



## Summary of Meetings

### August 16, 2009

The sixty-second meeting of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) was convened on Sunday, August 16, 2009, in Salon E of the Hilton Hotel in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Vice President Carlos E. Peña called the meeting to order at 1:18 P.M.

**VOTED:** *CC09.08.45*

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

**VOTED:** *CC09.08.46*

To approve the following responses to synodical actions:

**VOTED:** *CC09.08.46a*

To thank the La Crosse Area Synod for its concern for the human rights of Hmong Vietnam veterans and their families;

To encourage La Crosse Area Synod congregations to draw upon the expertise of the Lutheran Office for Public Policy in Wisconsin in communicating with elected federal representatives;

To request that Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson, through the ELCA Washington Office working in collaboration with Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, communicate the concerns raised by the La Crosse Area Synod to the public officials named in the resolution and communicate this action to the general secretary of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) for possible sharing with other LWF member communions; and

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

**VOTED:** *CC09.08.46b*

To receive the resolution of the Minneapolis Area Synod related to permanent resident status for Liberian people;

To request that the Church in Society unit through the ELCA Washington Office, in partnership with Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, consider appropriate response to pending legislation related to permanent resident status for Liberian people; and

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

**VOTED:** *CC09.08.46c*

To express appreciation to the New England Synod for its continued advocacy in support of Darfur and to acknowledge the significant work of this church on behalf of this region in partnership with Lutheran World Relief;

To commit this church to continue its advocacy for Darfur in partnership with Lutheran World Relief and other partners and to encourage members of this church to participate in support of this work through the ELCA's e-Advocacy network; and

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

**VOTED:** *CC09.08.46d*

To receive the resolution of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod related to the lesser festivals of the Church and of the Allegheny Synod related to translation of the psalms;

To refer the resolutions to the Worship and Liturgical Resources section of the churchwide organization in consultation with Augsburg Fortress, Publishers, as information for the ongoing development of worship and liturgical resources for this church; and

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

**VOTED:** *CC09.08.46e*

To receive with thanks the resolution of the Minneapolis Area Synod related to the creation of a Department of Peace in the U.S. government;

To decline the specific requests made in this resolution, but to refer the resolution to the Church in Society unit as information with the request that it continue its advocacy and related programmatic work that promotes peace-building; and

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

**VOTED:** *CC09.08.46f*

To receive the resolutions of the Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Synod, the Metropolitan Chicago Synod, the Southeastern Synod, and the Northeastern Iowa Synod related to suicide prevention;

To acknowledge with gratitude the deep concerns and strong commitments expressed by the resolutions, but to decline to initiate a process for response to the synods' requests due to budget constraints and the resulting capacity limitations related to additional work in this area;

To invite resubmission of the requests by the synods in consultation with the Church in Society program unit as funding and staff resources permit; and

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

**VOTED:** **CC09.08.46g**

To receive the resolution of the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin requesting a one-year extension of Grace Matters;

To acknowledge the background information provided by the Communications Services unit as the response of the Church Council to the synod's request; and

To request that the secretary of this church notify the synod of this action, including the background information.

**VOTED:** **CC09.08.46h**

To receive the resolutions of the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin and the New England Synod related to benefits for same-gender domestic partners and other health care issues;

To acknowledge that pending actions of the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly may inform response to these resolutions;

To refer the resolutions to the ELCA Board of Pensions in consultation with the Office of the Secretary with the request that a report and possible recommendations be brought to the November 2009 meeting of the ELCA Church Council; and

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

**VOTED:** **CC09.08.47**

To receive the written report of the Nominating Committee and request that a written ballot be prepared:

#### Church Council

Clergy [Term 2011] to replace Pr. Jonathan Linman, New York, N.Y. (8B)

Pr. William B. Diehm, Pittsburgh, Pa. (8B)

Pr. Heather S. Lubold, Pittsburgh, Pa. (8B)

#### The Lutheran Magazine Advisory Committee

Clergy Male [Term 2013] to replace Pr. Harold Eppley, Milwaukee, Wis. (5J)

Pr. Paul L. Campbell, Scottsdale, Ariz. (2D)

Pr. Wilbert S. Miller, San Diego, Calif. (2C)

Lay Male [Term 2013] (Person of color or language other than English) to replace Mr. Frank Ramos, Guaynabo, Puerto Rico (9F)

Mr. Tony C. Aguilar, Brooklyn, N.Y. (7C)

Mr. Keith E. Gatling, Liverpool, N.Y. (7D)

**VOTED:** **CC09.08.48**

To declare elected Pr. Heather S. Lubold elected to a term ending 2011 on the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; and

To declare elected the following to a term ending 2013 on *The Lutheran Magazine* Advisory Committee: Pr. Paul L. Campbell and Mr. Keith E. Gatling.

**VOTED:** **CC09.08.49a**

To approve the following citation:

WHEREAS, in response to God's love in Christ, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS) has since its beginnings in 1939 provided a Lutheran presence in the United States and through global partnerships to welcome the stranger, bringing new hope and new life through ministries of service and justice; and

WHEREAS, through its collaboration with Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America deepens and extends its ministry with refugees and migrants by building welcoming communities; and

WHEREAS, Ralston H. Deffenbaugh Jr., president of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, has provided exemplary leadership since being appointed LIRS's fifth president in 1991; and

WHEREAS, over the past 18 years under the leadership of Ralston Deffenbaugh, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service has:

- resettled more than 100,000 refugees through 25 affiliates across the United States;
  - advocated for increased U.S. resettlement of refugees from Africa (including the so-called "Lost Boys" from Sudan), the Balkans, Burma, and Bhutan;
  - revived the U.S. system for resettlement and foster care for unaccompanied refugee children;
  - advocated for and currently administers federally funded child-friendly non-detention care for undocumented unaccompanied children in federal custody;
  - advocated for federally funded "Know Your Rights" presentations in immigration detention facilities and for increased availability of legal representation for persons held in immigration detention;
  - advocated for federally funded alternatives to detention programs for asylum seekers and others in immigration proceedings;
  - advocated for and currently administers federally funded programs of assistance for victims of torture being held in immigration detention;
  - advocated for and currently administers the availability of refugee resettlement assistance for asylees;
  - worked closely with the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees to revive the full use of resettlement as a durable solution for refugees;
  - collaborated with UNHCR to identify and apply Best Interests Determinations for unaccompanied and separated refugee children;
  - solidified the reputation of LIRS as a "partner of choice" because of its commitment to mutually supportive relationships;
  - provided strong and visible leadership in this decade's contentious debates over immigration reform;
  - strengthened the commitment of U.S. Lutherans to welcome and accompany immigrants and refugees;
  - tripled the programs and staff of LIRS, expanding its capacity to a \$25 million annual budget with more than 100 staff; and
- WHEREAS, Ralston Deffenbaugh has been called the "moral compass" of response to refugees in the United States because of his unwavering commitment to treat all people with dignity, compassion, and respect; and

WHEREAS, Ralston Deffenbaugh will complete his service with Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service on August 31, 2009; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, acting on behalf of all expressions of this church, express its deepest appreciation to Ralston H. Deffenbaugh Jr. for his exemplary service and leadership as president of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Church Council request that Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson convey this heartfelt expression of thanks to Ralston Deffenbaugh for his leadership of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, along with this church's belief that his rich gifts and experience will continue to contribute to a world that is marked by hospitality, grace, and love for the neighbor.

**VOTED:** **CC09.08.49b**  
To approve the following citation:

WHEREAS, the Rev. Dr. Ishmael Noko has dedicated his life to the work of the Lutheran global community; and

WHEREAS, in his exemplary leadership of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) as general secretary since 1994, Ishmael Noko has been a passionate advocate for the empowerment of LWF member churches; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Noko's theological wisdom has contributed significantly to the growth of the Lutheran World Federation's self-understanding as a communion of churches; and

WHEREAS, under his leadership, the Lutheran World Federation has developed an understanding of and commitment to prophetic diakonia, keeping service inseparable from justice-seeking and peace-making;

WHEREAS, Ishmael Noko, a son of Africa rooted in the Pan-African experience, is the first person from the global South to serve as general secretary; and

WHEREAS, Ishmael Noko has played an active role as an ambassador to other Christian churches on behalf of the Lutheran World Federation; and

WHEREAS, Ishmael Noko's exceptional skills as a negotiator have reduced tensions, mediated agreements, and reconciled divisions within and between churches and in civil society; and

WHEREAS, in his support of theological understanding and ecumenical conversations with a wide range of Christian churches, and in his encouragement of cooperative and caring ministries with Christians throughout the world, Ishmael Noko has been a masterful diplomat and a skillful theologian; and

WHEREAS, Ishmael Noko's commitment to building interfaith cooperation led him to be instrumental in convening the creation of Interfaith Action for Peace in Africa, a council of the largest religions in Africa;

WHEREAS, as general secretary, he has been a model of ecumenism and has provided dynamic leadership for the reception of ecumenical dialogues, including the historic "Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification";

WHEREAS, Ishmael Noko has been a trusted partner, wise colleague, patient mentor, and beloved friend to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; and

WHEREAS, Ishmael Noko will complete his service as general secretary of the Lutheran World Federation on October 31, 2010; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), acting on behalf of all expressions of this church, express its deepest appreciation to

Ishmael Noko for his exemplary service and leadership as general secretary of the Lutheran World Federation; and be it

RESOLVED, that the Church Council request that Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson convey this heartfelt expression of thanks to Ishmael Noko for his leadership of the Lutheran World Federation along with the ELCA's conviction that Lutherans will continue to build upon the strong foundation of his leadership and to draw from it courage, vision, and hope for the future.

**VOTED:** **CC09.08.50**  
To receive the resolution of the Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Synod related to military language in worship;

To refer the resolution to the Worship and Liturgical Resources section of the churchwide organization in consultation with Augsburg Fortress, Publishers, as information for the ongoing development of worship and liturgical resources for this church; and

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

**VOTED:** **CC09.08.51**  
To take action *en bloc* on the items listed below, the full texts of which are found in the minutes or exhibits as indicated:

**VOTED: En Bloc** **CC09.08.52a**

To elect to the board of directors of the Lutheran Medical Center: Dr. Genevieve Go, Ms. Brenda Grandell, Dr. Anthony Kovner, Ms. Violet Maya, Ms. Miriam Katowitz, Mr. George Renert, Mr. Vincent Rohan, Mr. Danny Tsoi, Mr. Peter Turchi, and Ms. Kathryn Wylde to three-year terms expiring in 2012;

To elect Ms. Christine Grumm to the board of directors of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service to fill an unexpired term ending in 2011;

To elect Mr. Richard Toftness to the board of directors of Mosaic, Inc., to fill an unexpired term ending in 2012; and

To authorize the Executive Committee to act on behalf of the Church Council relative to elections to the board of directors of Mosaic, Inc. between meetings of the Church Council.

**VOTED: En Bloc** **CC09.08.52b**

To appoint Don Lewis to serve on the Board of Directors of ELCA Risk Management, Inc., on the basis of nomination by the Council of Seminary Presidents.

**VOTED: En Bloc** **CC09.08.53**

To authorize the officers of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the continuing members of the Executive Committee to serve as the Executive Committee of the Church Council between the 2009 Churchwide Assembly and the November 2009 meeting of the Church Council.

**VOTED: En Bloc** **CC09.08.54**

To make the following appointments of continuing members of the ELCA Church Council to Church Council committees for the 2009–2011 biennium:

- Budget and Finance Committee: Pr. David P. Anderson, Ms. Deborah L. Chenoweth, Mr. John R. Emery, Pr. Keith A. Hunsinger, Ms. Ann C. Niedringhaus;
- Legal and Constitutional Review Committee: Mr. Mark S. Helmke, Mr. Mark E. Johnson, Ms. Lynette M. Reitz;
- Planning and Evaluation Committee: Mr. Baron Blanchard, Ms. Karin L. Graddy, Pr. Susan Langhauser (chair), Pr. J. Pablo Obregon, Pr. Jeffrey “Jeff” B. Sorenson, Mr. David Truland; and
- Program and Services Committee: Ms. Rebecca Jo Brakke, Pr. Rachel L. Connelly, Mr. Steven P. Loy (chair), Mr. John S. Munday, Mr. Mark W. Myers, Ms. Sandra Schlesinger.

**VOTED: En Bloc**

**CC09.08.55a**

To ratify the following amendments to the Southeastern Minnesota Synod constitution:

- amend provision †S8.12.e. to make it consistent with the required provision in the model Constitution for Synods:  
Attest letters of call for persons called to serve congregations in the synod, letters of call for persons called by the Synod Council, and letters of call for persons on the rosters of this synod called by the Church Council ~~on the rosters of this synod.~~
- amend provision †S13.23. to make it consistent with the required provision in the model Constitution for Synods:  
Provision 9.71. of the ELCA constitution shall govern the relationship of this synod and a congregation of this synod regarding the property of the congregation. This synod may transfer or convey property to a congregation of the synod, subject to restrictions accepted by the congregation, including provision that if the Synod Council, in its sole and exclusive discretion, determines (1) that the property is not being used to serve the mission and ministry needs of this church, or (2) that the congregation has transferred, encumbered, mortgaged, or in any way burdened or impaired any right, title, or interest in the property without the prior approval of the Synod Council, then title to the property shall revert to the synod, and the congregation, upon written demand, shall reconvey the property to the synod.
- amend provision †S15.32. to make it consistent with the required provision in the model Constitution for Synods:  
This synod shall maintain adequate, continuous insurance coverage in accordance with standards recommended by the churchwide organization. Insurance programs offered or endorsed by the churchwide organization shall be deemed to fulfill this obligation.

**VOTED: En Bloc**

**CC09.08.55b**

To ratify the following amendments to the Southwestern Minnesota Synod constitution:

- amend provision S11.50. and accompanying bylaw S11.50.01. as follows:  
S11.50. ~~Serving Christ’s Mission Board~~ Serving in God’s World Board

S11.50.01. There shall be a twelve-member board for oversight, evaluating, and planning the synod’s work of serving ~~Christ’s mission~~ in God’s world.

- amend provision S7.23. to make it consistent with required provision †S7.21.b. in the model Constitution for Synods:  
All retired ordained ministers, all ordained ministers on leave from call, all associates in ministry on leave from call or retired, all deaconesses of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America on leave from call or retired, and all diaconal ministers of this church on leave from call or retired, all of whose names appear on the rosters of this synod, shall have the privilege of voice but not vote at all meetings of the Synod Assembly. If retired or on-leave-from-call associates in ministry, deaconesses, or diaconal ministers are elected by their congregation as voting members, they shall have the privilege of voice and vote. The presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and other official representatives of this church as may be designated from time to time by the Church Council shall also have voice but not vote in the meetings of the Synod Assembly. Like privileges shall be accorded to those members of the Synod Council who are not voting members of the Synod Assembly and to those additional persons whom the Synod Assembly or the Synod Council shall from time to time designate.

**VOTED:**

**CC09.08.56**

To postpone action on the revisions to “Guidelines on Candidacy Issues for German Students or Pastors from the Evangelical Church in Germany” until the November 2009 Church Council meeting.

**VOTED:**

**CC09.08.57**

To adopt amendments to the ELCA Retirement Plan as printed in Exhibit E: Section 1.02 and the addition of Section 1.07 of Article I; Sections 2.13, 2.26 and 2.27 of Article II; Section 3.02 of Article III; Section 4.05 of Article IV; Section 5.05 of Article V; Sections 7.01 and 7.02 of Article VII; Sections 8.01 and 8.03 of Article VIII; Sections 9.07, 9.08 and 9.11 of Article IX; and Sections 10.01(a) and (c), 10.03, 10.04, 10.05 and 10.06 of Article X.

The meeting included a joint session of the Church Council, the Conference of Bishops, and synodical vice presidents. The sixty-second meeting of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) adjourned at 5:32 P.M.

## November 13–15, 2009

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called the sixty-third meeting of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) to order at 2:15 P.M. on Friday, November 13, 2009, in the Council Room of the Lutheran Center at Chicago, Illinois.

**VOTED:** **CC09.11.58**

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

**VOTED:** **CC09.11.59**

To approve the minutes of the March 27–30, 2009, and August 16, 2009, meetings of the Church Council; and

To ratify actions of the council's Executive Committee as indicated in the minutes of the March 27, 2009, May 26, 2009, July 14, 2009, August 16, 2009, September 21, 2009, September 24, 2009, and October 7, 2009, meetings.

**VOTED:** **CC09.11.60**

To ratify the appointments to the Church Council committees and other advisory responsibilities for the 2009–2011 biennium as detailed in Exhibit B, Parts 3a and 3b.

**VOTED:** **CC09.11.61**

To re-elect the Rev. Sherman G. Hicks to a four-year term as executive director of the program unit for the Multicultural Ministries program unit, beginning January 17, 2010.

**VOTED: Abstain: 1** **CC09.11.62**

To re-elect the Rev. Stanley N. Olson as executive director of the Vocation and Education program unit for a four-year term beginning January 1, 2010.

**VOTED: Two-thirds vote required** **CC09.11.63**

To re-elect Mr. Daniel J. Lehmann as editor of *The Lutheran* for a four-year term beginning January 1, 2010.

**VOTED:** **CC09.11.64**

To reaffirm the process for the election of the Executive Committee for the 2009–2011 biennium; and

To declare that the chairs of the Budget and Finance Committee, the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee, the Planning and Evaluation Committee, and the Program and Services Committee shall be members of the Executive Committee of the Church Council.

