including its racial and ethnic diversity and how this context might inform ministries.
 - building and maintaining relationships and partnerships with other ELCA congregations, the synod and the wider church for the sake of God's mission in the world.
 - building and maintaining relationships and partnerships with other religious and non-religious groups in the congregation's area and globally for the sake of God's mission in the world.
 - supporting people in their daily vocations of work, family life and relationships.
 - discerning what should be celebrated, engaged, tweaked or relinquished for the sake of God's mission.
 - sustaining the congregation's mission plan and determining how it will be carried out.
- ~~2. Congregation mission plans be completed by December 31, 2012 and become a regular process within each congregation.~~
- Congregations will be invited into and engaged in such planning by December 31, 2012, toward the goal that collaborative mission planning will become a regular process within each congregation.**

2. LIFT Task Force Recommendation: Synods

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To recommend the following for adoption by the 2011 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:

To **adopt commend** the recommendations of the Living into the Future Together (LIFT) task force related to synods:

1. The Conference of Bishops, in consultation with synod leaders and the churchwide organization, prepare a report to the Church Council for recommendations to the 2013 Churchwide Assembly that includes:
 - a description of the current pattern or patterns of synodical life in the ELCA that effectively supports vital congregations, mission growth and outreach.
 - a proposal to establish a pattern or a set of patterns that will allow synods to receive and distribute financial resources to support the whole ministry of this church in all its forms and expressions.

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- strategies for increased mission vitality that may include consideration of redrawing synod boundaries.
 - recommendations for revising and reordering the constitutional responsibilities of bishops and synods to emphasize synods as agents of mission in the changing context and culture. Revising functions previously considered responsibilities of the bishop may involve identifying tasks to let go or do differently (e.g., conflict management in congregations or full involvement in candidacy and placement processes. See ELCA 8.13 and 10.21 and *S6.02 and *S6.03).
2. Synods, through their bishops, assemblies, councils, staffs and committees prioritize the responsibilities in their constitutions to reflect a focus on equipping congregations and leaders. (*S6.03).
 3. The synod bishop take steps to ensure that the priority of the synod is building and supporting the ability of congregations to make disciples of Jesus Christ and follow his call to serve others. The steps include:
 - Developing and supporting lay, rostered lay and clergy leadership for serving and witnessing.
 - Advocating for mutual relationships and partnerships with youth and young adults, people of color or language other than English and women.
 - Calling congregations to discern God's leading in their particular context for the sake of the gospel.
 4. Synod leadership, in partnership with the churchwide organization, devote at least one full or part-time staff person, usually the director for evangelical mission, who is dedicated to building and supporting the ability of existing and emerging ministries and congregations within the territory of the synod to do evangelical outreach and serve others.
 5. Mutual accountability and joint planning for mission be emphasized as synods, congregations, the churchwide organization and other ministry partners work together.
 6. The churchwide organization assist synods in their work to build and support the ability of the congregations in their territory to serve others as a witness to the gospel. The priority includes supporting the positions of directors for evangelical mission and ensuring the availability of consultation and expertise to support the directors and synod leadership in the areas of community organizing, leadership development, multicultural ministry, youth ministry, evangelism and stewardship.

3. LIFT Task Force Recommendation: Regions

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To recommend the following for adoption by the 2011 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:

To adopt the recommendation of the Living into the Future Together (LIFT) task force related to regions:

- **Synods work together in their regional settings, continuing to use regions as laboratories for centers exploring cooperative mission and ministry. Specific recommendations are included in revisions to constitutional provisions ELCA 10.6.1 and *S.12.01.**

4. LIFT Task Force Recommendation: The Churchwide Organization

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To recommend the following for adoption by the 2011 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:

To adopt the recommendations of the Living into the Future Together (LIFT) task force related to the churchwide organization:

- 1. A primary role for the churchwide organization is to support and build the capacity of synods, which are best positioned to work directly with congregations in planning and carrying out God's mission.**
- 2. The churchwide organization continues the strategic priorities of**
 - **Accompanying congregations as growing centers for evangelical mission.**
 - **Building the capacity of this church for evangelical witness and service in the world to alleviate poverty and to work for justice and peace.**
- 3. The churchwide organization maintain its commitment to build and strengthen mutual and interdependent relationships among congregations, synods, the churchwide organization, agencies, institutions, partners and developing networks. These relationships can be seen as gifts of the triune God given to create the community of this church.**
- 4. The churchwide organization continue to deploy directors for evangelical mission (DEMs) in synods. In this way the churchwide organization will continue to assist synods to accompany congregations and will serve as a catalyst for renewing evangelizing congregations as mission centers. The DEMs will encourage missional plans that focus on starting new evangelizing congregations, renewing evangelizing congregations, mission support and stewardship education and missional strategies that are attentive to the presence of the diverse peoples God has sent to each local community.**
- 5. In many places in this nation, the vision of a multicultural, multi-ethnic church which reflects the reality of the whole people of God will require synodical and local leaders to recognize the power and privilege held by a majority culture and work to dismantle the barriers that continue to divide communities. The ELCA churchwide organization can provide support and resources for this endeavor.**
- 6. The churchwide organization support and strengthen the capacity of this church for global mission. The churchwide organization should provide both for the support of this church's work in other countries and the means through which churches in other countries engage in God's mission to this church and society. Stronger relationships with congregations working through synods are critical to increasing**

the global capacity of this church. The global partners of the ELCA depend upon the Global Mission unit to coordinate the work of the whole church. Global partners also depend upon congregations and synods to undertake global relationships in consultation with the Global Mission unit and in keeping with commonly recognized methods of accompaniment.

