



Consideration of 2010–2011 Budget Proposal

(Reference: *Pre-Assembly Report IV:55–86*)

During Plenary Session Ten, the voting members of the 2009 Churchwide Assembly considered the churchwide budget for the next biennium.

ASSEMBLY

ACTION: YES-863; NO-71

CA09.06.28

2010 Budget Proposal

To approve a 2010 current fund income proposal of \$76,692,000; and

To approve a 2010 World Hunger income proposal of \$18,700,000; and

2011 Budget Proposal

To approve a 2011 current fund income proposal of \$76,778,000;

To approve a 2011 World Hunger income proposal of \$19,000,000; and

To authorize the Church Council to establish a spending authorization after periodic review of revised income estimates.

Granting of Privilege

The 2009 Churchwide Assembly, during Plenary Session Ten in response to motions by voting members, formally granted the following privileges:

ASSEMBLY

ACTION: YES-473; NO-399

CA09.06.29

To allow voting members to register in writing with the secretary of this church their votes on Resolutions 2 and 3 of the Recommendation on Ministry Policies.

ASSEMBLY

ACTION: YES-520; NO-359

CA09.06.30

To allow voting members to register in writing with the secretary of this church their votes on Resolution 4 of the Recommendation on Ministry Policies.

Proposed Social Statement on Justice for Women

(Reference: *Pre-Assembly Report IV:43–44*)

Also during the tenth plenary session, the assembly approved development of a social statement on justice for women.

ASSEMBLY

ACTION: YES-754; NO-176

CA09.06.31

To request that the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America develop a social statement on the topic of justice for women in church and society to be received by the Churchwide Assembly for approval in 2015.

Election of the Vice President of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

(Reference: *Pre-Assembly Report IV:1*)

On the fourth ballot, the 2009 Churchwide Assembly re-elected Mr. Carlos E. Peña as the vice president of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Mr. Peña received 580 votes, Mr. Ryan Schwarz received 264 votes, and Ms. Norma J. Hirsch received 110 votes.

ASSEMBLY

Sixty Percent Vote Required

ACTION:

CA09.06.32

To elect Carlos E. Peña to a six-year term, commencing November 1, 2009, as vice president of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Elections: Second Common Ballot

(Reference: *Pre-Assembly Report* VII: 1–88)

A second ballot was taken electronically for the four tickets for which nominees had not received greater than a majority of votes on the first ballot: Tickets 15, 21, 30, 44.

ASSEMBLY

ACTION:

CA09.06.33

To declare elected all persons who received on the second ballot greater than a majority of votes for Church Council, committees, and boards: Pr. Lori Ann Strang; Ms. Amanda F. Tompkins, Pr. Kevin R. Maly, and Mr. Warren W. Hanson.

Quasi-Committee of the Whole on Evangelical Mission

(Reference: Order of Business, page 13)

ASSEMBLY

ACTION:

YES-740; NO-135

CA09.06.34

To go into a quasi committee of the whole for a period of one hour to discuss the evangelical mission of this church and our witness going forward. During the quasi committee of the whole, no parliamentary motions will be in order, and no votes will be taken.

Amendments to the *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions*

(Reference: *Pre-Assembly Report* IV:45–53)

Voting members continued their consideration of amendments to the *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions* during Plenary Session Eleven.

ASSEMBLY

TWO-THIRDS VOTE REQUIRED

ACTION:

YES-714; NO-207

CA09.06.35

To adopt the following amendments to the *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*, which had been removed from the *en bloc* action:

To amend and add the following to allow for expanded

roles for youth and young adults in the governance in all expressions of this church:

To amend:

12.41.31.

Members of the Church Council, unless elected as voting members, shall serve as advisory members of the Churchwide Assembly. Likewise, program committee chairpersons and board chairpersons or their designees, and the president of the Lutheran Youth Organization or a designee, unless elected as voting members, shall serve as advisory members of the Churchwide Assembly. [*with the rest unchanged*]

To add:

6.02.A09.

It is the goal of this church that at least 10 percent of the voting members of the Churchwide Assembly, Church Council, and churchwide boards and committees be youth and young adults. The Church Council shall establish a plan for implementing this goal. For purposes of the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions* of the ELCA, the term “youth” means a voting member of a congregation who has not reached the age of 18 at the time of election or appointment for service. The term “young adult” means a voting member of a congregation between the ages of 18 and 30 at the time of election or appointment for service.