Vice President Peña announced the committee chairs for the 2009–2011 biennium:

Ms. Ann F. Niedringhaus, *Budget and Finance*  
Mr. Mark S. Helmke, *Legal and Constitutional Review*  
Pr. Susan Langhauser, *Planning and Evaluation*  
Pr. Steven P. Loy, *Program and Services*

**VOTED:**

**CC09.11.65**

To accept the report of the Executive Committee, serving as the Nominating Committee; and

To request that a ballot be prepared:

### Advisory Committee for *The Lutheran* magazine

Clergy [Term 2015]

Pr. Jennifer M. Ginn, Salisbury, N.C. [9B]

Pr. Amaretta J. Onstad, Conyers, Ga. [9D]

Lay Female [Term 2015]

Ms. Judy R. Korn, Morris, Minn. [3F]

Ms. Kathleen Fick, Grand Forks, N.D. [3B]

Lay Male [Term 2015]

Mr. Jack H. Palmer, Defiance, Ohio [6D]

Mr. John A. Wagner, Toledo, Ohio [6D]

### Board of Trustees for the ELCA Foundation

Clergy [Term 2015]

Pr. Susan J. Crowell, Greenville, S.C. [9C]

Lay Female [Term 2015]

Ms. Teresa Chow, Hoffman Estates, Ill. [5A]

Lay Male [Term 2015]

Mr. James E. Willis, Rockwell City, Iowa [5E]

### Committee of Hearing Officers

Clergy [Term 2015]

Pr. Gerald R. Kliner, Jr., Hurricane, W. Va. [8H]

Lay Female [Term 2015]

Ms. Leslie M. Frost, Saint Paul, Minn. [3G]

Lay Male [Term 2015]

Mr. William R. Lloyd, Jr., Somerset, Pa. [8C]

### Board of Trustees of the Board of Pensions

Term [2013] - to replace Kelly L. Birch, Arlington Heights, Ill. [5A]

Mr. Cecil D. Bykerk, Omaha, Neb. [4A]

Mr. Daniel E. Meylink, Sr., Lake Mills, Wisc. [5K]

**VOTED:**

**CC09.11.66**

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

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

To note that expenses for attending Synod Council meetings and Synod Assemblies will be reimbursed by the churchwide organization in accordance with the ELCA travel policy.

**VOTED:** **CC09.11.67**

To approve the “Proposed Protocol for Revisions to Ministry Policies (October 2009–April 2010);” and

To anticipate consideration by the ELCA Church Council at its April 2010 meeting on revisions to “Vision and Expectations,” “Definitions and Guidelines for Discipline,” the Candidacy Manual, and other policies as needed.

**VOTED:** **CC09.11.68**

To declare the following elected:

Advisory Committee for *The Lutheran* magazine

Clergy [Term 2015]

Pr. Jennifer M. Ginn, Salisbury, N.C. [9B]

Lay Female [Term 2015]

Ms. Judy R. Korn, Morris, Minn. [3F]

Lay Male [Term 2015]

Mr. John A. Wagner, Toledo, Ohio [6D]

Board of Trustees for the ELCA Foundation

Clergy [Term 2015]

Pr. Susan J. Crowell, Greenville, S.C. [9C]

Lay Female [Term 2015]

Ms. Teresa Chow, Hoffman Estates, Ill. [5A]

Lay Male [Term 2015]

Mr. James E. Willis, Rockwell City, Iowa [5E]

Committee of Hearing Officers

Clergy [Term 2015]

Pr. Gerald R. Kliner, Jr., Hurricane, W. Va. [8H]

Lay Female [Term 2015]

Ms. Leslie M. Frost, Saint Paul, Minn. [3G]

Lay Male [Term 2015]

Mr. William R. Lloyd, Jr., Somerset, Pa. [8C]

Board of Trustees of the Board of Pensions

Term [2013] - *to replace Kelly L. Birch, Arlington Heights, Ill. [5A]*

Mr. Cecil D. Bykerk, Omaha, Neb. [4A]

**VOTED:** **CC09.11.69**

To declare elected the Rev. J. Pablo Obregon to the Church Council Executive Committee.

**VOTED:** **CC09.11.70**

To approve the charter for the Ecology Study Design Group, “Living into the Future Together: Renewing the Ecology of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA),” of October 28, 2009.

**VOTED:** **CC09.11.71**

To approve the revised social policy document on immigration, “Toward Compassionate, Just, and Wise Immigration Reform.”

**VOTED:** **CC09.11.72**

To approve the revisions to the ELCA Churchwide Personnel Policies as detailed in Exhibit I, Parts 1a–1b; and

To request that the Human Resources section of the Office of the Presiding Bishop bring to the next meeting of the Church Council recommendations for continuing education policies for churchwide employees.

**VOTED:** **CC09.11.73**

To approve the following: (1) restatement of ELCA Retirement Trust; (2) restatement of ELCA Master Institutional Retirement Trust; (3) restatement of ELCA Medical and Dental Benefits Trust; (4) restatement of ELCA Survivor Benefits Trust; (5) restatement of ELCA Disability Benefits Trust; (6) restatement of ELCA Benefits Contribution Trust; (7) restatement of ELCA Supplemental Retirement Benefits Trust; (8) restatement of ELCA Master 475(b) Deferred Compensation Trust; and (9) addition of ELCA Participating Annuity Trust.

**VOTED:** **CC09.11.74**

To declare elected Ms. Lynette M. Reitz and the Rev. Rachel L. Connolly to the Church Council Executive Committee.

**VOTED:** **CC09.11.75**

To approve an initial 2010 fiscal year current fund spending authorization of \$69,022,800; and

To approve an initial 2010 fiscal year World Hunger spending authorization of \$18,700,000.

**VOTED:** **CC09.11.76**

To affirm with sincere appreciation the increases in the percentage for the sharing of 2009 mission-support contributions by congregations for synodical and churchwide ministries of the following synods: Alaska, Arkansas-Oklahoma, Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast, North/West Lower Michigan, and Slovak Zion synods;

To affirm the revised 2009 mission-support dollar estimates for the sharing of mission-support contributions for synodical and churchwide ministries by congregations of the following synods: Rocky Mountain, Metropolitan Chicago, Northern Illinois, and Southern Ohio synods; and

To acknowledge the percentage change in mission support resulting from revised estimates of congregational mission support for the following synods: Northwest Synod of Wisconsin, Greater Milwaukee, Southeast Michigan, Northeastern Ohio, Allegheny, and South Carolina synods.

**VOTED:** **CC09.11.77**

To affirm with sincere appreciation the increases in the percentage for the sharing of 2010 mission-support contributions by congregations for synodical and churchwide ministries of the following synods: Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana, Northeastern Iowa, Southeast Michigan, Upstate New York, and Allegheny synods;

To affirm the revised 2010 mission-support dollar estimates for the sharing of mission-support contributions for synodical and

churchwide ministries by congregations of the following synods: Alaska, Rocky Mountain, Eastern North Dakota, Central States, Metropolitan Chicago, Northern Illinois, Greater Milwaukee, Indiana-Kentucky, Slovak Zion, Northwestern Pennsylvania, and Upper Susquehanna synods; and

To acknowledge the percentage change in mission support resulting from revised estimates of congregational mission support for the following synod: New England.

**VOTED:** **CC09.11.78**

To acknowledge the actions of the 2009 Lutheran Youth Organization convention in adopting the resolutions reported to the Church Council;

To commend the LYO delegates for engaging challenging issues and the opportunities of our time;

To encourage the LYO board to continue to exercise leadership and facilitate the leadership of youth throughout this church;

To acknowledge the disappointment expressed in LYO resolution 8, "Youth Role in Church Council," specifically that the male and female youth advisors to the Church Council were not invited to be resource persons for the 2009 Churchwide Assembly; and

To request that the secretary of this church inform the LYO board of this action, explaining why the male and female youth advisors to the Church Council were not invited to be resource persons for the 2009 Churchwide Assembly.

**VOTED:** **CC09.11.79**

To go into a quasi committee of the whole for a period of 30 minutes to discuss draft revisions to policies implementing the actions of the 2009 Churchwide Assembly.

**VOTED:** **CC09.11.80**

To approve the proposed revisions to "Reinstatement of the Rosters of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America."

**VOTED:** **CC09.11.81**

To approve the proposed revisions to "Church Council and Committee Operational Ethics Policy of the Churchwide Organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America" as printed in Exhibit G, Part 3b; and

To request that the policy as amended be added to the Church Council Orientation Manual.

**VOTED: Abstain: 1** **CC09.11.82**

To receive with deep gratitude the letter from the Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod Council;

To acknowledge the painful theological, moral, and institutional struggle of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod Council, congregations, and members as a result of the decisions of the 2009 Churchwide Assembly on the social statement on human sexuality and the recommendation on ministry policies;

To honor the Synod Council's efforts to communicate this struggle and practice leadership in the face of disagreement and

to encourage its "effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (Ephesians 4:3);

To note that many of the concerns of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod Council are shared by others in this church and are acknowledged in the work of the Task Force for the ELCA Studies on Sexuality;

To emphasize this church's commitments to recognize the conviction of members who believe that this church should not call or roster people in a publicly accountable, lifelong, monogamous, same-gender relationship as it implements the decisions of the 2009 Churchwide Assembly on the social statement on human sexuality and the recommendation on ministry policies;

To affirm that Scripture, the Confessions, and theology are foundational in this church's decision-making;

To acknowledge that the scriptural, theological, and confessional foundations that underlie the decisions of the assembly, as well as the concept of "bound conscience," continues to require explanation, theological exploration, and deeper and broader conversation, and more extensive communication;

To respond, therefore, to the request of Motion F of the 2009 Churchwide Assembly "to undertake a study of the concept of 'bound conscience'" and "to disseminate widely through appropriate mechanisms the results of this study" with a commitment to a theological conversation on the foundations of this church's decision-making, the results of that conversation to be disseminated to this church;

To refer the conversation to the Office of the Presiding Bishop, in collaboration with the Church in Society program unit, the Vocation and Education program unit, and Lutheran teaching theologians of the ELCA;

To encourage and solicit the active involvement of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod and the rest of this church in the conversation; and

To request that the secretary of this church inform the synod of this action, providing the background information above as part of the response of the Church Council to the Synod Council's letter.

**VOTED:** **CC09.11.83**

To cancel, for budgetary reasons, the proposed Church Council retreat in August 2010; and

To find other ways and times for board development activities to occur, such as adding a day to council meetings.

**VOTED:** **CC09.11.84**

To allocate for the 2011 Churchwide Assembly two additional voting-member positions to the Caribbean Synod (9F), making a total of 4, with the provision that these additional voting members shall be people of color or people whose primary language is other than English;

To allocate for the 2011 Churchwide Assembly one additional voting-member position to the Alaska Synod (1A), making a total of four voting members, with the provision that the position shall be filled by an Alaska Native person;

To allocate for the 2011 Churchwide Assembly one additional voting-member position each to the Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod (4C), making a total of four voting members, and the West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod (8H), making a total of five voting members, for a individual of color or an individual whose primary language is other than English; and

To allocate for the 2011 Churchwide Assembly one additional voting-member position for a lay member of the Slovak Zion Synod (7G); the total number of voting members is three.

**VOTED: En Bloc** **CC09.11.85**

To take action *en bloc* on the items listed below, the full texts of which are found in the body of the agenda or in the exhibit as noted:

**VOTED: En Bloc** **CC09.11.86**

To adopt *en bloc* the following responses to synodical resolutions to the Church Council:

**VOTED: En Bloc** **CC09.11.86a**

To receive the update provided by the Board of Pensions as the initial response to the resolutions of the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin related to benefits for domestic partners and the New England Synod related to the Board of Pensions health plan for same-sex domestic partners;

To authorize a delay in the final response to these resolutions until the April 2010 meeting of the Church Council; and

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

**VOTED: En Bloc** **CC09.11.86b**

To receive the resolution of the New England Synod related to health care and to acknowledge the information above, provided by the Board of Pensions, as the response of the Church Council to the synod's action; and

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

**VOTED: En Bloc** **CC09.11.86c**

To thank the Central States Synod for its concern for people with mental illness and their families;

To authorize staff of the program unit for Church in Society, in accordance with "Policies and Procedures of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for Addressing Social Concerns," to initiate the development of an ELCA message on mental illness to be brought to the Church Council for adoption in April 2011; and

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

**VOTED: En Bloc** **CC09.11.86d**

To thank the Northwestern Minnesota Synod for its support for peacemaking;

To acknowledge the response of the Church in Society program unit, including its ongoing peace-building priorities, as the response of this Church Council to the synod's resolution;

To request that the Church in Society continue to monitor the convergence of the peace-building priorities of this church with the constitutive goals of a United States Department for Peace, but to decline specifically to support pending legislation on this issue; and

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

**VOTED: En Bloc** **CC09.11.86e**

To acknowledge the strong commitment of the Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod to renew and extend its companion synod relationship with the Morogoro Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT);

To celebrate the partnership of the ELCT, the ELCA's Global Mission program unit, and the Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod that has resulted in the placement of an ELCA missionary within the Morogoro Diocese as pastor and leader of evangelism; and

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

**VOTED: En Bloc** **CC09.11.87**

To approve the referrals from the 2009 Churchwide Assembly to the churchwide organization, as detailed in Exhibit B, Part 2a.

**VOTED: En Bloc** **CC09.11.88**

To approve the following amendments to the ELCA Pension and Other Benefits Program:

**VOTED: En Bloc** **CC09.11.88a**

To adopt amendments to Section 9.07 of Article IX and Section 10.06 of Article X of the ELCA Retirement Plan.

**VOTED: En Bloc** **CC09.11.88b**

To adopt amendments to Sections 8.07 and 8.08 of Article VIII of the ELCA Master Institutional Retirement Plan.

**VOTED: En Bloc** **CC09.11.88c**

To adopt amendments to Sections 8.07 and 8.08 of Article VIII of the ELCA Retirement Plan for The Evangelical Lutheran Good Samaritan Society.

**VOTED: En Bloc** **CC09.11.89**

To elect Ms. Louise Hemstead to the ELCA Audit Committee for a two-year term beginning November 2009.

**VOTED: En Bloc** **CC09.11.90**

To receive and approve the report of the Church Council Audit Committee describing their review of the audited financial statements, management letter, and response of management for the fiscal year ended January 31, 2009.

**VOTED: En Bloc** **CC09.11.91**

To approve the revisions to the charter of the Church Council Audit Committee as printed in Exhibit F, Part 6b.

**VOTED: En Bloc** **CC09.11.92**

To approve the investment philosophy and policy statement for the Charitable Gift Annuity Program;

To approve the required reserve fund guidelines for the Charitable Gift Annuity Program; and

To approve the excess reserve fund guidelines for the Charitable Gift Annuity Program.

**VOTED: En Bloc** **CC09.11.93**

To add the following protocol to the Church Council Orientation Manual:

It is expected that Church Council members and advisory members will:

- 1) Commit to being present for meetings, not missing more than one full day of a meeting nor two consecutive meetings.
- 2) Complete reservations for travel at least one month prior to the meeting and at the lowest fare available. Travel arrangements made after the deadline must be approved by the Office of the Secretary. Additional costs due to late reservations may be charged to the member or advisor.

**VOTED: En Bloc** **CC09.11.94**

To acknowledge, in accordance with bylaw 14.21.16. of the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* and the “Policy on Relationships of Churchwide Units with Independent Lutheran Organizations,” Lutheran Health Care Bangladesh–USA and China Service Ventures, which will relate to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America through the Global Mission unit.

**VOTED: En Bloc** **CC09.11.95**

To approve the proposed revisions to the ELCA Lifelong Learning Network policy as printed in Exhibit O, Part 2b.

**VOTED: En Bloc** **CC09.11.96**

To approve the amendments as detailed in Exhibit K, Part 3a, to the following Corporate Social Responsibility issue paper, but to request that the wording of the original issue paper be archived for historical and research purposes: “Sufficient Sustainable Livelihood for All: Extractive Industries.”

**VOTED: En Bloc** **CC09.11.97**

To approve the revisions to “Guidelines on Candidacy Issues for German Students or Pastors from the Evangelical Church in Germany” as printed in Exhibit O, Parts 3a–3c.

**VOTED: En Bloc** **CC09.11.98**

To approve membership by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in the unified Action by Churches Together (ACT) Alliance as requested by the Global Mission program unit.

**VOTED: En Bloc** **CC09.11.99**

To approve the amendments to the constitution of the Lutheran Youth Organization as adopted at its July 26-30, 2009, convention and detailed in Exhibit O, Parts a–b.

**VOTED: En Bloc** **CC09.11.100a**

To elect to the board of trustees of Lutheran Medical Center, Brooklyn, New York as members-at-large: Bp. Robert Rimbo to a one-year term expiring in 2010; Ms. Angela Martinez to a three-year term expiring in 2012; and Ms. Wendy Goldstein (*ex-officio*) to a term simultaneous with her position as president and CEO.

**VOTED: En Bloc** **CC09.11.100b**

To elect to the board of directors of Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, Columbia, S.C., to three-year terms expiring in 2012: Dr. Richard Conn, Dr. Miriam David-Brown, and Mr. Kenneth Childs.

**VOTED:** **CC09.11.101**

To approve “Process Observation: A Practice of Church Council Leaders”; and

To request that the document—with the exception of information specific to the November 2009 meeting—be added to the Church Council Orientation Manual.

The sixty-third meeting of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America adjourned Sunday, November 15, 2009, at 3:03 P.M.

## **April 9–11, 2010**

The sixty-fourth meeting of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) was called to order by Vice President Carlos E. Peña in the Council Room of the Lutheran Center at Chicago, Illinois, at 8:21 A.M. on Saturday, April 10, 2010.