7. The churchwide organization continue its long term commitment to international development and disaster relief.
8. The responsibility for this church's theological discernment be located in the Office of the Presiding Bishop, which will assist this church in better understanding its identity, recognizing the theological, relational and educational gifts God has given this church and the power of these gifts to provide Christian **faith formation**, leadership and partnership in today's rapidly changing world.

5. LIFT Task Force Recommendation: Leadership for Mission and Education in the Faith

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To recommend the following for adoption by the 2011 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:

To adopt the recommendations of the Living into the Future Together (LIFT) task force related to leadership for mission and education in the faith:

1. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America strengthen **faith formation** and integrate its network of leadership development and theological education, including seminaries, colleges and universities, campus and outdoor ministries, lifelong learning programs, schools, congregations, synods and the churchwide organization. Each institution in this network can and should seek new ways to contribute to the network's effectiveness.
2. Congregations recommit to identifying people with the potential to lead in the congregations of this church, both as members and/or as staff, and strongly support these leaders in their theological education.
3. The Conference of Bishops include consultations as part of its review of funding for the mission of this whole church to accomplish increased support from congregations for the necessary funding of theological education for leadership. All ministries providing this education can and should renew creative efforts for efficiency and effectiveness, including possible ELCA and ecumenical collaborations.
4. ELCA colleges, universities and seminaries be encouraged to continue their individual and common efforts to collaboratively, faithfully, effectively and efficiently carry out their mission(s) within this church's commitments to a system-wide network of theological education and leadership development, respecting each institution's integrity while honoring the commitments and needs of the ELCA and the larger church.

5. ELCA colleges, universities and seminaries strongly pursue many of the tasks, outcomes and expectations for colleges, universities and seminaries identified in the documents (see Exhibit 1F) with the support of the larger church. The strong alignment of these tasks and outcomes with the values of the ELCA as discovered in the task force's research supports the emerging recommendations for developing evangelical missional congregations led by lay and rostered people of evangelical, missional imagination.
6. ELCA colleges, universities and seminaries collaborate with the ELCA churchwide organization, synods and other theological education providers in the development of lay mission schools and that programs, courses, workshops and faculty already utilized for equipping missional leaders be drawn upon as synods develop these schools and the teaching and learning developed in the lay mission schools be fed back into the preparation of candidates for ordination (See Exhibit 1F).
7. ELCA colleges and universities continue to promote the Lutheran concept of vocation as the sense of life as "calling" among its faculty, staff and students with the affirmation and support of the whole church.
8. The ELCA churchwide organization convene a group of ELCA colleges and university presidents for the purpose of formulating new models of governance and ways for ELCA colleges and universities to relate to and support congregations, synods and the churchwide organization.
9. Congregations, synods and the churchwide organization, in concert with colleges and universities, develop strategies to share Lutheran youth prospects with Lutheran colleges and universities.
10. Synods, the churchwide organization and the ELCA network of ministry partners stand ready to join the seminaries in the essential equipping of evangelical public leadership for congregations and other faith communities.
11. ELCA seminaries and synods prepare a variety of candidates of missional imagination and become catalysts for opening congregational imaginations to differing types of missional leaders
 - traveling differing pathways of preparation
 - supported by differing types of financing
 - sustaining differing ministries in greatly differing contexts.

6. LIFT Task Force Recommendation: Global and Ecumenical Partnerships

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To recommend the following for adoption by the 2011 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:

To adopt the recommendations of the Living into the Future Together (LIFT) task force related to global and ecumenical partnerships:

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1. **Build and strengthen relationships with this church's global companions and ecumenical partners, focusing on accompaniment, mutual growth, capacity building and the sustainability of relationships.**
 2. **Celebrate the high regard for the global mission and ecumenical activities of the ELCA within and beyond this church.**
 3. **Affirm the consistent use of plans for ministry in a particular country (i.e., country plans) to help the Global Mission unit and global companion churches prioritize mission activities together.**
 4. **Encourage congregations and synods of this church, in their global mission work, to draw on the resources of the Global Mission unit in keeping with the commonly recognized methods of participation in the style of accompaniment.**
 5. **Continue conversation and reflection about evolving relationships between the expressions of this church and global Christianity.**
 6. **Explore stronger relationships with ecumenical partners in every expression of the church, including the sharing of administrative staff and facilities and shared program work.**
7. **LIFT Task Force Recommendation: Agencies, Institutions and Other Ministries**

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To recommend the following for adoption by the 2011 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:

To adopt the recommendations of the Living into the Future Together (LIFT) task force related to agencies, institutions and other ministries:

1. **The vital agencies, institutions and ministries related to the ELCA:**
 - **seek to sustain mutually beneficial relationships with this church; and**
 - **continue to give attention to networking as an organizational principle and practice that can enhance our shared mission of service to the world.**
2. **Congregations, synods and the churchwide organization be attentive to these ministries, seek in diverse ways to be supportive partners and be aware of the complementary nature of mission.**

8. **LIFT Task Force Recommendation: Communal Discernment**

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To recommend the following for adoption by the 2011 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:

To adopt the recommendations of the Living into the Future Together (LIFT) task force related to communal discernment:

1. **Nurture a culture of faithful discernment in all its expressions, assemblies and councils, the churchwide organization, synods, congregations, institutions and small groups. This culture will contribute to healthier decision-making and stewardship of mission, relationships, trust and respect for one another.**
2. **Shape churchwide assemblies to include a focus on identity and mission in order that participants gain a deeper understanding of what God is calling this church to be and do.**
3. **Undertake sustained, ongoing conversations and deliberation regarding this church's identity and its implications for our participation in God's mission. Link mission and identity rather than seeing mission as one more activity of the church.**
4. **Affirm the new responsibility of the presiding bishop to be the prime catalyst in this church's conversations and deliberations on identity and mission. This would include working with:**
 - **The Conference of Bishops, the presidents of the seminaries and the Convocation of Teaching Theologians to fully address this church's discourse on identity and mission.**
 - **The churchwide organization and synods in developing their ability deeply and expansively to engage congregations and their members in ongoing critical conversations.**
5. **Bring no social statements to churchwide assemblies until a review process is completed. This review of current procedures for the development and adoption of social statements, established by the Church Council in consultation with the Conference of Bishops, should reflect the spirit and culture of communal discernment.**
6. **Continue work on current social statements.**

9. LIFT Task Force Recommendation: Structure and Governance

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To recommend the following for adoption by the 2011 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:

To acknowledge the actions of this assembly to implement recommendations from the Living into the Future Together: Renewing the Ecology of the ELCA (LIFT) task force related to structure and governance by adopting amendments to the *Constitution, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* related to the ELCA Churchwide Assembly; the Church Council and Conference of Bishops; and Program Committees; and

To note the summary of the recommendations provided below:

1. **The ELCA Churchwide Assembly**
 - **Move to a triennial cycle for the Churchwide Assembly after 2013.**
 - **Explore opportunities for synodical, regional and leadership gatherings.**

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- **Reduce the number of advisory members paid by the churchwide organization to attend the Churchwide Assembly and request that other organizations provide expenses for their leaders who attend.**
- 2. **The ELCA Church Council**
 - **Enlarge the Church Council to a range of 33-45 members (plus officers), with the added members nominated by the Nominating Committee based upon demographics, experience, and expertise in Church Council responsibilities.**
 - **Reduce the number of advisory members paid by the churchwide organization to attend Church Council meetings.**
- 3. **The Conference of Bishops**
 - **Provide voice and vote on the Church Council to the chair of the Conference of Bishops.**
 - **Expand the role of the Conference of Bishops in its consultative capacity with the Church Council and strengthen the interdependent relationships in this church.**
- 4. **Program committees**
 - **Eliminate program committees for churchwide units and develop new strategies for obtaining input from constituencies.**
- 5. **Interrelationships and Networks**
 - **Develop intra-synodical and inter-synodical networks that organize for unified and specific purposes, have fluid and flexible structures and serve to strengthen relationships among congregations and synods.**

10. LIFT Task Force Recommendation: Mission Support

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To recommend the following for adoption by the 2011 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:

To adopt the recommendations of the Living into the Future Together (LIFT) task force related to mission support:

1. **The ELCA as a whole celebrate the financial interdependence of all its ministries, calling each to careful financial stewardship and faithful sharing.**
2. **The Conference of Bishops, synod vice presidents, the Church Council and the churchwide organization collaborate to ensure that work on a proposal for renewed, sustainable mission support for this church begin in the fall of 2011 and be brought to the 2013 Churchwide Assembly. In this work, this church recognize that:**
 - **the goal of synods sharing 55 percent of the undesignated receipts for churchwide ministries is not sustainable in some synods and not working in others;**
 - **synods that maintain or increase their sharing at this time are providing a valuable opportunity for this church to review its plans while sustaining its mission.**

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3. **The churchwide organization, in collaboration with the Conference of Bishops, synod vice presidents and Church Council, lead this church in exploring new opportunities for growing in financial faithfulness, including direct appeals, designated giving, planned giving and endowment management.**
4. **The churchwide organization, synods and congregations prioritize their spending to emphasize congregational outreach, leadership development, global mission and new communication strategies, while discerning how to constructively withdraw from other tasks.**
5. **Financial self-sufficiency never be the only criterion used to evaluate the work of congregations, synods or ministry partners, but that resources be sought and shared with joy where this is necessary to sustain strategic missional opportunities.**

11. LIFT Task Force Recommendation: Collaboration and Connection

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To recommend the following for adoption by the 2011 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:

To adopt the recommendations of the Living into the Future Together (LIFT) task force related to collaboration and connection:

1. **The implementation of the recommendations in this report include plans and strategies for all parts of this church to utilize global digital media as new opportunities for the Spirit's work among us. These communications methodologies will be both digital and relational; neither is successful without the other.**
2. **The Office of the Presiding Bishop**
 - **initiate ways to encourage congregations, synods and partners to develop flexible networks for varying purposes, recognizing that these networks can increase collaboration and connections across this church and include emerging leaders from all parts of the ecology.**
 - **encourage congregations, synods, the churchwide organization and institutions and agencies of this church to work together to explore new communication strategies and techniques and share them throughout this church.**
3. **The Mission Advancement unit of the churchwide organization continue to develop and update a communications plan that offers nimble strategies and practices for new forms of technology and communication.**

12. LIFT Task Force Recommendation: Ongoing Work for Further Study and Future Action

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To recommend the following for adoption by the 2011 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:

To adopt the recommendations of the Living into the Future Together (LIFT) task force related to ongoing work for further study and future action:

1. **The Office of the Presiding Bishop, in consultation with the Conference of Bishops and Church Council, provide for the continuation of the functions assigned to the task force as this church continues to discern what God is calling it to be and to do in order to serve God's mission most faithfully. The task force identified the following items for immediate attention, further study and future action:**
 - Review of the constitutional responsibilities of synods.
 - Facilitation by the Church Council of a broad-based process addressing legislative decision-making in this church.
 - Exploration, **including legal implications**, of the use of social media and technology options to allow greater participation of ELCA members in the Churchwide Assembly and in meetings of the Church Council.
 - Collaborative work by congregations, synods, the churchwide organization and others to facilitate diverse non-legislative forums and events that bring together rostered leaders and lay persons to address missional issues, theological study and reflection and foster leadership development and enhanced interdependence in this church. Guidelines and resources for such forums and events should be collaboratively developed and shared widely.
 - Proposals to the Church Council by the units of the churchwide organization to generate and foster broadly participatory conversations and communicate their work. These proposals should include commitments to those engaged in multicultural and ethnic-specific ministries, **ethnic-specific associations**, young adult networks, justice for women, ministry partners, various constituents as well as those outside of this church. They also should include strategies for using emerging forms of communication and social media to obtain grassroots input and to communicate and engage in dialogue about these ministries.
 - Expand the consultative role of the Conference of Bishops by developing practices and procedures that allow the Church Council to refer issues to it and for the Conference of Bishops to make recommendations to the Church Council.

3.4 Dwelling in the Word with Mark Johnson

3:15 p.m. Health and Wellness break

“Stretch and Pray” with Bishop Murray Finck (reception area)

Brisk walk (meet at elevators) Brisk walk (meet at the elevators)

PLENARY SESSION FOUR

Church Council Room
4:00 – 5:30 p.m.

4.1 Report of the Planning and Evaluation Committee *(continued)*

4.1.A Recommendations of the LIFT Task Force ([Exhibit I, Part 1a](#)) – *if needed*

4.1.B Update from the Communal Discernment Task Force

At its November 2010 meeting, the Church Council received the draft report of the Communal Discernment Task Force and voted to “commend [it] to the Churchwide Assembly Planning Team for consideration of its recommendations.” Susan Langhauser, chair of the Planning and Evaluation Committee and of the Communal Discernment Task Force, met with the planning team by conference call in January 2011 to provide both an introduction to the task force’s work and an opportunity for discussion.

As work has continued on the report, a revised draft has been provided for review by the Planning and Evaluation Committee and is available on the committee’s link on Net Community. A final report is anticipated in April 2011. (The draft report is available under the [Planning and Evaluation Committee Materials](#).)

4.1.C Update on Multicultural Ministries ([Exhibit I, Part 2](#))

A biennial report of multicultural ministries within the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America has been prepared at the request of the Planning and Evaluation Committee in consultation with the executive for administration. The report is provided in Exhibit I, Part 2.

4.1.D Update on Justice for Women ([Exhibit I, Part 3](#))

A biennial report of justice for women work within the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America has been prepared at the request of the Planning and Evaluation Committee in consultation with the executive for administration. The report is provided in Exhibit I, Part 3.

4.2 Report of the Program and Services Committee

4.2.A ELCA Malaria Campaign

At its October 2010 meeting, the ELCA Church Council received a detailed report on the work of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America related to malaria. The council voted [CC10.10.36]:

To focus the commitment of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to address malaria through a re-branded and prioritized ELCA Malaria Campaign throughout this church;

To acknowledge the enthusiasm of this church to meet this commitment, giving thanks to God for:

1. the energy and commitment of the five current pilot synods and the five additional pilot synods eager to begin in 2011;

2. the generous gifts of donors throughout this church;
3. resources prepared and stories told;

To give thanks as well for the enthusiasm with which companion churches in Africa have embraced and have begun to implement a joint effort with the ELCA to roll back malaria, utilizing their personnel, church programs, health ministries and community development programs in this effort;

To focus and expand the work already begun, anticipating an authorizing action to be taken by the 2011 ELCA Churchwide Assembly;

To reaffirm the ongoing core work of ELCA World Hunger and strengthen its capacity through this special giving opportunity that reaches out to new donors and invites current donors to deepen their commitment above and beyond normal World Hunger giving;

