

**EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
IN AMERICA**

Church Council

MINUTES

November 12-15, 2015

**Prepared by the
Office of the Secretary**

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**EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
CHURCH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES
November 12-15, 2015
Chicago, Illinois**

The eighty-fifth meeting of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) was convened in the Council Room of the Lutheran Center at Chicago, Ill.

The Executive Committee of the Church Council met in the Epiphany Conference Room on Thursday, Nov. 12, 2015, followed at 3:00 p.m. by worship with Holy Communion in the Chapel of the Lutheran Center. The Rev. Jessica R. Crist, bishop of the Montana Synod and chair of the Conference of Bishops, presided; the Rev. Robert G. Moore, preached. Mr. Paul G. Archer served as assisting minister, and Ms. Leslie J. Swenson was lector. Mr. Scott C. Weidler, program director for worship and music, served as musician.

ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING

The following people were present for all or part of the meeting:

Voting members

Officers:

Pr. Elizabeth A. Eaton, presiding bishop
Mr. Carlos E. Peña, vice president
Pr. Wm Chris Boerger, secretary
Pr. Linda O. Norman, treasurer

Chair of the Conference of Bishops:

Pr. Jessica R. Crist, bishop of the Montana Synod

Church Council:

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

Representatives of the Conference of Bishops

Bp. Thomas M. Aitken, <i>Region 3</i>	Bp. Brian D. Maas, <i>Region 4</i>
Bp. Michael L. Burk, <i>Region 5</i>	Bp. Stephen S. Talmage, <i>Region 2</i>
Bp. Claire S. Burkat, <i>Region 7</i>	Bp. Shelley R. Wickstrom, <i>Region 1</i>
Bp. Ralph E. Jones, <i>Region 8</i>	Bp. Herman R. Yoos III, <i>Region 9</i>
Bp. Marcus C. Lohrmann, <i>Region 6</i>	Bp. David B. Zellmer, <i>Region 3 (excused)</i>

Resource people

Office of the Presiding Bishop:

Pr. M. Wyvetta Bullock, executive for administration
Mr. Kenneth W. Inskeep, executive for research and evaluation
Ms. Kathryn L. Johnson, director for ecumenical and inter-religious relations
Ms. Rhondean Johnson, executive for human resources
Pr. Marcus R. Kunz, assistant to the presiding bishop for theological discernment
Ms. Kathryn M. Lohre, assistant to the presiding bishop for ecumenical and inter-religious relations
Pr. Walter S. May, assistant to the presiding bishop for synodical relations
Ms. Jodi L. Slattery, assistant to the presiding bishop for governance
Pr. Kevin L. Strickland, assistant to the presiding bishop for worship

Office of the Secretary:

Mr. Thomas A. Cunniff, associate general counsel
Mr. Phillip H. Harris, general counsel
Mr. Frank F. Imhoff, manager for official documentation
Ms. Sue E. Rothmeyer, executive for Office of the Secretary administration

Unit Staff:

Pr. Cherlyne Beck, program director for support of rostered leaders
Pr. Stephen P. Bouman, executive director of the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit
Ms. Jocelyn Fuller, director for strategic communications
Ms. Christina Jackson-Skelton, executive director of the Mission Advancement unit
Pr. Rafael Malpica Padilla, executive director of the Global Mission unit
Pr. Margaret G. Payne, director for mission support
Pr. Jonathan P. Strandjord, director for seminaries
Pr. Gregory J. Villalón, director for leadership for mission/candidacy
Ms. Amy Walter-Peterson, interim director for operations of the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit
Pr. Mark N. Wilhelm, director for colleges and universities
Mr. David C. Wunsch, director for operations of the Global Mission unit

Separately Incorporated Ministries:

Mr. Kevin Burke, program manager, Lutheran Men in Mission
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, Mission Investment Fund (*excused*)
Pr. Martin A. Seltz, publisher, worship and music, Augsburg Fortress, Publishers
Pr. Jeffrey D. Thiemann, president, Portico Benefit Services

Press:

Ms. Candice Hill Buchbinder, Mission Advancement
Ms. Melissa Ramirez Cooper, Mission Advancement
Mr. Daniel J. Lehmann, editor, The Lutheran magazine

Guests:

Pr. Kwame L. Pitts, pastor of Redeemer Lutheran Church, South Holland, Ill.
Pr. Robin J. Steinke, president of Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minn.
Pr. Sarah J. Stumme, assistant to the bishop of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod

Ecumenical Guests:

Pr. Scott D. Anderson, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Pr. Elizabeth D. "Betsy" Miller, Moravian Church in America
Bp. Sharon Z. Rader, The United Methodist Church
Pr. Lisa Vander Wal, Reformed Church in America

Registered Guests

Pr. Kim L. Beckmann, legislative team, Goodsoil
Mr. Tim Fisher, legislative/communications assistant, ReconcilingWorks
Ms. Aubrey Thonvold, executive director, ReconcilingWorks
Ms. Amalia Vagts, executive director, Extraordinary Lutheran Ministries
Mr. George C. Watson, chair, Ministry to and with Same-Gender Couples and Their Families Working Group

Thursday, November 12, 2015
Plenary Session I

CALL TO ORDER AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

(Agenda I.A.)

Background:

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

Church Council action:

Mr. Carlos E. Peña, vice president of the ELCA and chair of the Church Council, called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. and welcomed all participants. The chair drew attention to the meeting resource materials and the deadlines for introducing new business and for removing items from *en bloc* consideration. He reviewed the proposed agenda.

The Rev. Wm Chris Boerger, secretary of the ELCA, made the following motion.

Moved;

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

The Rev. Stephen R. Herr made the following motion to amend.

Moved;

Seconded: To amend the agenda by scheduling more time to discuss the report and recommendations of the Theological Education Advisory Council.

Participants discussed details of how additional time could be scheduled on the agenda.

There being no further discussion, the chair called for the vote on the motion to amend.

Moved;

Seconded;

Carried: To amend the agenda by scheduling more time to discuss the report and recommendations of the Theological Education Advisory Council.

Vice President Peña declared that the motion to amend had been adopted.

There being no further discussion, the chair called for the vote on the motion to adopt the amended agenda.

VOTED:

CC15.11.33 To adopt the agenda as amended and to permit the chair to call for consideration of agenda items in the order the chair deems most appropriate.

Vice President Peña declared the agenda was adopted as amended.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

(Agenda I.B.)

Background:

The minutes of the April 9-12, 2015, meeting of the Church Council were distributed to council members electronically on Net Community. Minutes for meetings held in executive session were added to the protocol file in the Office of the Secretary.

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

Opportunity was provided for Church Council members to submit in writing any corrections for the distributed text of the minutes to the Office of the Secretary. Proper corrections were entered into the protocol copies of the minutes. Such corrections did not need to be raised in the plenary session in connection with the approval of the minutes.

Church Council Action:

Vice President Carlos E. Peña pointed out the minutes that had been prepared since the April 2015 meetings of the Church Council and its Executive Committee.

Secretary Wm Chris Boerger made the following motion.

Moved;

Seconded: To approve the minutes of the 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.

There being no discussion, the chair called for the vote.

VOTED:

**CC15.11.34 To approve the minutes of the 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.**

Vice President Peña declared the motion was adopted.

REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

(Agenda I.C.; *Reference:* Report of the Vice President)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña relinquished the chair to the Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, presiding bishop of the ELCA, who called on Mr. Peña for the report of the vice president.

Vice President Peña talked about his family life and his involvement in a summit on immigration. He noted that Mr. Hans E. Becklin, Ms. Christine P. Connell and he had attended the October 2015 meeting of the Conference of Bishops, and he asked that two council members plan to attend the conference's March 2016 meeting on behalf of the Church Council.

The vice president read and reflected on Ecclesiastes 3:1-8.

Vice President Peña announced that he would not allow his name to go forward for re-election as vice president of the ELCA by the 2016 Churchwide Assembly. He concluded his report by leading the Church Council in prayer.

Presiding Bishop Eaton thanked the vice president for his report and thanked him for his service to this church. She returned the chair to Vice President Peña.

NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

FIRST BALLOT FOR AN AT-LARGE MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

(Agenda I.D.)

Background:

Seven members of the Church Council serve on its Executive Committee, in addition to the four officers of this church and the chair of the Conference of Bishops (ELCA bylaw 14.41.11.). The council's election process was to seat the chairs of its Budget and Finance, Legal and Constitutional Review, Program and Services, Planning and Evaluation committees on its Executive Committee and to elect three at-large members from the Church Council to its Executive Committee.

At its November 2013 meeting, the Church Council elected Mr. Paul Archer, Ms. Marjorie Ellis and Ms. Maren Hulden to serve as at-large members of its Executive Committee for a term ending in 2016. In April 2015, the committees of the council elected Mr. Paul G. Archer [Program and Services], Ms. Christine P. Connell [Planning and Evaluation], the Rev. Vicki T. Garber [Budget and Finance] and the Rev. Stephen R. Herr [Legal and Constitutional Review] as their chairs. Because Mr. Archer was serving as an at-large member to the Executive Committee, a vacancy of an at-large member was created on the Executive Committee.

The Church Council is to fill the vacancy by the following election 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 Church Council members who can serve on the Executive Committee in the identified category of lay male.

Church Council Action:

Vice President Carlos E. Peña directed tellers to distribute ballots to the voting members of the Church Council, listing the names of eligible lay male candidates for possible election to serve as an at-large member of the Executive Committee.

At the invitation of the chair, Mr. Paul G. Archer led the council in prayer.

After ballots had been completed and collected, Vice President Peña declared the first ballot closed.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

(Agenda I.E.)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña drew the attention of the Church Council to agenda items provided by the Executive Committee.

THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL (TEAC)

(Agenda I.E.1.; *Reference:* COB Recommendations re TEAC, Letter from Leads of ELCA Seminaries re TEAC, Report and Recommendations from TEAC *and* Seminary Responses to TEAC)

Background:

The Mission Funding Task Force noted, in its November 2012 report to the Church Council, that "the issue of renewed, sustainable financial support for theological education in the ELCA ... deserved consideration beyond the scope of the current task force."

At its April 2013 meeting, the Church Council voted [CC13.04.11]:

To authorize the creation of an advisory council which shall be known as the Theological Education Advisory Council, the members of which shall be appointed by the Executive Committee of the Church Council;

To authorize the Theological Education Advisory Council to implement the tasks outlined in the "Proposal for Churchwide Response to Current Challenges and Opportunities in Theological Education";

To authorize the Theological Education Advisory Council to consult as appropriate with other leaders both within and beyond the ELCA in order to consider how our interdependent network of theological education providers can best serve the church as it seeks to address in a holistic manner issues in leadership development, theological education, candidacy and call, and the rosters of this church;

To authorize the Theological Education Advisory Council to convene presidents of ELCA universities with embedded seminaries, seminary presidents, board chairs, a bishop from each seminary's board and others to share counsel on priorities and strategic plans, current collaboration initiatives, new collaborative possibilities, and degree program design innovations, and to examine implications for our leadership identification and preparation systems;

To request that the Theological Education Advisory Council submit periodic progress reports on its deliberations along with updates on new developments in the theological education network to the Conference of Bishops and the Church Council, with a final comprehensive report and possible recommendations submitted at the fall 2015 meeting of the Church Council for consideration at the 2016 Churchwide Assembly; and

To authorize the Executive Committee of the Church Council to act as necessary to facilitate the work of the Theological Education Advisory Council, including the authority to authorize additional expenditures.

At its July 2013 meeting, the council's Executive Committee appointed [EC13.07.20] the Rev. Robin J. Steinke (*co-chair*), Mr. Paul C. Pribbenow, the Rev. Nancy L. Winder, Ms. Leila M. Ortiz, Ms. Jacqueline Busse, Ms. Sarah Rhode, Mr. Randall S. Foster, and the Rev. Herman R. Yoos III, bishop of the South Carolina Synod (*co-chair*), to the Theological Education Advisory Council. The Executive Committee also appointed [EC13.08.25] the Rev. James E. Hazelwood, bishop of the New England Synod, [EC13.09.27] the Rev. Kristen K. Capel, Ms. Andrea Green, Mr. William B. Horne II, Ms. Maren Hulden and Sr. Noreen H. Stevens to the advisory council.