**VOTED:** **CC10.04.01**

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

**VOTED:** **CC10.04.02**

To approve the minutes of the November 13–15, 2009, meeting of the Church Council; and

To ratify actions of the council’s Executive Committee as indicated in the minutes of the November 12–14, 2009, and January 11, 2010, meetings.

**VOTED: Abstain: 1** **CC10.04.03**

To re-elect the Rev. Rebecca Larson to a four-year term as executive director of the program unit for Church in Society beginning October 14, 2010.

**VOTED:****CC10.04.04**

To approve a revised current fund spending authorization for fiscal year 2010 of \$69,300,000;

To approve a revised total World Hunger spending authorization for fiscal year 2010 of \$20,331,516.

**VOTED:****CC10.04.05**

To acknowledge with sadness that circumstances in the following synods have led to decisions to seek a decrease in the percentage of sharing of 2010 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: Eastern Washington-Idaho; Montana; Pacifica; Grand Canyon; Central States; Arkansas-Oklahoma; Southwestern Texas; Western Iowa; North/West Lower Michigan; Southern Ohio; Upstate New York; Lower Susquehanna; West Virginia-Western Maryland; Virginia; South Carolina; and Carribean synods;

To acknowledge with thanksgiving the decision of the following synod to increase the percentage of sharing of 2010 mission support contributions by congregations for synodical and churchwide ministries: Northeastern Iowa Synod;

To acknowledge with thanksgiving the decision of the following synods to maintain the percentage of sharing of 2010 mission support contributions by congregations for synodical and churchwide ministries: Alaska; Northwest Washington; Oregon; Sierra Pacific; Rocky Mountain; Eastern North Dakota; South Dakota; Northwestern Minnesota; Northeastern Minnesota; Southwestern Minnesota; Minneapolis Area; Saint Paul Area; Southeastern Minnesota; Nebraska; Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana; Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast; Northern Illinois; Central/Southern Illinois; Southeastern Iowa; Northern Great Lakes; Northwest Synod of Wisconsin; East-Central Synod of Wisconsin; Greater Milwaukee; South-Central Synod of Wisconsin; La Crosse Area; Indiana-Kentucky; Northwestern Ohio; Northeastern Ohio; New Jersey; New England; Metropolitan New York; Slovak Zion; Allegheny; Northeastern Pennsylvania; Northwestern Pennsylvania; Southeastern Pennsylvania; Southwestern Pennsylvania; Upper Susquehanna; Delaware-Maryland; Metropolitan Washington, D.C.; Southeastern; and Florida-Bahamas synods; and

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

**VOTED:****CC10.04.06**

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 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: Eastern Washington-Idaho; Montana; Grand Canyon; Central States; Arkansas-Oklahoma; Western Iowa; North/West Lower Michigan; Southwestern Pennsylvania; Lower Susquehanna; and Virginia synods;

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: South Dakota; Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana; Metropolitan New York; and Northeastern Pennsylvania synods;

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: Eastern North Dakota; Northeastern Minnesota; Southwestern Minnesota; Southeastern Minnesota; Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast; Central/Southern Illinois; Southeastern Iowa; East-Central Synod of Wisconsin; South-Central Synod of Wisconsin; La Crosse Area; Indiana-Kentucky; Northwestern Ohio; Northeastern Ohio; New England; Allegheny; Southeastern; and Florida-Bahamas 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 encourage synod and churchwide staff, including the directors for evangelical mission, to deepen their partnership in efforts to strengthen the financial support of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; and

To request that all synods submit their 2011 mission support plans prior to their 2010 synod assemblies.

**VOTED:****CC10.04.07**

To elect Mr. John Bauder, Tampa, Fla., to a term to end in 2016 on the Board of Trustees of the Endowment Fund of the ELCA and Advisory Committee for Development Services and ELCA Foundation.

**VOTED: Abstain: 1****CC10.04.08**

To approve, as provided in bylaw 20.71.11 in the *Constitutions Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*, the revised version of "Definitions and Guidelines for Discipline" as established by the Committee on Appeals and presented in Exhibit Q, Part 2b; and

To authorize the presiding bishop and secretary of this church, in consultation with the Committee on Appeals, to make any necessary editorial corrections.

**VOTED: Abstain: 1****CC10.04.09**

To adopt the revised version of "Vision and Expectations: Ordained Ministers in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America" (as amended); and

To authorize the Vocation and Education unit, in consultation with the Office of the Secretary, to make any necessary editorial corrections.

**VOTED: Abstain: 1**

To adopt the revised version of “Vision and Expectations: Associates in Ministry, Deaconesses, and Diaconal Ministers in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America” (as amended); and

To authorize the Vocation and Education unit, in consultation with the Office of the Secretary, to make any necessary editorial corrections.

**VOTED: Abstain: 1**

To adopt the revised Candidacy Manual (as amended); and

To authorize the Vocation and Education unit, in consultation with the Office of the Secretary, to make any necessary corrections for clarity and accuracy.

**VOTED:**

To approve amendments to the ELCA Retirement Plan, the ELCA Medical and Dental Benefits Plan, the ELCA Survivor Benefits Plan, the ELCA Disability Benefits Plan, the ELCA Master Institutional Retirement Plan, and the ELCA Flexible Benefits Plan as detailed in Exhibit P, Parts 2a–2f.

**VOTED: Abstain: 1**

To authorize as the appropriate form for a period of two years, beginning April 12, 2010, and ending on April 11, 2012, the rite of “Reception to the Roster of Ordained Ministers,” for use by synodical bishops in receiving onto the roster of the ordained ministers of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America those pastors on the roster of Extraordinary Lutheran Ministries or on the roster of ordained ministers of a predecessor church body who were not previously on the ELCA roster of ordained ministers, who have been approved by a candidacy committee of a synod of the ELCA and who have received a call in this church;

To emphasize that no other use of this rite is authorized; and

To express gratitude for the thoughtful work of all those who contributed to the development of this rite.

**VOTED:**

To receive with gratitude the report of the executive for Human Resources related to learning and development opportunities for ELCA churchwide staff as provided in Exhibit I, Part 2; and

To encourage use of the time, resources, and funding provided for staff to grow and develop in their areas of expertise of work on behalf of the churchwide organization.

**VOTED:**

To affirm the current time line for the development of a social statement on genetics for consideration by the 2011 Churchwide Assembly; and

To request the Church in Society program unit to convene conversations related to the development of future social statements and to bring a report and possible recommendations to the November 2010 meeting of the Church Council.

**CC10.04.10**

**VOTED:**

To receive with gratitude the report of the working group in response to Motion F of the 2009 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church;

To acknowledge the objectives of its recommendations:

- Respect for people whose consciences are bound to different understandings of Scripture;
- Commitment to a theological conversation on the foundations of this church’s decision-making, the results of that conversation to be disseminated to this church;
- An invitation to helpful and constructive engagement with the issue of respect for people whose consciences are bound to different understandings of Scripture;

To anticipate deeper and broader sustained attention to these matters through:

- Conversation of key leadership groups throughout this church, including the Conference of Bishops, the Convocation of Teaching Theologians, the Convocation of Lutheran Ethicists, and the gathering of synodical vice presidents, as well as in gatherings of rostered people in synods and conferences, text studies, synod assemblies, campus ministries, congregational studies, and colleges and universities.
- Publications, such as the Journal of Lutheran Ethics, and possible resource books focused on presentations from the events cited above.
- A bibliography and/or resource listing on the ELCA Website, including documents written from a range of perspectives.
- Encouragement for helpful and constructive dialogue in a variety of settings (e.g., “sponsored conversations,” town hall forums, seminars, workshops, online conversations).

**VOTED: Abstain: 1**

To receive with gratitude the response of the ELCA Foundation and Development Services unit to the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly motion related to wills and living trusts;

To anticipate the launching of Kalos—the ELCA Legacy Society in 2010 and a wills and bequests campaign in 2011;

To encourage strongly members of the Church Council, Conference of Bishops, synodical officers and other leaders of this church to become charter members of the ELCA Legacy Society—Kalos; and

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

**VOTED:**

To elect Mr. Robert Hahn, Walkersville, Md. (8F), to an unexpired term to end in 2015 on the Board of Trustees of Augsburg Fortress, Publishers.

**VOTED:**

To designate [the David L. Lawrence Convention Center,] Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania—subject to the satisfactory completion of negotiations in the judgment of the secretary of this church—as

**CC10.04.16**

**CC10.04.11**

**CC10.04.12**

**CC10.04.13**

**CC10.04.14**

**CC10.04.15**

**CC10.04.17**

**CC10.04.18**

**CC10.04.19**

the site for the Thirteenth Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, August 12–18, 2013.

**VOTED:** *En Bloc* **CC10.04.20**  
To take action *en bloc* on the items listed below, the full texts of which are found in the minutes.

**VOTED: En Bloc** **CC10.04.21**  
To adopt *en bloc* the following responses to synodical resolutions and churchwide assembly actions:

**VOTED: En Bloc** **CC10.04.21a**  
To acknowledge the action by the ELCA Church Council to approve amendments to the ELCA Pension and Other Benefits Program in response to implementing resolution 7 of “Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust” and revisions to “Vision and Expectations” and “Definitions and Guidelines for Discipline” as the response of the Church Council to the resolutions of the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin and the New England Synod; and

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

**VOTED: En Bloc** **CC10.04.21b**  
To acknowledge the action of the Northeastern Iowa Synod Council to rescind the two resolutions requesting repudiation of the social statement on human sexuality and recommending procedures for the implementation of ministry policies within the synod; and

To express gratitude to the Synod Council for its deliberative process and for the “extensive and open conversation” that led to its decision and for the February 1, 2010, letter from Vice President Susan Armstrong notifying the Office of the Secretary of the Synod Council’s action; and

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

**VOTED: En Bloc** **CC10.04.21c**  
To receive the resolution of the Florida-Bahamas Synod related to comprehensive insurance coverage for its congregations;

To acknowledge the importance of comprehensive and affordable insurance coverage for ELCA synods and congregations across this church and to acknowledge in particular the financial and risk challenges facing congregations and synods where there have been natural disasters impacting on coverage availability and premiums charged;

To recognize that the churchwide organization provides a program of insurance coverage to ELCA congregations while acknowledging that ELCA congregations have the ability to select the brokers, carriers, coverage, premium amounts, and policies of insurance that best suit their individual needs;

To encourage continuing efforts by the Office of the Secretary, in consultation with the Office of the Treasurer, to seek to promote comprehensive coverage at a fair price to all congregations across this church; and

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

**VOTED: En Bloc** **CC10.04.22**  
To adopt *en bloc* the following responses to referrals from the Church Council to churchwide units in response to actions of the 2009 Churchwide Assembly:

**VOTED: En Bloc** **CC10.04.22a**  
To receive with gratitude the report of the Church in Society unit in response to the memorial of the 2009 Churchwide Assembly related to Lutheran Disaster Response and its appended documents: the report of Lutheran Disaster Response Strategic Planning Task Force, “The Lutheran Disaster Response System Vision” and the report and recommendations related to the establishment of an LDR advisory committee;

To acknowledge that these reports and recommendations as the response of the Church Council to the action of the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly; and

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

**VOTED: En Bloc** **CC10.04.22b**  
To authorize a delay in the response of the Church in Society unit to the memorial of the Minneapolis Area Synod related to legal protection and fairness regarding the potential loss of retirement and related benefits for older adults who desire to marry;

To request that a report and possible recommendations be brought to the November 2010 meeting of the ELCA Church Council; and

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

**VOTED: En Bloc** **CC10.04.23**  
To elect Mr. John F. Timmer to the ELCA Audit Committee for a final two-year term beginning August 2010.

**VOTED: En Bloc** **CC10.04.24**  
To set August 4, 2010, from 10:00 a.m.–12:00 noon (CDT) for a WebEx meeting of the Church Council.

**VOTED: En Bloc** **CC10.04.25**  
To acknowledge the value of having well informed rostered leaders of this church;

To commend *The Lutheran* magazine for its generosity in providing complimentary copies to 16,467 rostered leaders and 711 surviving spouses;

To acknowledge the budget constraints under which *The Lutheran* operates as a self-sustaining publication of this church, especially in the current economic climate; and

To authorize the magazine to request donations from those who receive free copies.

**VOTED: En Bloc** **CC10.04.26**

To approve amendments to the bylaws of the ELCA Board of Pensions as detailed in Exhibit P, Part 1a.

**VOTED: En Bloc** **CC10.04.27**

To acknowledge, in accordance with bylaw 14.21.16. of the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* and the "Policy on Relationships of Churchwide Units with Independent Lutheran Organizations," the ELCA Parish Nurse Association, which will relate to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America through the Vocation and Education unit.

**VOTED: En Bloc** **CC10.04.28**

To approve the amended constitution and bylaws of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, printed in Exhibit G, Part 1.

**VOTED: En Bloc** **CC10.04.29**

To elect to the board of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service for a second three-year term expiring in 2012: Ms. Ruth Henrichs;

To elect to the board of Lutheran Services in America for a three-year term expiring in 2013: Mr. Brian Hofland;

To re-elect to the board of trustees of Lutheran Medical Center to three-year terms expiring in 2013: Mr. Lawrence DiGiovanna and Pr. David Rommereim; and

To elect to the board of trustees of Lutheran Medical Center to three-year terms expiring in 2013: Ms. Maria Carlson, Mr. Dale Christensen, Mr. Frank Comerford, Mr. Thomas Edwards, Ms. Kristine Gebbie, Ms. Emma Graeber Porter, Mr. Gerald Luterman, and Pr. Jeanne Warfield.

**VOTED: En Bloc** **CC10.04.30**

To elect to the board of directors of the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, Chicago, Ill., for three-year terms expiring in 2013: Mr. Clarence J. Atwood, Jr., Ms. Trina G. Gould, and Ms. Sarah Stegemoeller; and

To re-elect to the board of directors of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Penn., for three-year terms expiring in 2013: Ms. Lynn Askew, Ms. Addie Butler, and Mr. Andrew Willis.

The sixty-fourth meeting of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America adjourned April 11, 2010, at 3:30 P.M.

## **August 4, 2010**

The sixty-fifth meeting of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America was convened on Wednesday, August 4, 2010, by conference call in the Council Room of the Lutheran Center at Chicago, Illinois. Mr. Carlos E. Peña, vice president of the ELCA and chair of the Church Council, called the meeting to order at 10:31 A.M.

**VOTED:** **CC10.08.31**

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

**VOTED:** **CC10.08.32**

To approve a revised current fund spending authorization for fiscal year 2010 of \$65,100,000.

**VOTED: En Bloc** **CC10.08.33**

To receive the resolutions of the Minneapolis Area, Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast, Southwestern Minnesota, South Dakota, Upstate New York, La Crosse Area, Greater Milwaukee, New Jersey, and Northern Illinois synods related to the ELCA Board of Pensions annuity funding;

To establish an *Ad Hoc* Committee, including the following members:

1. Church Council: David Anderson, Mark Helmke, Ann Niedringhaus, Carlos Peña (*convener*)
2. Liaison Bishops: Callon Holloway, Jr., Martin Wells
3. Advisory member: Lois O'Rourke, *chair*, Board of Pensions Board of Trustees
4. *Ex-Officio*: Christina Jackson-Skelton, *ELCA treasurer*, and David Swartling, *ELCA secretary*
5. Board of Pensions staff liaison: Robert Berg
6. Churchwide staff liaison: Ruth Hamilton, Office of the Secretary;

To request that the *Ad Hoc* Committee respond to synodical resolutions related to the ELCA Participating Annuity and Bridge Fund, including but not limited to:

1. Consultation with the Board of Pensions regarding the background of, reasons for, and implications of the decisions made with respect to the ELCA Participating Annuity and Bridge Fund; and
2. Exploration of possible:
  - a. alternative ways to restore Fund losses and increase payment levels for annuitants and account values for those with bridge component accounts not yet annuitized;
  - b. steps to mitigate adverse effects of the Fund reductions and possible future reductions, including the expansion and promotion of the ELCA Special Needs Retirement Fund;

To request that a report and possible recommendations be brought to the November 2010 meeting of the ELCA Church Council; and

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

The sixty-fifth meeting of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America adjourned August 4, 2010, at 12:04 P.M.

## October 8, 2010

The sixty-sixth meeting of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) was convened on Friday, October 8, 2010, in the Council Room of the Lutheran Center at Chicago, Illinois, and by conference call. Mr. Carlos E. Peña, vice president of the ELCA and chair of the Church Council, called the meeting to order at 1:02 P.M.

