



Legislative Update

Amendment of the Assembly's Rules

(Reference: *Pre-Assembly Report I:5*)

At the beginning of Plenary Session Four, the 2009 Churchwide Assembly voted to alter its rules.

ASSEMBLY

TWO-THIRDS VOTE REQUIRED

ACTION:

YES-438; NO-200

CA09.03.07

To amend the Rules of Organization and Procedure, **PART THREE:** “[A]ll speeches during discussion shall be limited to ~~three~~ two minutes.”

Funding of the HIV and AIDS Strategy

(Reference: *Pre-Assembly Report IV:11-13*)

In the fourth plenary session, voting members approved funding for the HIV and AIDS strategy.

ASSEMBLY

ACTION:

YES-884; NO-41

CA09.03.08

To request the 2009 Churchwide Assembly to approve the initiation of efforts over the next three years (2009–2012) to raise \$10 million to support the HIV and AIDS strategy through additional designated gifts within the World Hunger Appeal, acknowledging that the \$1 million goal encouraged by the 2007 Churchwide Assembly is to be included in the \$10 million goal.

Report of the Memorials Committee

(Reference: *Pre-Assembly Report VI:1-96*)

During the fourth plenary session, the 2009 Churchwide Assembly considered the report of the Memorials Committee. At the request of individual voting members, two categories were removed from the *en bloc* resolution: Category B1: Social Statement on Human Disability and Category B8: Worship and Educational Materials in Braille, Large Print, and Audio. Previously it had been determined that the memorial in Category D1: Minimum Age for Ordination had been submitted in error, so it was removed from consideration.

The assembly approved the recommendations of the Memorials Committee contained in the *en bloc* action.

ASSEMBLY

EN BLOC

ACTION:

YES-836; NO-47

CA09.03.09

To approve *en bloc*, with the exception of those memorials considered separately, the following responses to 2008 and 2009 synodical memorials printed in the Report of the Memorials Committee (2009 *Pre-Assembly Report*, Section VI, pages as listed):

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The assembly then considered the following memorials:

Category B9: Fullness of Leadership: Project Connect

(Reference: *Pre-Assembly Report VI:34-41*)

ASSEMBLY

ACTION: *YES-919; NO-19*
CA09.03.10

To receive with gratitude the memorials of the New Jersey, Upstate New York, Northeastern Pennsylvania, Southeastern Pennsylvania, Southwestern Pennsylvania, Lower Susquehanna, Delaware-Maryland, and Virginia synods related to Project Connect and the vision of fullness of leadership for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America;

To recognize the immense contribution of communities of color within and beyond this church;

To refer the memorial and the background information provided to the Office of the Presiding Bishop, in consultation with the Multicultural Ministries unit, to strengthen the impact of the ELCA’s intent to become anti-racist;

To encourage those involved in Project Connect to share their learnings and discoveries throughout this church in accordance with the ELCA commitment to “Encourage, welcome, and depend upon the lively and creative exchange of resources and ideas throughout the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America”; and

To renew the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America’s commitment to confront racism and review the factors that inhibit people of color from the fullness of leadership in this church by reviewing and using the ELCA social statement, “Freed in Christ: Race, Ethnicity, and Culture” and its leaders guide.

Category B3: Comprehensive Immigration Reform

(Reference: *Pre-Assembly Report VI:17-18*)

ASSEMBLY

ACTION: *YES-873; NO-82*
CA09.03.11

To thank the Minneapolis Area and Northeastern Iowa synods for their concern for immigration reform in the light of Christian faith and this church’s historical commitment to immigrants and refugees;

To note and reaffirm, without designating a specific day of commemoration, that the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS) are committed to work toward comprehensive reform that balances respect for the law with a recognition of due process and respect for humanitarian principles;

To urge comprehensive reform of immigration policies and processes in the United States;

To call for the suspension of immigration raids until such comprehensive reform is enacted; and

To anticipate a message on immigration in November 2009.

Category B8: Worship and Liturgical Materials in Braille, Large Print, and Audio

(Reference: *Pre-Assembly Report VI:31-34*)

ASSEMBLY

ACTION: *YES-926; NO-10*
CA09.03.12

To receive the memorials of the Minneapolis Area, Southern Ohio, New England, Upstate New York, and Virginia synods calling for additional worship and educational materials in Braille, large print, and audio formats and other forms of technology as may be available;

To affirm and celebrate the many ways individuals, networks, congregations, synods, the churchwide worship staff, Augsburg Fortress, and the Vocation and Education unit already are engaged in ministry with and providing resources for people with impaired vision;

To encourage appropriate churchwide staff to give continued attention to the needs articulated in

these memorials and to continue collaboration with the network of people advocating for and facilitating these ministries;

To acknowledge with regret the funding challenges and the resulting limitations on this work;

To encourage the network and others to give particular attention to inviting contributions to appropriate endowments held by the ELCA Foundation; and

To direct the Vocation and Education unit to bring a progress report on these ministries and their funding to the November 2010 meeting of the ELCA Church Council.

“Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust”

(Reference: *Pre-Assembly Report IV:19–38*)

In the fifth plenary session, the 2009 Churchwide Assembly adopted “Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust” as a social statement of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

ASSEMBLY

TWO-THIRDS VOTE REQUIRED

ACTION:

YES-676; NO-338

CA09.03.13

To adopt “Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust,” as amended, as a social statement of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in accordance with the “Policies and Procedures for of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for Addressing Social Concerns (2006).”

Quasi Committee of the Whole

(Reference: Order of Business, page 7)

During Plenary Session Five, the 2009 Churchwide Assembly voted to move into a quasi committee of the whole during Plenary Session Six for the purposes of discussing the Recommendation on Ministry Policies. The first part of the quasi committee of the whole is scheduled to take place in the dining hall after breakfast on Thursday, August 20.

ASSEMBLY

ACTION:

YES-870; NO-92

CA09.03.14

To go into a quasi committee of the whole beginning at 8:00 A.M. on Thursday, August 20, to discuss the Report and Recommendation on Ministry Policies and responses proposed by the Memorials Committee to synodical memorials related to the recommendation. The discussion will begin with 90 minutes in small groups, which will take place at assigned tables in Ballroom A/B (the dining hall), followed by discussion of the whole assembly in the plenary hall until 10:40 A.M. To facilitate discussion during the time in the plenary hall, the rules regarding speaking on the floor in PART THREE of the Rules of Organization and Procedure will apply; people who are undecided or who want to ask questions may so indicate with a white card. In addition, during the quasi committee of the whole, no parliamentary motions will be in order and no votes will be taken.

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