

**Report of the Reference and Counsel Committee
August 16, 2011**

Responses to Requests for Amendments to LIFT Implementing Resolutions

Implementing Resolution 1

A. Paul E Lutz New Jersey

To amend recommendation one of LIFT by substitution and deletion as follows:

To make support for the work of congregations one of the highest priorities of this church.

To request congregations be invited to take up to two years to examine the changing religious environment of their communities in order that, in collaboration with synods to begin, develop, review or redefine their unique mission plans by the end of ~~2012~~ 2013, so that...

Rationale of the Reference and Counsel Committee

The resolution is intended to be broader and less prescriptive so that it can be implemented in a variety of contexts.

Recommendation of the Reference and Counsel Committee

To recommend to the assembly to receive the amendment with thanks but to decline this motion.

Implementing Resolution 2

A. Michael F. Keys Alaska

Make a motion to add to the LIFT recommendations #2 (after "...become catalysts for mission planning,") in an intentional way with congregation mission plans through consultation, coaching on implementation and provide criteria/methods to evaluate implementations and effectiveness of the congregation's mission plan.

Rationale of the Reference and Counsel Committee

The resolution is intended to be broader and less prescriptive so that it can be implemented in a variety of contexts. The information in the motion will be forwarded to the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit as a possible resource for congregational and synodical mission planning.

Recommendation of the Reference and Counsel Committee

To receive the proposed amendment with thanks; and

To recommend to the assembly that the motion be referred to the Congregational and Synodical mission unit as a resource to address this matter.

B. James L Pence Southwest Washington

Amendment to LIFT

Insert New #2 (p. 29, Section IV)

To make support for the work of parish pastors one of the highest priorities of this church. To request congregations, in collaboration with synods, to include in their unique mission plans specific provisions designed to provide for the ongoing professional development of and regular formative feedback for rostered clergy serving in ELCA congregations.

Rationale of the Reference and Counsel Committee

To express appreciation for the support and care for pastors expressed but to acknowledge that the existing provisions address this.

Recommendation of the Reference and Counsel Committee

To recommend to the assembly that the expansion of support for pastors be cared for by referral to the Congregational and Synodical mission unit.

C. James L Pence Southwest Washington

Amendment to LIFT

Insert New #2 (p. 30, Section IV)

2. To initiate a process to expand support for the work of pastors that encourages congregations and synods to invest in ongoing professional development for and regular formative feedback of rostered clergy serving in ELCA congregations.

Rationale of the Reference and Counsel Committee

To express appreciation for the support and care for pastors expressed but to acknowledge that the existing provisions address this.

Recommendation of the Reference and Counsel Committee

To recommend to the assembly that the expansion of support for pastors be cared for by referral to the Congregational and Synodical mission unit.

Implementing Resolution 5

A. Serena S. Sellers Southeastern Penn.

To amend the LIFT recommendation #5 (on section IV page 30) to read:

To initiate collaborative work by congregations, synods, the churchwide organization, [institutions of the church], 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;

Rationale of the Reference and Counsel Committee

The committee appreciates the wording but believes that the changes already are cared for in other portions of the recommendation but refers the amendment to Church Council for further review.

Recommendation of the Reference and Counsel Committee

To recommend to the assembly to refer the motion to Church Council.

Implementing Resolution 8

A. Serena S. Sellers Southeastern Penn.

To amend the LIFT recommendation for Assembly Action #8 (pg. 30 of Sec IV in the pre-assembly report) to read:

To support and utilize networking as an organizing principle and practice that embodies interdependence, [values the abundant human resources found in the congregations, synods, the churchwide expression and institutions of the this church,] and enhances collaboration and connections for missional purposes across this church.

Rationale of the Reference and Counsel Committee

The committee appreciates the wording but believes that the changes already are cared for in other portions of the recommendation but refers the motion to Church Council.

Recommendation of the Reference and Counsel Committee

To recommend to the assembly to refer the amendment to Church Council.

Implementing Resolution 10

A. Wm. Chris Boerger Northwestern Washington

Separate consideration of paragraph ten of the implementing resolutions re LIFT.
Move to postpone until Thursday when the social statement on genetics is considered.

B. Stephanie Jaeger Southwest California

I move to amend the recommendations of the task force on Living into the Future Together by striking recommendation ten in its entirety and renumbering recommendation eleven as ten.

C. Robert R. Lebel Upstate New York

The complete review of ELCA procedures presumably will include the progress by which social statements are generated.

This review will not prejudice or delay the existing progress that is under way for a social statement on criminal justice.

D. Robert R. Lebel Upstate New York

The complete review of ELCA procedures presumably will include the progress by which social statements are generated.

This review will not prejudice or delay the existing progress that is under way for a social statement on justice for women.

E. Douglas Daetz Sierra Pacific

I move that item 10 of the LIFT Recommendation for Assembly Action be considered separately.

F. Michael Young Montana

To insert the phrase, “and the social statement on Criminal Justice” immediately following “Genetics, Faith and Responsibility” in Recommendation 10 to LIFT.

G. Sue Allen Metropolitan Chicago

Move to amend Section IV p. 30 #10 by inserting after the word “completed” “this review to be completed and brought to the Churchwide Assembly in 2013.”

H. Michael Kroona Western Iowa

Resolved, that item 10 of the LIFT Recommendations be deleted.

I. Jeff Schlesinger 5B

To remove for separate consideration paragraph #10 from the document Recommendations: Living into the Future Together (LIFT).

Rationale of the Reference and Counsel Committee

Due to the number of proposals regarding implementing resolution #10 and the fact that the question of developing a procedure for addressing the creation of future social statements will be addressed separately later during the Assembly, the committee believes consideration of this implementing resolution is appropriately deferred to a later time.

Recommendation of the Reference and Counsel Committee

To recommend that items relating to implementing resolution number 10 be deferred to general orders for plenary session seven on Thursday, August 18.

Requests for New Implementing Resolutions

A. Nona M Dierdorf Indiana/Kentucky

To include in the LIFT task force recommendations to ministry for mentally and physically handicapped children and adults. This would include special Bible studies and support for camps for this population.

Rationale of the Reference and Counsel Committee

To express appreciation and gratitude for the sentiments set forth. As a point of information to inform the Churchwide Assembly that the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit has begun new initiatives for persons living with disabilities.

Recommendation of the Reference and Counsel Committee

To recommend to the assembly that, in light of the current churchwide commitment to ministry with persons with disabilities, this motion be referred to the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit as it continues to address issues of inclusivity for persons with disabilities in this church.

B. Don E. Lamprecht 2E

To review the extent of political advocacy in which churchwide engages.

Rationale of the Reference and Counsel Committee

The committee recognizes the importance of ongoing deliberation about the ways in which we speak out as a public church, but considers that this motion goes beyond the scope of the work of the LIFT Task Force.

Recommendation of the Reference and Counsel Committee

To recommend to the assembly to refer this additional implementing resolution to Church Council.