To add:

†S6.04.B09.

It is the goal of this synod that at least 10 percent of the voting members of the Synod Assembly, Synod Council, committees, and organizational units of this synod be youth and young adults. The Synod Council shall establish a plan for implementing this goal. For purposes of the constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions of this synod, the term “youth” means a voting member of a congregation who has not reached the age of 18 at the time of election or appointment for service. The term “young adult” means a voting member of a congregation between the ages of 18 and 30 at the time of election or appointment for service.

To amend:

†S10.01.

The Synod Council, consisting of the four officers of the synod, 10–24 other members, and at least one youth and at least one young adult, shall be elected by the Synod Assembly.

To amend:

C12.01.

The voting membership of the Congregation

Council shall consist of the pastor(s)[, the officers of the congregation,] and [___ members] [not more than ___ nor fewer than ___ members] of the congregation, at least one of whom shall be a youth and at least one of whom shall be a young adult. Any voting member . . . [the rest unchanged].

Report of the Memorials Committee

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

In Plenary Session Eleven, the 2009 Churchwide Assembly continued its consideration of the Report of the Memorials Committee.

Category B4: Strategy for Engagement in Israel and Palestine

ASSEMBLY

ACTION:

YES-690; NO-125

CA09.06.36

To receive the memorials of the Eastern Washington-Idaho, Southwestern Texas, Indiana-Kentucky, New England, Northeastern Pennsylvania, Lower Susquehanna, and Metropolitan Washington, D.C., synods related to the ELCA strategy, “Peace Not Walls: Stand for Justice in the Holy Land”;

To reaffirm the commitment of this church to:

1. Continue its awareness-building, accompaniment, and advocacy on behalf of a peaceful resolution of the conflict between Israel and Palestine;
2. Evaluate and refine its peace-making efforts to demonstrate as fully as possible the “balanced . . . care for all parties” expressed in the Churchwide Strategy for Engagement in Israel and Palestine (2005; Sect. II.A), while continuing our unique relationship with and accompaniment of Palestinian Christians and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL).
3. Learn more about the experiences of both Israelis and Palestinians and their mutual fears, aspirations, and hopes;
4. Work to convey the concerns and perspectives of Palestinians and Israelis that dispel stereotypes and caricatures and promote better understanding;
5. Lift up the voices within both communities, especially those of victims of violence, that seek peace with justice through nonviolent responses to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict;

6. Continue to help alleviate the humanitarian needs of all of those affected by the conflict, especially in Gaza;
7. Support U.S. funding that promotes peace and cooperation for all parties to the conflict; and
8. Continue to pray for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land and for the Israeli and Palestinian peoples.

Category B1: Proposed Social Statement on Human Disability

ASSEMBLY

ACTION:

YES-785; NO-88

CA09.06.37

To thank the Alaska, Pacifica, Nebraska, Metropolitan Chicago, Greater Milwaukee, New Jersey, New England, and Southeastern Pennsylvania synods for their call for strengthened awareness within the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to the particular challenges faced by people living with disability as well as this church’s responsibility to address issues of accessibility, accommodation, and welcome;

To acknowledge with gratitude the many resources available through the churchwide organization, synods, social ministry organizations, and congregations and urge their use throughout this church in its ongoing commitment to address both the challenges of stigmatization and discrimination within church and society and the issues of accessibility, accommodation, and welcome; and

To decline to authorize the development of a social statement on human disability, but to request the Church in Society unit to consider development of a message on human disability, as financial and staff resources permit, that would aid awareness, deliberation, and action within this church, giving special attention to the unique issues (e.g., physical, sensory, psychiatric, or intellectual) of the different types of disability.

Report of the Reference and Counsel Committee

Motion B: Bylaw Amendment Regarding the Batak Special Interest Conference of North America

Whereas, numerous Indonesian Christians in the United States are from Lutheran World Federation member churches and are gathering in congregations that are joining the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA); and

Whereas, to affirm this church’s historic and theological relationship with the Lutheran World Federation member churches of Indonesia, this church created a “Batak Special Interest Conference,” as described in bylaw 8.41.01 of the Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the ELCA; and

Whereas, many Indonesian LWF-related churches and members are of several other ethnic groups and the designation of a Batak special interest conference excludes them; and

Whereas, the Indonesian members and ministries of the ELCA have opportunity to gather and work together through the Indonesian caucus of the Association of Asians and Pacific Islanders in the ELCA (AAPPI); and

