

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
CHURCH COUNCIL
November 12-15, 2015
Chicago, Illinois

AGENDA

Participants

Voting Members

Mr. Paul G. Archer	Ms. Kayla S. Koterwski
Mr. Hans E. Becklin	Mr. John W. Lohrmann
Mr. Allan J. Bieber	Pr. Loren Mellum
Pr. Wm Chris Boerger, Secretary	Pr. Robert G. Moore
Ms. Amanda E. Briggs (<i>excused</i>)	Pr. Linda O. Norman, Treasurer
Mr. Reid A. Christopherson	Pr. Linda Nou
Ms. Christine P. Connell	Mr. John M. Pederson
Bp. Jessica Crist	Mr. Carlos E. Peña, Vice President
Bp. Elizabeth A. Eaton, Presiding Bishop	Ms. Meri Jo Petrivelli
Pr. Elizabeth Ekdale	Ms. Pamela E. Pritt
Ms. Marjorie B. Ellis	Mr. Clarence M. Smith
Pr. William E. Flippin Jr.	Pr. Jonathan Splichal Larson
Mr. Gary D. Gabrielson	Ms. Ingrid Sponberg Stafford
Pr. Vicki T. Garber	Ms. Leslie J. Swenson
Pr. Joyce M. Graue	Mr. Oliver W. Thul
Ms. Cynthia M. Gustavson	Pr. James H. Utt
Pr. Stephen R. Herr	Mr. Vernon K. Veal
Ms. Maren Hulden	Pr. William O. Voss
Mr. James M. Hushagen	Pr. Michael R. Ward
Pr. Peder J. Johanson (<i>excused</i>)	

Liaison Bishops

Bp. Claire Burkat	Bp. Stephen Talmage
Bp. Suzanne Dillahunt	Bp. Kirby Unti
Bp. Mary Froiland	Bp. Herman Yoos
Bp. Richard Graham	Bp. David Zellmer (<i>excused</i>)
Bp. Brian Maas	Represented by Bp. Tom Aitken

Resource People

Office of the Presiding Bishop

Pr. M. Wyvetta Bullock, Assistant to the Bishop, Executive for Administration
Mr. Kenneth W. Inskip, Executive for Research and Evaluation
Ms. Rhondean Johnson, Executive for Human Resources
Pr. Marcus Kunz, Assistant to the Bishop for Theological Discernment
Ms. Kathryn Lohre, Assistant to the Bishop for Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Relations
Pr. Walter May, Assistant to the Bishop for the Synodical Relations
Ms. Kathryn Johnson, Director, Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Relations
Ms. Jodi Slattery, Assistant to the Bishop for Governance
Pr. Kevin Strickland, Assistant to the Bishop for Worship

Office of the Secretary

Mr. Thomas Cunniff, Associate General Counsel
Mr. Phillip H. Harris, General Counsel
Mr. Frank F. Imhoff, Manager, Official Documentation
Ms. Sue Rothmeyer, Assistant to the Secretary

Unit Staff

Pr. Stephen P. Bouman, Executive Director, Congregational and Synodical Mission (CSM)
Ms. Christina Jackson-Skelton, Executive Director, Mission Advancement (MA)
Pr. Rafael Malpica-Padilla, Executive Director, Global Mission (GM)
Pr. Amy Walter-Peterson, Interim Director for CSM Operations and Programs, CSM
Pr. David Wunsch, Director for Unit Operations and Programs, GM
Pr. Ronald Glusenkamp, Director for *The Campaign for the ELCA*, MA (*excused*)
Ms. Jocelyn Fuller, Director for Strategic Communications, MA
Pr. Jonathan Strandjord, Program Director, Seminaries, CSM
Pr. Gregory Villalon, Director for Leadership for Mission/Candidacy, CSM
Pr. Cherlyne Beck, Program Director for Support of Rostered Leaders, CSM

Separately Incorporated Ministries

Ms. Linda Post Bushkofsky, Executive Director, Women of the ELCA
Mr. Doug Haugen, Executive Director, Lutheran Men in Mission (*excused*)
Ms. Beth A. Lewis, President, Augsburg Fortress, Publishers
Ms. Eva M. Roby, President and CEO, Mission Investment Fund (*excused*)
Pr. Jeffrey D. Thiemann, President and CEO, Portico Benefit Services

Press

Ms. Candice Hill Buchbinder, Mission Advancement
Ms. Melissa Ramirez Cooper, Mission Advancement
Mr. Daniel Lehmann, Mission Advancement

Ecumenical Guests

Pr. Scott Anderson, Presbyterian Church (USA) (*excused*)
Pr. Betsy Miller, Moravian Church in North America
Bp. Sharon Rader, United Methodist Church
Pr. Lisa Vander Wal, The Reformed Church in America

Thursday, November 12, 2015

- 12:00 p.m. Lunch for Executive Committee, Full Epiphany
- 12:30 p.m. Executive Committee, Full Epiphany
- 3:00 p.m. **WORSHIP SERVICE WITH HOLY COMMUNION**, 1st Floor Chapel
Presider: Bishop Jessica Crist
Preacher: Pastor Robert Moore
Assisting Minister: Mr. Paul Archer
Lector: Ms. Leslie Swenson
- 3:45 p.m. Church Council Choir rehearsal, 1st Floor Chapel, 30 minutes

PLENARY SESSION ONE

Council Room
November 12, 2015
4:30 – 6:40 p.m.