The Theological Education Advisory Council circulated a draft of its report with a theological framework and three recommendations — each recommendation with four proposed actions of the Church Council. The report included an assessment from Baker Tilly, “a full-service accounting and advisory firm that offers industry specialized services in audit, tax and management consulting.” On Aug. 28, 2015, Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton met with the chair and another member of the board of each ELCA seminary to discuss the report and recommendations.

In October 2015, the Conference of Bishops received an account of the consultation, reviewed the draft report of the Theological Education Advisory Council and addressed the following letter to the Church Council.

Grace and peace in the name of Christ.

We are at a *kairos* moment for theological education in the ELCA. We are grateful to have been invited to respond to the TEAC Report.

We are appreciative of the strong openness to imaginative and deep change that the TEAC task force report has generated. We acknowledge the courage of the leadership of our eight seminaries engaging in these conversations. We remain sensitive to the disruptive and necessary change these proposals will bring.

We affirm moving forward in this urgent task. We have overwhelming consensus in our support for TEAC proposal 3A¹ and Baker Tilly model options A and B (Central System and Limited Central System). Model option A has the greatest energy among us; many were open to both options. The Conference of Bishops voted to reject the *status quo* (model option E).

¹ Recommendation #3

Ensure the mission vibrancy and financial stability of the seminaries of the ELCA as they serve their crucial roles in our theological education network

Proposed actions:

A. To call upon the seminaries of the ELCA in the next three years to form a common theological education enterprise that has the necessary planning structures and appropriate decision-making authority to (a) enable regular strategic sharing of the faculty resources of the seminaries along with other qualified teachers; (b) organize common recruitment and a common application process; (c) generate a common research agenda that serves the flourishing of the church (d) and enable operational efficiencies that free up the resources needed for expanded work and new experiments in theological education.

The Conference of Bishops strongly advocates the necessary reform that best serves the current and future mission of Christ's church for the sake of the world.

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 Church Council also began receiving responses from ELCA seminary boards in which they conveyed their readiness to work with each other and all expressions of this church in "enacting all necessary reforms to preserve and advance a strong ecology of theological education and confessional formation for the sake of the church."

Church Council discussion:

Vice President Carlos E. Peña introduced the Rev. Robin J. Steinke, president of Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minn., and the Rev. Herman R. Yoos III, bishop of the South Carolina Synod, who had served as co-chairs of the Theological Education Advisory Council (TEAC). The chair also welcomed the Rev. Jonathan P. Strandjord, director for seminaries, and noted that Ms. Maren Hulden had served on the advisory council.

Pastor Steinke outlined the research and materials that accompanied the advisory council's report, theological framework and recommendations.

Bishop Yoos explained that the Church Council would be asked to receive the TEAC report and recommendations at this meeting and take action at its April 2016 meeting to allow time for seminary leaders to review and provide feedback on the report. He presented the advisory council's three recommendations and the four proposed actions for each recommendation. He also raised three questions that Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton had proposed:

- 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?

He added the question: What excites you the most about TEAC's work?

Members of the Church Council discussed the advisory council's mandate, specific recommendations and proposed actions, the letter from the Conference of Bishops and possible actions the council could take regarding the TEAC report, the responses of seminaries and their plans to further analyze the report and recommendations, actions the seminaries could take and are already taking on their own, methods of engaging this whole church in studying the report, the urgency for change now and for the future of theological education in the ELCA, student debt and its impact on the ministry of this church, the advantages and disadvantages of moving toward a centralized theological education system, the role of the Churchwide Assembly in governing ELCA seminaries, equipping leaders in ways that will encourage more into ministry, funding for theological education and budget implications of the report, certification in addition to degree programs, theological education as more than seminary education, and ecumenical advances in providing theological education. Many council members spoke in support of elements of the TEAC report and recommendations.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

(Agenda I.F.; *Reference:* Report of the Secretary)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on Secretary Wm Chris Boerger for a report.

Secretary Boerger outlined the proposed constitutional amendments the Church Council would consider recommending for adoption by the 2016 Churchwide Assembly, as well as continuing resolutions the council would consider for adoption at this meeting to create a pre-assembly process to identify possible nominees for vice president and to do away with the advisory committee for The Lutheran magazine. He reported on statistics gathered from the parochial reports of 2014. There were 72 fewer ELCA congregations than the previous year; six congregations left by disaffiliation during 2014. He noted that the North American Lutheran Church (NALC) has been increasing activity in ELCA congregations. This has resulted in a slight increase in the number of congregations considering votes to disaffiliate. The behavior on the part of the NALC leads to the determination that the North American Lutheran Church is a schismatic organization. The secretary announced that membership in ELCA congregations at the end of 2014 was at 3.7 million — 2.53 percent less than at the end of 2013. There were 131 congregations under development. He also

commented on the average numbers of members in worship each week, giving per member, congregations' assets in reserve, and how congregations are distributing their money.

Secretary Boerger concluded his report with remarks about the ELCA Attorneys Association and its meeting in September 2015.

The secretary responded to questions about the parochial statistics of other church bodies, advisory committees, and the public nature of the statistical information.

Mr. Phillip H. Harris, general counsel, also answered questions about the ELCA Attorneys Association.

There being no further questions or comments, Vice President Peña thanked Secretary Boerger for his report.

PERSONAL REFLECTION ON FAITH

(Agenda I.G.)

At the invitation of the chair, Ms. Marjorie B. Ellis shared a personal faith reflection.

Ms. Ellis focused on the faith practices of her mother, who passed away the previous week, and read her mother's favorite Bible passage — Psalm 23.

PRIMER ON FORMING LEADERS IN THE ELCA

(Agenda I.H.)

The Rev. Sarah J. Stumme, assistant to the bishop of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod, provided the Church Council with a primer on forming leaders in this church. She oversees the candidacy process and coordinates First Call Theological Education for leaders in the Metropolitan Chicago Synod. In her presentation of the network of relationships involved in the candidacy process, from discernment to call, Pr. Stumme was accompanied by:

- Mr. Dan Beirne, Urban Acacia at St. Luke's Lutheran Church (Logan Square) in Chicago
- Pr. Héctor Garfias-Toledo, director for evangelical mission of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod
- Pr. Sandra I. Jones, pastor of Nueva Esperanza/New Hope Lutheran Church in Aurora, Ill.
- Pr. Vickie D. Johnson, pastor of St. Thomas Lutheran Church in Chicago
- Ms. Maria Rojas, Calvary Lutheran Church in Chicago

UPDATE ON *ALWAYS BEING MADE NEW: THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE ELCA*

(Agenda I.I.; *Reference: Campaign for the ELCA Report*)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on Ms. Christina Jackson-Skelton, executive director of the Mission Advancement unit, to provide an update on *Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA*.

Ms. Jackson-Skelton talked about the comprehensive campaign to raise \$198 million. She highlighted that the ELCA Malaria Campaign, within the comprehensive campaign, had exceeded its goal of \$15 million. For the first 20 months or first third of the five-year comprehensive campaign, \$60 million in cash gifts and \$4.1 million in commitments were received for a total of \$64.1 million or 32 percent of the goal. Another \$13.4 million in planned gifts brought the total to \$77.5 million. Ms. Jackson-Skelton outlined many of the ways the money was already being used to support new and renewing congregations, disability ministries, seminary scholarships through the Fund for Leaders, youth and young adult ministries, ELCA World Hunger, missionaries and Young Adults in Global Mission, women in international leadership and other global ministries. She also described emphases for the campaign in the current and coming years.

Participants were invited to view a video presentation about the ELCA Malaria Campaign.

UPDATE FROM PORTICO BENEFIT SERVICES

(Agenda I.J.; *Reference: Portico Benefit Services Summary and Portico Digest of Board Actions*)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña invited the Rev. Jeffrey D. Thiemann, president of Portico Benefit Services, to present an update.

Pastor Thiemann informed the Church Council that the board of trustees of the Board of Pensions of the ELCA adopted an amendment to the ELCA Medical and Dental Benefits Plan to “remove exclusions for services and treatment for gender dysphoria, including surgical sex reassignment surgery when such surgery is authorized by the Plan’s medical and mental health benefits administrator (Blue Cross Blue Shield), and mental health therapy for transsexualism.”

On behalf of the three separately incorporated ministries whose trustees are elected by the Churchwide Assembly — Augsburg Fortress, Publishers, the Mission Investment Fund and Portico Benefit Services — Pastor Thiemann asked the Church Council to transmit a proposal to the 2016 Churchwide Assembly that would allow for at least one nominee to be named by the Nominating Committee for each position. He provided rationale for the proposal.

Ms. Ingrid S. Stafford spoke in support of the proposal as a member of the Church Council and the nominating committee of the board of trustees of the ELCA Board of Pensions.

THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL (CONT.)

(Agenda I.E.1.)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña noted that the agenda had been amended to schedule more time to discuss the report and recommendations of the Theological Education Advisory Council. He also raised the possibility that a group of Church Council members may want to draft a statement regarding the report and recommendations.

Council members discussed what the audience or message may be for a statement or resolution from the Church Council, how funding for theological education is included in the budget proposal for the Churchwide Assembly and how funding comes from other sources, reasons for waiting until its April 2016 meeting for the council to take action on the report and recommendations, ways to process feedback received during a “comment period” and possible actions that the Church Council could take at this meeting.

Vice President Peña identified several members of the Church Council, working with available members of the Theological Education Advisory Council, to draft a statement for council consideration later in the meeting.

NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

RESULTS OF THE FIRST BALLOT FOR AN AT-LARGE MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

(Agenda I.D.)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña announced the results of the first ballot for an at-large member of the Executive Committee:

3	Mr. Hans E. Becklin
6	Mr. Allan J. Bieber
0	Mr. Reid A. Christopherson
1	Mr. Gary D. Gabrielson
3	Mr. James M. Hushagen
5	Mr. John W. Lohrmann
2	Mr. John M. Pederson
14	Mr. Clarence M. Smith
1	Mr. Oliver W. Thul
0	Mr. Vernon K. Veal

CHURCH COUNCIL JOYS AND CONCERNS

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on Ms. Pamela E. Pritt, who asked specific people how the Church Council may pray for them.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Vice President Carlos E. Peña asked Secretary Wm Chris Boerger for any announcements.

The secretary mentioned several scheduled events and reminded Church Council members of the deadlines for introducing new business and for removing items from *en bloc* consideration.

HYMN AND PRAYER

(Agenda I.K.)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on Ms. Maren Hulden to close the session with prayer. Mr. Clarence M. Smith assisted her in leading the Church Council in the singing of a hymn.

RECESS

The November 2015 meeting of the Church Council recessed for Thursday, Nov. 12, 2015, at 7:25 p.m.

Friday, November 13, 2015 Committee Meetings

Members of the Church Council gathered in meetings of the council's Budget and Finance, Legal and Constitutional Review, Planning and Evaluation and Program and Services committees beginning at approximately 9:00 a.m. in the Lutheran Center. The meetings recessed at 11:30 a.m. for a Midday Prayer Service that began at 11:45 a.m. in the Chapel of the Lutheran Center led by Vice President Carlos E. Peña. Committee meetings reconvened at approximately 1:00 p.m. and adjourned for Friday, Nov. 13, 2015, at approximately 5:00 p.m.

**Saturday, November 14, 2015
Plenary Session II**

The Board Development Committee met at 7:00 a.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called the second plenary session to order at 9:04 a.m. in the Council Room of the Lutheran Center. He led participants in a moment of silence in respect for those affected by the terrorist attacks of Friday, Nov. 13, 2015, in Paris, France.

Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton led those gathered in prayer.

Vice President Peña invited liaison bishops to introduce themselves.

NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS (CONT.)

SECOND BALLOT FOR AN AT-LARGE MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

(Agenda II.A.)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña had announced the results of the first and nominating ballot for a lay male to serve as an at-large member of the Executive Committee. The second ballot was limited to the two people (plus ties) receiving the greatest number of votes on the first ballot.

Mr. Allan J. Bieber

Mr. Clarence M. Smith

At the invitation of the chair, Ms. Kayla S. Koterwski led the council in prayer.

After ballots had been distributed, completed and collected, Vice President Peña declared the second ballot closed.

PERSONAL REFLECTION ON FAITH

(Agenda II.B.)

At the invitation of the chair, Mr. Reid A. Christopherson shared a personal faith reflection.

Mr. Christopherson talked about veterans, military chaplains and how his experiences in the military had an impact on his Christian faith.

NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS (CONT.)

