seek to prevent bullying, harassment, and other violence, "especially with higher risk populations."

Leaders in the ELCA networks of educational, social service, and youth and young adult ministries already participate regularly in conferences to learn from each other and to identify new partnerships and other collaborative efforts to improve and expand ministries. The churchwide organization plays a key role in convening or supporting many of these gatherings, and the issue of bullying and related abusive behaviors has been addressed by ELCA ministry networks and their partnership conferences. The churchwide organization will continue to welcome ever deeper engagement on bullying and other abusive behaviors by the expressions of this church through the ongoing work with the leaders of our educational, social service, youth ministry, and young adult networks.

Recommendation for Assembly Action

To receive with gratitude the memorials of the Alaska, Eastern Washington-Idaho, Oregon, Montana, Grand Canyon, Rocky Mountain, Eastern North Dakota, Northwestern Minnesota, Northeastern Minnesota, Southwestern Minnesota, Minneapolis Area, Saint Paul Area, Southeastern Minnesota, Central States, Arkansas-Oklahoma, Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast, Metropolitan Chicago, Northern Illinois, Central/Southern Illinois, Southeastern Iowa, Northeastern Iowa, Northern Great Lakes, Greater Milwaukee Area, South-Central Synod of Wisconsin, Southern Ohio, New Jersey, New England, Metropolitan New York, Upstate New York, Northeastern Pennsylvania, Southeastern Pennsylvania, Southwestern Pennsylvania, Allegheny, Metropolitan Washington, D.C., North Carolina, South Carolina, and Florida-Bahamas synods related to bullying, harassment, and related violence;

To encourage new partnerships among the churchwide organization, synods, congregations, campus and outdoor ministries, Lutheran School Associations, Lutherans Concerned/North America, Lutheran Social Services organizations, public schools, counseling centers, and other governmental organizations in order to support the prevention of bullying, harassment, and other related violence;

To encourage these partnerships to create or join with existing preventative programs that:

a. utilize positive, inclusive, empowering and developmentally appropriate materials;
b. raise participants' awareness about the issue;
c. focus on prevention;
d. seek to change bystander behavior into ally behavior;
e. create partnerships between youth and adults; and
f. address the use and abuse of social media and technology as they are used to bully and harass others;

To encourage these partnerships to seek funding for these efforts from existing and/or new funding sources not otherwise accessible individually, such as foundation grants, synod and other Lutheran organizational grants, and private and governmental funding sources;

To refer these memorials to the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit in order to facilitate and communicate these efforts in collaboration with the Office of the Presiding Bishop, Women of the ELCA, Lutheran Men in Mission, and Lutheran Services in America, with the request that ELCA-related educational, social service, and youth and young adult networks continue to expand their ministries in support of new partnerships to prevent bullying, harassment, and related forms of violence and to support and publicize such efforts throughout this church as financial and staff resources permit; and

To request that the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit report to the ELCA Church Council at its November 2012 meeting.