I.A Call to Order and Adoption of the Agenda

Agenda items have been distributed electronically and by mail. Additional items will be distributed at the meeting to the members of the Church Council and invited resource people.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

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

I.B Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of the [April 9-12, 2015](#) meeting of the Church Council have been distributed to council members electronically on ELCA Community. Minutes for meetings held in executive session have been added to the protocol file in the Office of the Secretary.

The minutes of the council's Executive Committee meetings on [April 9, 2015](#), [May 13, 2015](#), [July 8, 2015](#), [August 26, 2015](#), [September 30, 2015](#), and [October 21, 2015](#), have been distributed electronically to members. Minutes for meetings held in executive session have been added to the protocol file in the Office of the Secretary.

Please provide in writing for the Executive for Office of the Secretary Administration any notations or typographical errors in the distributed text of the minutes. Proper corrections will be entered into the protocol copies of the minutes. Such corrections need not be raised in the plenary session in connection with the approval of the minutes.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

**To approve the minutes of April 9-12, 2015 meeting of the Church Council; and
To ratify actions of the council's Executive Committee as indicated in the minutes of the April 9, 2015, May 13, 2015, July 8, 2015, August 26, 2015, September 30, 2015, and October 21, 2015 meetings.**

I.C [Report from the Vice President](#)

I.D Nominations and Elections

First Ballot for At-Large Position on Executive Committee

Due to the transition of a triennial Churchwide Assembly cycle, the Church Council needs to elect an additional at-large member to the Executive Committee. Seven members of the Church Council are to serve on this committee, in addition to the four officers of this church and the chair of the Conference of Bishops (ELCA Constitution 14.41.11).

To facilitate its work between regular meetings by ensuring input and perspective from each of its standing committees, the chairs of the committees are elected to the

Executive Committee. The action to declare the newly elected chairs to a two-year term on the Executive Committee beginning on Sept. 1, 2015, occurred at the April 2015 meeting of the Church Council (CC15.04.21).

Three at-large members, Mr. Paul Archer, Ms. Marjorie Ellis and Ms. Maren Hulden, were elected at the November 2013 meeting of the Church Council to serve on the Executive Committee for a term ending in 2016 (CC13.11.60 and CC13.11.61). Since Mr. Paul Archer is now serving on the Executive Committee as the chair of the Program and Services Committee, there is an opening for another at-large position.

This member will be selected through the following process.

- a. The first ballot shall be a nominating ballot for a lay male.
- b. The second ballot shall be limited to the two people (plus ties) receiving the greatest number of nominations.
- c. Upon completion of the balloting, the Executive Committee shall be deemed constituted.

The nominating ballot will list the names of the eligible members who can serve on the Executive Committee for the identified category of lay male.

I.E Report of the Executive Committee

I.E.1. Theological Education Advisory Council

At its April 2013 meeting, the Church Council authorized the creation of the Theological Education Advisory Council (TEAC). Throughout its work, TEAC has provided periodic progress reports to the Conference of Bishops and the Church Council on its deliberations including updates on developments in the theological education system.

On August 28, Bishop Eaton hosted a consultation with seminary board leaders (two from each school) to gain their insights. Since that meeting, we have – as information – received [resolutions](#) from a couple of seminary boards on the draft TEAC report and recommendations. **The seminary leaders have recently sent us a [letter](#) in response to the Conference of Bishops action.** In the materials, you will also find a “[base case](#)” of an academic “learning exchange” for ELCA seminary leaders presented by Huron Education.

The Conference of Bishops discussed the TEAC report and recommendations at its October meeting. During the meeting, they passed a [resolution](#) noting appreciation for the ‘strong openness to imaginative and deep change’ by the advisory council and acknowledgment of the ‘courage of our eight seminaries.’ There was overwhelming consensus in support for [TEAC proposal 3A \(p.9\) and Baker Tilly model options A and B](#) (Central System and Limited Central System, pp. 61-92). Model option A has the greatest energy among the conference; many were open to both options. The Conference of Bishops voted to reject the status quo (model option E).

From the Conference of Bishops’ resolution: “In moving toward a more centralized model for the sake of better stewardship we call for innovation, responsiveness, accessibility and flexibility. We pledge ourselves to this work with our partners at our seminaries.”

The draft report and recommendations presented by TEAC is a first reading as the seminaries continue to discuss the opportunities with their boards.

Bishop Eaton proposed these three questions to help frame our generative and strategic conversations on this report: 1) What doesn't make sense to you and you would like more clarification? 2) What in the recommendations should be refocused? 3) Should we consider a similar action for TEAC's work as the Conference of Bishops?

I.F [Report from the Secretary](#)

I.G **Personal Reflection on Faith by Ms. Marjorie Ellis**

I.H **Primer on forming leaders in the ELCA**

On occasion, the Board Development Committee suggests primers to help Church Council members make better informed decisions.

Due to the number of issues and upcoming actions related to leadership matters, the committee invited Pastor Sarah Stumme, Associate to the Bishop in the Metropolitan Chicago Synod, to present a primer on how the Metro Chicago Synod is forming leaders in this church. Pr. Stumme oversees the candidacy process and coordinates the First Call Theological Education for the synod.

I.I **Update on [Campaign for the ELCA](#)**

On behalf of Pr. Ron Glusenkamp, ELCA Director for *Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA* who is traveling, Ms. Christina Jackson-Skelton will provide an update on the Campaign for the ELCA.