### VOTED:

#### CC10.10.34

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

### VOTED:

#### CC10.10.35

To affirm the concept proposed by the presiding bishop, as described in Exhibit A, Part 1a, to restructure the churchwide organization to reflect missional priorities and economic realities in order to position this church for mission and ministry into the future;

To authorize the officers of the churchwide organization to take steps to the extent possible, including necessary personnel actions, to implement the restructuring proposal before the beginning of fiscal year 2011, consistent with the ELCA constitution and bylaws, churchwide organization policies, and this resolution;

To delete the following continuing resolutions as detailed in Exhibit A, Part 1b, as part of the process of implementing the restructuring proposal and to eliminate outdated provisions:

- | Continuing resolution | Topic   |
|-----------------------|---|
| 14.32.A05.            | Chairs of named program committees serve as advisory members of the Church Council                                  |
| 14.32.B05.            | The chair of the consulting committee on work on behalf of women serves as an advisory member of the Church Council |
| 15.11.E05.            | <i>Responsibility for Anti-Racism and Diversity Training</i>  |
| 15.11.H05.            | <i>Responsibility for Worship and Liturgical Resources</i>  |
| 16.11.A05.            | <i>Program Units</i>  |
| 16.12.A05.            | <i>Evangelical Outreach and Congregational Mission Unit</i>   |
| 16.12.B05.            | <i>Global Mission Unit</i>  |
| 16.12.C06.            | <i>Vocation and Education Unit</i>  |
| 16.12.D06.            | <i>Church in Society Unit</i>   |
| 16.12.E07.            | <i>Multicultural Ministries Unit</i>  |
| 17.11.A05.            | <i>Identification of Service Units</i>  |
| 17.21.A06.            | <i>Communication Services</i>   |
| 17.41.B05.            | <i>Development Services</i>   |
| 17.41.C09.            | Implementation of staggered terms for Foundation board members  |
| 17.51.A05.            | <i>Operation of the Mission Investment Fund of the ELCA</i>   |
| 17.51.B09.            | Implementation of staggered terms for MIF board members   |

19.04.A05. *Implementation Process* for changes in size of boards and program committees

19.21.D05. Process for soliciting nominations to program committees

19.51.A09. *Nomination for Multicultural Ministries Program Committee*;

To adopt the following new continuing resolutions as part of the process of implementing the restructuring proposal:

14.32.A10. *The chairs of the program committees for the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit and the Global Mission unit shall serve as advisory members of the Church Council with voice but not vote. In addition, the chairs of the respective boards of trustees of the Publishing House of the ELCA and Women of the ELCA shall serve as advisory members of the Church Council with voice but not vote.*

15.11.K10. *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.

16.11.A10. *Program Units*  
*Program units of the churchwide organization, which shall function through cooperation, coordination, and collaboration, are the following:*  
*a. Congregational and Synodical Mission unit;*  
*b. Global Mission unit.*

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.*

**16.12.B10. Global Mission Unit**

*The Global Mission unit shall provide integrated support of this church's work in other countries and be the means through which churches in other countries engage in mission to this church and society. The Global Mission unit shall build capacity and provide support for mission in the following areas:*

- a. *Global Community: maintaining church-to-church relationships and mutual endeavors for evangelical witness, leadership development, sharing of mission personnel, and collaborative work;*
- b. *Mission Formation and Relationships: mutual learning and growth with companion churches and ELCA synods and congregations in the accompaniment model for mission, companion synod relationships, young adults in global mission, relationships with independent Lutheran organizations related to global mission, and mission efforts for full communion partners;*
- c. *Diakonia: meeting human need and working collaboratively with partners toward the flourishing of human community through engagement in international development and disaster response.*

**17.11.A10. Mission Advancement Unit**

*The service unit of the churchwide organization is the Mission Advancement unit, which shall be responsible for coordinating this church's communication, marketing, public relations, mission funding, major gifts, planned gifts, and constituent data management. It also shall oversee the work of the following:*

- a. *The Lutheran magazine;*
- b. *The ELCA Foundation.*

**17.51.A10. Operation of the Mission Investment Fund of the ELCA**

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

- a. *have primary responsibility for the development, administration, and promotion of Mission Investments;*
- b. *relate to the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit, which shall request real estate acquisition for new and existing ministries within the limits of the capital funds available and within established criteria;*
- c. *provide expertise for management of real property and execute all necessary documents for the acquisition and disposition of such property;*
- d. *establish, in consultation with the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit,*

*an annual capital budget for ministry development;*

- e. *have responsibility, within established guidelines for determining which congregations shall receive loans, the amount of each loan, and the repayment schedule; and shall confer with the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit on any loans to developing ministries;*
- f. *execute the loans, ensure safekeeping for the legal documents, provide accounting services for the repayment, and supervise collection;*
- g. *offer building and architectural consultative services to new congregations entering first-unit construction, to congregations relocating with synodical approval, to other congregations, and to other organizations and institutions that are affiliated with this church.*

**19.04.A10. Implementation Process**

*To implement the transition in the number of program committees, the Church Council shall take the following actions during its November 2010 meeting:*

- a. *invite the duly elected members of the program committee related, as of October 2010, to the Global Mission unit to serve the remainder of their terms;*
- b. *elect from the members of the program committees related, as of October 2010, to the Evangelical Outreach and Congregational Mission unit, the Vocation and Education unit, the Church in Society unit, and the Multicultural Ministries unit, fifteen (15) people to serve the remainder of their terms as the program committee of the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit;*
- c. *appoint, in accordance with bylaw 16.12.12., one member of the Church Council to serve as a liaison member of the Congregational and Synodical Mission program committee; and*
- d. *request the Conference of Bishops to select, in accordance with bylaw 16.12.12., one bishop to serve as an advisory member of the Congregational and Synodical Mission program committee.;*

*To request that the Office of the Secretary, in collaboration with the presiding bishop and treasurer, prepare necessary amendments to the governing documents of this church to implement the redesign of the churchwide organization, as outlined in Exhibit A, Parts 1a–1d, and present them to the Church Council for action and recommendation, as necessary, to the 2011 Churchwide Assembly;*

*To express gratitude to those who serve on the staff of the churchwide organization for their dedication and perseverance; and*

To hold in prayer all those churchwide employees personally affected by the reduction in staff as part of the implementation of the churchwide organization restructuring proposal.

**VOTED:** **CC10.10.37**  
To schedule a meeting of the Church Council to be held if necessary by teleconference on January 14, 2011, from 10:00 A.M. to noon (CST) to consider amendments to the ELCA governing documents for recommendation to the 2011 Churchwide Assembly.

The sixty-sixth meeting of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America adjourned October 8, 2010, at 3:57 P.M.

## November 12–14, 2010

The sixty-seventh meeting of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) was convened Friday, November 12, 2010, in the Council Room of the Lutheran Center at Chicago, Illinois. Mr. Carlos E. Peña, vice president of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and chair of the Church Council, called the meeting to order at 8:18 A.M.

**VOTED:** **CC10.11.38**  
To adopt the agenda and to permit the chair to call for consideration of agenda items in the order the chair deems most appropriate.

**VOTED:** **CC10.11.39**  
To approve the minutes of the April 9–11, 2010, August 4, 2010, and October 8, 2010, meetings of the Church Council; and  
To ratify actions of the council's Executive Committee as indicated in the minutes of the February 23, 2010, April 9, 2010, June 18, 2010, August 4, 2010, and October 8, 2010, meetings.

**VOTED:** **CC10.11.40**  
To authorize the secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to make editorial revisions as necessary and report them back to the Church Council at its April 2011 meeting; and

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

To adopt the amendments to the *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* as detailed in the first section, "LIFT Recommendations: Churchwide Assembly," of Exhibit G, Part 1a.

**VOTED:** **CC10.11.41**  
To authorize the secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to make editorial revisions as necessary and report them back to the Church Council at its April 2011 meeting; and

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

To adopt the amendments to the *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* as detailed in the second section, "LIFT Recommendations: ELCA Church Council and the Conference of Bishops," of Exhibit G, Part 1a.

**VOTED:** **CC10.11.42**  
To authorize the secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to make editorial revisions as necessary and report them back to the Church Council at its April 2011 meeting; and

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

To adopt the amendments to the *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* as detailed in the fourth section, "LIFT Recommendations on Interrelationships," of Exhibit G, Part 1a.

**VOTED: Two-Thirds Vote Required** **CC10.11.43**  
To approve the following amendment:  
**19.04.A10. Implementation Process**

*To implement the transition in the number of program committees, the Church Council shall take the following actions during its November 2010 meeting:*

- a. *invite the duly elected members of the program committee related, as of October 2010, to the Global Mission unit to serve the remainder of their terms;*
- b. *elect from the members of the program committees related, as of October 2010, to the Evangelical Outreach and Congregational Mission unit, the Vocation and Education unit, the Church in Society unit, and the Multicultural Ministries unit, ~~fifteen (15)~~ sixteen (16) people to serve the remainder of their terms as the program committee of the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit;*
- c. *appoint, in accordance with bylaw 16.12.12., one member of the Church Council to serve as a liaison member of the Congregational and Synodical Mission program committee; and*
- d. *request the Conference of Bishops to select, in accordance with bylaw 16.12.12., one bishop to serve as an advisory member of the Congregational and Synodical Mission program committee.*

**VOTED:** **CC10.11.44**  
To elect the following people to serve as the program committee for the Global Mission unit:

1. Ms. Terry Cole, Albuquerque, N.M. (2E)
2. Pr. Douglas S. Cox, Excelsior, Minn. (3G)
3. Pr. Sarah J. Geddada, Floral Park, N.Y. (7C)
4. Mr. John A. Henderson, Baltimore, Md. (8F)
5. Mr. George T. ("G.T.") Johnson, Xenia, Ohio (6F)
6. Ms. Sharon Magelssen, Mason City, Iowa (5F)

7. Pr. Dennis M. Maurer, Pandora, Ohio (6D)
8. Mr. R. Timothy Muth, Delafield, Wis. (5J)
9. Ms. Martha R. Norat, Dorado, Puerto Rico (9F)
10. Pr. Michelle L. Olson, Wausa, Neb. (4A)
11. Pr. Arthur C. Repp, Carbondale, Ill. (5C)
12. Pr. Lisa A Smith, Anchorage, Alaska (1A)
13. Pr. Paula M. Stecker, York, Pa. (8D)
14. Mr. Henry T. Tkachuk, Moorhead, Minn. (3D)
15. Ms. Amanda F. Tompkins, Henryville, Pa. (7E)

**VOTED:** **CC10.11.45**

To elect the following people to serve as the program committee for the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit:

1. Pr. Rani R. Abdulmasih, Wyandotte, Mich. (6A)
2. Ms. Julia H. Accola, Rochester, Minn. (3I)
3. Pr. Megan J. Jones, Chicago, Ill. (5A)
4. Mr. Paul H. Lewellan, Bettendorf, Iowa (5D)
5. Ms. Fumei Liang, Huntington Beach, Calif. (2C)
6. Ms. Kari A. Lipke, Somerville, Mass. (7B)
7. Pr. Kevin R. Maly, Denver, Colo. (2E)
8. Mr. Daniel Namarra, Brooklyn Park, Minn. (3G)
9. Pr. Paul D. Ostrem, Iowa City, Iowa (5D)
10. Mr. Alfred Sagar, Brandon, Miss. (9D)
11. Pr. Rosemary Sanchez-Guzman, El Paso, Texas (2E)
12. Mr. Robert S. Schroeder, Shawnee, Kan. (4B)
13. Pr. Lori Ann Strang, Toledo, Ohio (6D)
14. Pr. William O. Voss, Scottsbluff, Neb. (4A)
15. Pr. Lamont A. Wells, Philadelphia, Pa. (7F)
16. Ms. Deborah Covin Wilson, Ellenwood, Ga. (9D)

**VOTED:** **CC10.11.46**

To approve an initial 2011 fiscal year current fund spending authorization of \$62,614,500; and

To approve an initial World Hunger spending authorization for the 2011 fiscal year of \$17,000,000.

**VOTED:** **CC10.11.47**

To affirm with sincere appreciation the increases in the percentage for the sharing of 2010 mission-support contributions by congregations for synodical and churchwide ministries of the following synod: North Carolina Synod;

To affirm the revised 2010 mission-support dollar estimates for the sharing of mission-support contributions by congregations for synodical and churchwide ministries of the following synods: Southwestern Washington; Rocky Mountain; Northwestern Pennsylvania; Allegheny; Southeastern; and Florida-Bahamas synods; and

To acknowledge the percentage change in mission support resulting from revised estimates of congregational mission support for the following synods: Eastern Washington-Idaho; Pacifica; Southeastern Michigan; North/West Lower Michigan; and South Carolina synods.

**VOTED:** **CC10.11.48**

To affirm with sincere appreciation the increases in the percentage for the sharing of 2011 mission-support contributions by congregations for synodical and churchwide ministries of the following synods: Southwestern Washington; Oregon; Western North Dakota; Western Iowa; Southern Ohio; Upstate New York; Virginia; and Caribbean synods;

To affirm the revised 2011 mission-support dollar estimates for the sharing of mission-support contributions by congregations for synodical and churchwide ministries of the following synods: Alaska; Northwest Washington; Montana; Sierra-Pacific; Southwest California; Pacifica; Northwestern Minnesota; Minneapolis Area; Saint Paul Area; Nebraska; Southwestern Texas; Metropolitan Chicago; Northern Illinois; Northern Great Lakes; Northwest Synod of Wisconsin; Greater Milwaukee; Indiana-Kentucky; Southeastern Pennsylvania; Slovak Zion; Northwestern Pennsylvania; Allegheny; Delaware-Maryland; and West Virginia-Western Maryland synods; and

To acknowledge the percentage change in mission support resulting from revised estimates of congregational mission support for the following synods: Northeastern Iowa; Upper Susquehanna; Metropolitan Washington, D.C.; North Carolina; South Carolina; and Florida-Bahamas synods.

**VOTED:** **CC10.11.49**

To authorize the secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to make editorial revisions as necessary and report them back to the Church Council at its April 2011 meeting; and

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

To adopt the amendments to the *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* as detailed in the third section, "LIFT Recommendations: Program Committees," of Exhibit G, Part 1a, and as amended.

**VOTED:** **CC10.11.50**

To appoint the members of the Memorials Committee for the 2011 Churchwide Assembly:

1. Bp. Elizabeth A. Eaton (6E)
2. Mr. James Ellefsen (5D)
3. Pr. Khader S. Khalilia (2A)
4. Pr. Steven P. Loy (2E), *co-chair*
5. Pr. Heather S. Lubold (8B), *co-chair*
6. Mr. Evan M. Moilan Jr. (4F)
7. Ms. Gail M. Olson (3H)
8. Bp. Duane C. Pederson (5H)
9. Ms. Lynette M. Reitz (8E)
10. Mr. Anthony T. Rhodes (1B)
11. Ms. Trudi A. Schmidt (1F)
12. Pr. Jeffrey "Jeff" B. Sorenson (3C)
13. Ms. Amanda F. Tompkins (7E)
14. Ms. Doris Underwood (9D)
15. Mr. Christopher M. Wertman (9A)

**VOTED:**

**CC10.11.51**

To appoint the members of the Committee of Reference and Counsel for the 2011 Churchwide Assembly:

1. Bp. Leonard H. Bolick (9B)
2. Mr. Larry D. Ehrlich (4B)
3. Mr. John R. Emery (5I), *co-chair*
4. Ms. Louise A. Hemstead (5L), *co-chair*
5. Mr. Christian M. Hicks (7F)
6. Pr. Abigail Z. Hoffman (7D)
7. Mr. William B. Horne II (9E)
8. Pr. Keith A. Hunsinger (6D)
9. Mr. James Hushhagen (1C)
10. Ms. S. Christine Mummert (8D)
11. Pr. Gretchen E. Ritola (4A)
12. Ms. Paula L. Sturgeon (2D)
13. Ms. Yolanda A. Tanner (8F)
14. Pr. Jonathan L. Vehar (3C)
15. Bp. Martin D. Wells (1D)

**VOTED:**

**CC10.11.52**

To elect the Rev. Rafael Malpica Padilla to a four-year term as executive director of the Global Mission unit beginning February 1, 2011.

**VOTED:**

**CC10.11.53**

To receive the preliminary report from the Living into the Future Together: Renewing the Ecology of the ELCA task force;

To thank the task force for its work to date;

To anticipate that the task force will continue its engagement with this church as we live in changing contexts;

To encourage the task force to explore bold and creative ways that are grounded in the central Lutheran affirmations;

To call this church to participate in God's mission, and to bring a report to the April 2011 Church Council meeting.

**VOTED:**

**CC10.11.54**

To receive with gratitude the report on the audit of Christian Education, "Toward Renewed Christian Education in the ELCA," and to acknowledge the importance of these vital ministries within the renewed mission of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America;

To give thanks for the strong networks that support Christian education throughout this church, including LACE (Lutheran Association of Christian Educators), Vibrant Faith (Youth and Family Institute), seminary Christian educators, lifelong learning networks, synod learning networks, the Book of Faith initiative synod advocates, Lifelong Learning Partners, the Evangelical Lutheran Education Association (ELEA), Augsburg Fortress, Publishers, synodical lay schools, synodical mission tables, and many others;

To encourage all appropriate churchwide units to attend to the importance of faith education for children, youth, and adults;

To seek ways to collaborate with colleges, seminaries, synods, congregations, networks, associations, and para-church organizations in addressing this work;

To anticipate the ongoing work of the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit, in collaboration with other partners, toward the possibility of a national "missional school" to focus and calibrate current educational work toward a shared commitment to mission.

**VOTED:**

**CC10.11.55**

To commend the draft report of the Communal Discernment task force to the Churchwide Assembly planning team for consideration of its recommendations.

**VOTED: Two-Thirds Vote Required**

**CC10.11.56**

To adopt the amendments to the *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* as detailed in Exhibit G, Part 2b; and

To authorize the secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to make editorial revisions as necessary and report them to the Church Council at its April 2011 meeting.