Whereas, the Indonesian ministries are committed to full participation and involvement in the ELCA; and

Whereas, eliminating Batak Special Interest Conference would be more accurate and inclusive and would benefit the Indonesian ministries of the ELCA as they reach out to the diverse and growing Indonesian community in the United States; and

Whereas, the Batak members of the Indonesian ministries of the ELCA request and support eliminating this special interest conference for the sake of mission and ministry; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that 8.41.01 of the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions* of the ELCA be amended by striking the language below:

8.41.01 Because of both official and informal international contacts with other churches, the ~~Batak Special Interest Conference of North America~~, Danish Special Interest Conference, Finnish (Soumi) Special Interest Conference, German Lutheran Conference in North America, and Hungarian Special Interest Conference shall relate to this church under the authority of the presiding bishop of this church through an executive and designated unit as determined by the presiding bishop. Official contacts and relationships of the special conferences with leaders and representatives of other churches shall be coordinated through the Office of the Presiding Bishop.

ASSEMBLY

TWO-THIRDS VOTE REQUIRED

ACTION:

YES-845; NO-15

CA09.06.38

To approve the following:

RESOLVED, that 8.41.01 of the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions* of the ELCA be amended by striking the language below:

8.41.01 Because of both official and informal

international contacts with other churches, the ~~Batak Special Interest Conference of North America~~, Danish Special Interest Conference, Finnish (Soumi) Special Interest Conference, German Lutheran Conference in North America, and Hungarian Special Interest Conference shall relate to this church under the authority of the presiding bishop of this church through an executive and designated unit as determined by the presiding bishop. Official contacts and relationships of the special conferences with leaders and representatives of other churches shall be coordinated through the Office of the Presiding Bishop.

The 2009 Churchwide Assembly then voted to approve the rest of the Report of the Reference and Counsel Committee, with the exception of Motion D, which required a two-thirds vote.

ASSEMBLY

ACTION:

YES-834; NO-45

CA09.06.39

To move the balance of the Report of the Reference and Counsel Committee, exclusive of Motion D, and where recommendations are not provided, approve the resolutions as presented.

Motion C: Blue Ribbon Committee on Mission Funding

WHEREAS, the Report of the Blue Ribbon Committee on Mission Funding (Section V, pages 43-44), indicates the key actions taken by the churchwide organization, in collaboration with the Conference of Bishops and synods, in fostering “vigorous mission-support efforts through the congregations, synods, and churchwide ministries of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.” The report calls for “continued close collaboration and mutual accountability among the three expressions of this church;” therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the ELCA Church Council continue to receive regular reports on the implementation of the Blue Ribbon Committee Report, “Mission Flowing from God’s Abundance:” and be it further

RESOLVED, that the ELCA Church Council request that a definitive plan be developed by the appropriate Churchwide unit in consultation with the Conference of Bishops for continued close collaboration and mutual accountability among the congregations, synods, and churchwide organization regarding mission support in this church; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this plan include a rationale for establishing a percentage goal for mission support within the congregations of this church, including but not limited to the

biblical practice of tithing; and be it fully

RESOLVED, that a report be brought to the 2011 Churchwide Assembly regarding progress in mission support efforts in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

ASSEMBLY

ACTION:

YES-; NO-

CA09.06.39a

**To refer Motion C to the Church Council; and
To request that a response to the motion be reported to the 2011 Churchwide Assembly.**

Motion E: Wills and Living Trusts

WHEREAS, all of our possessions have been provided to us through our Heavenly Father and appropriate stewardship of those financial resources is a Biblical call; and

WHEREAS, it has been estimated that about 70% of Americans have not prepared a will or living trust; and

WHEREAS, ELCA members have accumulated substantial financial resources available for "end of life" disposition through beneficiary designation and traditional bequest methods; and

WHEREAS, appropriate stewardship of these assets includes consideration of charitable disposition; and

WHEREAS, the missions of various ELCA ministries can be greatly enhanced by the receipt of "end of life stewardship" gifts for either annual needs or endowment support; be it therefore

RESOLVED, that this assembly request that the ELCA develop a focused, long-term churchwide program to include publicity, education, survey response forms and any such other means to encourage all members to prepare an updated will, along with updated beneficiary designations and furthermore to encourage all members to consider including one or more ELCA-affiliated ministries in their estate plan; and be it further

RESOLVED, that each member of this and subsequent assemblies, all rostered pastors, staff members and leaders of the ELCA be encouraged to undertake such planning and be leaders by example in this effort.