I.J **Update from Portico Benefit Services**

I.K **Hymn and Prayer**

6:45 p.m. **Welcome Dinner**, Augsburg Room
Wine and beer available (\$5 suggested donation)

Friday, November 13, 2015

- 6:30 a.m. **Breakfast**, Marriott Hotel (Buffet opens at 6:30 a.m.)
- 9:00 a.m. Committees meet
 Budget and Finance, Epiphany
 Legal and Constitutional Review, Council
 Program and Services, Pentecost
 Planning and Evaluation, 10th Floor Training Room
- 11:30 a.m. Break
- 11:45 a.m. Mid-day Prayer Service, Chapel
 Led by Mr. Carlos Peña
- 12:00 p.m. **LUNCH**, Augsburg Room
- 1:00 p.m. Committees continue to meet
- 5:30 p.m. **Dinner**, Augsburg Room
 Wine and beer available (\$5 suggested donation)

Saturday, November 14, 2015

- 6:30 a.m. **Breakfast**, Marriott Hotel (Buffet opens at 6:30 a.m.)
- 7:00 a.m. Board Development Committee, Epiphany (*working breakfast*)

PLENARY SESSION TWO

Council Room
November 14, 2015
9:00 – 11:20 a.m.

II.A Nominations and Elections
Second Ballot for At-Large Position on Executive Committee

II.B Personal Reflections on Faith by Mr. Reid Christopherson

II.C Report from the Presiding Bishop

II.D Ecumenical Greetings
At this meeting, we will be welcoming guests from this church's full communion partners. This is an opportunity for Church Council to hear from our ecumenical liaisons.

II.E Report from the Conference of Bishops

II.F Report of Program and Services
The following report is provided by the Program and Services Committee. Additional items or revised actions may be distributed following the committee's meeting. *En Bloc* items will be acted upon later in the meeting.

II.F.1 Social Message on Gender-based Violence

The proposed [social message on gender-based violence](#) has been written in a two-part format – the message itself and the accompanying foundational document. The foundational documentation is intended to be used for in-depth study and analysis.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To adopt “Gender-based Violence” as a social message of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; and

To adopt the accompanying foundational document for in-depth study and analysis for the social message on “Gender-based Violence.”

II.F.2 Word and Service Task Force

The Church Council had a first reading of the [report and recommendations of the Word and Service Task Force](#) at its April 2015 meeting. At the meeting, the Council recommended the continuation of a proposal to unify the three existing lay rosters into one roster of Word and Service ministry and to delay the decision of an appropriate entrance rite and related matters with the proposed roster (CC15.04.05).

In its report, the task force makes the following recommendations:

1. Establish a single, unified roster of Word and Service;

2. Give the title Deacon to those persons on the new roster;
3. Ensure that the existing rosters of Associates in Ministry, Deaconess, and Diaconal Minister be automatically transferred to the roster of Deacons unless a person on an existing roster declines, and that the existing rosters be then eliminated by January 1, 2017;
4. Modify the ELCA candidacy process to include this new roster;
5. Charge the Office of the Secretary to propose appropriate constitutional amendments to effect this change;
6. Use consecration as the entrance rite for this new roster until such time as the Entrance Rite Discernment Group makes a final recommendation for an appropriate rite;
7. Arrange for funding for transition events and ongoing leadership and formation events to ensure growth and understanding of the Word and Service roster;
8. Arrange for the preparation of appropriate and informative materials for the church's ongoing study; and
9. Refer the resulting amending/amended documents to the 2016 Churchwide Assembly for approval as necessary.

The Office of the Secretary has begun the work to propose appropriate constitutional amendments to effect the change as recommended by the task force. You can find an explanation of these amendments in [Secretary Boerger's rationale memorandum](#). The primary changes to the governing documents are in Chapter 7 of the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*, in Chapter S14 of the Constitution for Synods and Chapter C9 of the Model Constitution for Congregations. If the resolution below is forwarded to the 2016 Churchwide Assembly and it is approved by the assembly, then the constitutional amendments would be placed before the assembly for consideration.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To recommend the following action to the 2016 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:

To thank the Word and Service Task Force members and all who contributed to its work to develop a proposal to establish a single, unified roster of Word and Service;

To unify the three existing official rosters of laypersons (Associates in Ministry, Deaconesses of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and Diaconal Ministers) into a roster of Ministry of Word and Service;

To ensure that individuals on the three existing rosters of Associates in Ministry, Deaconesses of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and Diaconal Ministers be automatically transferred to the roster of Ministry of Word and Service, unless a person on an existing roster declines, and that the existing rosters be eliminated with the establishment of the new roster on January 1, 2017;

To endorse the other recommendations of the task force regarding this new roster; and

To give thanks to God for the ministry of all who have served and are serving on the present lay rosters and to express confidence that God is leading this church into God's future.

II.F.3 Table and Font Conversation

The Northern Illinois Synod memorialized the 2013 Churchwide Assembly "to institute a process to review and possibly authorize the ELCA's guiding documents concerning admission to the Sacrament of Holy Communion." The Churchwide Assembly invited members, congregations, synods and the churchwide organization into conversation and study regarding *The Use of the Means of Grace*. Further, the assembly requested the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit (CSM) to bring a report and recommendations to the April 2014 meeting of the Church Council (CA13.03.10).

In its report, CSM strongly affirmed the Churchwide Assembly's invitation to engage in conversation and study around *The Use of the Means of Grace*. The Church Council requested CSM provide resources to help facilitate that conversation and "to let the conversation serve as the initial step in a process of review, but to delay any further development or implementation of a process until research was done to assess the nature and extent of changing practices" and until a director for worship formation and liturgical resources was in place (CC14.04.13i).