Redesign of the Churchwide Organization  
Continuing Resolutions for Church Council Action  
November 12, 2010

~~13.22.A04. Ecumenical Representatives~~

~~Ecumenical representatives shall be chosen by the presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America according to the following pattern:~~

~~a. The presiding bishop, in consultation with the Executive Committee of the Church Council, shall appoint members of delegations to national and international inter-church entities in which this church holds membership.~~

~~b. The presiding bishop, in consultation with the Executive Committee of the Church Council, shall appoint members of inter-Lutheran, inter-faith, and ecumenical discussions, including bilateral dialogues and conversations, in which this church participates.~~

~~c. All such appointments shall be reported to the Church Council as information.~~

~~13.41.A03. Responsibilities for Risk Management~~

~~The Office of the Secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, in collaboration with the treasurer of this church, shall provide and manage insurance (exclusive of life and health) programs for the churchwide organization and shall make available insurance programs to congregations, synods, regions, and related institutions, agencies, and organizations. Recommendations on standards for adequate, continuous insurance coverage to be maintained by synods, as required in constitutional provision 10.74., shall be provided.~~

~~13.52.A05. Responsibilities of the Office of the Treasurer~~

~~a. This office shall be related to the treasurer, who shall be its full-time executive officer.~~

~~b. This office shall have the sole authority and responsibility to establish and maintain banking relationships.~~

- ~~c. This office shall have the authority to borrow, issue bonds, notes, certificates, or other evidence of obligation; or increase contingent liabilities within the overall limits determined by the Churchwide Assembly and the more restrictive limits established by the Church Council. No churchwide board or program committee shall make a commitment that binds the churchwide organization to an outside lending or other similar institution or which creates a liability of this church to such an institution without prior approval of the Office of the Treasurer.~~
  - ~~d. This office, through the Budget and Finance Committee of the Church Council, shall recommend to the Church Council a certified public accounting firm to audit the financial records of the churchwide organization. Synodical financial reports shall be submitted to this office for compilation.~~
  - ~~e. This office shall provide for internal audit procedures of the churchwide organization.~~
  - ~~f. This office shall provide legal documents pertaining to the financial and property management matters of the churchwide organization. These legal documents shall be signed by the officers authorized by the Church Council.~~
  - ~~g. This office shall be authorized, within policies established by this church, to purchase or otherwise acquire title to real property; to mortgage, lease, sell, or otherwise dispose of the same; and to act on behalf of the units of the churchwide organization after receiving their direction regarding the purchase or disposition of real property.~~
  - ~~h. This office shall provide for a common system of financial reporting from synods and regions.~~
  - ~~i. This office shall provide, upon request, a financial management system for synods.~~
  - ~~j. This office shall provide, upon request, counsel in financial matters to the women's organization, congregations, synods, regions, and institutions.~~
  - ~~k. This office, within the policies established by the Church Council, shall assure the implementation of a donor gift acknowledgment process in consultation with the Foundation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.~~
  - ~~l. This office, in consultation with the Foundation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, shall recommend:
 
    - ~~1) approved policy for the valuation process for noncash gifts;~~
    - ~~2) the management of assets of life-income agreements;~~
    - ~~3) the establishment and management of memorial funds received by the foundation; and~~
    - ~~4) the distribution of earned-income payments to remainder beneficiaries as regulated by the life-income, trust, and other fiduciary donor agreements.~~~~
  - ~~m. This office shall provide for the management of capital funds.~~
  - ~~n. This office shall manage capital loan funds established by the Church Council. The management shall be within policies established jointly by the Office of the Treasurer and other affected churchwide units.~~
  - ~~o. This office, in collaboration with the Office of the Secretary, shall examine the risk management and insurance needs of the churchwide organization and synods.~~
- ~~**13.52.B05. Responsibility for Information Technology**~~  
~~The treasurer shall provide for information technology in support of the work of this church and the operation of Chicago-based churchwide units. In so doing, the treasurer shall have an executive for information technology, appointed by the treasurer, who shall be responsible for the development and review of guidelines and policies for computer standards, security of electronic data, application development, data storage and data retrieval, and shall enable use of electronic technologies for churchwide staff to assist in support of congregations, synods, and related institutions and agencies of this church.~~
- ~~**13.52.C05. Responsibility for Operational Support**~~  
~~The treasurer shall make provision for facilities management in support of the operation of the Lutheran Center and the function of Chicago-based churchwide units and, in so doing, the treasurer shall maintain management services with an executive for management services appointed by the treasurer who shall be responsible for building management for the churchwide organization and the coordination of central services for Chicago-based churchwide units.~~
- ~~**14.32.C05.10.** One voting member of the Church Council shall be selected in each biennium to serve as a liaison with voice but not vote on each program committee of the program churchwide units. In addition, a member of the Church Council, upon invitation, may serve as liaison for the respective boards of trustees of the separately incorporated program units (i.e., Publishing House of the ELCA and Women of the ELCA) ministries.~~
- ~~**14.41.A05.10. Budget and Finance Committee**~~  
~~A Budget and Finance Committee shall be composed of members of the Church Council elected by the council and the treasurer of this church as an ex officio member of the committee. This committee shall have staff services provided by the Office of the Presiding Bishop and the Office of the Treasurer. The committee shall prepare and present a comprehensive budget to the Church Council for its consideration and presentation to the Churchwide Assembly. In addition, the The committee shall relate to the work of the Office of the Treasurer and the Development Services unit.~~

**15.11.A04.12.A10. Duties of the Executive for Administration**

The executive for administration shall be accountable to the presiding bishop and shall serve as chief administrator of the churchwide organization. The executive for administration shall be elected by the Church Council upon nomination of the presiding bishop and shall ~~have an appointment~~ serve coterminous with the term of the presiding bishop. At the direction of the presiding bishop, the executive for administration shall:

- a. supervise the day-to-day functioning of the churchwide organization and coordinate the work of churchwide units;
- b. coordinate the strategic planning and day-to-day staff activities within the Office of the Presiding Bishop and the functioning of the administrative team;
- c. facilitate the interdependent functioning of churchwide units in the fulfillment of the responsibilities assigned to them;
- d. develop the budget for the churchwide organization and report to the Church Council and the Churchwide Assembly through the Budget and Finance Committee of the Church Council with regard to the preparation of the budget;
- e. provide staff services and documentation to the Planning and Evaluation Committee and the Board Development Committee of the Church Council; ~~and~~
- ~~f. oversee the coordination of central services for Chicago-based churchwide units.~~

**15.11.B05.12.B10. Responsibility for Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Relations**

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

- a. An executive for ecumenical and inter-religious relations, appointed by the presiding bishop, shall coordinate the ecumenical, inter-Lutheran, and inter-religious activities of this church, and shall recommend, through the presiding bishop, policies ~~relative thereto~~ to the Church Council and the Churchwide Assembly. To fulfill these responsibilities, the executive for ecumenical and inter-religious relations shall:
  - 1) assist the presiding bishop of this church in carrying out the presiding bishop's role as the chief ecumenical officer of this church;
  - 2) administer the ecumenical, inter-Lutheran, and inter-religious discussions (including bilateral dialogues) in which this church is involved;
  - 3) ~~administer (including personnel and financial support)~~ provide active support of the membership of this church in ecumenical organizations, such as World Council of Churches, National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A., and Lutheran World Federation;
  - 4) ~~study and give advice in matters of fellowship and unity with other Lutheran churches;~~

5)4) guide the process of reception of theological agreements and give advice in matters of fellowship and unity with other Lutheran churches; and

~~6) encourage the study of theological topics of common concern; and~~

7)5) assist ~~the~~ synods, congregations, and churchwide units ~~of this church~~ in carrying out their ecumenical, inter-Lutheran, and inter-religious responsibilities by giving guidance and by preparing guidelines for action.

b. From time to time as necessary, the Executive Committee of the Church Council shall convene as the U.S.A. National Committee of the Lutheran World Federation. ~~In serving in such capacity, the committee shall be augmented by The U.S.A. National Committee also consists of the members of this church and the Lithuanian Evangelical Lutheran Church in Diaspora who serve as voting members of the council of the Lutheran World Federation. One staff member of the Global Mission unit and the executive for ecumenical and inter-religious relations shall serve as a~~ consultants to the U.S.A. National Committee of the Lutheran World Federation.

c. Ecumenical representatives shall be chosen by the presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in consultation with the Executive Committee of the Church Council. These representatives include members of delegations to national and international inter-church entities in which this church holds membership and members of inter-Lutheran, inter-faith, and ecumenical discussions, including bilateral dialogues and conversations, in which this church participates. All such appointments shall be reported to the Church Council as information.

**15.11.C05.12.C10. Responsibility for Federal Chaplaincy Ministries**

~~Responsibility for~~ To assist in the fulfillment of constitutional provision 13.21.j, the presiding bishop shall have a staff member appointed by the presiding bishop who shall be an assistant to the presiding bishop of this church to carry out duties related to the chaplaincies of this church in the U.S. armed forces, the Veterans Affairs Administration, and other federal agencies and institutions shall be carried out by an ~~The~~ assistant to the presiding bishop for federal chaplaincy ministries, who shall:

- a. supervise the operation of the Bureau for Federal Chaplaincy Ministries of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America;
- b. fulfill the requirements for endorsement of candidates for services in federal chaplaincies; ~~and~~
- c. seek periodically the advice and counsel of the inter-Lutheran committee for federal chaplaincies, whose members from this church shall be appointed by the presiding bishop, and;

*d. be appointed by the presiding bishop.*

**15.11.D05-12.D10. Responsibility for Human Resources**

Responsibility for human resources shall be exercised by the Office of the Presiding Bishop to ~~provide management of which shall develop and manage the personnel policies and procedures for the churchwide organization, except as otherwise determined, including policies and procedures regarding equal-employment opportunity and affirmative action; recruitment, interview, and selection of staff; compensation and benefits; employee-assistance programs; fair-employment practices, staff position description; just and equitable employee-relations practices; performance evaluation; maintenance of personnel records; and training. In accordance with bylaw 14.21.06., the Church Council shall adopt personnel policies upon recommendation of the Office of the Presiding Bishop.~~

*a. To fulfill these responsibilities, the executive for human resources shall:*

- ~~1) recommend personnel policies, procedures, and standards to the presiding bishop for submission to the Church Council, and, upon approval by the Church Council, be responsible for the implementation, administration, and evaluation of personnel policies, procedures, and standards for units, as applicable, of the churchwide organization;~~
- ~~2) guide the recruitment, personnel interviews, and process of selection of staff;~~
- ~~3) authorize necessary research to update compensation packages and make recommendations to the Church Council for upgrading pension and other benefits plans;~~
- ~~4) make employee assistance programs, such as family-crisis counseling and retirement-planning services, available to the employees of this church;~~
- ~~5) recommend policy and procedures to the Church Council for ongoing performance evaluation;~~
- ~~6) provide for just and equitable employee-relations practices, including grievance procedures, and provide employee services appropriate to the churchwide office;~~
- ~~7) maintain personnel records for all employees, including employee-performance evaluations; and~~
- ~~8) offer such policies to the synods and congregations as guidelines and be available to counsel and advise the synods as requested.~~

*b. The executive for human resources shall be appointed by the presiding bishop.*

**15.11.F05-12.E10. Responsibility for Research and Evaluation**

Responsibility for research and evaluation shall be exercised by the Office of the Presiding Bishop to provide reliable and valid research, relevant information, and appropriate evaluation related to the purposes of this church in order to assist the presiding bishop, other leaders, and staff of the churchwide organization to accomplish their duties.

~~*a. To fulfill these responsibilities, the executive for research and evaluation shall:*~~

- ~~1) recommend research and evaluation policies, processes, procedures, and standards through the presiding bishop to the Church Council and implement them upon approval by the Church Council.~~
- ~~2) serve as the center for this church in the area of research and evaluation by:
  - ~~a) conducting systematic, ongoing research on issues, attitudes, and contextual developments;~~
  - ~~b) conducting individual research projects on behalf of the churchwide organization and its units;~~
  - ~~c) overseeing the development and execution of research plans for each unit; and~~
  - ~~d) providing consultation to all churchwide units on matters related to research and evaluation.~~~~
- ~~3) undertake at the direction of the presiding bishop coordinated comprehensive research and evaluation of the work of the churchwide organization.~~
- ~~4) provide interpretation of the results of research conducted or reviewed in support of the work of churchwide units.~~
- ~~5) provide the churchwide organization, its units, and other expressions of this church with demographic data and analysis.~~
- ~~6) offer upon request counsel and advice about research and evaluation to congregations, synods, regions, agencies, and institutions of this church.~~

~~*b. The executive for research and evaluation shall be appointed by the presiding bishop.*~~

**15.11.G05-12.F10. Responsibility for Synodical Relations**

Responsibility for synodical relations shall be exercised by the Office of the Presiding Bishop in order to coordinate the relationships between the churchwide organization and synods, develop and implement synodical-churchwide consultations and services, render support for synodical bishops and synodical staff, and provide staff services for the Conference of Bishops. To fulfill these responsibilities, an executive for synodical relations, appointed by the presiding bishop, shall:

- a. relate to the Conference of Bishops in fulfillment of the conference's assigned responsibilities and provide staff services for development of programs and other needs;*
- b. relate to the Bureau for Federal Chaplaincy Ministries and the assistant to the presiding bishop ~~of this church~~ for federal chaplaincy ministries;*
- c. plan and coordinate ~~synodical-churchwide consultations and churchwide participation in synodical assemblies;~~*
- d. provide for synodical services, including assistance to synods for organizational concerns, long-range planning, and ongoing evaluation; and*

- e. ~~direct efforts for growth and strength in mission-support contributions from congregations for synodical and churchwide ministries;~~
- f. ~~coordinate the interaction of churchwide units with synodical responsibilities and programs; and~~
- g. ~~oversee churchwide participation in regions.~~

**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. 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.

~~13.41.A03~~**15.13.A10. Responsibility for Risk Management**

The Office of the Secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, in collaboration with the Office of the Treasurer treasurer of this church, shall provide and manage insurance (exclusive of life and health) programs for the churchwide organization and shall make available insurance programs to congregations, synods, regions, and related institutions, agencies, and organizations. Recommendations on standards for adequate, continuous insurance coverage to be maintained by synods, as required in constitutional provision 10.74., shall may be provided.

~~13.52.A05~~**15.14.A10. Responsibilities of the Office of the Treasurer**

- a. This office shall be related to the treasurer, who shall be its full-time executive officer.
- b. This office shall have the sole authority and responsibility to establish and maintain banking relationships.
- c. This office shall have the authority to borrow; issue bonds, notes, certificates, or other evidence of obligation; or increase contingent liabilities within the overall limits determined by the Churchwide Assembly and the more restrictive limits established by the Church Council. No churchwide board or program committee shall make a commitment that binds the churchwide organization to an outside lending or other similar institution or which creates a liability of this church to such an institution without prior approval of the Office of the Treasurer.
- d. This office, through the Budget and Finance Committee of the Church Council, shall recommend to the Church Council a certified public accounting firm to audit the financial records of the churchwide organization.

Synodical financial reports shall be submitted to this office for compilation.

- e. This office shall provide for internal audit procedures of the churchwide organization.
- f. This office shall provide legal documents pertaining to the financial and property management matters of the churchwide organization. These legal documents shall be signed by the officers authorized by the Church Council.
- g. This office shall be authorized, within policies established by ~~this church~~ the Churchwide Assembly and the Church Council, to purchase or otherwise acquire title to real property; to mortgage, lease, sell, or otherwise dispose of the same; and otherwise to act on behalf of the units of the churchwide organization after receiving their direction regarding the purchase or disposition of real property.
- h. This office shall provide for a common system of financial reporting from synods and regions.
- i. ~~This office shall provide, upon request, a financial management system for synods.~~
- ~~j. This office shall provide, upon request, counsel in financial matters to the women's organization, congregations, synods, regions, and institutions.~~
- ki. This office, within the policies established by the Church Council, shall assure the implementation of a donor gift acknowledgment process in consultation with the Foundation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- tj. This office, in consultation with the Foundation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, shall recommend:
  - 1) approved policy for the valuation process for noncash gifts;
  - 2) the management of assets of life-income agreements;
  - 3) the establishment and management of memorial funds received by the foundation; and
  - 4) the distribution of earned-income payments to remainder beneficiaries as regulated by the life-income, trust, and other fiduciary donor agreements.
- mk. This office shall provide for the management of capital funds.
- nl. This office shall manage capital loan funds established by the Church Council. The management shall be within policies established jointly by the Office of the Treasurer and other affected churchwide units.
- om. This office, in collaboration with the Office of the Secretary, shall examine the risk management and insurance needs of the churchwide organization and synods.
- n. This office shall be responsible for building management and the coordination of central services for the churchwide organization.