RESULTS OF THE ELECTION FOR AN AT-LARGE MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

(Agenda II.A.)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña presented the results of the second ballot for a lay male to serve as an at-large member of the Executive Committee:

17 Mr. Allan J. Bieber

20 Mr. Clarence M. Smith

VOTED:

CC15.11.35 To elect Mr. Clarence M. Smith to the Executive Committee of the Church Council for a term ending in 2016.

Vice President Peña declared that Mr. Clarence M. Smith had been elected and the Executive Committee had been constituted.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDING BISHOP

(Agenda II.C.; *Reference*: Report of the Presiding Bishop, Future Directions and Priorities of the ELCA and Resource Information from EIR)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña asked the Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, presiding bishop of the ELCA, for her report.

Presiding Bishop Eaton said: “You received my [written] report.

“It has been two years and two weeks since I started [as presiding bishop]. I remember sitting there two years ago. I do not remember much about that meeting, to tell you the truth. And I did not have the excuse of having just come back from Korea the way Carlos [Peña] has done and lead these meetings.

“People often do ask me, and still ask me, what the biggest surprise was. I had no idea how much travel was involved — domestic and international. But, when I really think about it, [the biggest surprise] is how complex this church is. Right now, we know that there are military chaplains and federal chaplains serving all around the world, in our prisons and in our Veterans Administration system. We know there are college and university campuses and seminary campuses, and there are seminary presidents who are thinking deep thoughts about all of the work we are doing with TEAC (the Theological Education Advisory Council). We have advocacy things going. Melissa Ramirez Cooper has been monitoring the situation in Paris for us. We have a publishing house, Lutheran Men in Mission, Portico and Women of the ELCA — separately incorporated ministries. We have parish pastors who hopefully are not being inspired by a sunset on a Saturday night to get their sermons done. They are all working hard. We have bishops who are here working and also back in their territories and right now, unfortunately, fielding fallout from the continued work of the North American Lutheran Church in separating congregations from the ELCA, as well as just the day-to-day things. I cannot begin to describe how much stuff is happening, because I do not know. I do not even know what is going on in this building much of the time. That is really stunning.

“I did pick up on the TEAC report. It takes a look at all the different ways that we deliver theological education. That encapsulates one of the great gifts of this church but also one of the things that makes us less focused and maybe even distracted. And it also makes it clear that we do not always know what each other is doing. It is not that we all have to report in with each other, but it was stunning to me to find out in the report that there is a synod, that I am hoping is geographically huge, that has two lay schools of theology and each did not know about the existence of the other. When I was taking a look at this, we did have a chance, several of us, to sit down with the Huron group. They are the consultants working with the seminaries on this technology platform. We said, ‘Well, we have these lay schools, congregational schools, synodical schools, seminaries and colleges and all this stuff going on.’ One of the consultants asked us, ‘Is there any one place that takes the lead on delivering theological education in your system?’ And we said, ‘Oh, no, no. Should there be?’ ‘Well, we are not sure.’ One woman finally said, ‘It is just a mosh pit out there ... a mosh pit.’ I do not want to pick on the seminaries or the theological education delivery system, but that was such a clear example to me that there is in many ways no center. There is no unified direction. I also think about how our governance makes sure that is how things are going to be. To quote Bishop Graham, at a Conference of Bishops meeting several years ago who was advisor and liaison to the LIFT (Living into the Future Together: Renewing the Ecology of the ELCA) study, ‘It was clear,’ he said, ‘that, at the formation of the ELCA, we trusted the Holy Spirit and no one else.’ It is brilliant and true. I wondered, not having been in those rooms, just what happened. We have tried to structure a three-expression church where the expressions are interdependent. We did not have any place to put agencies and institutions and social ministry organizations. So, I do not know where they float around in this ecology. Now we are going to add, not really structurally or organizationally in our governance, a fourth expression, but understanding we are part of The Lutheran World Federation. Beyond that, as Bishop Burkat pointed out as we were having this discussion with the Ecclesiology of a Global Church Task Force, we are also part of the Church catholic, meaning universal — up to five — and the Church triumphant. So, we have six expressions, and no one is responsible to anyone else.

“From time to time, we have bishops who have a fractious congregation. I can relate to this from my experience as a synod bishop that you have people who did not like the pastor, and so they just decide, unilaterally, to cut the pastor’s salary drastically or to eliminate it, which is a change in the contract and the call agreement which necessitates a renegotiation with the pastor. When one of our bishops politely, but firmly, explained this to a congregation council with which he was dealing they just said, ‘That says that in our constitution? How do we leave the ELCA?’

“This notion that church is somehow a voluntary association flies in the face of our theology and flies in the face of the reality that, in baptism, we have been claimed and made part of the body of Christ. And you do not just sort of decide ‘Well, I do not want to do this anymore.’ Our congregations are members one with another, grouped together in synods and as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. That is just not where our people are, in very many cases. It may be part of an American cultural understanding that basically I, the individual, am in charge of my own life and my own relationship with anyone else, and, if I do not like it, I can just leave. So, now we have a church, and I say, ‘Should we change our governance or our behavior?’ In order to change governance, first of all we would have to agree that something is wrong. Many of our people would say, ‘No, it is just fine the way it is.’ And then we would have to agree on what we do need to change. And then we would have to agree on what direction we are going. I do not see that, across this church, we have this understanding that we are bound to each other in the body of Christ, so with that cheerful realization dawning on me, we are in a lot of ways a very pixilated church and not just in congregations but individuals are pixilated. We do not have an ecclesiology that makes us understand that it is just not up to us, the individual or the individual congregation, to do whatever we want to do, that, in fact, we have been bought with a price and that we are now members one of another in Christ. How do we do this? We have to change behavior, which may be a lot more difficult than changing governance.

“I have been gratified, when I am across this church, that people are now pretty good at saying: ‘We are church. We are Lutheran. We are church together. We are church for the sake world.’ And I know that Bishop Unti, in his synod, has been very intentional about saying, ‘We are at our best when we are church together.’ We are trying to do this and encourage people, but that is all we can do. Bishops have no authority to mandate things for congregations. And somehow we can just decide we are going to go wherever we want. We see this in the mission support issue that is another symptom of this understanding that we are going to take care of what is closest and not worry about or even understand that we are connected with each other. We see this when congregations disaffiliate. We see this when individuals decide: ‘I do not need to go to church.’ We are seeing this in the online conversation where [it has been asked,] ‘Is it possible to do online Holy Communion?’ It is not that crazy a question. Brother [Matthew] Riegel, who is the new bishop in the West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod quoting Melanchthon from the Apology to the Augsburg Confession, holds this piece up where Melanchthon wrote that people think communion is either a sign like you belong to a certain guild or a certain rank or it is about an association of wonderful friendliness. And it is not about the forgiveness of sins, but people can begin to understand that communion is something. I had a woman in my last parish who said, ‘I want my communion.’ I am hoping, and I am convinced that this eighth attempt at trying to have a conversation as a church together along with some other things that we are working on here and you are working on across this church, may, in fact, help people not only to understand that we are connected to one another within the body of Christ but it is actually a good thing for us to be connected. It is a good thing in many ways to submit ourselves to some discipline like regular attendance at church or regular giving and not to whatever issue happens to be on the front of someone’s mind and to the discipline of understanding that the work that we do in one place, for example, in New England is ministry that you are doing on behalf of people in Puerto Rico because they cannot be there.

“So, we are going to try this Future Directions and Priorities of the ELCA process design. This may have a shot. Many of the things we are proposing in this process design have been done in some form in this church in the history of the 27 years we have been together. Like many of the things that came out of the bishops think tank, some things had been proposed the last five times, but now seems to be the time that people seem willing to buy into this. So, the process is that we have already asked Lyla Rogan from Australia, who has worked with us on our operational plan in the churchwide organization along with the Mission Investment Fund and other groups within this church and has also done a similar process with The Lutheran World Federation, to design a process for us which she has done and you have received that in your materials. Then, instead of starting from the beginning, this is like the ‘Declaration on the Way.’ We are declaring some things are settled, and we are not going back there. We are going to take a look at all of the other seven attempts plus the Church Council retreat where we have had this discussion. Kenn Inskeep has already distilled that work and has written a paper. With your blessing and permission, your action will appoint people to a Future Directions Table that will harvest not only the work that has been done but the discussions we will have around this church, including at the Churchwide Assembly in 2016, and see what is bubbling up, what people are saying are the priorities of this church, and what we will do and what we will not do. So, instead of trying to do everything all of the

time, everywhere, maybe this is the necessary work for this church at this time and this is what the churchwide expression is properly called to do. This is what we see synods called to do. This is what congregations are called to do. And we are all doing it all together as this church. We have a very ambitious timeline. We want to have this wrapped up by 2017. I do not know what we are going to do in 2018, because everything is getting done in 2017. I am hoping this process will be a unifying process. People cannot say this is what I think the church ought to do, if people do not know what the church is already doing in all three expressions plus the agencies, institutions, social ministry organizations, colleges, universities, seminaries, etc. How will we be an enhanced communication network to enable parish pastors, who are so busy, to get the word out so it does not get stuck in their inbox? My desk is where everything went to die when I was in the parish; I understand that. How do we say, 'This is an important conversation and important task that we, as a church, are doing now, where we find out about each other and what we do.' We did a little bit of this with the Ecclesiology of a Global Church Task Force, when we did a five-part adult Bible study during Lent last year. That was helpful. It did some of this. With your action this weekend, it will or will not move forward. We also know through experience that if the churchwide organization, if the Conference of Bishops and if the Church Council do not all support whatever thing we are trying to do, it is not going to go forward. Mike Hanson, who is a coach who works with many of us and does consulting for the military, for the government, for Fortune 500 companies, says this is the only organization he has ever encountered where anyone at any level at any place or any time can stop everything. That may be an overstatement. But, when you think about it, sometimes in your congregation, when one person has decided 'I am not going to do this,' things stop. In synods you get people saying, 'I am not going to do this.' Here it is worse. We can have people who actually in a fit of pique, fit of exhaustion or fit of frustration, or maybe because they are so overwhelmed, because this staff works very hard. I hope you hold your staff in prayer and give thanks for the amazing work they do, but sometimes someone might say, 'I am not doing that,' and whole projects come to an end. How do we then either take back the workload and focus what we are doing, so people do not become overwhelmed or frustrated in their work, and how do we have a clear sense of what it is, not the 10, 20 or 30 things that we do as the church, but how do we understand what God is calling us to do and just focus on that and [that] we are going to have to let some things go? I am hoping that the four emphases that I have developed help us to bring that focus. Maybe that is starting to get some traction. It has taken us 500 years to come to some significant agreements with the Roman Catholic Church, so I suppose I should not be so frustrated after two years and two weeks. I am impatient.

"Along with this look at how pixilated we are, we also are going to be studying the Small Catechism together as this church starting at the Churchwide Assembly in 2016 through Reformation Day in 2017. That will be something we can all do together. I think that would be a unifying thing for us to do.

"And also, our rostered people, not just clergy, sometimes feel that they are out there on their own. It can be a difficult job. In some places they are literally on their own, because geographically there is no one close by. So, we have started planning for a rostered leaders gathering in August 2017. It will be in Denver, Colorado. It is tentatively scheduled for then and there. We are looking at that. Mary Beth Nowak is taking a look at accommodations, so that we can get to know each other. We never in the history of this church — there may have been some case either synodically or in districts with the ALC (American Lutheran Church), and the AELC (Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches) was small enough — but we just do not get together. This is a hope that we can support each other and not just have this event be a constant jamming of more information and how we can fill out online forms for the churchwide expression or take care of our Portico needs but also really some chance for us to come away to a lonely place apart, because I see our rostered folks and they are harassed like sheep without a shepherd. But we do have a shepherd. That shepherd, Christ is calling us to get to know each other better. So, that is what is going on there.

"I can name some of the people and certainly all of the categories to the Future Directions Table. At this point the following people have said an enthusiastic 'yes' to serving on this. We have asked two bishops from the Conference of Bishops — Jon Anderson of the Southwestern Minnesota Synod and Tracie Bartholomew of the New Jersey Synod — and two members of the Executive Committee here — Vicki Garber and Stephen Herr. We have asked two pastors from our largest congregations — Connie Miller who serves in Maryland, and I am waiting to hear from another pastor. We have asked a synod vice president — Randy Foster of the Southwest California Synod, who worked so ably on the TEAC process. I thought for sure he would be burned out, but he said he was eager to serve. I have asked one young adult so far — Raphael Graybill, who has just been admitted to the bar and is clerking for a federal judge and is a Rhodes scholar.