Since then, resources were developed and Pr. Kevin Strickland was hired as the director for worship. (As a matter of clarification, the worship team has transferred from the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit to the Office of the Presiding Bishop. Pr. Strickland's new title is Assistant to the Presiding Bishop/Executive for Worship.) Pr. Strickland has provided periodic reports to the Conference of Bishops and the Church Council as conversations have developed throughout this church on *The Use of the Means of Grace*. Feedback on these conversations was sent to the worship team.

In addition, as part of the review process, a survey was fielded to a random sample of 1,000 ELCA congregations asking about the communion practices and welcome statements used in their Sunday worship folder(s).

The full report on the [Table and Font conversations](#) can be found in the Program and Services Committee section of ELCA Community.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To receive the report from the Office of the Presiding Bishop in response to the 2013 Churchwide Assembly action related to the matter of reviewing the ELCA's guiding documents on communion practices;

To thank the members, congregations, synods, and churchwide organization for their conversation and study regarding *The Use of the Means of Grace*; and

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

II.F.4 Ministry to and with Same-Gender Couples and Their Families

The [report and recommendations of the Ministry to and with Same-Gender Couples and Their Families \(M2SGF\) Working Group](#) can be found in the Program and Services Committee section of ELCA Community.

M2SGF was formed by the Church Council at the request of the 2013 Churchwide Assembly (CC13.11.64 and CA13.03.12), which responded to synod memorials requesting conversation and resource sharing related to ministering to same-gender couples and families. The M2SGF charter of responsibilities is outlined in Appendix D of its report.

The Conference of Bishops and Church Council have received periodic reports on M2SGF progress throughout the duration of the group's work. The final report and recommendations has achieved full consensus by the working group members. The report is divided into two parts that describe the working group's efforts and provide the background leading to the recommendations. The nine [recommendations](#) are presented with a preface and accompanying explanations.

Program and Services Committee will be considering the recommendations from M2SGF and referring its proposed resolutions to the full Church Council for action.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To receive with gratitude the Ministry to and with Same-Gender Couples and Their Families Working Group report and recommendations and to thank the working group for their diligent and compassionate work;

To encourage ELCA congregations to re-familiarize themselves with the ELCA's social statement "Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust" and Ministry Policy Resolutions, both adopted at the 2009 Churchwide Assembly; and

To acknowledge and affirm that these documents emphasize ministry to and with same-gender individuals, couples and families while placing this welcome, care for, and support within the boundaries and context of a range of varied convictions and to note this context sets the stage for some diversity of pastoral care within the ELCA congregations and other ministry sites.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To invite ELCA members and leaders throughout this church to provide pastoral care to couples and families by referral when personal convictions and ministry needs are dissimilar (including the possible referral to full communion partners).

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To strongly encourage congregations and other ministry sites to engage in and/or continue conversations regarding ministry to and with same-gender couples and their families;

To affirm that such life-giving conversations need to emphasize the theological commitments about the basis of our unity in the gospel alone, the avoidance of labels and stereotypes about those in differing conviction sets, and persistence in the spirit of love; and

To encourage that these conversations intentionally include the voices of the LGBT community.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To encourage the ELCA to emphasize and seek to equip respectful conversations among trusted colleague groups of rostered leaders that focus on the exercise of practical ministry, particularly with same-gender couples and their families. It is expected that these conversations will respectfully recognize the existing diversity of convictions as well as the diversity of needs and gifts of same-gender couples and their families.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To urge those responsible for First Call Theological Education as quickly as feasible to find ways to create modules about ministry to and with same-gender couples and their families as part of curriculum development; and

To acknowledge that these modules should recognize the range of accepted convictions identified in "Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust" while exploring concepts and approaches for pastoral ministry that also are sensitive to the diversity of needs and gifts of same gender couples and their families.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To urge synodical bishops and their offices during this next year to review the ways they are prepared to serve as clearing houses for referral or requests for resources related to ministry questions.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To urge the churchwide organization to identify or prepare constructive conversation resources attentive to the particular challenges of multiple convictions regarding ministry to and with same-gender couples and their families and to provide these on the ELCA website.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To encourage rostered and lay leaders to seek increased awareness of existing practical ministry resources or to contribute to the development of additional resources;

To acknowledge that it is important to keep in mind that so-called reparative therapy or similar practices fall outside the scope of recognized convictions in "Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust"; and

To encourage consultation with those who are already engaged in intentional ministry with same-gender couples and their families, both within the ELCA or with full communion partners.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To acknowledge the dilemma presented in the preface of this recommendation by the Working Group and to affirm a commitment to continue to live in the tension presented therein;

To request the Office of the Presiding Bishop take lead responsibility for identifying or preparing a small collection of supplemental liturgical resources for pastoral use that includes:

- A collection of prayers and words of support to welcome a married same-gender couple in a pastoral setting in which a congregation has chosen not to conduct marriage liturgies.
- Supplemental liturgical resources appropriate for same-gender couples for use within the marriage service of Evangelical Lutheran Worship as a way to continue to live into our commitment "...to finding ways to allow congregations that choose to do so to recognize, support and hold publicly accountable lifelong, monogamous, same-gender relationships" (see Appendix A, CA09. 05.24, Resolution 2).

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II.F.5 Candidacy Manual

At its March 2012 meeting, the Conference of Bishops asked the Director for Candidacy to review the ELCA's candidacy process which is outlined in the Candidacy Manual. The [Candidacy Manual](#) – found in the Program and Services Committee section – is the result of a two-year collaborative and thorough review process.

The Conference of Bishops reviewed the proposed process at its October 2015 meeting and expressed appreciation for the revisions that were made as a result of consultations with bishops, candidacy committees and many others.