**13.52.B05-15.14.B10.** Responsibility for Information Technology

*The treasurer shall provide for information technology in support of the work of this church and the operation of Chicago-based churchwide units ~~the churchwide organization~~. In so doing, the treasurer shall have an executive for information technology, appointed by the treasurer, who shall be responsible for the development and review of guidelines and policies for computer standards, security of electronic data, application development, data storage and data retrieval, and shall enable use of electronic technologies for churchwide staff to assist in support of congregations, synods, and related institutions and agencies of this church.*

**15.21.A05.** Staffing Assumptions

*Wherever practical, staff should be shared between churchwide units and synods, either as deployed staff or shared-time staff. When staff are “deployed” or are “shared synodical-churchwide” staff, this shall occur only after all affected organizations of this church in use of such staff have agreed to the purposes and details of such an arrangement.*

- a. Deployed staff shall be understood to mean fully funded by the deploying churchwide unit(s).*
- b. Shared synodical-churchwide staff shall be understood to mean shared funding by the deploying churchwide unit(s) and the synod(s).*

**15.21.B05.** Appointment by Presiding Bishop

*The executive for a unit, section, or function for whom selection is not otherwise provided in the bylaws shall be appointed by the presiding bishop for a defined term to a maximum of four years. The appointment may be renewed for a defined term upon the decision of the presiding bishop. Service of an executive for a unit, section, or function, who was appointed by the presiding bishop, may be terminated by the presiding bishop, consistent with the personnel policies of the churchwide organization.*

**15.31.C03:10.** Staff Services for the Conference of Bishops

*Staff services for meetings of the Conference of Bishops shall be provided by the Office of the Presiding Bishop and the Office of the Secretary. The executive assistant to the presiding bishop for synodical ministries relations shall coordinate the operation of the Conference of Bishops.*

**VOTED:**

**CC10.11.57**

To authorize the secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to make editorial revisions as necessary and report them to the Church Council at its April 2011 meeting; and

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

To adopt amendments to 9.62. and \*C6.05. of the Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America by deletion and insertion:

**9.62.** A congregation may terminate its relationship with this church by the following procedure:

- ~~a. A resolution indicating desire to terminate its relationship must be adopted at a legally called and conducted special meeting of the congregation by a two-thirds majority of the voting members present.~~
- ~~b. The secretary of the congregation shall submit a copy of the resolution to the synodical bishop and shall mail a copy of the resolution to voting members of the congregation. This notice shall be submitted within 10 days after the resolution has been adopted.~~
- ~~c. The bishop of the synod shall consult with the congregation during a period of at least 90 days.~~
- ~~d. If the congregation, after consultation, still desires to terminate its relationship, such action may be taken at a legally called and conducted special meeting by a two-thirds majority of the voting members present, at which meeting the synodical bishop or an authorized representative shall be present. Notice of the meeting shall be mailed to all voting members at least 10 days in advance of the meeting.~~
- ~~e. A certified copy of the resolution to terminate its relationship shall be sent to the synodical bishop, at which time the relationship between the congregation and this church shall be terminated.~~
- ~~f. Notice of termination shall be forwarded by the synodical bishop to the secretary of this church and published in the periodical of this church.~~
- ~~g. Congregations which had been members of the Lutheran Church in America shall be required, in addition to the foregoing provisions in 9.62., to receive synodical approval before terminating their membership in this church.~~
- ~~h. Congregations that are established by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America shall be required, in addition to the foregoing provisions in 9.62., to receive synodical approval before terminating their membership in this church.~~

A congregation may terminate its relationship with this church by the following procedure:

- a. A resolution indicating the intent to terminate its relationship must be adopted at a legally called and conducted special meeting of the congregation by a two-thirds majority of the voting members present. Such meeting may be held no sooner than 30 days after written notice of the meeting to the bishop of the synod, during which time the congregation shall consult with the bishop and the bishop’s designees, if any. The times and manner of the consultation shall be determined by the bishop in consultation with the congregation council. Unless he or she is a voting member of the congregation, the bishop, and the bishop’s designee if any, shall have voice but not vote at the meeting.
- b. The secretary of the congregation shall submit a copy of the resolution to the bishop, attesting that the special meeting was legally called and conducted and certifying

the outcome of the vote, and shall mail a copy of the resolution to voting members of the congregation. This notice shall be submitted within 10 days after the resolution has been adopted.

- c. The bishop of the synod and the congregation shall continue in consultation, as specified in a. above, during a period of at least 90 days after receipt by the synod of the notice as specified in b. above.
- d. If the congregation, after such consultation, still seeks to terminate its relationship, such action may be taken at a legally called and conducted special meeting by a two-thirds majority of the voting members present. Notice of the meeting shall be mailed to all voting members and to the bishop at least 10 days in advance of the meeting. Unless he or she is voting member of the congregation, the bishop, and the bishop's designee if any, shall have voice but not vote at the meeting.
- e. A copy of the resolution, attesting that the special meeting was legally called and conducted and certifying the outcome of the vote, shall be sent to the bishop within 10 days after the resolution has been adopted, at which time the relationship between the congregation and this church shall be terminated subject to paragraphs g. and h. below. Unless this notification to the bishop also certifies that the congregation has voted by a two-thirds vote to affiliate with another Lutheran denomination, the congregation will be conclusively presumed to be an independent or non-Lutheran church.
- f. Notice of termination shall be forwarded by the bishop to the secretary of this church, who shall report the termination to the Churchwide Assembly.
- g. Congregations seeking to terminate their relationship with this church which fail or refuse to comply with each of the foregoing provisions in 9.62., shall be required to receive Synod Council approval before terminating their membership in this church.
- h. Congregations which had been members of the Lutheran Church in America shall be required, in addition to the foregoing provisions in 9.62., to receive synodical approval before terminating their membership in this church.
- i. Congregations established by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America shall be required, in addition to complying with the foregoing provisions in 9.62., to satisfy all financial obligations to this church and receive Synod Council approval before terminating their membership in this church.
- j. If a congregation fails to achieve the required two-thirds vote of voting members present at the congregation's first meeting as specified in a. above, another special meeting to consider termination of relationship with this church may be called no sooner than six months after that first meeting. If a congregation fails to achieve the required two-thirds vote of voting members present at the congregation's second meeting as specified in d. above, another attempt to consider termination of

relationship with this church must follow all requirements of 9.62 and may begin no sooner than six months after that second meeting.

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

- ~~a. A resolution indicating the desire of this congregation to terminate its relationship must be adopted at a legally called and conducted special meeting of this congregation by a two-thirds majority of the voting members present.~~
- ~~b. The secretary of this congregation shall submit a copy of the resolution to the synodical bishop and shall mail a copy of the resolution to voting members of this congregation. This notice shall be submitted within 10 days after the resolution has been adopted.~~
- ~~c. The bishop of the synod shall consult with this congregation during a period of at least 90 days.~~
- ~~d. If this congregation, after consultation, still desires to terminate its relationship, such action may be taken at a legally called and conducted special meeting by a two-thirds majority of the voting members present, at which meeting the bishop of the synod or an authorized representative shall be present. Notice of the meeting shall be mailed to all voting members at least 10 days in advance of the meeting.~~
- ~~e. A certified copy of the resolution to terminate its relationship shall be sent to the synodical bishop, at which time the relationship between this congregation and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America shall be terminated.~~
- ~~f. Notice of termination shall be forwarded by the synodical bishop to the secretary of this church and published in the periodical of this church.~~
- ~~g.<sup>†</sup> Since this congregation was a member of the Lutheran Church in America, it shall be required, in addition to the foregoing provisions in \*C6.05., to receive synodical approval before terminating its membership in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.~~
- ~~h.<sup>‡</sup> Since this congregation was established by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, it shall be required, in addition to the foregoing provisions in \*C6.05., to receive synodical approval before~~

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<sup>†</sup> *This provision is to be used in the constitutions of all congregations that formerly were a part of the Lutheran Church in America, in accord with provision 9.62.g. in the Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.*

<sup>‡</sup> *This provision is to be used in the constitutions of all congregations that have been established by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, in accord with provision 9.62.h. in the Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.*

terminating its membership in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

A congregation may terminate its relationship with this church by the following procedure:

- a. resolution indicating the intent to terminate its relationship must be adopted at a legally called and conducted special meeting of the congregation by a two-thirds majority of the voting members present. Such meeting may be held no sooner than 30 days after written notice of the meeting to the bishop of the synod, during which time the congregation shall consult with the bishop and the bishop's designees, if any. The times and manner of the consultation shall be determined by the bishop in consultation with the congregation council. Unless he or she is a voting member of the congregation, the bishop, and the bishop's designee if any, shall have voice but not vote at the meeting.
- b. The secretary of the congregation shall submit a copy of the resolution to the bishop, attesting that the special meeting was legally called and conducted and certifying the outcome of the vote, and shall mail a copy of the resolution to voting members of the congregation. This notice shall be submitted within 10 days after the resolution has been adopted.
- c. The bishop of the synod and the congregation shall continue in consultation, as specified in a. above, during a period of at least 90 days after receipt by the synod of the notice as specified in b. above.
- d. If the congregation, after such consultation, still seeks to terminate its relationship, such action may be taken at a legally called and conducted special meeting by a two-thirds majority of the voting members present. Notice of the meeting shall be mailed to all voting members and to the bishop at least 10 days in advance of the meeting. Unless he or she is voting member of the congregation, the bishop, and the bishop's designee if any, shall have voice but not vote at the meeting.
- e. A copy of the resolution, attesting that the special meeting was legally called and conducted and certifying the outcome of the vote, shall be sent to the bishop within 10 days after the resolution has been adopted, at which time the relationship between the congregation and this church shall be terminated subject to paragraphs g. and h. below. Unless this notification to the bishop also certifies that the congregation has voted by a two-thirds vote to affiliate with another Lutheran denomination, the congregation will be conclusively presumed to be an independent or non-Lutheran church.
- f. Notice of termination shall be forwarded by the bishop to the secretary of this church, who shall report the termination to the churchwide assembly.
- g. Congregations seeking to terminate their relationship with this church which fail or refuse to comply with each of the foregoing provisions in 9.62., shall be required to receive synod council approval before terminating their membership in this church.

- h. Congregations which had been members of the Lutheran Church in America shall be required, in addition to the foregoing provisions in 9.62., to receive synodical approval before terminating their membership in this church.
- i. Congregations established by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America shall be required, in addition to complying with the foregoing provisions in 9.62., to satisfy all financial obligations to this church and receive synod council approval before terminating their membership in this church.
- j. If a congregation fails to achieve the required two-thirds vote of voting members present at the congregation's first meeting as specified in a. above, another special meeting to consider termination of relationship with this church may be called no sooner than six months after that first meeting. If a congregation fails to achieve the required two-thirds vote of voting members present at the congregation's second meeting as specified in d. above, another attempt to consider termination of relationship with this church must follow all requirements of 9.62. and may begin no sooner than six months after that second meeting.

**VOTED:**

**CC10.11.58**

To authorize the secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in American to make editorial revisions as necessary and report them to the Church Council at its April 2011 meeting; and

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*:

## **Chapter 16.**

### **PROGRAM—UNITS OF THE CHURCHWIDE ORGANIZATION**

#### **16.10. PROGRAM-CHURCHWIDE UNITS**

**16.11.** A ~~program unit is a~~ unit of the churchwide organization to which is assigned leadership responsibility for a major, identified portions of the ~~program~~ mission and ministry of this church.

#### **16.11.A10:11. Program-Identity of Units**

*Program units—Units of the churchwide organization, which shall function through cooperation, coordination, and collaboration, are the following:*

- a. *Congregational and Synodical Mission unit;*
- b. *Global Mission unit;*
- c. *Mission Advancement unit.*

**16.12.16:01.** The responsibilities of the ~~program~~ units shall be ~~enumerated~~ described in continuing resolutions.

#### **17:11.A10:16.12.C11. Mission Advancement Unit**

*The service unit of the churchwide organization is the Mission Advancement unit, which shall be responsible for coordinating this church's communication, marketing,*

public relations, mission funding, major gifts, planned gifts, and constituent data management. It also shall oversee the work of the following:

- a. The Lutheran magazine
- b. The ELCA Foundation.

**16.12.D11.** The church periodical, The Lutheran, shall be published by the churchwide organization. The following shall apply to the church periodical:

- a. The Church Council shall elect the editor of the church periodical by a two-thirds vote to a four-year term. The editor shall be eligible for reelection. Employment of the editor may be terminated jointly by the presiding bishop of this church and a two-thirds vote of the members of the Church Council present and voting.
- b. The editor shall be responsible to the Church Council. The editor shall select the editorial staff of the church periodical and shall be solely responsible for the periodical's content.
- c. Official notices of this church shall be published in the periodical.
- d. An advisory committee for The Lutheran shall have the responsibility for the church periodical. The advisory committee, in consultation with the presiding bishop of this church, shall nominate the editor for the church periodical. The advisory committee of the church periodical shall be composed of nine members elected by the Church Council.
  - 1) The members of the advisory committee of the church periodical, who shall be nominated through the Church Council's nomination process, shall include persons chosen for their understanding of periodical publishing.
  - 2) Each member of the advisory committee for The Lutheran shall be elected for one six-year term, with no consecutive reelection and with one-third of the members elected every two years.
  - 3) The terms of office of persons so elected to regular terms on the advisory committee of the church periodical shall begin on the first day of the month following each regular meeting of the Church Council.
  - 4) The Church Council shall appoint one voting member of the council to serve as an advisory member of this committee.
  - 5) The Conference of Bishops shall elect one bishop to serve as an advisory member of this committee.
  - 6) The advisory committee of the church periodical shall:
    - a. develop editorial and advertising guidelines.
    - b. receive periodic reports from the editor.

- c. consult with the editor from the perspective of the expertise of committee members.
- d. be responsible, together with the presiding bishop of this church, for the annual performance review of the editor.

**VOTED:**

**CC10.11.59**

To authorize the secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to make editorial revisions as necessary and report them back to the Church Council at its April 2011 meeting; and

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

**12.51.31.** A Nominating Committee, elected by the Churchwide Assembly, shall nominate at least one ~~two~~ persons for each position for which an election will be held by the Churchwide Assembly and for which a nominating procedure has not otherwise been designated in the constitution, ~~and~~ bylaws, and continuing resolutions of this church.

**S9.05.** The Nominating Committee shall nominate at least one ~~two~~ persons for vice president; additional nominations may be made from the floor.

**S9.06.** The Synod Council shall nominate at least one ~~two~~ persons for secretary; additional nominations may be made from the floor.

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

**VOTED:**

**CC10.11.60**

To adopt "People Living with Disabilities" as a message of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America;

To express the gratitude of the Church Council for individuals and ministries throughout the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America who have provided not only vital initiatives and innovative models, but also prophetic witness and determined leadership toward the spirit and commitments now expressed in the message, "People Living with Disabilities"; and

To request that the 2011 Churchwide Assembly lift up and acknowledge this message and those who made it possible.

**VOTED:**

**CC10.11.61**

To request that future social documents be scheduled with sensitivity to the time demands involving elected churchwide leadership, including bishops, Church Council members, and synodical leaders;

To acknowledge the preference that only one major document be in process at any one time;

To adopt the schedule provided in Exhibit K, Part 1; and

To request that at its November 2011 meeting the Program and Services Committee, considering the actions of the 2011

Churchwide Assembly, reassess the revised time line and question of capacity.

**VOTED:** **CC10.11.62**

To approve the addition of the “ELCA Churchwide Organization Electronic Communications Policy” to the ELCA Churchwide Personnel Policies as detailed in Exhibit I, Part 1.

**VOTED:** **CC10.11.63**

To receive with gratitude the report and recommendations of the *Ad Hoc* Committee in response to the resolutions of the Minneapolis Area, Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast, Southwestern Minnesota, South Dakota, Upstate New York, La Crosse Area, Greater Milwaukee, New Jersey, and Northern Illinois synods related to the ELCA Board of Pensions annuity funding;

To authorize one-time payments from the Special Needs Retirement Fund (SNRF) as soon as realistically possible in 2011 to those most adversely affected by the reduction in annuity payments, drawing both from Church Council funds already designated for SNRF and undesignated funds received by the Board of Pensions and allocated to SNRF;

To request that, in order to make these payments, the Board of Pensions, in consultation with the Managing Committee of SNRF, develop criteria based on need and a process for distribution of available funds to those most adversely affected by the reduction of annuity payments;

To provide for the expansion of the criteria for eligibility to SNRF and make provision for the possibility of more frequent reviews of eligibility, including periodic comprehensive reviews, to address the needs of plan members in light of economic realities;

To authorize that the membership of the SNRF Managing Committee be increased to include one representative from the Conference of Bishops and one from the Church Council;

To authorize periodic offerings and appeals designated for SNRF;

To anticipate the development of a process for regular review of SNRF by the Church Council;

To authorize the *Ad Hoc* Committee to continue its work, to monitor the implementation of these recommendations, and to bring a report and possible recommendations to the April 2011 Church Council meeting;

To request that the Board of Pensions:

1. Enhance communications to and the education of annuitants and prospective annuitants regarding the ELCA Participating Annuity and Bridge Fund (PABF) and any new annuity products. In so doing:
  - a. Consider and develop additional ways to be proactive in such communication and education efforts; and
  - b. Continue and increase emphasis on assisting members in understanding the aspects of a defined contribution retirement plan, including members’ responsibilities and role in decision-making;
2. Consider developing a fund, within SNRF or separate from it, to make available payments to plan members in situations of extraordinary economic distress and develop a process to

authorize payments in such cases and to make recommendations, as appropriate, to the Church Council;

3. Enhance communications to and the education of members and sponsors regarding SNRF; work to ensure that synodical bishops and staff are knowledgeable about SNRF and make recommendations, as appropriate, to the Church Council;
4. Explore possibilities for voluntary regular contributions by sponsors and members to SNRF, in addition to special gifts from members and sponsors; make recommendations, as appropriate, to the Church Council;
5. Explore other options for providing funds to SNRF and make recommendations, as appropriate, to the Church Council;
6. Consider amending the name of the Board of Pensions to reflect that it is providing retirement income through annuity payments and investment fund(s) distributions, not providing pension payments, and to reflect more accurately the other services it provides; make recommendations, as appropriate, to the Church Council.; and

To request the secretary of this church to inform the synods of the report of the *Ad Hoc* Committee and this action.

**VOTED:** **CC10.11.64**

To express the appreciation for the work of the Public Ministry Consultations planning team, acknowledging that their work has assisted the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to deepen its understanding both of the diaconal work shared by all members and of the public ministries of Word and service;

To call upon this church to name these Word and service ministries, to affirm their vital roles, to recruit individuals to explore these callings, and to assist people in preparing for and being called to specific ministries in the ELCA and in the world we serve;

To request that the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit, with the appropriate committee of the Conference of Bishops, constitute a small task force on ministries of service (*diakonia*), including at least one teaching theologian, one bishop, and one member from each of the four rosters, with this mandate:

1. To suggest ways that the leaders and expressions of the ELCA can continue to undergird the ministries of members of the three Word and service rosters and their communities and to facilitate the use of their gifts and called service in ELCA congregations and other ministries, including non-profit, government, and public entities;
2. To articulate for the ELCA a fuller theology of Word and service ministry that builds upon:
  - a. This church’s diaconal tradition and its complementarity to the theology of Word and Sacrament ministry, grounding both in the baptismal call to all God’s people to serve within the institutional church and in the world;
  - b. The ELCA’s “Together for Ministry” report (1993), the Lutheran World Federation report “Diakonia in Context” (2009), the report and recommendations of Public Ministry Consultations planning team (2010) and other Lutheran and ecumenical studies;

3. To consider whether this Word and service ministry would be better expressed and the present ELCA mission and ecumenical mission better served by the formation of one new ELCA Word and service roster that incorporates the members and heritage of the three present rosters into a diversified whole with a common entrance rite; and

To request that a report and possible recommendations be brought to the April 2012 meeting of the ELCA Church Council.