I have also asked John Williams, who is the newly installed president of Muhlenberg College to serve, and he has said 'yes.' We are waiting to hear from a pastor developer in the Southeastern Synod, another pastor of a large congregation, a social ministry organization executive, and also from David Vasquez, who is an ELCA pastor, scholar and president of the Pacific School of Religion. We are also going to ask a Young Adult in Global Mission. I deliberately decided not just to have the Administrative Team, the Executive Committee, the Executive Committee from the Conference of Bishops, or even to be overly concerned about having people from every single expression and portion of this church. I wanted people who were good thinkers, who have had experience either in organizations like this or more importantly not in organizations like this, and who can maybe bring some fresh eyes as we are trying to see what God is calling us to do and go forward. I think we need some action on that but later in the meeting.

"This is the last Church Council meeting for Daniel Lehmann of The Lutheran. Dan is retiring after years and years of service. We need to thank Dan.

"Also, Margaret Payne will be retiring as our director for mission support effective at the end of this year. Margaret is going back into retirement. The lure of grandchildren is too great, so make sure that we thank these people. Margaret was bishop of the New England Synod before this, and we called her out of retirement to serve in this capacity.

"Today also is a memorial service for Craig Settlage. Many of you knew Craig in his most recent work as director for mission support. He would come and do consultations with our synod councils. He has had a long career of service in this church. When we were going through a lot of the difficulties, trying to say how we understand including the gifts of partnered gay folks before we came to our decision in 2009. Craig was the one who had to go and explain that at this point we are not going to ordain, commission or consecrate people who are in same-gender relationships. That is not where Craig's heart was, but that was the decision of this church. Craig then went out and faced a lot of opposition, and in some cases very vociferous opposition, but, trusting that the church had some wisdom and was moved by the Spirit, he was willing to put aside his understanding in order to work for the good of the whole church. Maybe he had a sense of vindication when this church in 2009 was able to finally come to the position to say 'yes' to people who wanted to serve. Kenn Inskeep is there. Kenn was very close to Craig and Craig's wife Rachel. So, keep Kenn in your prayers as well. It has been difficult for him.

"I want to thank my staff here and deployed around the world. Two years ago, I really felt as though I was an orphan, selfishly grieving the loss of my Northeastern Ohio Synod. I came to this place in Chicago where here, in fact, Ohio is considered 'back east,' which is hard to understand. One year later, I made the decision to renew the appointments of Christina Jackson-Skelton, Rafael Malpica Padilla and Stephen Bouman to their respective positions as executive directors of Mission Advancement, Global Mission, and Congregational and Synodical Mission. We sat down and all talked together, and I said, 'This is what I see us doing. Can you do that? Can you serve within these parameters?' And they all said, 'Yes.' People want to make sure that I have my team. Well, this is my team. It has been wonderful to see our team come together in Administrative Team meetings. We have a lot of fun together. I am grateful to serve with them. Secretary Boerger and I have been a great team. Also many of the people in this room and many who are not in this room are just phenomenally gifted people who are faithful. There is a lot of laughter in this building; it is not all a grind. These are people who faithfully do this work because they believe they have been called to this and called to make a difference in the world in the name of Christ. It is wonderful to see that.

"Working on this and increasing the health [of the organization], I did call Mary Ann Schwabe, an associate in ministry, to serve as our director for natural systems. Some of you may be familiar with family systems theory — Bowen and Friedman. I believe she has been a great asset already to people in this building but has also started a systems academy. We have 11 synods enrolled in this who are doing training so that they can train teams of people back in their synods to encourage and strengthen congregational health. That has been a great addition.

"This is a huge job, and I often get the credit for things. For example, if you thought that the executive summary of all we are doing was a good idea and was cleverly written? Jodi [Slattery] did that. I did not do that. That happens over and over again. Many times I get the credit for work that is done behind the scenes. So, thank you to my dear staff.

"And thank you to Carlos. You have two more council meetings left. And you are not leaving before the Churchwide Assembly, because I have never done one of those before and neither has Chris. But, it has been an amazing experience to serve with Carlos, first as a council member, then as a synod bishop and now as presiding bishop. So, please, join me in thanking Carlos for his work again. [*The assembly responded with applause.*]

“And remember to thank your staff. I am very careful when I am out and about across this church to talk about *your* executive director for Congregational and Synodical Mission or *your* executive for ecumenical and inter-religious affairs. Our people need to understand that this is their staff and not just us against them.”

Vice President Peña noted that the Church Council would hear more about the Future Directions process later in the meeting.

Presiding Bishop Eaton added, “We are going to do this in three parts. I laid it out and have it in your materials. As part of Dr. Bullock’s report, we will also bring this again and have the chance for us to actually do some work together collectively. Then tomorrow it will come for a chance for us to make a decision about this. So, we will have a chance to read it, understand it, participate in it and then take a vote.”

The presiding bishop invited Ms. Kathryn M. Lohre, assistant to the presiding bishop for ecumenical and inter-religious relations, to announce the publication of “Engaging Others, Knowing Ourselves: A Lutheran Calling in a Multi-Religious World,” the result of an inter-religious case studies project undertaken by the ELCA Consultative Panels on Lutheran-Jewish and Lutheran-Muslim Relations. A March 2016 release date will make it possible for synods to use the resource in synod assembly workshops and, in the future, to launch conversations about this church’s ecumenical and inter-religious calling.

Presiding Bishop Eaton continued, “A part of our thinking and planning, and this was laid out by the ELCA statement on ecumenical relations, is that, since all of us live in an inter-religious world, is it time for this church to develop a statement on inter-religious relations. That was called for in the ecumenical statement, as we are looking toward that. With this latest horror in Paris, we can expect that some people will decide taking vengeance on Muslims is a correct action, whether in word or in deed. About a month ago, there was a call from some group where they encouraged some people to show up, and, in fact, some people did show up at mosques and community centers with guns, in many cases, to protest. So, this is important work that we can do together as a church.

“We also have another book that is waiting to be published. This is your director for ecumenical and inter-religious relations, Kathryn Johnson. [Ms. Johnson held up the book, ‘Declaration on the Way: Church, Ministry and Eucharist.’] That is another exciting piece ecumenically. You will be voting on this later. It has 32 areas where we have complete agreement between us and the Roman Catholic Church. We do not need to fight about that any more; it is done. It is really a great thing, and we are looking for a publisher for that.”

There being no questions or further comments, Vice President Peña thanked Presiding Bishop Eaton for her report.

ECUMENICAL GREETINGS

(Agenda II.D.)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña invited the Rev. Elizabeth D. “Betsy” Miller of the Moravian Church in America, Bishop Sharon Z. Rader of The United Methodist Church and the Rev. Lisa Vander Wal of the Reformed Church in America to bring greetings to the Church Council from their respective church bodies. They discussed many of the common topics being addressed by the churches.

REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE OF BISHOPS

(Agenda II.E.; *Reference*: Report of the Conference of Bishops)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña acknowledged that this was the last meeting that the Rev. Jessica R. Crist, bishop of the Montana Synod, would serve as a member of the Church Council in the position of chair of the Conference of Bishops. In October 2015, the conference elected the Rev. William O. Gafkjen, bishop of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod, to become chair of the Conference of Bishops in January 2016. Vice President Peña asked Bishop Crist to present the conference’s report.

Bishop Crist remarked that when the Conference of Bishops gathers, each congregation of the ELCA is known by someone there. Its members are in constant communication with each other through a listserv. She commented on the advisory role of the liaison bishops present regarding many of the items on the Church Council’s agenda. She presented the support of the conference for portions of the reports of the Theological Education Advisory Council and the Word

and Service Task Force, as well as for the social message on gender-based violence, the Candidacy Manual and the “Declaration on the Way.”

There being no further comments or questions, Vice President Peña thanked Bishop Crist for her report.

Vice President Peña and Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton talked about some of the experiences they shared with Bishop Crist, and they presented her with a framed copy of “Rondel,” a mosaic the ELCA commissioned and placed in the lobby of the Lutheran Center in Chicago.

REPORT OF THE PROGRAM AND SERVICES COMMITTEE

(Agenda II.F.)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on Mr. Paul G. Archer, chair of the Program and Services Committee, who presented the committee’s report.

Mr. Archer outlined items the committee had placed in the *En Bloc* Items document for Church Council action later in the meeting.

SOCIAL MESSAGE ON GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

(Agenda II.F.1.; *Reference*: Social Message on Gender-based Violence)

Background:

In November 2013, the Task Force on Women and Justice: One in Christ, which was developing a social statement on justice for women, asked the Church Council that a social message be developed to address violence correlated with gender. The council voted [CC13.11.63]:

To thank the ELCA Task Force on Women and Justice: One in Christ for directing the attention of this church to the levels of gender-based violence in U.S. society and globally; and

To authorize staff of the theological discernment team, in accordance with “Policies and Procedures of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for Addressing Social Concerns” (2011), to initiate an ELCA social message development process on gender-based violence with council action to be taken at the November 2014 Church Council meeting.

In 2014, the Church Council reaffirmed its commitment “to the completion of a social message on gender-based violence that speaks carefully and comprehensively to the issues” and extended the time for development of the message. Theological discernment staff of the Office of the Presiding Bishop provided the council and the Conference of Bishops with regular progress reports.

At its October 2015 meeting, the Conference of Bishops reviewed the proposed social message on gender-based violence and its accompanying foundational documentation, and it voted [CB15.10.13]:

To affirm the proposed social message on gender-based violence and its foundational documentation; and

To commit to share and use these materials.

Church Council action:

Mr. Paul G. Archer, chair of the Program and Services Committee, described changes that had been made to the proposed social message and accompanying foundational document on gender-based violence since the Church Council reviewed them in April. He explained some of the ways that ELCA social statements and messages inform the work of this church and other churches.

Mr. Archer made the following motion on behalf of the Program and Services Committee.

Moved;

Seconded: 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 of the social message on “Gender-based Violence.”

Secretary Wm Chris Boerger made the following motion to amend.

Moved;

Seconded: *To amend the first paragraph of the motion by insertion:*

To adopt **the document titled** “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 of the social message on “Gender-based Violence.”

The Rev. Linda Nou offered rationale for the proposed amendment.

There being no further discussion, Vice President Carlos E. Peña called for the vote.

Moved;

Seconded;

Carried: *To amend the first paragraph of the motion by insertion:*

To adopt **the document titled** “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 of the social message on “Gender-based Violence.”

The chair declared that the motion to amend had been adopted.

Members of the Church Council expressed gratitude for the process and resulting documents on gender-based violence, especially for the work of Ms. Mary J. Streufert, director for justice for women, and the Rev. Roger A. Willer, director for theological ethics.

There being no further discussion, the chair invited Mr. Clarence M. Smith to lead the council in singing “Veni Sancte Spiritus.”

Vice President Peña called for the vote on the motion as amended.

VOTED:

CC15.11.36 **To adopt the document titled “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 of the social message on “Gender-based Violence.”

The chair declared the motion was adopted as amended.

Mr. Archer provided an update on the development of a social statement, “Women and Justice: One in Christ,” for consideration by the 2019 Churchwide Assembly.

WORD AND SERVICE TASK FORCE

(Agenda II.F.2.; *Reference:* Word and Service Task Force)

Background:

In November 2012, the Church Council voted [CC12.11.38]:

To receive with gratitude and thanks the interim report of the Word and Service Task Force, convened in response to Church Council action [CC10.11.64] taken in November 2010;

To offer profound appreciation and thanks to persons who serve as associates in ministry, deaconesses, and diaconal ministers on the lay rosters of this church;

To affirm the preliminary conclusion of the Word and Service Task Force that this church should move toward creation of a single, unified lay roster of Word and Service ministry, subject to further review and recommendation by the Conference of Bishops and the Church Council and approval by the Churchwide Assembly;

To authorize the Word and Service Task Force to continue its work in order to facilitate the creation of such a unified roster, to develop a process outlining how the existing lay rosters would be closed, and to provide a process for transition of existing associates in ministry, diaconal ministers, and deaconesses into such a new roster, and, in collaboration with the Office of the Secretary, to consider and propose possible amendments to the *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* to accomplish its recommendations ...

During deliberations of the Word and Service Task Force, the question of whether those on the unified roster should be ordained arose. The task force determined that the question was beyond the scope of its responsibilities and, at the request of the task force, the Church Council appointed a working group to deal specifically with the matter of ordination and its implications and to bring recommendations to the Churchwide Assembly.

