



## A Conversation Regarding the Election of Churchwide Officers

*Always*  
being made  
**New.**

25 YEARS TOGETHER IN CHRIST

On November 9, 2012, the Church Council affirmed [CC12.11.27] the use of this agenda, encouraging conversation and discernment throughout this church regarding the elections of churchwide officers.

*For use during orientation meetings with voting members  
to the ELCA Churchwide Assembly  
August 2013*

### Welcome/Purpose of Gathering

- Introductions
- Agenda and timeline for meeting
- Election of a churchwide officer as discernment and call process

### Worship and Bible Study/Dwelling in the Word

- Responsive Prayer (ELW p.328); hymn
- *Always Being Made New* – the theme for the 2013 Churchwide Assembly and the 25th anniversary of the ELCA
  - Read 2 Corinthians 5:15–21
  - Discuss the following questions:
    1. What does it mean that “if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation; everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!”
    2. What does it mean that God has entrusted us with the ministry of reconciliation?
    3. How does this text inform the ELCA and its leadership at the time of its 25th anniversary and 2013 Churchwide Assembly?
      - Where do you see that happening?
      - Where are we falling short of God’s intention for us?

### The Church We Are

- What is the ELCA?
  - background piece
  - ELCA constitutional provisions (ELCA Constitution, Chapters 3, 4, and provisions 8.11. and 8.16.)
  - Research and Evaluation data
  - Plan for Mission and strategic priorities
- Discuss the following questions:
  1. What are we able to do better as congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization working together for the sake of Christ’s mission than we could do separately?
  2. What difference does that make as we consider the future that God intends for us and how we will respond?
  3. What might we have done better as a church over the past six years?

4. How can the ELCA be an effective “ambassador for Christ” in the next six years?
5. What should be the primary priorities of this church in the next six years?

#### **Overview of Ecclesiastical Ballot Process Officer Elections**

- Explanation of ecclesiastical ballot process for officers elected by the ELCA Churchwide Assembly.

#### **The Leadership We Seek**

- Responsibilities of ELCA churchwide officers (ELCA Constitution, Chapter 13, constitutional provision 5.01.h.)
- Discuss the following questions:
  1. What are the spiritual gifts and leadership attributes that are the most important for a presiding bishop and a secretary of the ELCA in the next six years?
  2. What difference does that make as we consider the future that God intends for us and how we will respond?
  3. What does this conversation suggest about the gifts that we are needing for future leadership in this church?

#### **Concluding Comments/Invitation to Further Conversations**

#### **Closing Prayer**