ASSEMBLY

ACTION:

YES-; NO-

CA09.06.39b

To refer Motion E to the Development Services unit with a report to be brought to the Church Council.

Motion F: Proposed Study on "Bound Conscience"

RESOLVED, that the 2009 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America direct the Church Council to request the Office of Studies in the Church in Society program unit, in collaboration with the Lutheran Teaching Theologians of the ELCA, to undertake a study of the concept of "bound conscience," focusing specifically on the historical understanding, the present meaning, and the institutional significance of "bound conscience," and to

disseminate widely through appropriate mechanisms the results of this study throughout the ELCA.

ASSEMBLY

ACTION:

YES-; NO-

CA09.06.39c

To refer Motion F to the Church Council to receive the evaluation of the Research and Evaluation section and to determine whether the requested study should be initiated.

Motion G: Appreciation for Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson

Be it RESOLVED:

We, as members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America gathered as the 2009 Churchwide Assembly, receive with the gratitude of the entire church the report of Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson.

We thank God for Bishop Hanson's pastoral, strategic and visionary leadership in guiding this church through unprecedented challenges to its mission, witness, and service to the world. We support his vision for the church to:

- **Support congregations;**
- **Grow in evangelical outreach;**
- **Step forward as a public church that witnesses boldly to God's love;**
- **Deepen and extend our global, ecumenical, and interfaith relationships; and**
- **Bring forth and support faithful, wise, and courageous leaders.**

We have been blessed by Bishop Hanson's powerful preaching and challenge to imagine what the church witness will be by the 2017 commemoration of the Lutheran Reformation. Manifesting a Pentecost church, he calls us to:

- **Become more fully a "Book of Faith" church;**
- **Demonstrate in memorable and powerful ways, "God's work. Our Hands."**
- **Develop congregations as growing centers of evangelical mission;**
- **Become more fully a multicultural church;**
- **Develop a social statement on justice for women; and**
- **Build on our strong ecumenical partnerships and global relationships so that all may have daily bread, live in a world free of violence and terrorism and live whole and healthy lives no longer captive to HIV and AIDS, malaria or unequal access to health care.**

We extend our love and prayers to Bishop Hanson and his family. We commit ourselves to find and trust in the unity of Christ alone, engage one another with respect, and seek a communal discernment of the Spirit's leading. We

will carry this message with us to our congregations, synods, homes, and workplaces, as we leave this assembly. With deep appreciation we say, "Thanks be to God."

**Motion H: Appreciation for
Vice President Carlos Peña**

Be it RESOLVED:

With great appreciation and deep gratitude, we, the 2009 Churchwide Assembly, on behalf of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, receive the report of Vice President Carlos E. Peña.

In love for his Lord, he has taken to heart our baptismal call to be disciples who reach out, invite, and grow. We commend his commitment shown in participating in 17 Church Council meetings, 27 synod assemblies, 41 Executive Committee meetings, six regional meetings, 12 Conference of Bishops meetings, and his travels with the World Council of Churches. As the highest elected lay leader in this church, he has used his gifts of humor, hospitality, listening, and leadership to keep us focused on God's work. During times of great personal challenge, where even the seas have raged and foamed, Vice President Peña has continued to bear witness that God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in time of trouble.

We give thanks to his wife Diane and their children for the sacrifices they have made in supporting Vice President Peña in this elected call to serve in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We give thanks to God for Vice President Peña's six years of faithful, wise, gracious, and courageous leadership, and his challenge to us to speak the language of faith. With deep appreciation we say, "Gracias à Dios."

**Motion I: Appreciation for Secretary
David Swartling**

WHEREAS:

- We are grateful to Secretary David Swartling for being a faithful, wise, and courageous leader of this church, doing God's work with his hands;
- We are grateful for the care he has given to his meticulous work with the Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, thus providing the structure and foundation for this church body;
- We are grateful that his leadership in the churchwide organization necessarily begins with a commitment to proclaiming the Gospel and service to neighbors in collaboration with synods and congregations;
- We are grateful for his service at this, his first churchwide assembly as secretary;
- We are grateful for his gracious humor and his infectious love of the church which enliven the assembly and inspire the members; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that this assembly thanks Mr. Swartling, a good and faithful servant of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, for his outstanding work. With deep appreciation we say, "Thanks be to God."