The Church Council and Conference of Bishops received periodic reports from the task force and working group. In April 2015, the council voted [CC15.04.05]:

To receive with gratitude the recommendation from the Conference of Bishops regarding the Word and Service roster;

To recommend continuing the work of developing a proposal to unify the three existing lay rosters into one Word and Service roster and to bring this proposal to the November 2015 meeting of the Church Council;

To affirm the recommendation to delay a proposal on the appropriate entrance rite and related issues until the November 2018 meeting of the Church Council;

To ask the Entrance Rite Discernment Working Group to continue its work and to develop for use beginning at the 2016 Churchwide Assembly a process to engage conversation around the appropriate entrance rite for the unified Word and Service roster and to address the related issues;

To work together as a church to define issues of leadership and refine recommendations about rosters and entrance rites through a process of intentional, open conversation seeking God's guidance for the sake of the world; and

To continue to seek ways to facilitate broad-based discussion and discernment around leadership within this church;

To work together as a church to define issues of leadership and refine recommendations about rosters and entrance rites through a process of intentional, open conversation seeking God's guidance for the sake of the world; and

To continue to seek ways to facilitate broad-based discussion and discernment around leadership within this church.

The Word and Service Task force prepared its final report and recommendations and presented it to the Church Council for consideration. The Office of the Secretary prepared constitutional amendments necessary to unify the three existing lay rosters into one Word and Service roster.

Church Council action:

Mr. Paul G. Archer, chair of the Program and Services Committee, directed the attention of the Church Council members to the final report and recommendations of the Word and Service Task Force. He detailed the work and processes of the task force. He acknowledging that the work of the Entrance Rite Discernment Working Group continued toward a recommendation for consideration by the 2019 Churchwide Assembly.

Mr. Archer made the following motion on behalf of the Program and Services Committee.

Moved;

Seconded:

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.

Participants discussed the rationale for unifying the lay rosters and the consequences of someone on an existing roster declining to have her or his name transferred to the unified roster.

There being no further discussion, the chair asked Mr. Hans E. Becklin to lead the council in prayer.

Vice President Peña called for the vote.

VOTED:

CC15.11.37

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.

Vice President Peña declared the motion was adopted.

Mr. Archer noted that the Executive Committee had appointed Ms. Cynthia M. Gustavson to the Entrance Rite Discernment Working Group.

TABLE AND FONT CONVERSATION

(Agenda II.F.3.; *Reference:* Table and Font Communion Practices Report)

Background:

The 2013 Northern Illinois Synod Assembly memorialized the 2013 Churchwide Assembly “to institute a process necessary to review and possibly revise the ELCA’s guiding documents concerning admission to the Sacrament of Holy Communion.”

The 2013 Churchwide Assembly voted [CA13.03.10]:

To receive with gratitude the memorial of the Northern Illinois Synod requesting a process to review the ELCA’s guiding documents on communion practices;

To invite members, congregations, synods and the churchwide organization into conversation and study regarding the *Use of the Means of Grace*;

To request the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit, in consultation with the Office of the Presiding Bishop and the Conference of Bishops, to establish a process to review current documents concerning administration of the Sacrament of Holy Communion; and

To request the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit to bring a report and possible recommendations to the April 2014 meeting of the ELCA Church Council.

In response to a report from the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit in April 2014, the Church Council voted [CC14.04.13i]:

To take seriously the invitation to engage one another in conversation and study of *The Use of the Means of Grace*;

To request the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit to provide resources that will help facilitate that conversation;

To encourage others to develop and share resources more locally, while guiding people to *The Use of the Means of Grace* with the invitation to read and share it;

To let the conversation regarding *The Use of the Means of Grace* serve as the initial step in a process of review, but to delay any further development or implementation of a process until research is done to assess the nature and extent of changing practices, and until a director for worship formation and liturgical resources at the ELCA churchwide organization is in place and prepared to oversee the design of such a process, both in scope and hoped-for outcomes; and

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

Responsibility for this work was transferred to the Office of the Presiding Bishop. The Rev. Kevin L. Strickland, assistant to the presiding bishop for worship, provided periodic reports to the Conference of Bishops and the Church Council regarding the development of resources and the results of a survey on communion practices. At this meeting, the council received the final “Table and Font Communion Practices Report.”

Church Council action:

Mr. Paul G. Archer, chair of the Program and Services Committee, provided the background information and the report of the Office of the Presiding Bishop regarding communion practices of ELCA congregations. He made the following motion on behalf of the Program and Services Committee.

Moved;

Seconded:

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.

Participants discussed the audience of the report and the reliability of the survey data, considering the survey's response rate. They also talked about the report's ecumenical implications, as well as its response to the memorial of the Northern Illinois Synod and the action of the 2013 Churchwide Assembly.

There being no further discussion, the chair invited the Rev. Vicki T. Garber to lead the Church Council in prayer. Vice President Peña called for the vote.

VOTED:

CC15.11.38 **To receive the report from the Office of the Presiding Bishop [Appendix] 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.

Vice President Peña declared the motion was adopted.

Mr. Archer spoke further about a recommendation of the Program and Services Committee in the *En Bloc* Items document regarding assessing the need for and feasibility of initiating social message processes. He also described reports the committee received on the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, a network of ELCA colleges and universities, and the Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation & Opportunities (AMMPARO) initiative. He noted that a committee recommendation on ministry to and with same-gender couples and their families remained on the agenda and would be considered later in the meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on Secretary Wm Chris Boerger, who made announcements about events of the day and the deadlines for introducing new business and for removing items from *en bloc* consideration.

RECESS

The November 2015 meeting of the Church Council recessed at 11:22 a.m.

The Rev. Elizabeth D. "Betsy" Miller, ecumenical liaison from the Moravian Church in America, led a Midday Prayer Service that began at 11:45 a.m. in the Chapel of the Lutheran Center. Members of the Church Council met with representatives of this church's separately incorporated ministries over lunch.

The deadlines to introduce new business and to remove items from the consent calendar were 1:00 p.m.

**Saturday, November 14, 2015
Plenary Session III**

CALL TO ORDER

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called the third plenary session to order at 2:01 p.m. in the Council Room of the Lutheran Center.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE FOR ADMINISTRATION

(Agenda III.A.; *Reference*: Report of the Executive for Administration *and* Future Directions and Priorities of the ELCA)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña asked the Rev. M. Wyvetta Bullock, executive for administration, for her report to the Church Council.

Pastor Bullock referred to her written report, which included a review of the progress made toward achieving goals outlined in the operational plan of the churchwide organization. She provided details and answered questions about the Future Directions and Priorities of the ELCA process and its proposed outcomes. She noted that the Church Council would consider a motion regarding the process during the report of the Executive Committee.

Pastor Bullock led members of the Church Council in small-group discussions of the question “If this process could answer three questions that are highly significant for the future of this church, what would they be?”

Returning to plenary session, some members of the council presented topics they had discussed in small groups.

REPORT OF THE LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL REVIEW COMMITTEE

(Agenda III.B.; *Reference*: Proposed Amendments to NLCM, Inc. Articles of Inc *and* Proposed Amendments to NLCM, Inc. Bylaws)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on the Rev. Stephen R. Herr, chair of the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee, who presented the committee’s report.

Pastor Herr drew the attention of the Church Council to four recommendations that the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee had placed in the *En Bloc* Items document for Church Council action later in the meeting. He also noted portions of the proposed constitutional amendments that had been removed for separate consideration, and he answered questions of clarification.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTIONS, BYLAWS, AND CONTINUING RESOLUTIONS OF THE ELCA

(Agenda III.B.1.; *Reference*: Rationale Memo for CBCR Amendments)

Background:

According to the ELCA constitution, the Churchwide Assembly has “sole authority to amend the constitution and bylaws” (12.21.h.). The constitution also says, “The Church Council may propose an amendment, with an official notice to be sent to the synods at least six months prior to the next regular meeting of the Churchwide Assembly. The adoption of such an amendment shall require a two-thirds vote of the members of the next regular meeting of the Churchwide Assembly present and voting” (22.11.a.).

ELCA constitutional provision 22.31. states:

Continuing resolutions not in conflict with the constitution or bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America may be adopted or amended by a majority vote of the Churchwide Assembly or by a two-thirds vote of the Church Council. Such continuing resolutions become effective immediately upon adoption. Matters related to the administrative functions of the churchwide organization shall be set forth in the continuing resolutions.

The Church Council will consider amending several continuing resolutions and proposing two sets of amendments to the 2016 Churchwide Assembly. One set will present amendments related to the unification of the Word and Service roster. The other set will include all other amendments the council may propose for assembly consideration.

Church Council discussion:

The Rev. Stephen R. Herr, chair of the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee, noted the proposed constitutional amendments that would be considered later *en bloc* as well as those portions that had been removed for separate consideration. He outlined the changes being proposed.

Church Council members raised questions of clarification that were answered by Pastor Herr and other members of the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee, as well as Secretary Wm Chris Boerger, Ms. Kathryn L. Johnson, director for ecumenical and inter-religious relations, and the Rev. Jessica R. Crist, bishop of the Montana Synod and chair of the Conference of Bishops.

Pastor Herr identified several issues that the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee would study and bring recommendations about to the April 2016 meeting of the council.

REPORT OF THE PROGRAM AND SERVICES COMMITTEE (CONT.)

(Agenda II.F.)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on Mr. Paul G. Archer, chair of the Program and Services Committee, to continue with the committee's report.

MINISTRY TO AND WITH SAME-GENDER COUPLES AND THEIR FAMILIES

(Agenda II.F.4.; *Reference:* M2SGF Working Group Report and Recommendations)

Background:

In response to memorials from 13 synods, the 2013 Churchwide Assembly voted [CA13.03.12]:

To affirm the commitment made in the social statement *Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust* for "pastoral responsibility to all children of God," recognizing "familial relationship as central to nurturing and sustaining trust and security in human relationships and to advocate for public policies that support and protect families" (pp. 19, 24);

To invite and encourage conversations and resource sharing among this church's congregations, rostered and lay leaders and the Conference of Bishops on changing family configurations and their impact on society and the ministry of this church; and

To request the Church Council, in keeping with the recommendations of the Addressing Social Concerns Review Task Force, to authorize a group to explore this concern and to bring a report and possible recommendations to the fall 2014 meetings of the Conference of Bishops and Church Council regarding appropriate next steps in carrying out these commitments to pastoral care for same-gender couples and their families.

At its November 2013 meeting, the Church Council voted [CC13.11.64]:

To affirm the 2013 Churchwide Assembly action to invite and encourage conversations and resource sharing among this church's congregations, rostered and lay leaders, and the Conference of Bishops on changing family configurations and their impact on society and the ministry of this church;

To authorize a working group to explore this social concern and to bring recommendations regarding appropriate next steps in carrying out these commitments to pastoral care for same-gender couples and their families;

To request a sub-group of the Program and Services Committee of the Church Council, in consultation with the Conference of Bishops and Office of the Presiding Bishop, to identify and recommend individuals to serve on a working group, with voices representing the breadth of

viewpoints identified in the social statement, *Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust*, and including, specifically, representation by members of the LGBTQ community;

To authorize the Executive Committee to appoint a working group; and

To request that the working group bring progress reports to the Conference of Bishops and Church Council beginning in fall 2014 and that a final report and possible recommendations be brought to the November 2015 Church Council meeting.

In February 2014, the Executive Committee voted [EC14.02.05]:

To appoint the following individuals to serve on a working group tasked with exploring ways to carry out this church's commitment to invite and encourage conversations on changing family configurations and their impact on society and the ministry of this church: Chaplain [Lt. Col.] Christine L. Blice-Baum, the Rev. David P. Gleason, Mr. Cliff Haaland, Mr. Smith F. Heavner, Chaplain [Lt. Col.] Douglas V. Hedman, Bishop Mark W. Holmerud [Sierra Pacific Synod], Ms. Kayla S. Koterwski, the Rev. Gary J. Liedtke, Bishop S. John Roth [Central/Southern Illinois Synod], Mr. George C. Watson, Ms. Suzanne G. Wise, and the Rev. Erma Seaton Wolf.

In March 2014, the Executive Committee voted [EC14.03.08]:

To appoint the following individuals to serve on a working group tasked with exploring ways to carry out this church's commitment to invite and encourage conversations on changing family configurations and their impact on society and the ministry of this church: Ms. Tempie D. Beaman, the Rev. Yehiel Curry, and the Rev. Amsalu T. Geleta.