To request that, after donors are informed of this church's refocus of its distribution channels for gifts designated for malaria, funds already held by this church and funds to be received with any designation for malaria be distributed to address issues of malaria through Global Mission's ongoing relationships with partner churches;

To authorize continued receipt of designated gifts for malaria under the auspices of the World Hunger appeal in support of malaria work of this church;

To request that a report and recommendations for a churchwide campaign to address malaria be brought to the April 2011 meeting of the ELCA Church Council for referral to the 2011 Churchwide Assembly;

To communicate to The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod and to Lutheran World Relief (LWR), in light of these decisions, the ELCA's continuing desire to work cooperatively on malaria-related efforts with them;

To acknowledge with gratitude the work begun with Lutheran World Relief (LWR), The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod (LCMS), and the United Nations Foundation (UNF) through the Lutheran Malaria Initiative (LMI), and to deepen partnerships with LWR among specific partners and ministries, with the Lutheran World Federation, and with other partners; and

To anticipate that this whole church—members of every age, congregations, synods, the churchwide organization, agencies and institutions, the Women of the ELCA, Lutheran Men in Mission, the Lutheran Youth Organization, colleges and universities, seminaries, social ministry organizations, camping ministries, and all others—will learn about malaria and other diseases intensified by poverty and prayerfully support this commitment as it grows into readiness for a possible major fund-raising campaign in synods and congregations following authorizing action by the 2011 Churchwide Assembly.

The commitment of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) to malaria work continues. The ELCA, encouraged by the vote of the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly¹, has developed a strategy to join the global movement to

¹ The 2009 Churchwide Assembly voted [CA.09.02.06]:

To approve continued development of the Lutheran Malaria Initiative (LMI) by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in partnership with Lutheran World Relief (LWR), The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod (LCMS), and the United Nations Foundation (UNF);

contain deaths from malaria in Africa by 2015. Some changes have been made to the structure of this project, but the ELCA's commitments to global health and to our companions in Africa remain firm.

Late in 2010, mission support and other funding to the ELCA had declined significantly. In light of this difficult economic situation, ELCA leadership determined that a \$30 million campaign around malaria, which was to be tested in the current biennium, was not feasible at that time. Therefore, the ELCA churchwide organization withdrew its grant proposal to the United Nations Foundation, ending the ELCA's involvement in the project called the Lutheran Malaria Initiative.

The ELCA has made commitments to and is continuing to engage with companion churches as they develop and implement strategies for preventing and treating malaria in Africa. The new ELCA effort will carry forward much of the work that the ELCA had been doing under the rubric of the Lutheran Malaria Initiative. *The ELCA Malaria Campaign*, as it is now known, will direct all of its funds to ELCA companion churches in Africa. (The United Nations Foundation-related campaign that had been under consideration required that 30 percent of the funds raised go to the Global Fund, 20 percent to be used for capacity building to encourage companion churches to participate in Global Fund country efforts, and 50 percent to support companions' malaria programming.)

The proposed goal of \$15 million will be a challenge in the current economic environment, but is both achievable and ambitious enough to meet the commitments that the ELCA has made to our companion churches in Africa. The ELCA Malaria Campaign will continue both to work closely with ELCA World Hunger and to

To join with domestic and global partners to address malaria as a disease intensified by poverty within the context of comprehensive and sustainable community development and in close cooperation and partnership with this church's companion churches in Africa and the Lutheran World Federation;

To begin work related to LMI in the next biennium (2009-2011), specifically involving preparation of resources, pilot projects at sites to be determined, solicitation of individual donors, and collaboration with synods and congregations for anticipated LMI fundraising engagement following the 2011 ELCA Churchwide Assembly;

To develop the Lutheran Malaria Initiative in ways that reinforce efforts by the World Hunger Appeal to both achieve its \$25 million goal and continue to raise designated funds to address another disease intensified by poverty: HIV and AIDS;

To authorize continued receipt of designated LMI gifts under the auspices of the World Hunger Appeal, with such funds to be allocated through a specific budget for this initiative;

To request that a report and possible recommendations for a possible churchwide campaign for the Lutheran Malaria Initiative be brought to the 2011 ELCA Churchwide Assembly; and

To anticipate that this whole church—members of every age, congregations, synods, the churchwide organization, agencies and institutions, the Women of the ELCA, Lutheran Men in Mission, the Lutheran Youth Organization, colleges and universities, seminaries, social ministry organizations, camping ministries, and all others will learn about malaria and other diseases intensified by poverty and prayerfully support the Lutheran Malaria Initiative as it grows into readiness for a possible major fundraising campaign in synods and congregations following authorizing action by the 2011 ELCA Churchwide Assembly.

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underscore the global health connections between malaria containment and ministry with those living with HIV and AIDS.

The ELCA Malaria Campaign is not intended to compete with essential ELCA World Hunger work, but rather to build further capacity. It reaches out to new donors and also provides an exciting opportunity for current donors to deepen their commitment above and beyond normal ELCA World Hunger giving. Through the ELCA Malaria Campaign the ELCA's commitment to health and hope for our sisters and brothers in Africa is strong, focused and prioritized.