**Motion J: Appreciation for Treasurer
Christina Jackson-Skelton**

Be it RESOLVED:

The members of the 2009 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America thank Treasurer Christina Jackson-Skelton for her comprehensive report.

We are grateful to Treasurer Jackson-Skelton for both her extensive knowledge of the finances of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and her oversight of our mission funding for 2009. We recognize her leadership in maintaining the budget of this church and in telling the stories of mission and ministry that define our life together.

We are thankful for the way she serves, with integrity, clarity, commitment, passion, and vision for the future of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

We thank God for her guidance in working with the churchwide units and staff in ways that lead to good stewardship of resources. We are most appreciative of her fiduciary and managerial skills, as demonstrated in her role and responsibilities with church-related programs and organizations including the Mission Investment Fund and the World Hunger Appeal. With deep appreciation we say, "Thanks be to God."

**Motion K: Resolution of Appreciation and
Thanksgiving for the
Churchwide Staff**

Be it RESOLVED:

We, as members of the ELCA gathered in the 2009 Churchwide Assembly, thank the churchwide staff for their tireless work on the Churchwide Assembly. Throughout the year, but especially during the last several months, the staff has devoted increasing amounts of time to making arrangements, preparing documents, absorbing anxieties, and anticipating the unexpected.

We thank the staff, both those present at the assembly and those remaining in their offices, for their faithful service to this church, particularly in difficult times of staff reductions, budget cuts, and other uncertainties, and we commend their competence, their faithfulness, and their gracious flexibility. With deep appreciation we say, "Thanks be to God."

**Motion L: Resolution of Appreciation and
Thanksgiving for Hospitality**

Be it RESOLVED:

Let it be known and acclaimed that we have been literally blown over with the manifest hospitality of Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minnesota! From the very beginning, they have delighted us with comfortable and spacious hotels and a most inviting convention center. They have provided catered meals that have been delicious and served in a most timely and cordial manner. Their safety personnel have brought protection from storms with a most sunny disposition, even as they put their lives in danger to keep us safe.

We wish to thank the citizens of these two cities, their mayors, city councils, and chambers of commerce for a beautiful downtown, for excellent shops, welcoming restaurants, and much to see in artwork and architecture. It is pleasing to be in a setting where the name Lutheran is known and cherished as a living stone within the history and present fabric of the culture.

We have been blessed by the countless hours of tireless effort given by wonderful volunteers clothed in red vests, by area congregations and synods behind the scenes doing far more than we could ever ask or imagine, with the often invisible but essential work of staff from the hotels, convention center, city workers, fire department and rescue groups, police, custodians, housekeepers, and so many others.

Let it be known that these twin cities have provided us a most memorable place to rest and meet beside the river, even as we remember this assembly with the pillar of cloud by day that walked with us and brought us under one roof for deliberation and decision. With deep appreciation we say, "Thanks be to God."

Churchwide Assembly Pre-Assembly Report and Notice

To amend the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions* of the ELCA as follows:

12.31.03. At least 20 days prior to an assembly the secretary shall prepare and distribute to each congregation and to the voting members-elect a pre-assembly report. Distribution to congregations may be accomplished by posting the report on the Web site of this church. Distribution to voting members-elect may be accomplished electronically to those who have provided e-mail addresses. A written copy of the pre-assembly report will be mailed to any voting member-elect who does not provide an e-mail address and to any congregation or voting member-elect who requests a written copy.

12.31.02. The secretary shall give notice of the time and place of each regular assembly by publication thereof at least 60 days in advance in this church's periodical. The secretary shall give written notice of a special assembly to the bishop of each synod upon the issuance of a call thereof and shall publish the same in this church's periodical at least 30 days in advance of the special assembly. ~~Written notice shall be mailed to all voting members not more than 30 days nor less than 10 days in advance of any meeting.~~ Notice shall be provided to all voting members or voting members-elect not more than 30 days or less than 10 days in advance of any meeting. Notice may be provided electronically for voting members or voting members-elect who have provided e-mail addresses, unless the voting member or voting member-elect has requested that written notice be mailed.

ASSEMBLY

TWO-THIRDS VOTE REQUIRED

ACTION:

YES-827; NO-39

CA09.06.40

To approve the amendments to bylaws 12.31.01. and 12.31.02. as requested in Motion D.

Motion D: Electronic Distribution of

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