Pastor Curry, Chaplain Hedman and Bishop Holmerud indicated they would be unable to serve on the working group. To replace them, the Executive Committee voted [EC14.08.20]:

To appoint the following individuals to serve on the ministry to and with same-gender families working group: Bishop Mary B. Froiland [South-Central Synod of Wisconsin], the Rev. Aaron D. Fuller and Chaplain [Lt. Col.] Carol A. Yeager.

The working group provided regular reports to the Conference of Bishops and Church Council. It achieved consensus on a final report with nine recommendations. 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.

The Executive Committee had appointed a working group of ELCA members representative of the views identified in the social statement. The working group provided regular reports to the Conference of Bishops and Church Council. It achieved consensus on a final report with nine recommendations.

Church Council action:

Mr. Paul G. Archer, chair of the Program and Services Committee, encouraged members of the Church Council to read the report of the Ministry to and with Same-Gender Couples and Their Families Working Group. Rather than edit the report, the council would take action on the recommendations of the working group.

Mr. Archer made the following motion on behalf of the Program and Services Committee.

Moved;

Seconded:

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.

The Rev. Linda Nou made the following motion to amend.

Moved;

Seconded:

To amend the last paragraph of the motion by deletion:

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.

Mr. Archer identified the members of the working group who were present.

Participants discussed the proposed amendment.

There being no further discussion, Vice President Carlos E. Peña called for the vote on the motion to amend by a show of hands.

Moved;

Seconded;

Carried:

To amend the last paragraph of the motion by deletion:

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.

The chair declared that the motion to amend was adopted — 16 yes and 11 no — and the main motion was on the floor.

Ms. Maren Hulden made the following motion to amend the main motion as amended.

Moved;

Seconded:

To amend the last paragraph of the motion as amended by insertion and deletion:

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

Mr. Archer noted that the working group's report includes a preface and explanation for each recommendation that are intended to accompany each recommendation as part of the report.

Church Council members discussed the motion to amend the amended motion.

There being no further discussion on the motion to amend the amended motion, Vice President Peña called for the vote.

Moved;

Seconded;

Carried:

To amend the last paragraph of the motion as amended by insertion and deletion:

To acknowledge and affirm that these documents emphasize welcome, care and ministry to and with same-gender individuals, couples and families and that these documents acknowledge

~~while placing this welcome, care for, and support within the context of a range of varied convictions, which and to note this context sets the stage for some diversity of pastoral care within the ELCA congregations and other ministry sites.~~

The chair declared that the motion to amend the amended motion was adopted.

The Church Council granted voice to Mr. George C. Watson, chair of the working group.

Mr. Watson described the process for reaching consensus among members representing each of the four convictions identified in the social statement, "Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust" (2009), to craft the language in the working group's report and recommendations.

Participants discussed the recommendation and how it is to be presented to the 2016 Churchwide Assembly.

There being no further discussion, at the invitation of the chair, the Rev. Joyce M. Graue led the council in prayer.

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called for the vote on the motion as amended.

VOTED:

CC15.11.39

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 welcome, care and ministry to and with same-gender individuals, couples and families and that these documents acknowledge a range of varied convictions, which set the stage for some diversity of pastoral care within the ELCA congregations and other ministry sites.

The chair declared the motion was adopted as amended.

RECESS

The November 2015 meeting of the Church Council recessed at 3:31 p.m.

**Saturday, November 14, 2015
Plenary Session IV**

CALL TO ORDER

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called the fourth plenary session to order at 3:59 p.m. in the Church Council Room of the Lutheran Center. He reviewed the meeting's schedule and items remaining on the agenda.

BIBLE STUDY LED BY PASTOR KWAME PITTS

(Agenda IV.A.)

The Rev. Kwame L. Pitts, in her first call as pastor of Redeemer Lutheran Church, South Holland, Ill., led the participants in a study of 1 Peter 5:1-4, regarding seminarians and the ministry of candidacy committees.

REPORT OF THE PROGRAM AND SERVICES COMMITTEE (CONT.)

(Agenda II.F.)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña asked Mr. Paul G. Archer, chair of the Program and Services Committee, to continue with the committee's report.

MINISTRY TO AND WITH SAME-GENDER COUPLES AND THEIR FAMILIES (CONT.)

(Agenda II.F.4.; *Reference: M2SGF Working Group Report and Recommendations*)

Mr. Paul G. Archer called on Secretary Wm Chris Boerger, who explained that the 2013 Churchwide Assembly action did not ask the Church Council to adopt the recommendations of the Ministry to and with Same-gender Couples and Their Families Working Group or to transmit them to the Churchwide Assembly. The council was asked to receive the report and recommendations "regarding appropriate next steps in carrying out these commitments."

Mr. John W. Lohrmann, having voted on the prevailing side of the issue, made the following motion to reconsider.

Moved;

Seconded: To reconsider the previous action of the Church Council [CC15.11.39].

Secretary Boerger answered clarifying questions about why reconsideration was in order.

Church Council members also discussed the understanding of the working group regarding the treatment of its report and recommendations.

The Rev. Stephen R. Herr made the following motion.

Moved;

Seconded: To move the previous question.

Two-thirds vote required

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called for the vote.

Moved;

Seconded;

Carried: To move the previous question.

Two-thirds vote

Vice President declared the motion was adopted, and he invited Ms. Cynthia M. Gustavson to lead the council in prayer.

The chair called for the vote.

VOTED:
CC15.11.40 **To reconsider the previous action of the Church Council [CC15.11.39].**

Vice President Peña declared that the motion to reconsider was adopted and restated the motion on the floor.

Moved;
Seconded: 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 welcome, care and ministry to and with same-gender individuals, couples and families and that these documents acknowledge a range of varied convictions, which set the stage for some diversity of pastoral care within the ELCA congregations and other ministry sites.

Mr. Lohrmann made the following motion to substitute.

Moved;
Seconded: *To substitute the following motion for the motion on the floor:*

To receive the report with gratitude and refer the recommendations of the Ministry to and with Same-Gender Couples and Their Families Working Group to the appropriate churchwide organization units for implementation.

Secretary Boerger answered clarifying questions about the motion to substitute.
Participants discussed the council's Program and Services Committee's review of the working group's report and recommendations.

The Rev. Linda O. Norman, treasurer of the ELCA, made the following motion.

Moved;
Seconded: *To amend the motion to substitute by insertion:*

To receive the report with gratitude and refer the recommendations of the Ministry to and with Same-Gender Couples and Their Families Working Group to the appropriate churchwide organization units for implementation and report back to the Church Council by the November 2016 meeting.

Participants discussed possible budgetary impacts the motion to substitute may have as amended.
There being no further discussion, Vice President Peña invited Mr. Clarence M. Smith to lead the Church Council in singing a hymn.
The chair called for the vote.

Moved;
Seconded;
Carried: *To amend the motion to substitute by insertion:*

To receive the report with gratitude and refer the recommendations of the Ministry to and with Same-Gender Couples and Their Families Working Group to the appropriate churchwide organization units for implementation and report back to the Church Council by the November 2016 meeting.

Vice President Peña declared the motion to amend the substitute motion by insertion was adopted.

Secretary Boerger answered clarifying questions about the motion to substitute.

Church Council members discussed the possibility of referring the report and recommendations and of receiving at least one report on implementation of the recommendations.

There being no further discussion, the chair called for the vote on the amended motion to substitute.

Moved;

Seconded;

Carried: *To substitute the following motion for the motion on the floor:*

To receive the report with gratitude and refer the recommendations of the Ministry to and with Same-Gender Couples and Their Families Working Group to the appropriate churchwide organization units for implementation and to report back to the Church Council by the November 2016 meeting.

Vice President Peña declared that the motion to substitute was adopted as amended and becomes the main motion.

Participants discussed several of the recommendations included in the working group's report.

There being no further discussion, the chair called for the vote.

VOTED:

CC15.11.41 To receive the report with gratitude and refer the recommendations of the Ministry to and with Same-Gender Couples and Their Families Working Group to the appropriate churchwide organization units for implementation and to report back to the Church Council by the November 2016 meeting.

Vice President Peña declared that the motion was adopted.

Mr. Archer concluded the report of the Program and Services Committee.

REPORT OF THE PLANNING AND EVALUATION COMMITTEE

(Agenda IV.B.)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on Ms. Christine P. Connell, chair of the Planning and Evaluation Committee, who presented the committee's report.

Ms. Connell described the committee's review of specific goals within the operational plan of the churchwide organization and its designs to review the whole plan. The committee had also discussed ways to alleviate student debt among seminarians and those receiving their first calls.

PERSONAL REFLECTION ON FAITH

(Agenda IV.D.)

At the invitation of the chair, Ms. Kayla S. Koterwski shared a personal faith reflection.

Ms. Koterwski presented thoughts on faith in the context of a sometimes violent world.

CHURCH COUNCIL JOYS AND CONCERNS

(Agenda IV.E.)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on Ms. Pamela E. Pritt, who asked specific people how the Church Council may pray for them.

PROCESS OBSERVATIONS

(Agenda IV.F.)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña asked the Rev. Loren D. Mellum and Ms. Leslie J. Swenson to provide observations on processes of the meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Vice President Carlos E. Peña asked Secretary Wm Chris Boerger to make any announcements.

Secretary Boerger provided details of the schedule for the evening and the next day. He identified items of new business for consideration.

HYMN AND CLOSING PRAYER

(Agenda IV.G.)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña invited Mr. John W. Lohrmann to close the session with prayer. Mr. Clarence M. Smith assisted him in leading the Church Council in singing a hymn.

RECESS

The November 2015 meeting of the Church Council recessed at 5:48 p.m. for Saturday, Nov. 14, 2015.

**Sunday, November 15, 2015
Plenary Session V**

Church Council members gathered at 9:00 a.m. in the Chapel of the Lutheran Center for a service of Holy Communion. The Rev. James H. Utt presided, the Rev. Joyce M. Graue preached, and Ms. Ingrid S. Stafford served as assisting minister. Mr. Oliver W. Thul was lector. An offering of \$2,271 was received for Lutheran Disaster Response.

CALL TO ORDER

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called the fifth plenary session to order at 9:45 a.m. in the Council Room of the Lutheran Center.

UPDATE FROM THE MISSION ADVANCEMENT AND CONGREGATIONAL AND SYNODICAL MISSION UNITS
(Agenda IV.C.; *Reference*: Report of the Executive for Administration *and* Progress Report on April 2015 Church Council Actions)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña invited Ms. Christina Jackson-Skelton, executive director of the Mission Advancement unit, to provide an update on the work of the unit.

Ms. Jackson-Skelton described progress made in a strategic initiative for a new flagship periodical. She explained that the number of subscriptions to The Lutheran magazine was about 10 percent of what it was in 1988, and a comprehensive audit of this church's communication efforts was conducted. The primary outcome was to initiate development of a new free website called "Living Lutheran," separate from the ELCA website, that would use the policies of The Lutheran magazine to accept paid advertising. The site will coordinate this church's story-telling endeavors with content updated daily. The Lutheran magazine will remain in print as long as that is economically feasible; its editor, Mr. Daniel J. Lehmann, plans to retire in February 2016.

Ms. Jackson-Skelton and Mr. Lehmann responded to questions from Church Council members about comparisons with publications of other church bodies, the effect of using the word "Lutheran" in the name of a website intended to reach readers beyond this church, the advertising policy of The Lutheran magazine and the periodical's other funding sources, the editorial integrity of the magazine and website under a new structure, the shrinking reach of the magazine into the congregations of this church and the potential reach of the website.

Ms. Jackson-Skelton was accompanied by the Rev. Stephen P. Bouman, executive director of the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit, in presenting a strategy on mission support to the council.

Pastor Bouman called the initiative a comprehensive strategy to engage members, congregations and synods in growing in stewardship and mission support.

Ms. Jackson-Skelton and Pastor Bouman described five draft strategic initiatives:

- Establish mission support tables in every synod.
- Develop enhanced tools for stewardship and mission support interpretation.
- Coordinate and differentiate roles for the Congregational and Synodical Mission and Mission Advancement units, including an inter-unit committee for mission support planning.
- Grow the mission interpreters and synod communicators networks.
- Increase staff learning and planning time around stewardship and mission support.