At the April 2011 meeting of the ELCA Church Council, members will be invited to join the Conference of Bishops and executive staff of the Churchwide Organization as part of the Leadership Circle for the ELCA Malaria Campaign. An update on pledges and gifts received to date will be provided at a reception on Saturday, April 9.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To recommend the following for adoption by the 2011 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:

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

To join with domestic and global partners to address malaria as a disease intensified by poverty within the context of comprehensive and sustainable community development and in close cooperation and partnership with this church's companion churches in Africa and the Lutheran World Federation;

To invite every congregation, synod, affiliated ministry, auxiliary, and individual member of this church to make a contribution towards the goal of \$15 million over the next four years (2011-2015);

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

To develop the ELCA Malaria Campaign in ways that reinforce complement efforts by of the World Hunger Appeal to both not only achieve but and grow beyond its \$25 million annual own annual goals; for each biennium as we continue to raise designated funds to address another disease intensified by poverty, HIV and AIDS;

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

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

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

4.3 Process Observation

4.4 Announcements

5:30 p.m. Reception, Augsburg Room
Hosted by ELCA Malaria Campaign

6:30 p.m. Dinner (on own)

6:45 p.m. Dinner for the Class of 2011 at Bishop Hanson's home

Sunday, April 10, 2011

6:00 a.m. Breakfast, Marriott Hotel (Buffet opens at 6:00 a.m.)

8:00 a.m. Holy Communion, 1st Floor Chapel
Presiding: Heather Lubold
Assisting: Carlos Peña
Preaching: Bishop Mark S. Hanson
Lector: Arielle Mastellar

9:00 a.m. Break

PLENARY SESSION FIVE

Church Council Room
9:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon

5.1 Report of the Conference of Bishops ([Exhibit A, Part 6](#))

5.2 Report of the Program and Services Committee -- *continued*

5.2.A Social Statement on Genetics ([Exhibit J, Parts 1a – 1d](#))

“Genetics, Faith and Responsibility” is the text of the proposed social statement on genetics for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Work on this statement was authorized at the 2005 ELCA Churchwide Assembly. If approved by the 2011 Churchwide Assembly, it will be the eleventh social statement of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

ELCA social statements are teaching documents that assist members in their thinking about social issues. They are meant to aid in communal and individual moral deliberation and formation. Social statements also set policy for this church and guide its advocacy and work in the public arena. They result from an extensive process of participation and deliberation and are adopted by a two-thirds vote of a Churchwide Assembly.

The initial request for a social statement on genetics came as a memorial from the Northeastern Iowa Synod, which cited concerns about genetic advances, the need for critical issues to be addressed and for “moral guidance in the face of the technological advances.”

The development and adoption of social statements by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America are guided by the document “Policies and Procedures of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for Addressing Social Concerns,” adopted by the 1997 Churchwide Assembly and revised by the Church Council periodically since then. A revised version of the document is provided in [Exhibit J, Part 3](#).

The process for developing this proposed statement was guided by the ELCA Task Force on Genetics. The task force was composed of members of this church who have different perspectives, backgrounds and competencies related to genetics. To learn more about those members please visit: www.elca.org/genetics.

The ELCA Task Force on Genetics has written the current document after several years of study and after receiving input from across the ELCA. The proposed social statement will be considered first by the ELCA Church Council at its April 2011 meeting. The final text of the social statement will be determined by the 2011 Churchwide Assembly in August 2011.

Consideration by the Church Council

According to “Policies and Procedures of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for Addressing Social Concerns” (page 10):

The Church Council shall review and act upon the recommendations by the Office of the Presiding Bishop (ELCA 14.21.01., 14.21.03.). The Church Council shall approve the text of proposed social statements and recommend the text to the

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Churchwide Assembly (ELCA 12.12.01.). Prior to a published deadline before a meeting of the Church Council, any voting member of the council who wishes to suggest an amendment to the proposed social statement shall submit it to the chair of the Program and Services Committee. The Program and Services Committee will make a recommendation concerning the proposed amendment to the Church Council, which will act upon that recommendation.

The process for suggested amendments from members of the Church Council was detailed in the process document provided in Exhibit J, Part 1d. Specific recommendations related to the text will be distributed in [Exhibit J, Part 1e](#) following the meeting of the Program and Services Committee.

The text of the social statement **as revised** is printed in [Exhibit J, Part 1b](#). Other information provided includes an executive summary of the social statement (Exhibit J, Part 1a); and “Frequently Asked Questions” (Exhibit J, Part 1c).

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To recommend the following for adoption by the 2011 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:

To adopt “Genetics, Faith and Responsibility” as a social statement of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in accordance with the “Policies and Procedures of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for Addressing Social Concerns” (2011).