**VOTED:** *En bloc* **CC10.11.65**

To take action *en bloc* on the items listed below, the full texts of which are found in the body of the agenda or in the exhibit as noted:

**VOTED:** *En bloc* **CC10.11.66**

To approve *en bloc* the following responses to synodical resolutions.

**VOTED:** *En bloc* **CC10.11.66a**

To receive with gratitude the resolutions of the Metropolitan Chicago, Upstate New York, Minneapolis Area, Southeastern Minnesota, Southwestern Texas, Northeastern Pennsylvania, South Dakota, and Southwestern Pennsylvania synods related to the termination of the defined benefit plan of Augsburg Fortress, Publishers (AFP);

To join with those synods in expressing deep concern and offering prayers for all persons adversely affected by the termination of the AFP defined benefit retirement plan, and to encourage this church to remember in prayer those current and former employees of AFP, as well as those serving in other church-related institutions impacted by the current economic crisis;

To acknowledge with regret that this entire matter is now the subject of litigation in federal court in Minnesota and to recognize that the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America must now defend itself against the claims for substantial monetary damages that are being alleged in that lawsuit; therefore, to decline at this time to undertake any further investigation or review of this matter during the pendency of the lawsuit;

To refer these resolutions to the Office of the Presiding Bishop and the Office of the Treasurer to explore possible ways that those seeking to assist the affected AFP retirees financially might be provided an opportunity to do so through means of a voluntary appeal or special fund for that purpose, and report their findings and possible recommendations to this council upon conclusion of the pending lawsuit; and

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

**VOTED:** *En bloc* **CC10.11.66b**

To receive with gratitude the resolution of the Florida-Bahamas Synod Council commending the ELCA Church Council for its leadership in preparation for the actions of the 2009 Churchwide Assembly;

To acknowledge the commitment to “constructive and positive partnership” expressed by the Florida-Bahamas Synod

Council and to join with them and with leaders throughout the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in prayer, partnership, and continuing work together;

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

**VOTED:** *En bloc* **CC10.11.66c**

To receive the resolution of the South Central Synod of Wisconsin related to accessibility in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the South Central Synod of Wisconsin;

To refer the resolution to the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit in consultation with the Office of the Presiding Bishop and Augsburg Fortress, Publishers, especially as a Message on Disabilities is drafted as requested by the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly;

To request that a report and possible recommendations be brought to the April 2011 meeting of the Church Council; and

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

**VOTED:** *En bloc* **CC10.11.66d**

To receive the resolution of the South Carolina Synod requesting the reconsideration of the social statement, *Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust*;

To acknowledge that four synod assemblies in 2010 passed memorials addressing the 2011 Churchwide Assembly on this topic, one requesting reconsideration of the social statement and three requesting “full implementation” of the social statement and its implementing resolutions and to anticipate that synod assemblies in 2011 may pass additional memorials on this topic;

To decline to request reconsideration of *Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust* by the Churchwide Assembly, but to request that the resolution of the South Carolina Synod and this response be reported as information to the Memorials Committee; and

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

**VOTED:** *En bloc* **CC10.11.66e**

To receive the resolution of the Southwest California Synod requesting consideration of a “The Decade of Women” (2011–2020) within the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America;

To refer the resolution to the Office of the Presiding Bishop in consultation with the Administrative Team with a request that a report and possible recommendations be brought to the April 2011 meeting of the Church Council; and

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

**VOTED:** *En bloc* **CC10.11.66f**

To receive with gratitude the resolution of the Allegheny Synod related to “hearing the various voices of this church on the matter of sexuality” and to acknowledge the commitment of the ELCA Church Council to be attentive to this church as we

- Pray with each other
- Walk with each other
- Work with each other

- Encourage each other
- Move together into the future for the sake of Christ’s mission and ministry to which we are called;

To invite the congregations and members of this church to respond to the call of the Allegheny Synod by hearing the various voices of the church, praying deliberately for the Spirit’s guidance and seeking to be shaped and led by the Living Word on those issues that challenge us, including sexuality; and

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

**VOTED: En bloc** **CC10.11.66g**

To receive the resolution of the West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod related to the time line for the social statement on genetics;

To acknowledge the action of the ELCA Church Council at its November 2010 to establish a time line for the development of social statements as the response of this council to the resolution of the West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod; and

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

**VOTED: En bloc** **CC10.11.66h**

To receive the resolutions of the Southwestern Pennsylvania, Metropolitan New York, and Northeastern Iowa synods related to the ELCA Board of Pensions annuity funding;

To acknowledge the action of the Church Council in August 2010 to establish an *Ad Hoc* Committee with the following members: Church Council: the Rev. David P. Anderson, Mr. Mark S. Helmke, Ms. Ann F. Niedringhaus, Mr. Carlos E. Peña (convener); liaison bishops: the Rev. Callon Holloway Jr., the Rev. Martin Wells; advisory member: Ms. Lois O’Rourke, chair, Board of Pensions Board of Trustees; ex-officio: Ms. Christina Jackson-Skelton, ELCA treasurer, and Mr. David D. Swartling, ELCA secretary; Board of Pensions staff liaison: the Rev. Robert Berg; churchwide staff liaison: the Rev. Ruth Hamilton, Office of the Secretary;

To anticipate a report and recommendations from the *Ad Hoc* Committee at the November 2010 meeting of the Church Council related to the ELCA Participating Annuity and Bridge Fund, including but not limited to:

1. Consultation with the Board of Pensions regarding the background of, reasons for, and implications of the decisions made with respect to the ELCA Participating Annuity and Bridge Fund; and
2. Exploration of possible:
  - a. alternative ways to restore Fund losses and increase payment levels for annuitants and account values for those with bridge component accounts not yet annuitized;
  - b. steps to mitigate adverse effects of the Fund reductions and possible future reductions, including the expansion and promotion of the ELCA Special Needs Retirement Fund;

To acknowledge the action of the ELCA Church Council related to possible recommendations of the *Ad Hoc* Committee as

the response of the Church Council to all synodical resolutions on this issue; and

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

**VOTED: En bloc** **CC10.11.66i**

To receive the report of the *Ad Hoc* Committee created to respond to the resolutions of the following synods related to the ELCA Board of Pensions annuity funding: South Dakota, Southwestern Minnesota, Minneapolis Area, Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast, Northern Illinois, Northeastern Iowa, Greater Milwaukee, La Crosse Area, New Jersey, Metropolitan New York, Upstate New York, and Southwestern Pennsylvania;

To acknowledge the report of the *Ad Hoc* Committee as the response of the Church Council to the synods’ resolutions as well as any future resolutions received on this topic; and

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

**VOTED: En bloc** **CC10.11.66j**

To receive with gratitude the response of the Vocation and Education unit to the resolution of the Western Iowa Synod related to Waldorf College;

To encourage the appropriate churchwide units and the Western Iowa Synod to continue exploring opportunities for shared mission with the Waldorf Lutheran College Foundation, particularly in the area of campus ministry;

To anticipate a recommendation from the ELCA Foundation to name a “similar or complimentary ministry” to receive the annual distributions from the endowment managed by the Foundation on behalf of Waldorf College; and

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

**VOTED: En bloc** **CC10.11.66k**

To receive the response of the Vocation and Education unit in response to the resolution of the South Carolina Synod related to lay rostered leaders;

To acknowledge the action of the Church Council in response to the “Recommendations of the Public Ministry Consultations Planning Team” as the Church Council’s response to the resolution from the South Carolina Synod assembly; and

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

**VOTED: En bloc** **CC10.11.66l**

To receive the response of the Vocation and Education unit to the Upper Susquehanna Synod requesting a revision to the Rostered Leader Profile;

To express gratitude to the synod for the request, but to decline to make the requested change in the Rostered Leader Profile as detailed in the background information provided; and

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

**VOTED: En bloc**

**CC10.11.67**

To approve the following responses to Churchwide Assembly actions:

**VOTED: En bloc**

**CC10.11.67a**

To receive with gratitude the response of the Vocation and Education unit with Worship and Liturgical Resources, Augsburg Fortress and the ELCA Foundation in response to the 2009 Churchwide Assembly action related to worship and educational materials in Braille, large-print, and audio formats; and

To acknowledge the report provided and the ongoing commitment to this work through the newly formed Congregational and Synodical Mission unit as well as the approval of a social message, "People Living with Disabilities," as the response of the Church Council to the Churchwide Assembly action.

**VOTED: En bloc**

**CC10.11.67b**

To receive the response of the Church in Society program unit to the 2009 Churchwide Assembly memorial on "Legal Protection and Fairness" related to older adults;

To approve the background information provided as the response of the Church Council to the assembly's action; and

To request that the ELCA advocacy staff continue to find opportunities to advocate on these issues within the broader context of human and civil rights and equal protection for all people.

**VOTED: En bloc**

**CC10.11.67c**

To receive the response of the Church in Society program unit and recognize that current financial, staffing and restructuring challenges limit the capacity of the churchwide organization to respond to the 2009 Churchwide Assembly action related to environmental stewardship;

To acknowledge that steps have been taken with other units to create and begin to implement a plan in which the churchwide organization, together with synods, can address climate change;

To anticipate that the issue of energy stewardship will be brought to the 2011 Churchwide Assembly through memorials from at least ten synods; and

To decline to respond to the 2009 Churchwide Assembly action regarding environmental stewardship at this time, but to request that the 2011 Memorials Committee receive the 2009 action and this response as information to inform their work.

**VOTED: En bloc**

**CC10.11.68**

To receive the petition of St. John's Lutheran Church, Cylinder, Iowa, as printed in the minutes;

To acknowledge the actions of the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly and the subsequent revision of the Ministry Policies of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America by the Church Council in November 2009;

To further acknowledge that the 2011 Churchwide Assembly is the authorizing body for any action to reconsider the social statement, *Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust*, or the revisions to the ministry policies;

To decline to consider a motion to request reconsideration of *Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust* or the ministry policies at this meeting of the ELCA Church Council; and

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

**VOTED: En bloc**

**CC10.11.69**

To place \$400,000 from the Youth Gathering account into a Church Council designated fund for youth and young adult ministries;

To make income from the funds available for churchwide youth and young adult ministry ventures that are not covered in the general operating budget;

To request that guidelines for distribution be developed by the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit in consultation with the treasurer and the executive for administration and that the guidelines focus on youth and young adult leadership development and intentionally include multicultural youth and young adult leadership development; and

To authorize that specific distributions be made according to recommendations by churchwide youth and young adult program staff with the approval of the executive director of Congregational and Synodical Mission unit.

**VOTED: En bloc**

**CC10.11.70**

To receive and endorse the recommendation of the Board of Trustees of the ELCA Foundation related to ELCA endowments that benefit Waldorf College;

To name the Western Iowa Synod as the beneficiary of that portion of the Ivan F. and Deloris M. Hunter Endowment Fund that currently benefits Waldorf College; and

To restrict endowment distributions from that Fund to the Western Iowa Synod for the support of campus ministry, with preference through the Waldorf Lutheran College Foundation.

**VOTED: En bloc**

**CC10.11.71**

To receive and endorse the recommendation of the Board of Trustees of the ELCA Foundation related to ELCA endowments that benefit Dana College;

To designate the applicable portions of these Funds that currently benefit Dana College to benefit the ministry of Lutheran higher education, with preference for Midland Lutheran University.

**VOTED: En bloc**

**CC10.11.72**

To receive and approve the report of the Church Council Audit Committee describing their review of the audited financial statements, management letter and response of management for the fiscal year ended January 31, 2010.

**VOTED: En bloc**

**CC10.11.73**

To approve the revised Church Council Audit Committee charter.

*VOTED: En bloc*

**CC10.11.74**

To approve the Investment Policy Statement for the Charitable Trust and Pooled Income Fund Programs; and

To approve the Deferred Gifts Operating Cash Management and Investment Policy.

*VOTED: En bloc*

**CC10.11.75**

To appoint the Rev. J. Pablo Obregon to serve as the Church Council liaison to the program committee for Congregational and Synodical Mission for the remainder of the 2009–2011 biennium; and

To thank the following Church Council members for their serve as liaisons to the following unit program and advisory committees: Mr. David Truland, Advisory Committee for Corporate Social Responsibility; Mr. David Truland, Church in Society; Ms. Ann F. Niedringhaus, Evangelical Outreach and Congregational Mission; the Rev. Keith A. Hunsinger, Global Mission; the Rev. J. Pablo Obregon, Multicultural Ministries; and the Rev. David P. Anderson, Vocation and Education.

*VOTED: En bloc*

**CC10.11.76**

To ratify amendments to the constitutions of the following synods: Southwestern Minnesota (3F), Oregon (1E), and Pacifica (2C), as detailed below.

### 1. Southwestern Minnesota Synod (3F)

RESOLVED, that S11.50. of the Southwestern Minnesota Synod Constitution be changed to Serving in God's World Board.

*To amend S11.50. by deletion and insertion:*

**S11.50.** Serving in ~~Christ's Mission~~ God's World Board

### 2. Oregon Synod (1E)

Approved by two-thirds votes at the 2009 Oregon Synod Assembly and the 2010 Oregon Synod Assembly:

**S15.40.** Oregon Synod Endowment Fund

**S15.41.** The Oregon Synod Endowment Fund shall be maintained as a ~~restricted~~ clearly segregated fund of the Oregon Synod. *(The remainder is unchanged.)*

**S15.42.** An Endowment Fund ~~Committee~~ Board of Trustees shall direct the activities of the Fund and shall have fiduciary responsibility for the Fund. The ~~Committee~~ Board of Trustees will consist of 9 members elected by the Synod Assembly to three-year, staggered terms. Members may be once reelected. The bishop and the treasurer of this synod will be members ex-officio.

**S15.43.** The Endowment Fund ~~Committee~~ Board of Trustees shall focus on ministry through major gifts and estate planning, working to enhance the practice of Christian stewardship, to educate persons in the ministry needs of the Church, and to provide the opportunity to participate in the work and vision of the Church both now and for years to come. Further, the Endowment Fund ~~Committee~~ Board of Trustees shall:

*(a.–b. are unchanged.)*

c. submit a budget annually to the ~~treasurer, Synod Council~~ Synod Council for inclusion ~~without change and clearly~~

~~segregated from other synod activities, in this synod's annual budget pursuant to S15.12. Expenditure authorizations are subject to revision in light of changing conditions by the Endowment Fund Committee,~~

d. designate a Custodian and other persons, as necessary, to execute the instructions of the ~~Committee~~ Board of Trustees, and

e. propose such constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolution changes to the Synod Council ~~for adoption by the Assembly~~ and enact such operating guidelines, investment directions and other procedures as may be required for the preservation and orderly management of the Fund.

### 3. Pacifica Synod (2C)

#### Chapter 9.

#### NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

**S9.03.** There shall be a Nominating Committee consisting of seven members who shall be appointed by the Synod Council to serve for ~~one year effective January 1~~ two years from the time of the appointment, including each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly at which elections requiring nominations from the Nominating Committee are to be held. Additional nominations may be made from the floor for all elections for which nominations are made by the Nominating Committee, provided that the nominees meet the inclusivity qualifications, if any, established by the Synod Council. (See S9.04.01.)

*VOTED: En bloc*

**CC10.11.77**

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

To authorize the secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to make editorial changes to the manual related to the redesign of the churchwide organization; and

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

*VOTED: En bloc*

**CC10.11.78**

To approve the Bylaws of the Deaconess Community of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as amended and printed in Exhibit O, Part 4b; and

To authorize the secretary of this church to make editorial changes to the bylaws related to the redesign of the churchwide organization.

*VOTED: En bloc*

**CC10.11.79**

To adopt the eligibility amendment to Section 2.19 of Article II of the ELCA Retirement Plan; Section 2.01 of Article II of the

ELCA Medical and Dental Benefits Plan; Section 2.01 of Article II of the ELCA Survivor Benefits Plan and Section 2.01 of Article II of the ELCA Disability Benefits Plan.

**VOTED: En bloc**

**CC10.11.80**

To approve the amendments to the ELCA Retirement Plan as detailed in Exhibit P, Part 2.

**VOTED: En bloc**

**CC10.11.81**

To approve the amendments to the following Corporate Social Responsibility issue papers, but to request that the wording of the original issue papers be archived for historical and research purposes:

- Caring for Creation: Global Warming and Climate Change
- Caring for Health: International Access to Pharmaceuticals
- Caring for Creation: Environmental Topics
- Sufficient, Sustainable Livelihood for All: Domestic Access to Capital

**VOTED: En bloc**

**CC10.11.82**

To authorize the secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to make editorial changes to the manual related to the redesign of the churchwide organization; and

*To amend the language on page 14 of the Candidacy Manual as follows:*

A candidacy file transferred from another synod requires a new congregation registration. ~~Transfer of candidacy is made only when there is agreement by the bishops and Candidacy Committees of both synods.~~ (See “Guidelines for Transfer of Candidacy” p. 16ff).