The Program and Services Committee will be considering this at its meeting. This will be proposed as an *En Bloc* action item for the Church Council.

II.F.6 AMMPARO Strategy

There has been a recent surge of tens of thousands of unaccompanied children arriving in the United States from Central America. During the past year, several bishops, ELCA churchwide staff, LIRS staff and others have visited with children and families detained as they cross the border, leaving their homelands behind because of complex and interrelated reasons, including chronic violence, poverty, environmental displacement and lack of opportunities.

In February 2015, a delegation of ELCA staff traveled to Central America and Mexico to meet with Lutheran leaders and pastors in the countries. The delegation heard stories about the displacement of people due to gang violence, poverty, inept governments and repatriation.

As they bore witness to the testimonies, the delegation felt compelled to commit to the work and is inviting the entire ELCA to respond. The proposed [Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunity \(AMMPARO\) strategy](#) was envisioned after witnessing the suffering of children who are forced to flee their communities. The word 'amparo' in Spanish means the protection of a living creature to spare them from suffering or damage.

The AMMPARO working document can be found in the Program and Services Committee section of ELCA Community. Church Council will receive information about this working document and action will be considered at the April 2016 meeting to forward the recommendation to the 2016 Churchwide Assembly.

II.F.7 Network of ELCA Colleges and Universities

This fall, the colleges and universities of the ELCA and the churchwide organization are concluding a process of implementing a plan to establish a missional partnership to be known as the Network of ELCA Colleges and Universities. The formal launching date for the Network is not known.

Program and Services Committee will receive a brief oral report from Pr. Mark Wilhelm, Program Director of ELCA Colleges and Universities. Council feedback on the report can be sent to Pr. Wilhelm (Mark.Wilhelm@elca.org) or written on the index cards and placed in the basket located in the front of the Council room.

The Network of ELCA Colleges and Universities report is [here](#).

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
CHURCH COUNCIL
November 12-15, 2015

Agenda
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- 11:30 a.m. Mid-day Prayer Service, Chapel
Led by the Rev. Betsy Miller
Moravian Church in North America ecumenical liaison
- 12:00 p.m. **SEPARATELY INCORPORATED MINISTRIES (SIM) LUNCH**
Augsburg Fortress, Pentecost
Lutheran Men in Mission, Epiphany I
Mission Investment Fund, Advent
Portico Benefit Services, Epiphany II
Women of the ELCA, 10th Floor Training Room
- 1:00 p.m. *Deadline for Removal of Items from En Bloc*
Deadline for New Business
- 1:15 p.m. Health and Wellness Break, Augsburg Room
Group walk, meet by fountain outside of Augsburg Room

PLENARY SESSION THREE

Council Room
November 14, 2015
2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

III.A [Report from Executive for Administration](#)

III.B Report of Legal and Constitutional Review Committee

The following report is provided by the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee. Additional items or revised actions may be distributed following the committee's meeting. *En Bloc* items will be acted upon later in the meeting. Background information can be found in the [Legal and Constitutional Review Committee](#) section of ELCA Community.

III.B.1 Proposed amendments to *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

One of the responsibilities of the Churchwide Assembly is to adopt amendments to the *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* (CBCR). Secretary Boerger's rationale memorandum and proposed amendments to the CBCR are in the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee section of ELCA Community.

The plan is for the amendments to the governing documents to be considered in four *En Bloc* actions.

The first two address the continuing resolutions. Continuing Resolution 19.01.A15. deals with the election of the Vice President. Continuing Resolution 16.12.C15. describes the responsibilities of the Mission Advancement Unit.

The third is to consider *En Bloc* action on the amendments related to the unification of the Word and Service roster.

The fourth action considers *En Bloc* action on the proposed amendments that are not related to the roster unification.

The summary in Secretary Boerger's rationale memo is provided to facilitate and focus your review and analysis. It is not intended to substitute thoughtful consideration of all the proposed amendments.

3:30 p.m. Break

PLENARY SESSION FOUR

Council Room
November 14, 2015
4:00 – 5:40 p.m.

IV.A Bible Study led by Pastor Kwame Pitts

Pastor Kwame Pitts is serving in her first call at Redeemer Lutheran Church in South Holland, Illinois. She graduated from the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago and is an ELCA Fund for Leaders mission developer scholar (2014).

IV.B Report of the Planning and Evaluation Committee

The following report is provided by the Planning and Evaluation Committee. Additional items may be distributed following the committee's meeting.

IV.C Update from Mission Advancement and Congregational and Synodical Mission

This will be a joint verbal update from the executive directors of the Mission Advancement unit, Ms. Christina Jackson-Skelton, and Congregational and Synodical Mission unit, Pr. Stephen Bouman.

IV.D Personal Reflection on Faith by Ms. Kayla Koterwski

IV.E Church Council Joys and Concerns

IV.F Process Observations

IV.G Hymn and Closing Prayer

5:45 p.m. **DINNER**, Dinner on own

Sunday, November 15, 2015

6:30 a.m. **Breakfast**, Marriott Hotel (Buffet opens at 6:30 a.m.)

9:00 a.m. **WORSHIP SERVICE WITH HOLY COMMUNION**, 1st Floor Chapel
Offering: **Lutheran Disaster Response**

Presider: Pastor James Utt

Preacher: Pastor Joyce Graue

Assisting Minister: Ms. Ingrid Sponberg Stafford

Lector: Mr. Oliver Thul

PLENARY SESSION FIVE

Council Room
November 15, 2015
10:15 – 11:55 a.m.