CC ACTION

Recommended:

*To recommend the following **implementing** resolutions for adoption by the 2011 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:*

- 1. To call upon members of this church to pray, work, advocate and apply genetic knowledge and technology in ways that respect and promote the community of life justly and wisely;**
- 2. To call upon congregations and other sites of ministry to give renewed attention to becoming places of *koinonia* in Christ that foster a deepened understanding of and commitment to baptismal vocation, everyday callings and moral formation and discernment;**
- 3. To encourage leaders in conferences, synods or other appropriate bodies to compile lists of resources for their jurisdictions to which pastors, counselors and individuals can turn for help when seeking information or guidance in dealing with genetic issues;**
- 4. To call upon this church’s advocacy ministries to support and advocate for measures consistent with this social statement;**
- 5. To affirm the study document “Genetics and Faith: Power, Choice and Responsibility” as a resource for ongoing deliberation and discernment, and to direct the Theological Discernment section of the Office of the Bishop to maintain its availability as long as demand continues;**

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6. To affirm the 2004 ELCA social policy resolution: “Genetically Modified Organisms in the Food Supply” and its continuing value for the mission and ministry of the ELCA;
7. To encourage the Theological Discernment section of the Office of the Bishop to maintain a database of ELCA members with expertise related to genetic science and technology that can serve as a primary resource for consultation.
8. To direct the Theological Discernment section of the Office of the **Presiding Bishop in late 2013 to bring an assessment of the feasibility of developing a social message on regenerative medicine, including, but not limited to, a range of stem cell technologies embryonic human stem cell (hESC) research; and to bring to the ELCA Church Council in November 2013 a report and possible recommendations for its consideration, in accordance with Policies and Procedures of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for Addressing Social Concerns (Chicago: ELCA, 1997, revised 200611); and**
9. To call upon the Office of the Presiding Bishop to establish and oversee a process of implementation and accountability for **“Genetics, Faith and Responsibility” this social statement** and to report on implementation to the ELCA Church Council in **late November 2015.**

5.2.B Joint Mission Statement of the ELCA and African Methodist Episcopal Zion (AMEZ) ([Exhibit J, Part 2](#))

“The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) is an active participant in the ecumenical movement because of its desire for Christian unity” (*Ecumenism: The Vision of the ELCA*, p. 13). The ELCA seeks in its faith and life “to manifest the unity given to the people of God by living together in the love of Christ and by joining with other Christians in prayer and action to express and preserve the unity which the Spirit gives” (ELCA Constitution 4.02.f).

Ecumenism: The Vision of the ELCA, this church’s official policy statement adopted by the 1991 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, provides the foundation for this church’s daily ministry and mission we seek with other Christians. Since 1991, the ELCA has pursued many agreements with other communions, which have led to relationships of full communion. We likewise pursue additional ministry opportunities by affirming other ecumenical models that open this church to enhanced understanding and missional cooperation. This opportunity is evident in a unique approach titled “ecumenical discourse.”

Whereas an ecumenical “bilateral dialogue” often is focused on the aim of reaching full communion, an “ecumenical discourse” is a model for ecumenical engagement that is focused on seeking cooperative and effective efforts in ministry. An “ecumenical discourse” for cooperative ministry is based on a common commitment in the Gospel to a shared vision of missional service through the life of the church in the world (*Ecumenism: The Vision of the ELCA* pp. 11-12).

After four years of conversation, participants in the ELCA-African Methodist Episcopal Zion (AMEZ) discourse have provided a Statement of Mission (see [Exhibit J, Part 2](#)) for the consideration of both churches. The statement is a reflection of this common commitment, where both communions are called to be “restorative agents of God’s redeeming work in the world.”

What we did together

After more than three years of commitment to relationship, the (ELCA-AMEZ) discourse has created a statement of mission that draws these two churches closer together. The statement of mission was approved unanimously by the AMEZ Council of Bishops in July 2010. At the October 2010 meeting of the ELCA Conference of Bishops, a copy of the statement of mission was read aloud to ELCA bishops, and initial planning and commensurate enthusiasm for local missional efforts between AMEZ and ELCA congregations is under preparation in key synods, including the Metropolitan Chicago Synod, the North Carolina Synod and the South Carolina Synod.

What it means for these communions

- This bilateral is a “discourse” between two churches (AMEZ and ELCA) that are not at this time moving to full communion. This is by no means a diminished state. AMEZ friends in ministry have underscored that relationships of trust and cooperation are key to any future opportunities for ministry together; in short, the bishops of these two communions received one another well, and this reception of relationship was the fulcrum for collective ministry.
- The statement of mission was drafted by bishops in the ELCA and AMEZ. The structure of executive and legislative oversight in the AMEZ resides with bishops first; alternatively, for the ELCA, the Church Council or Churchwide Assembly serve an analogous and complementary function. This relationship will be reported to the 2011 ELCA Churchwide Assembly because it is a true and historic cause for celebration in the church as an example of a bilateral conversation that has led to a shared statement of mission and future collaboration between a historically White and a historically Black communion in U.S. history. Our collective conversation on how predominantly White and Black ecclesiologies are shaped by race in this country was a formative moment between these bishops.
- Among multiple lessons learned from this discourse, one predominates: this was and continues as a series of conversations between friends in ministry who bear the tremendous responsibility of ecclesial oversight (i.e., bishops). This is a relationship between bishops who also yearn for their clergy and congregations to engage cooperatively together.
- The AMEZ and ELCA bishops who have formed and shaped these relationships are a signal strength of the greater ecclesial relationship. Where AMEZ bishops instruct their clergy to work with ELCA clergy, such directive is followed. Patience, speaking about common burdens and joys around oversight, respectful pause for reflection and clarity, not allowing ‘White’ privileged expectations to steer the course of this discourse and hearing one another in the fullness of our respective experiences remain fundamental to these relationships today.