**VOTED: En bloc**

**CC10.11.83**

To request the Office of the Presiding Bishop to review and update “Policies and Procedures of the ELCA for Addressing Social Concerns” to reflect the restructuring of the churchwide organization in October 2010; and

To make the revised document available no later than April 1, 2011.

**VOTED: En bloc**

**CC10.11.84**

To elect Mr. James Zils as a member of the board of directors of Mosaic, Omaha, Neb., for a three-year term expiring in 2013.

**VOTED: En bloc**

**CC10.11.85**

To elect Mr. David Russell as a member of the board of directors of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, for a four-year term expiring in 2014.

**VOTED: En bloc**

**CC10.11.86**

To appoint Mr. Bruce Nicholson to the ELCA Risk Management Board of Directors effective at the end of the February 2011 winter meeting of the ELCARM Board.

**VOTED: En bloc**

**CC10.11.87**

To elect to the Board of Directors of National Lutheran Campus Ministry, Inc., Mr. Chuck Frederiksen for a four-year term ending in 2015, in accordance with Article III, Section 3.2 of NLCM’s amended bylaws, “The directors shall be nominated by a nominating committee (consisting of the ELCA Director for Campus Ministry or his or her designee, and two members of the Board of Directors) and elected by the ELCA Church Council.”

**VOTED: En bloc**

**CC10.11.88**

To elect Mr. Robert T. Flynn to the board of trustees of Augsburg Fortress, Publishers, to fill a three-year term expiring in 2013.

**VOTED:**

**CC10.11.89**

To elect the Rev. Stephen P. Bouman to a four-year term as executive director of the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit beginning February 1, 2011.

**VOTED:**

**CC10.11.90**

To approve the revisions to the compensation policy of the ELCA Churchwide Personnel Policies as detailed in Exhibit I, Part 2.

**VOTED:**

**CC10.11.91**

To go into a committee of the whole for a period of 45 minutes to discuss issues that were addressed in the Café Conversations and two questions:

- What practical steps could we take to accomplish our work in the future?
- What do you need, as you leave here, to interpret the decisions we made and how we made them?

**VOTED:**

**CC10.11.92**

RESOLVED that in the actions it took at its November 12–14, 2010, meeting, the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America reaffirms the commitment of this church to the representational principles expressed in the ELCA’s constitutions. It expresses confidence that this commitment will be continued as the redesign plan for the churchwide organization and the anticipated recommendations of the Living into the Future Together (LIFT): Renewing the Ecology of the ELCA task force are implemented.

The sixty-seventh meeting of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America adjourned November 14, 2010, at 2:49 P.M.

## January 14, 2011

The sixty-eighth meeting of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) was convened on Friday, January 14, 2010, in the Council Room of the Lutheran Center at Chicago, Illinois, and by conference call. Mr. Carlos E. Peña, vice president of the ELCA and chair of the Church Council, called the meeting to order at 10:34 A.M.

**VOTED:** **CC11.01.01**

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

**VOTED:** **CC11.01.02**

To elect to the Board of Directors of National Lutheran Campus Ministry, Inc., Mr. Wayne Hanson to a four-year term ending in 2015, in accordance with Article III, Section 3.2 of NLCM's amended bylaws, "The directors shall be nominated by a nominating committee (consisting of the ELCA Director for Campus Ministry or his or her designee, and two members of the Board of Directors) and elected by the ELCA Church Council."

**VOTED:** **CC11.01.03**

To elect Ms. Feronika A. Rambing, Somersworth, N.H., of the New England Synod (7B) to the Church Council for a term ending in 2015.

The sixty-eighth meeting of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America adjourned January 14, 2011, at 11:40 A.M.

## April 8–10, 2011

The sixty-ninth meeting of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) was convened in the Council Room of the Lutheran Center at Chicago, Illinois. On Saturday, April 9, 2011, the first plenary session was called to order at 8:17 A.M. by Mr. Carlos E. Peña, vice president of the ELCA and chair of the Church Council.

**VOTED:** **CC11.04.04**

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

**VOTED:** **CC11.04.05**

To approve the minutes of the 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.

**VOTED:** **CC11.04.06**

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

**VOTED:** **CC11.04.07**

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

To approve a 2012 current fund spending authorization of \$61,792,900;

To approve a 2012 World Hunger income proposal of \$18,500,000;

To approve a 2013 current fund income proposal of \$61,939,400;

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.

**VOTED:** **CC11.04.08**

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;

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;

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; and

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.

**VOTED:** **CC11.04.09**

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; South Carolina; and New England synods;

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; and

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

**VOTED:** **CC11.04.10**

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).

**VOTED:** **CC11.04.11**

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.

**VOTED: Two-Thirds Vote Required** **CC11.04.12**

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 Convocation 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.

**VOTED:**

**CC11.04.13**

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.~~

**VOTED:**

**CC11.04.14**

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.~~

**VOTED:** **CC11.04.15**

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.

**VOTED:**

**CC11.04.16**

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 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?; 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.

**VOTED:**

**CC11.04.17**

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

To 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.
  - 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.

**VOTED:** **CC11.04.18**  
*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 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 develop the ELCA Malaria Campaign in ways that complement efforts of the World Hunger Appeal to achieve and grow beyond its own annual goals;

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

To request that reports be submitted annually to the Church Council and to 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 continue to be accomplished through our hands as we share the abundance with which God has blessed us.

**VOTED:** **CC11.04.19**  
 To elect the Rev. Yvonne Marshall, Council Bluffs, Iowa, of the Western Iowa Synod (5E) to the Church Council for a term ending in 2015.

**VOTED:** **CC11.04.20**  
*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).

**VOTED:** **CC11.04.21**  
*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 team of the Office of the Presiding Bishop to maintain its availability as long as demand continues;
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 churchwide organization 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 team of the Office of the Presiding Bishop to assess the feasibility of developing a social message on regenerative medicine, including, but not limited to, a range of stem cell technologies, and to bring to the Church Council in November 2013 a report and possible recommendations, in accordance with “Policies and Procedures of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for Addressing Social Concerns” (2011); 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* and to report on implementation to the Church Council in November 2015.

**VOTED:** **CC11.04.22**

*To receive and affirm the AME Zion-ELCA Statement of Mission as approved by the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Board 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.

**VOTED:** **CC11.04.23**

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

To authorize the Church Council, in consultation with the Conference of Bishops and Communal Discernment Task Force, to establish a review process of current procedures for the development and adoption of social statements, following presentation of the genetics social statement, *Genetics, Faith, and Responsibility*, at the 2011 Churchwide Assembly.

**VOTED:** **CC11.04.24**

To take action *en bloc* on the items listed below, the full texts of which are found in the body of the agenda or in the exhibit as noted:

**VOTED: EN BLOC** **CC11.04.25**

To approve the amended bylaws and continuing resolutions of the Eastern Cluster of Lutheran Seminaries as detailed in Exhibit M, Parts 1a–1b.

**VOTED: EN BLOC** **CC11.04.26**

To acknowledge, in accordance with bylaw 14.21.16. of the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* and the “Policy on Relationships of Churchwide Units with Independent Lutheran Organizations,” the Fellowship of Recovering Lutheran Clergy, which will relate to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America through the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit.

**VOTED: EN BLOC** **CC11.04.27**

*To approve the following purpose statement for the North American Regional Committee of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF):*

The Purpose of the North American Regional Committee is to strengthen the Lutheran Communion by bearing witness to the fullness of Christ’s body for and with the world as a global community exercising visible solidarity among member churches. This solidarity is expressed in altar and pulpit fellowship among all member churches.

- We are to be “brokers” of what actions are decided at LWF Council and Assemblies and ongoing communications. This will be done in our region and respective churches. We will coordinate decisions and actions of the LWF to entities within our church bodies, as well as monitor reception.
- We are to creatively imagine ongoing ways for the work in conversations and connections to unfold.
- We commit to ongoing conversations to recognize our mutual giftedness and mutual poverty so that we receive the witness, gifts, prayers, and expertise from the Communion.
- We commit to revitalize and strengthen our connectivity in order to participate more full in the life of the Communion.
- We need to pay attention to furthering our identity, as member churches of the LWF and this needs to be shared at all levels (congregations, synods, national church bodies).

Members of the North American Regional Committee will include: Members of the LWF Council; two (2) appointees from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada; three (3) appointees from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; and one (1) appointee from the Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church Abroad. The LWF will designate a representative to the North American Regional Committee.

The committee will have one face-to-face meeting per year. There will also be a conference call prior to the LWF Council meetings. An ongoing email meeting group needs to be formed.

The North American Regional Committee will review actions from the LWF Assembly and determine what needs to be done.

**VOTED: EN BLOC** **CC11.04.28**

To approve revisions to “Policies and Procedures of the ELCA for Addressing Social Concerns” as provided in Exhibit J, Part 3; and

To anticipate further revision of the document at the Church Council’s November 2011 meeting to reflect action by the Churchwide Assembly on the recommendations of the Living into the Future Together (LIFT) task force.

**VOTED: EN BLOC** **CC11.04.29**

To elect to the board of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service to three-year terms expiring in 2014: The Rev. Stephen P. Bouman, Ms. Betty Boyd, Ms. Judith Diers, and Mr. Richmond Appleton;

To elect to the board of trustees of Lutheran Medical Center to a three-year term expiring in 2014: Mr. Richard J. Novak; and

To re-elect to the board of trustees of Lutheran Medical Center to three-year terms expiring in 2014: Ms. Lynda Anderson, Ms. Martha Bakos Dietz, Mr. Joseph Lodato, Ms. Carol Knuth Sakoian, Ms. Martha Wolfgang, and the Rev. Samuel Fook Wong.

**VOTED: EN BLOC** **CC11.04.30**

To elect as members of the board of directors of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to three-year terms expiring in 2014: Ms. Emma Porter, Ms. Amanda Smoot, Pr. John Richter, and Mr. Nelvin Vos.

To elect as members of the board of directors of the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, Columbia, South Carolina, to three-year terms expiring in 2014: The Rev. Lowell G. Almen and the Rev. Robert T. Byrne.

To elect as a member of the board of directors of the Trinity Lutheran Seminary, Columbus, Ohio, to a four-year term expiring in 2015: Mr. John Marr.

To elect as a member of the board of directors of Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, Iowa, to a six-year term expiring in 2017: Ms. Pamela Shellberg.

**VOTED: EN BLOC** **CC11.04.31**

WHEREAS, a settlement of \$64,048.97 from an insurance class-action suit related to funds paid by participating synods and congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) has been received; and

WHEREAS, the settlement covers 11 years of premiums paid by as many as 2,000 entities; and

WHEREAS, the identities of the participating congregations and synods cannot be determined by the insurance broker or carrier with any degree of certainty; and

WHEREAS, significant churchwide staff time and expense will be required to determine the recipients of the settlement; and

WHEREAS, the fairest way to distribute the settlement is to use such information on participating congregations and synods as exists and to provide an opportunity for other congregations and synods to submit claims; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Office of the Secretary and the Office of the Treasurer develop both a process that provides notice of this settlement to congregations and synods and a claim form for congregations and synods to submit proof of participation in the insurance program during the relevant period; and be it further

RESOLVED, that after a three-month notice period, the settlement be distributed in an equitable and proportional manner to those congregations and synods that are known, either through existing records or submitted claim forms, to have participated; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the churchwide organization receive 10 percent (approximately \$6,400) of the settlement to reimburse it for expenses and staff time involved in administration of the settlement process.

**VOTED: EN BLOC** **CC11.04.32**

To authorize the Communal Discernment Task Force to continue its work through 2013 or as funds permit.

**VOTED:** **CC11.04.33**

*To rescind the action previously taken:*

VOTED: CC11.04.16

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.

**VOTED:**

*To rescind the action previously taken:*

**VOTED:**

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

To 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.
  - 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.

**CC11.04.34**

**CC11.04.17**

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.

**VOTED:**

**CC11.04.35**

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 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?; and

To anticipate joyful response by the 2011 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.

**VOTED:**

**CC11.04.36**

To thank the Living into the Future Together (LIFT) task force and the Planning and Evaluation Committee for their work on the report and recommendations of the task force;

To refer the work of finalizing recommendations in the LIFT report and the development of proposed implementing resolutions for the task force’s report and recommendations to a writing team consisting of members of the Office of the Presiding Bishop, the Office of the Secretary, the Planning and Evaluation Committee, and the LIFT task force; and

To anticipate an electronic meeting of the Church Council in May 2011 to consider the recommendations and proposed implementing resolutions.

The sixty-ninth meeting of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America adjourned on April 10, 2011, at 2:12 P.M.

## May 23, 2011

The seventieth meeting of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) was convened on Monday, May 23, 2011, in the Council Room of the Lutheran Center at Chicago, Illinois, and by conference call. Mr. Carlos E. Peña, vice president of the ELCA and chair of the Church Council, called the meeting to order at 10:02 A.M.

**VOTED:** **CC11.05.37**

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

**VOTED: Abstain: 1** **CC11.05.38**

To approve the revisions to the recommendations in the report of the task force on Living into the Future Together (LIFT): Renewing the Ecology of the ELCA for inclusion as information in the final report, which will be included in the 2011 Churchwide Assembly *Pre-Assembly Report*.

**VOTED: Abstain: 1** **CC11.05.39**

*To recommend the following action to the 2011 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:*

To commend with joy and gratitude the report of the task force on Living into the Future Together (LIFT): Renewing the Ecology of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for study and action;

To thank the task force and all who contributed to its work for a vision of where God is leading this church;

To endorse the recommendations of the task force, as amended by the Church Council;

To express confidence that God is leading this church into God's future; and

To invite members, congregations, synods, regions, the churchwide organization, colleges and universities, institutions and agencies, networks, and global, ecumenical, and other partners into deep conversation, prayer, and discernment, as, together, this church commits itself to the following actions to implement the report and recommendations:

1. To make support for the work of congregations one of the highest priorities of this church. To request congregations, in collaboration with synods, to begin, develop, review or redefine their unique mission plans by the end of 2012, so that each congregation strengthens its capabilities and resources for witness and mission;
2. To support and strengthen synods so that they become catalysts for mission planning;
3. To request the Conference of Bishops, in consultation with synod leaders and the churchwide organization, to prepare a report and recommendations for the November 2012 meeting of the Church Council for consideration by the 2013 Churchwide Assembly that:
  - describes patterns of synodical life in the ELCA that effectively support vital congregations, mission growth and outreach;

- proposes 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;
  - builds on the Blue Ribbon Committee report of 2007 and includes recommendations for renewed, sustainable financial support for the mission and ministries of this church, including funding for theological education;
  - includes strategies for increased mission vitality that may include consideration of redrawing synod boundaries; and
  - recommends revision of the constitutional responsibilities of bishops and synods to emphasize synods as catalysts for mission in the changing context and culture.
4. To urge regions to expand their roles as centers for exploring the possibilities of cooperative mission and ministry;
  5. To affirm the role of the churchwide organization to:
    - accompany congregations and synods;
    - build the capacity of this church for evangelical witness and service;
    - continue to build and strengthen mutual and interdependent relationships;
    - model and promote the vision of a multicultural, multi-ethnic church;
    - coordinate this church's global mission and its international development and relief work;
    - lead its theological reflection and deliberations on identity and mission;
    - lead, in collaboration with the Conference of Bishops, synod leaders, and the Church Council, in exploring opportunities to grow current support, including direct appeals, planned giving, and endowment management.
  6. To encourage the development of leaders for this church through increased innovation and collaboration in leadership development, faith formation, and theological education;
  7. To build and strengthen relationships with this church's global companions and ecumenical partners, focusing on accompaniment, mutual growth, capacity-building, and sustainability of relationships;
  8. To support and utilize networking as an organizational principle and practice that embodies interdependence and enhances increased collaboration and connections across this church;
  9. To nurture a culture of faithful discernment that contributes to mutual respect and healthy decision-making in all assemblies, councils, committees, small groups, and meetings in congregations, synods, the churchwide expression, institutions, and agencies;
  10. To bring, with the exception of the social statement *Genetics, Faith and Responsibility*, no social statements to Churchwide Assemblies until a review of the process for addressing social concerns based on a spirit of communal discernment is completed;
  11. To endorse the proposed amendments to the Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions concerning the Churchwide Assembly, Church Council, Conference of

Bishops, program committees, and interrelationships and networks.

**VOTED: Abstain: 1**

**CC11.05.40**

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

To provide a means to continue the work assigned to the task force on Living into the Future Together (LIFT): Renewing the Ecology of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the 2011 Churchwide Assembly directs that the Office of the Presiding Bishop, in collaboration with the Church Council and the Conference of Bishops, do the following:

1. To facilitate review of the constitutional responsibilities of synods in order that synods continue and increase their roles as catalysts for missional planning;
2. To facilitate a broad-based process addressing legislative decision-making in this church;
3. To initiate a process to expand the consultative role of the Conference of Bishops that allows the Church Council to refer issues to it and the Conference of Bishops to make recommendations to the Church Council;
4. To explore the use of social media and technology in order to allow greater participation of ELCA members in meetings of the Church Council and the Churchwide Assembly;
5. To initiate collaborative work by congregations, synods, the churchwide organization, and others to create and support diverse non-legislative forums and events that bring together leaders of this church to address missional issues, participate in theological study and reflection, foster leadership development, and enhance the interdependence of this church;
6. To request units of the churchwide organization to propose to the Church Council ways of receiving grassroots input on and disseminating information about their work through the use of emerging forms of communication, taking care to include those engaged in multicultural, ethnic-specific, justice for women ministries, youth and young adult networks, and various ministry partners; and
7. To request that annual reports related to this work be presented to the Church Council through 2013.

The seventieth meeting of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America adjourned May 23, 2011, at 10:51 A.M.