Participants discussed the strategy's relation to the report of the presiding bishop's think tank on mission support and existing stewardship initiatives, mission support consultations involving all three expressions of this church, mission support tables in synods, and whether this is a new strategy or a reworking of the traditional business model.

Treasurer Linda O. Norman pointed out that the strategy addressed many of the actions the Church Council took regarding mission support at its April 2015 meeting.

Pastor Bouman provided an example of equipping ELCA leaders to be mission interpreters for this church.

UPDATE FROM THE GLOBAL MISSION UNIT

(Agenda V.A.)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on the Rev. Rafael Malpica Padilla, executive director of the Global Mission unit, to present a unit update.

Pastor Malpica was accompanied by Mr. David C. Wunsch, director for operations, the Rev. Benyam A. Kassahun, program director for Southern Africa, and Ms. Dina Tannous, events and logistics manager. They presented an update on this church's work to assist migrants and displaced people around the world, especially in Europe and the Middle East (including Syrian refugees), across the U.S.-Mexican border and in South Sudan. They also responded to questions about coordinating this church's efforts with the churches in Syria and China.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

(Agenda V.B.; *Reference:* Report of the Treasurer)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña asked Treasurer Linda O. Norman to present her report.

Treasurer Norman provided financial highlights of the churchwide organization for the first eight months of the fiscal year that began Feb. 1, 2015. She said current fund revenue was ahead of budget by 3 percent, and spending was at 92 percent of authorization. Mission support was on budget and was projected to meet the \$47.25 million goal for the year. *Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA* had raised 32 percent of the total \$198 million campaign goal. Income for ELCA World Hunger was ahead of budget by 17 percent for the year. The cash management portfolio balance was within the acceptable range. Endowment funds and investment returns were generally positive.

There being no questions or comments, Vice President Peña thanked the treasurer for her report.

REPORT OF THE BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

(Agenda V.C.)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on the Rev. Vicki T. Garber, chair of the Budget and Finance Committee, who presented the committee's report.

REVISIONS TO 2015 SYNOD MISSION SUPPORT PLANS

(Agenda V.C.1.)

Background:

ELCA constitutional provision 10.71. states:

Each synod shall remit to the churchwide organization a percentage of all donor-unrestricted receipts contributed to it by the congregations of the synod, such percentage to be determined by the Churchwide Assembly. Individual exceptions may be made by the Church Council upon request of a synod.

Church Council action:

The Rev. Vicki T. Garber made the following motion on behalf of the Budget and Finance Committee.

Moved;

Seconded:

To acknowledge with appreciation the action of the following synod 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.

There being no discussion, Vice President Carlos E. Peña invited the Rev. Robert G. Moore to lead the Church Council in prayer.

The chair called for the vote.

VOTED:

CC15.11.42 To acknowledge with appreciation the action of the following synod 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.

Vice President Peña declared the motion was adopted.

REVISIONS TO 2016 SYNOD MISSION SUPPORT PLANS

(Agenda V.C.2.)

The Rev. Vicki T. Garber noted that the churchwide organization had received mission support plans from the 28 synods that had not reported in time for action by the Church Council at its April 2015 meeting. Six synods were increasing their mission support, seven were decreasing and 15 were maintaining their previous levels.

Pr. Garber made the following motion on behalf of the Budget and Finance Committee.

Moved;

Seconded:

As a grateful church that affirms the partnership of congregation, synod and churchwide expressions, we acknowledge with gratitude the actions of the following synods and 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, Saint Paul Area, Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast, Upper Susquehanna, Virginia and West Virginia-Western Maryland synods;

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 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.

There being no discussion, Vice President Carlos E. Peña called for the vote.

VOTED:

CC15.11.43

As a grateful church that affirms the partnership of congregation, synod and churchwide expressions, we acknowledge with gratitude the actions of the following synods and 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, Saint Paul Area, Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast, Upper Susquehanna, Virginia and West Virginia-Western Maryland synods;

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 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.

Vice President Peña declared the motion was adopted.

2016 INCOME ESTIMATES AND SPENDING AUTHORIZATIONS

(Agenda V.C.3.)

Background:

The Office of the Treasurer brought a spending authorization proposal to the Church Council and its Budget and Finance Committee for fiscal 2016 that included a 4 percent reduction in spending and a \$1 million increase in the ELCA World Hunger budget. Mission support for the year was projected to be \$45 million. An income goal of \$21 million was set for ELCA World Hunger as an emphasis of *Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA*. Most other current fund income categories were expected to be similar to those in the 2016 budget adopted by the 2013 Churchwide Assembly. The proposal included direct reductions in unit or office spending, accompanying a 2 percent increase in salaries for the year.

Church Council action:

The Rev. Vicki T. Garber provided details on the spending of the churchwide organization and on the goals of ELCA World Hunger.

Treasurer Linda O. Norman spoke about the pilot program on synod mission support, reorganizing within the churchwide organization, and their impacts on how spending was reported.

Pastor Garber made the following motion on behalf of the Budget and Finance Committee.

Moved;

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

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

The Rev. M. Wyvetta Bullock, executive for administration, responded to a question about the management of any surplus funds available at the end of the fiscal year.

There being no further discussion, Vice President Carlos E. Peña called for the vote.

VOTED:

**CC15.11.44 To approve a revised 2016 fiscal year current fund spending authorization of \$66,514,340; and
To approve a revised 2016 fiscal year ELCA World Hunger spending authorization of \$21,000,000.**

Vice President Peña declared the motion was adopted.

RESOLUTIONS REGARDING AUTHORITY TO ACT IN FINANCIAL MATTERS

(Agenda V.C.4.; *Reference:* Authority to Act on Financial Matters)

The Rev. Vicki T. Garber called on Treasurer Linda O. Norman, who explained each of four resolutions, updating and consolidating all earlier actions of the Church Council to authorize officers and certain of their assistants to conduct business with financial institutions, engage in commercial transactions and act as trustees on behalf of the ELCA.

Treasurer Norman and Mr. Phillip H. Harris, general counsel, responded to questions about differences in operations as a result of adopting these resolutions, the frequency that assistants sign for officers, the authority of the resolutions and the bonding of signers.

Pastor Garber made the following motion on behalf of the Budget and Finance Committee.

Moved;

Seconded: *To adopt the following resolutions regarding authority to act in financial matters:*

AUTHORIZATION TO CONDUCT BUSINESS WITH FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

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 of 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

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 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

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

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.

There being no further discussion, Vice President Carlos E. Peña invited the Rev. Linda Nou to lead the council in prayer.

The chair called for the vote.

VOTED:

CC15.11.45

To adopt the following resolutions regarding authority to act in financial matters:

AUTHORIZATION TO CONDUCT BUSINESS WITH FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

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 of 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

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 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

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

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.

Vice President Peña declared the motion was adopted.

Pastor Garber asked members of the Church Council to discuss, in small groups, their personal commitments to grow this church's mission support efforts and to provide feedback to her in writing.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (CONT.)

(Agenda V.D.)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña drew the attention of the Church Council to agenda items provided by the Executive Committee.

THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL (CONT.)

(Agenda I.E.1.; *Reference:* COB Recommendations re TEAC, Letter from Leads of ELCA Seminaries re TEAC, Motion Regarding TEAC, Report and Recommendations from TEAC *and* Seminary Responses to TEAC)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña had earlier identified several members of the Church Council, working with available members of the Theological Education Advisory Council, to draft a statement regarding the advisory council's report and recommendations.

Secretary Wm Chris Boerger read the group's proposed action.

Ms. Maren Hulden made the following motion.

Moved;

Seconded:

To receive the Theological Education Advisory Council (TEAC) report and express our appreciation for the work of the Theological Education Advisory Council;

To recognize and embrace this Spirit-led convergence of new possibilities for theological education for this church;

To affirm the innovation and collaboration already underway by the seminaries which recognize the changing climate of theological education;

To make available the TEAC report to synods, congregations, agencies, institutions and ecumenical partners;

To create a comment period inviting all the expressions of this church to provide feedback and engage in ongoing conversation about the future of the theological education enterprise in the life of this church;

To appoint a working group of Church Council members, TEAC members and appropriate churchwide staff to receive feedback from around this church, to craft possible specific implementing strategies that operationalize the recommendations in the TEAC report, and to make a report to the Church Council prior to the April 2016 meeting; and

To direct the Church Council's Budget and Finance Committee to give preliminary thought to funding implications of the recommendations contained in the TEAC report.

Council members discussed the feasibility of receiving a report prior to the Church Council's meeting in April 2016, the response of the Conference of Bishops, matters the Church Council or Churchwide Assembly may consider, the authority of the Executive Committee to appoint the working group, differences between the working group identified in this action and the working group identified in the advisory council's recommendations, budgetary considerations in advance of the 2016 Churchwide Assembly, methods of collecting feedback and any budget implications of this motion.

There being no further comments or questions, Vice President Peña invited Ms. Ingrid S. Stafford to lead the council in prayer.

The chair called for the vote.

VOTED:

CC15.11.46

To receive the Theological Education Advisory Council (TEAC) report and express our appreciation for the work of the Theological Education Advisory Council;

To recognize and embrace this Spirit-led convergence of new possibilities for theological education for this church;

To affirm the innovation and collaboration already underway by the seminaries which recognize the changing climate of theological education;

To make available the TEAC report to synods, congregations, agencies, institutions and ecumenical partners;

To create a comment period inviting all the expressions of this church to provide feedback and engage in ongoing conversation about the future of the theological education enterprise in the life of this church;

To appoint a working group of Church Council members, TEAC members and appropriate churchwide staff to receive feedback from around this church, to craft possible specific implementing strategies that operationalize the recommendations in the TEAC report, and to make a report to the Church Council prior to the April 2016 meeting; and

To direct the Church Council's Budget and Finance Committee to give preliminary thought to funding implications of the recommendations contained in the TEAC report.

Vice President Peña declared that the motion had been adopted.

FUTURE DIRECTIONS AND PRIORITIES OF THE ELCA

(Agenda V.D.1.; *Reference*: Future Directions and Priorities of the ELCA)

Background:

In response to the mission funding think tank's final report, the Church Council took a series of actions at its April 2015 meeting, including [CC15.04.10]:

To affirm the intention of Presiding Bishop [Elizabeth A.] Eaton to convene a team to generate recommendations 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; ...

At the Executive Committee's meetings in August and September 2015, Presiding Bishop Eaton noted that she had enlisted the help of Ms. Lyla Rogan to fashion that priority-setting process. The presiding bishop gave a synopsis of what the process will deliver.

- A directional statement on the identity of this church and high level priorities that provide a sharpened and common focus for leadership of this church, including a focus on the 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
- A common strategic framework for other levels of planning, including operational planning by the churchwide organization and by synods

"Future Directions and Priorities of the ELCA" proposed a range of processes and mechanisms to achieve engagement and generate conversations, and a "Future Directions Table" was recommended to have a role in generating and drawing together thinking as the processes move forward. The processes would dovetail with the observance of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation and provide opportunity for all church leaders to communicate a shared vision for the future of this church.

Church Council action:

Vice President Carlos E. Peña noted that "Future Directions and Priorities of the ELCA" had been presenting as part of the report of the presiding bishop and discussed during the report of the executive for administration.

Secretary Wm Chris Boerger made the following motion on behalf of the Executive Committee.

Moved;

Seconded:

To affirm Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. 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 the Conference of Bishops and Church Council beginning in spring 2016.

There being no further discussion, Vice President Peña invited Mr. Paul G. Archer to lead the Church Council in prayer.

The chair called for the vote.

VOTED:

CC15.11.47

To affirm Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. 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 the Conference of Bishops and Church Council beginning in spring 2016.

Vice President Peña declared the motion was adopted.

DECLARATION ON THE WAY: CHURCH, MINISTRY AND EUCHARIST

(Agenda V.D.2.; *Reference:* Declaration on the Way)

Background:

At its April 2015 meeting, the Church Council affirmed [CC15.04.22] the work of an ecumenical team drafting a document titled "Declaration on the Way: Church, Ministry and Eucharist." The document compiles 32 Statements of Agreement drawn from the international and regional dialogues of the past 50 years. The dialogues also identified 15 topics of varying degrees of doctrinal difference still remaining to be resolved.

During fall 2015, the Conference of Bishops voted to affirm Declaration on the Way, as did the Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. The document is to be shared with The Lutheran World Federation and the Vatican's Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity for their consideration and possible next steps, especially in observance of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation in 2017.