Action and Next Steps

At its March 2011 meeting, the ELCA Conference of Bishops received and affirmed both the statement of mission and the AMEZ Council of Bishops’ action and encouraged

action by the ELCA Church Council. The ELCA Conference of Bishops will respond directly to the AMEZ Council of Bishops in a manner it feels embodies the importance of these matters.

Following the meeting, Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson sent a formal letter to Bishop Gregory Walker to inform him of the Conference of Bishops' action. He also invited Bishop Gregory Walker to bring greetings to the 2011 ELCA Churchwide Assembly in celebration of these new relationships. In addition, cooperative planning for local missional work has been planned between the AMEZ and three ELCA synods: Metropolitan Chicago, North Carolina and South Carolina.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To receive and affirm the AMEZ-ELCA Statement of Mission as approved by the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Council of Bishops and affirmed by the ELCA Conference of Bishops:

We, the Board of Bishops of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church and the Conference of Bishops of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, are called to one another as brothers and sisters in Christ. This calling is shared in trust by all Christians who profess an abiding faith in our Risen Lord. The calling of these churches, and indeed of all Christians, is to be restorative agents of God's redeeming work in the world. We are called to be about the reconciling efforts of Christ's command to draw all people unto himself so that we might be transformed by His word and the efforts of His ministry of grace, in us.

We, these two expressions of the one Body of Christ, believe it is time that our churches to come together as communities of faith and to know each other in order that we might be more effective as people of God.

We invite you to gather in your regions and communities, to listen and speak our stories of faith, and to create and enhance communities of hope where our ministries may be enriched by one another.

Our vision requires that we adhere to the movement of God's Spirit, and that we demonstrate the love of God, so that we identify the tapestry of God's vision for us in our communities of faith.

Therefore, we encourage you to respond to this invitation by partnering with us as we share the witness of God's vision throughout the world.

5.3 Church Council Joys and Concerns

5.4 Announcements

12:00 noon Lunch, Augsburg Room

PLENARY SESSION SIX

Church Council Room
1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

6.1 Board orientation: Role of the Church Council at the Churchwide Assembly

The board development task force has requested that a primer on the role of Church Council members at the Churchwide Assembly be presented by David Swartling, secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and Myrna J. Sheie, executive assistant to the presiding bishop and chair of the Churchwide Assembly Planning Committee. A summary of the information to be shared is printed below.

The Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is comprised of 37 members, including the four officers of this church. The 33 elected members of the Church Council serve as advisory members of the assembly, with voice but not vote, unless they are elected by their respective synods to serve as a voting member of the assembly. The four ELCA officers are voting members by virtue of the offices held.

In accord with the ELCA constitution and bylaws, the Church Council serves as the “interim legislative authority” between meetings of the Churchwide Assembly. In this role, the Church Council reviews recommendations from churchwide units for consideration by the Churchwide Assembly, arranges for appropriate elections and submits a budget proposal for Churchwide Assembly action.

At the Churchwide Assembly, members of the Church Council are present to advise voting members on Church Council actions related to these responsibilities. In addition to its advisory function, the Church Council appoints members of the Memorials Committee and the Committee of Reference and Counsel. Members of the Church Council chair these committees and make up a portion of the members. Church Council members also provide leadership by facilitating the hearings, participating as members of “ad hoc” committee and leading prayer during plenary sessions. Members will be notified by the vice president of specific assignments early in the summer.

Information about the draft schedule for the 2011 Churchwide Assembly is printed in [Exhibit Q, Part 1](#). An overview of the 2011 Churchwide Assembly theme, “Freed in Christ to Serve,” was prepared by Presiding Bishop Hanson for his article in the April 2011 issue of *The Lutheran* and is printed in [\(Exhibit Q, Part 1a\)](#).

6.2 Presentation of New Business

6.3 Dwelling in the Word with Louise Hemstead

6.4 Consideration of New Business

6.5 Consideration of unfinished and additional agenda items

6.6 Consideration of Resolutions Removed from *En Bloc* ([Exhibit D](#))

6.7 *En Bloc* Approval of Certain Items

The following en bloc resolution includes agenda items that will be considered on the last day of the Church Council meeting. Inclusion of these items in the en bloc action reflects a judgment that these items are relatively non-controversial in nature and may not require plenary discussion and a separate vote.

Each of the items is noted as [*En Bloc*] in [Exhibit D](#). On the first day of the Council meeting, the chair will provide an opportunity for members to indicate whether they wish to discuss separately any of the items listed in the en bloc resolution; any such item will be removed from the en bloc resolution and discussed at the appropriate point in the agenda.

The chair will not call for a discussion or separate vote on those items that are not removed from the en bloc resolution by the end of the first day of plenary sessions. The items remaining in the en bloc resolution normally will be considered as the last item of council business.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To take action *En Bloc* on the items listed in Exhibit D.

6.8 Church Council Joys and Concerns

6.9 Meeting evaluation and debriefing

Chart will be distributed for participant response.

6.10 Process Observation

6.11 Announcements

6.12 Closing Prayer

4:00 p.m. Adjournment