V.A Update from Global Mission by Pr. Rafael Malpica Padilla

V.B [Report from the Treasurer](#)

V.C Report of the Budget and Finance Committee

The following report is provided by the Budget and Finance Committee. Additional items or revised actions may be distributed following the committee's meeting. *En Bloc* items will be acted upon later in the meeting.

V.C.1 Revisions to [2015 Synod Mission Support Plans](#)

The ELCA Church Council has a fiduciary responsibility for reviewing and taking action on synod mission support plans as an interdependent partner with congregations and synods in implementing and strengthening the financial support for the work of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA Constitution, 8.15 and 10.71). Since the April 2015 meeting, we have received the following revisions from synods for 2015 mission support plans.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To acknowledge with appreciation the action of the following synod(s) to maintain the percentage of sharing of 2015 mission support contributions by congregations for synodical and churchwide ministries but estimating an adjustment in the projected amount to be shared; and

To further affirm that we will steward these gifts to maximize their impact in mission for the sake of God's Work, Our Hands in the world: Northwest Washington Synod.

V.C.2 Revisions to [2016 Synod Mission Support Plans](#)

We have now received all synod mission support plans for 2016. Since the April 2015 meeting, we have received plans from additional 28 synods have reported. Of these synods, six synods are showing increased percentages, seven decreases and the remaining 15 synods maintaining current levels.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

As a grateful church that affirms the partnership of congregation, synod and churchwide expressions, we acknowledge with gratitude the actions of the following synod(s) and to affirm the percentage of sharing of 2016 mission support by congregations for synodical and churchwide ministries:

Allegheny, Caribbean, Delaware-Maryland, Eastern North Dakota, Indiana-Kentucky, Lower Susquehanna, Metropolitan Chicago, Metropolitan New York, Metropolitan Washington D.C., Minneapolis Area, Nebraska, New England, New Jersey, North Carolina, Northern Illinois, Northeastern Ohio, Northwest Synod of Wisconsin, Pacifica, Rocky Mountain, Sierra Pacific, Slovak Zion, Southwest California, South Carolina, St. Paul Area, Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast, Upper Susquehanna, Virginia, West Virginia-Western Maryland;

As a Church Council, we 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;

We further affirm that we will steward these gifts to maximize their impact in mission for the sake of God's Work, Our Hands in the world; and

To request that all synods submit their 2017 mission support plans prior to their 2016 synod assemblies.

V.C.3 2016 Income Estimates and Spending Authorizations

As part of its ongoing fiduciary responsibility, the Budget and Finance Committee reviews the income estimates and the spending authorizations to be approved for current fund and World Hunger.

A revised [spending authorization](#) of \$66,514,340 million for current fund operations and \$21 million for World Hunger are being proposed for the 2016 fiscal year.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To approve a revised 2016 fiscal year current fund spending authorization of \$66,514,340; and

To approve a revised 2016 fiscal year World Hunger spending authorization of \$21,000,000.

V.C.4 Resolutions Regarding Authority to Act in Financial Matters

The following resolutions are being proposed to address authority to act in a number of financial matters.

[Authorization to Conduct Business with Financial Institutions](#)

CC ACTION

Recommended:

RESOLVED, that the Treasurer and any one of the Presiding Bishop (President), Secretary, or Executive for Administration are appointed as a committee having the authority of the Church Council in the management of the business affairs of this

corporation to open securities accounts that allow for the sale of securities or to open bank accounts for the deposit and disbursement of funds;

RESOLVED, that the Treasurer, or in the absence or unavailability of the Treasurer, any one of the Presiding Bishop (President), Secretary, or Executive for Administration has the authority of the Church Council in the management of the business affairs of this corporation, to authorize, approve, and execute, on behalf of this corporation, instructions to financial institutions for the management of existing accounts, including, but not limited to: services to be provided by the financial institution; appointment of authorized check signers and persons to initiate and approve Automated Clearing House (ACH) transactions and wire transfers; appointment persons to perform other functions and approvals through electronic or other means; and appointment of persons to receive information relative to accounts and transactions therein;

RESOLVED, that prior resolutions adopted by this Council, including CC90.4.30, addressing the matters specified above are hereby rescinded and replaced by this action.

Authorization to Engage in Commercial Transactions

CC ACTION

Recommended:

RESOLVED, that the Treasurer and any one of the Presiding Bishop (President), Secretary, or Executive for Administration are appointed as a committee having the authority of the Church Council in the management of the business affairs of this corporation to *authorize, approve, and execute* on behalf of this corporation, transactions with a value of \$250,000 or greater, not involving real property or the borrowing of funds, to which the corporation is a party, including, but not limited to, conveyances, assignments, contracts, notes, bills of sale, purchases and sales of securities, and financing statements;

RESOLVED, that the Treasurer, or in the absence or unavailability of the Treasurer, any one of the Presiding Bishop (President), Secretary, or Executive for Administration, has the authority of the Church Council in the management of the business affairs of this corporation to *authorize and approve*, on behalf of this corporation, transactions with a value of at least \$30,000 but less than \$250,000, not involving real property or the borrowing of funds, to which the corporation is a party, including, but not limited to, conveyances, assignments, contracts, notes, bills of sales, purchases and sales of securities, and financing statements;

RESOLVED, that the Treasurer, or in the absence or unavailability of the Treasurer, any one of the Presiding Bishop (President), Secretary, or Executive for

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Administration, or in absence of all of the foregoing, any two of the assistant treasurer may *execute*, and the Secretary or any assistant secretary may *attest*, any document required or desirable in connection with a commercial or fiscal transaction of less than \$250,000, not involving real property or the borrowing of funds, to which this corporation is a party, and which has been authorized and approved as provided herein, including but not limited to conveyances, assignments, contracts, notes, leases, bills of sales, purchases and sales of securities, trust documents, and financing statements;

RESOLVED, that the Treasurer and any one of the Presiding Bishop (President), Secretary, or Executive for Administration are appointed as a committee having the authority of the Church Council in the management of the business affairs of this corporation to *authorize and approve*, on behalf of this corporation, the borrowing of funds or the purchase, acquisition, sale, mortgage, lease, transfer, or other disposition or acquisition of real property (other than the acquisition of real estate within a gift instrument) by the churchwide organization;

RESOLVED, that the Treasurer and any one of the Presiding Bishop (President), Secretary, or Executive for Administration, or in absence or unavailability of the Treasurer, any one of the Presiding Bishop (President), Secretary, or Executive for Administration and any one of the assistant treasurers may *execute*, and the Secretary or any assistant secretary may *attest*, any document required or desirable in connection with the borrowing of funds or a commercial or fiscal transaction involving real property to which this corporation is a party, and which has been previously authorized and approved as provided herein;

RESOLVED, that the Office of Treasurer keep and maintain appropriate accounting and records of all transactions authorized above and annually report transactions exceeding \$250,000 to the Budget and Finance Committee of the Church Council;

RESOLVED, that prior resolutions adopted by this Council, including CC90.4.31, addressing the matters specified above are hereby rescinded and replaced by this action.

Appointment of Assistant Officers

CC ACTION

Recommended:

RESOLVED, that for the sole purpose of executing, when necessary, documents approved and authorized in accordance with actions of the Church Council, the following are hereby appointed as assistant vice presidents of this corporation: M. Wyvetta Bullock, Walter S. May, Marcus R. Kunz, and Jodi L. Slattery, to serve until replaced or removed by subsequent appointments, with such subsequent appointments to be based upon the nomination and recommendation of the Presiding Bishop;

RESOLVED, that for the sole purpose of executing, when necessary, documents approved and authorized in accordance with actions of the Church Council, the following are hereby appointed as assistant treasurers of this corporation: Robert J. Benson, Christina Jackson-Skelton, Christopher Carpenter-Majors, and Annette Roman, to serve until replaced or removed by subsequent appointments, with such subsequent appointments to be based upon the nomination and recommendation of the Treasurer;

RESOLVED, that for the sole purpose of executing or attesting, when necessary, documents approved and authorized in accordance with actions of the Church Council, the following are hereby appointed as assistant secretaries of this corporation: Phillip H. Harris, Laura L. Knitt, Sue E. Rothmeyer, and Thomas A. Cunniff, to serve until replaced or removed by subsequent appointments, with such subsequent appointments to be based upon the nomination and recommendation of the Secretary;

RESOLVED, that prior resolutions adopted by this Council, including CC15.04.31b and the prior actions identified in CC15.04.31b, addressing the appointment of assistant officers are hereby rescinded and replaced by this action.

Authorization to Act for the ELCA as a Trustee

CC ACTION

Recommended:

RESOLVED, that the Treasurer and the Executive Director of the Mission Advancement unit are appointed as a committee having the authority of the Church Council in the management of the business and fiscal affairs of any trust for which the churchwide organization is acting as trustee to authorize and approve, on behalf of this corporation as trustee, transactions to which such trust is a party;

RESOLVED, that the Treasurer and the Executive Director of the Mission Advancement unit are appointed as a committee having the authority of the Church Council to authorize and approve establishment of any gift annuity agreement for which the churchwide organization is guarantor, on behalf of this corporation as guarantor;

RESOLVED, that the Treasurer or the Executive Director of the Mission Advancement unit, or in absence of both of the foregoing, any two assistant treasurers may execute, and the Secretary or any assistant secretary may attest, any document required or desirable in connection with the management of the business and fiscal affairs of any trust for which the churchwide organization is acting as trustee, and which has been previously authorized and approved, including the establishment of any gift annuity agreement for which the churchwide organization is guarantor;

RESOLVED, that the Mission Advancement unit keep and maintain appropriate records of all transactions so authorized and, upon request, report such transactions to the Budget and Finance Committee of the Church Council;

RESOLVED, that prior resolutions adopted by this Council, including CC02.11.89 and CC12.04.19i, addressing the matters specified above are hereby rescinded and replaced by this action.

V.D Report of the Executive Committee, continued

This is a continuation of the report of the Executive Committee.

V.D.1 Future Directions and Priorities of the ELCA

At the April 2015 meeting of the Church Council, it took action on a number of mission funding matters, including asking the presiding bishop to convene a team “to sharpen the priorities of this church and bring greater clarity about what this church will do and will not do in order to serve God’s mission more faithfully and effectively in the years to come” (CC15.04.10).

Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton has been working with a consultant on this request and has developed a [process design](#) to address strategic directions for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. She has consulted with the Administrative Team, the Executive Committee of the Church Council and the Conference of Bishops regarding this possible process and has received helpful suggestions and positive feedback. Church Council will be discussing the process design at its November 2015 meeting.

The process will deliver:

- A directional statement on the identity of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and high level priorities that provide a sharpened and common focus for leadership of the church. This would be linked to and help to interpret Bishop Eaton’s four emphases: We are Lutheran; We are church; We are church together; and, We are church for the sake of the world;
- Ownership of the directions and priorities by church leaders, especially the Conference of Bishops and Church Council;
- Motivation and renewed energy across this church to serve God’s mission faithfully and more effectively and to work together to build a thriving, connected and sustainable church; and
- A common strategic framework for other levels of planning, including operational planning by the churchwide organization and synodical mission planning.

As was intended in the Church Council action, the recommended “Future Directions Table” will have a role in generating and drawing together thinking as the process moves forward. A range of processes and mechanisms would be used to achieve engagement and generate conversations.

It is proposed that the directional statement will be launched as part of the observance of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. This provides an ideal opportunity for all church leaders to communicate a shared vision for the future of this church. It is an ambitious process that will require bold leadership, tight management and a very clear communication strategy.

The following action will be considered at this meeting.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To affirm Bishop Eaton’s Future Directions and Priorities of the ELCA process design;

To authorize the Executive Committee to appoint members identified by the presiding bishop to serve on the Future Directions Table; and

To request that the Future Directions Table bring periodic progress reports to Conference of Bishops and Church Council beginning in spring 2016.

V.D.2 Declaration on the Way: Church, Ministry and Eucharist

At the April 2015 meeting of the Church Council, an overview was provided on the work of an ecumenical document titled, “[Declaration on the Way: Church, Ministry and Eucharist](#).” *Declaration on the Way* is both an expression of the consensus achieved by Lutherans and Catholics on the central topics of church, ministry and Eucharist and an indication of differences still remaining to be resolved.

The Church Council affirmed the continuation of the work at its April 2015 meeting (CC15.04.22). This fall, the Conference of Bishops voted to affirm the document as did the Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs of the US Conference of Catholic Bishops.

This ecumenical document will be shared with Lutheran World Federation and the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity (PCPCU) for their consideration and next steps. Our hope is that it will be a step towards unity and as we approach the 500th anniversary of the Reformation.

The following action will be considered at this meeting.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To receive with gratitude the *Declaration on the Way* as another sign of the ELCA’s commitment to making visible the unity that is God’s gift in Christ (*Ecumenism: The Vision of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, 1991*); and

To accept the thirty-two Statements of Agreement.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To recommend the following for adoption by the 2016 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:

To express profound gratitude for the *Declaration on the Way* as another sign of the ELCA’s commitment to making visible the unity that is God’s gift in Christ (*Ecumenism: The Vision of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, 1991*);

To receive the thirty-two Statements of Agreement, acknowledging that “receiving these agreements recognizes that there are no longer church dividing issues with respect to these Statements...” (*Declaration on the Way*); and

To commend to the ELCA the *Declaration on the Way; From Conflict to Communion*; and the *Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification* as resources for the common life of the church as we approach 2017 and beyond.

V.D.3 Trustees of Endowment Fund of the ELCA

Pursuant to 14.41.11.a. of the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*, the Church Council is to elect nominees to a number of boards and committees. There are vacancies that need to be filled in the Board of Trustees of the Endowment Fund of the ELCA. The nominees will be identified after the November 2015 meeting of the Church Council. Therefore, action is needed to fulfill the vacancies during the interim period before the next Church Council meeting.

At the Spring 2016 meeting of the Church Council, the Church Council will elect trustees to serve the remainder of those terms (i.e., until the Fall 2021 meeting of the Church Council).

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To authorize the Executive Committee to elect trustees to fill, until the Spring 2016 meeting of the Church Council, vacancies in the Board of Trustees of the Endowment Fund of the ELCA that will arise following the conclusion of the Fall 2015 meeting of the Church Council.

V.E Hymn and Prayer

12:00 p.m. **LUNCH**, Augsburg Room

PLENARY SESSION SIX

Council Room
November 15, 2015
1:15 – 3:00 p.m.

VI.A Update from Augsburg Fortress

VI.B Personal Reflection on Faith by Pr. Loren Mellum

VI.C Report of the Board Development Committee

The following report is provided by the Board Development Committee. Additional items or revised actions may be distributed following the committee's meeting.

VI.D Update on ELCA Community

The Information Technology team recommends using a different web-based platform for the Church Council materials. We will be receiving an update on how the new platform will function. It will be utilized when we upload materials for the April 2016 meeting of the Church Council.

VI.E Consideration of Items Removed from *En Bloc*

VI.F *En Bloc* Approval of Certain Items

The following en bloc resolution includes agenda items that will be considered on the last day of the Church Council meeting. Inclusion of these items in the en bloc action reflects a judgment that these items are relatively non-controversial in nature and may not require plenary discussion and a separate vote.

Each of the items is noted as [*En Bloc*] in [En Bloc Items](#), Responses to Synodical Resolutions, and Responses to Churchwide Assembly Actions. On the first day of the Council meeting, the chair will remind members of the deadline to remove items from en bloc consideration in order to discuss separately any of the items listed in the en bloc resolution; any such item will be removed from the en bloc resolution and discussed at the appropriate point in the agenda.

The chair will not call for a discussion or separate vote on those items that are not removed from the en bloc resolution by the end of plenary session three. The items remaining in the en bloc resolution normally will be considered as one of the last items of council business.

CC ACTION (Two-thirds approval required)

Recommended:

To adopt en bloc the amendments to continuing resolutions in the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* as listed in *En Bloc Items*.

Revised November 9, 2015

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To take action *En Bloc* on the remaining items listed in En Bloc Items, Responses to Synodical Resolutions, and Responses to Churchwide Assembly Actions.

VI.G New Business

VI.H Church Council Joys and Concerns

VI.I Evaluation and Debriefing

VI.J Process Observation

VI.K Hymn and Prayer

VI.L Adjournment