Church Council action:

Vice President Carlos E. Peña presented the background information regarding "Declaration on the Way: Church, Ministry and Eucharist."

Secretary Wm Chris Boerger made the following motion on behalf of the Executive Committee.

Moved;

Seconded:

To receive with gratitude "Declaration on the Way: Church, Ministry and Eucharist" 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.

Church Council members discussed the implications of adopting this motion for this church and its congregations.

Ms. Kathryn M. Lohre, assistant to the presiding bishop for ecumenical and inter-religious relations, and Ms. Kathryn L. Johnson, director for ecumenical and inter-religious relations, responded to questions regarding the document. There being no further discussion, Vice President Peña invited Mr. Hans E. Becklin to lead the council in prayer. The chair called for the vote.

VOTED:

CC15.11.48 **To receive with gratitude “Declaration on the Way: Church, Ministry and Eucharist” 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.**

Vice President Peña declared the motion was adopted.
Secretary Boerger made the following motion on behalf of the Executive Committee.

Moved;

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

To express profound gratitude for “Declaration on the Way: Church, Ministry and Eucharist” 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.

There being no further discussion, the chair called for the vote.

VOTED:

CC15.11.49 *To recommend the following for adoption by the 2016 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:*

To express profound gratitude for “Declaration on the Way: Church, Ministry and Eucharist” 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.

Vice President Peña declared the motion was adopted.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Vice President Carlos E. Peña asked for announcements.

Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton noted that the Rev. James Utt had written a history of the Virginia Synod that was available.

HYMN AND PRAYER

(Agenda V.E.)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña asked Mr. Gary D. Gabrielson to lead the Church Council in prayer.

Mr. Gabrielson asked specific people how the council may pray for them.

Mr. Clarence M. Smith and Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton assisted him in leading the Church Council in prayer and in singing a hymn.

RECESS

The November 2015 meeting of the Church Council recessed for lunch at 12:32 p.m.

Sunday, November 15, 2015
Plenary Session VI

CALL TO ORDER

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called the sixth plenary session to order at 1:15 p.m. in the Council Room of the Lutheran Center.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (CONT.)

(Agenda V.D.)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña drew the attention of the Church Council to the remaining agenda item provided by the Executive Committee.

TRUSTEES OF THE ENDOWMENT FUND OF THE ELCA

(Agenda V.D.3.)

Background:

ELCA constitutional provision 14.15. states:

The Church Council shall fulfill responsibilities for elections as provided in the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* and, in the event that a vacancy on the council or on a board or committee of the churchwide organization is declared by the secretary, the Church Council shall elect a member to serve the balance of the term.

ELCA bylaw 14.41.11.a. directs the Executive Committee to “perform those functions of the Church Council assigned to it by the Church Council.”

Vacancies on the board of trustees of the Endowment Fund of the ELCA will occur between the November 2015 and April 2016 meetings of the Church Council. Nominees will be identified after the November 2015 meeting for service on the board prior to the April 2016 meeting. Action to fill the vacancies will be required during the interim. At its April 2016 meeting, the Church Council will elect trustees to a term ending in 2021.

Church Council action:

Vice President Carlos E. Peña presented the background information regarding the election of trustees of the Endowment Fund.

Secretary Wm Chris Boerger made the following motion.

Moved;

Seconded: 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.

There being no discussion, Vice President Peña called for the vote.

VOTED:

CC15.11.50 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.

The chair declared that the motion had been adopted.

UPDATE FROM AUGSBURG FORTRESS, PUBLISHERS

(Agenda VI.A.; *Reference*: Augsburg Fortress Digest of Board Actions *and* Augsburg Fortress, Publishers Summary)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on Ms. Beth A. Lewis, president, Augsburg Fortress, Publishers, for an update.

Ms. Lewis identified resources available to the Church Council from the publishing house and provided her contact information for any questions. She described the business and ministry of the publishing house, its branding and its plans to develop a new brand for the ministry that includes Augsburg Fortress, Fortress Press and sparkhouse.

EN BLOC APPROVAL OF CERTAIN ITEMS

(Agenda VI.F.; *Reference*: *En Bloc* Items, Responses to Synodical Resolutions *and* Responses to Churchwide Assembly Actions)

Background:

An *en bloc* resolution or consent calendar was presented to the Church Council of routine or noncontroversial actions prepared by the council's committees (*En Bloc* Items). Responses to Synodical Resolutions and Responses to Churchwide Assembly Actions were consent calendars of recommendations from staff of the churchwide organization regarding specific synodical resolutions and Churchwide Assembly actions. Opportunity was provided to members of the Church Council to remove items from *en bloc* for separate consideration by the council. A single vote on those items remaining *en bloc* is taken without debate or amendment.

ELCA constitutional provision 22.31. states:

Continuing resolutions not in conflict with the constitution or bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America may be adopted or amended by a majority vote of the Churchwide Assembly or by a two-thirds vote of the Church Council. Such continuing resolutions become effective immediately upon adoption. Matters related to the administrative functions of the churchwide organization shall be set forth in the continuing resolutions.

In a Sept. 1, 2015, memorandum regarding proposed amendments to the *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*, Secretary Wm Chris Boerger provided the rationale for proposing that the Church Council adopt a new continuing resolution 19.31.B15. at its November 2015 meeting.

This continuing resolution will allow for pre-identification of potential nominees for vice president. It comes as a result of discussions that began at the 2013 Churchwide Assembly and reflects surveys of the Church Council and the Conference of Bishops. Voting members of the 2016 Churchwide Assembly will be contacted by the Office of the Secretary in January to identify up to three people who might be considered for the office of vice president. Those identified will be contacted by the Office of the Secretary and asked to complete a biographical information form. Those forms received by May 1, 2016, will be distributed to the voting members at least 60 days before the assembly meets. Completing the form does not prohibit an individual from withdrawing after the first ballot. Other persons may be identified on the first ballot; these people will be asked to fill out the same biographical form prior to the third ballot.

Church Council action:

Vice President Carlos E. Peña asked Secretary Wm Chris Boerger whether any items had been removed from the *en bloc* resolutions for separate consideration.

Secretary Boerger identified three matters that had been removed from the consent calendar:

- Response to the 2013 Churchwide Assembly action: Israel and Palestine
- Recommendation to the 2016 Churchwide Assembly regarding continuing resolution 5.01.A87.
- Amendment of continuing resolutions related to 16.12.C11.

Secretary Boerger made the following motion.

Moved;

Two-Thirds Vote Required

Seconded:

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.

19.31.B15. *In a year when the vice president shall be elected, the voting members of the Churchwide Assembly shall be invited to identify the names of up to three persons who might be considered for election as vice president. Names shall be submitted to the Office of the Secretary at least four months prior to the assembly. The Office of the Secretary shall contact those persons identified and request biographical information. At least 60 days prior to the Churchwide Assembly, the biographical information received from those persons open to consideration shall be distributed to the voting members.*

19.61.B1115. ***Nominations Desk and Nominations Form***

- a. *Nominations from the floor at the Churchwide Assembly shall be made at the Nominations Desk, which shall be maintained under the supervision of the secretary of this church.*
- b. *A nomination from the floor shall be made by using the form provided by the secretary of this church. Nomination forms may be obtained from the Nominations Desk at times prescribed in the assembly's Rules of Organization and Procedure. ~~This form is also included in each voting member's registration materials.~~*

...

There being no discussion, the chair called for the vote by show of hands.

VOTED:

TWO-THIRDS VOTE

CC15.11.51

To adopt *en bloc* the following amendments to continuing resolutions in the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*.

19.31.B15. *In a year when the vice president shall be elected, the voting members of the Churchwide Assembly shall be invited to identify the names of up to three persons who might be considered for election as vice president. Names shall be submitted to the Office of the Secretary at least four months prior to the assembly. The Office of the Secretary shall contact those persons identified and request biographical information. At least 60 days prior to the Churchwide Assembly, the biographical information received from those persons open to consideration shall be distributed to the voting members.*

19.61.B1115. ***Nominations Desk and Nominations Form***

- a. *Nominations from the floor at the Churchwide Assembly shall be made at the Nominations Desk, which shall be maintained under the supervision of the secretary of this church.*

- b. *A nomination from the floor shall be made by using the form provided by the secretary of this church. Nomination forms may be obtained from the Nominations Desk at times prescribed in the assembly's Rules of Organization and Procedure. This form is also included in each voting member's registration materials.*

...

Vice President Peña declared the motion was adopted.
Secretary Boerger made the following motion.

Moved;

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

There being no discussion, the chair called for the vote.

VOTED:

CC15.11.52 To take action *en bloc* on the following items listed in *En Bloc* Items, Responses to Synodical Resolutions and Responses to Churchwide Assembly Actions.

Vice President Peña declared the motion was adopted.

A. Audit Committee membership

Background:

ELCA continuing resolution 14.41.E15. states:

An Audit Committee—composed of five to seven members appointed by the Budget and Finance Committee and approved by the Church Council for two-year, renewable terms—shall assist the Budget and Finance Committee and the Church Council in fulfilling oversight of the churchwide organization's accounting and financial reporting, internal control systems, and audit functions, consistent with its responsibilities as specified in the charter recommended by the Audit Committee, reviewed by the Budget and Finance Committee, and approved by the Church Council. A minimum of two members of the Audit Committee shall be members of the Budget and Finance Committee. The chair of the Audit Committee shall be a member of the Budget and Finance Committee and shall be appointed by the chair of the Budget and Finance Committee. In consultation with the executive for administration, the Audit Committee approves the appointment and dismissal of the director for internal auditing.

VOTED:

CC15.11.52a *EN BLOC*
To re-elect Ms. Marjorie B. Ellis to the ELCA Audit Committee for a two-year term ending August 2017; and
To elect Ms. Meri Jo Petrivelli, Mr. Clarence M. Smith and Ms. Ingrid S. Stafford to the ELCA Audit Committee to two-year renewable terms ending November 2017.

B. Audit Committee report

(Reference: Report of the Audit Committee)

VOTED:

EN BLOC

CC15.11.52b To approve the report of the ELCA Audit Committee describing its review of the audited financial statements, management letter and response of management for the churchwide organization's fiscal year ended January 31, 2015, and the Endowment Fund Pooled Trust's year ending December 31, 2014.

C. Cash and investments

(Reference: Core Investment Policies and Cash and Investments)

VOTED:

EN BLOC

CC15.11.52c To approve the revised ELCA Core Investment Policy.

D. Charitable Trust and Pooled Income Fund Investment Policy

(Reference: Charitable Trust Investment Policies)

VOTED:

EN BLOC

CC15.11.52d To approve the revised Charitable Trust and Pooled Income Fund Investment Policy Statement.

E. Charitable Gift Annuity Philosophy and Policy

(Reference: CGA Required Reading Documents)

VOTED:

EN BLOC

CC15.11.52e To approve the revised ELCA Charitable Gift Annuity Philosophy and Policy Statement.

F. Investment Guidelines for the Charitable Gift Annuity Required Reserve

(Reference: CGA Required Reserve Guidelines)

VOTED:

EN BLOC

CC15.11.52f To approve retirement of the Investment Guidelines for the Charitable Gift Annuity Required Reserve upon successful completion of the transfer of assets.

G. Appointment of the Memorials Committee

Background:

The *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* states:

12.51. The Churchwide Assembly shall have a Reference and Counsel Committee, a Memorials Committee, and a Nominating Committee. The description of these committees shall be in the bylaws. The Churchwide Assembly may authorize such other committees as it deems necessary.

12.51.20. Memorials Committee

12.51.21. A Memorials Committee, appointed by the Church Council, shall review memorials from synodical assemblies and make appropriate recommendations for assembly action.

VOTED:

EN BLOC

CC15.11.52g To appoint the members of the Memorials Committee for the 2016 Churchwide

Assembly:

1. Pr. Stephen R. Herr (8D) – *co-chair*
2. Ms. Marjorie B. Ellis (6F) – *co-chair*
3. Mr. Hans E. Becklin (5K)
4. Mr. Allan J. Bieber (3I)
5. Bp. Tracie L. Bartholomew (7A)
6. Bp. Ray Tiemann (4E)
7. Pr. Miguel F. Gomez-Acosta (2D)
8. Pr. Amanda J. K. Simons (3H)
9. Pr. Meggan H. Manlove (1D)
10. Ms. Patricia Cash (2A)
11. Ms. Anita T. Nuetzman (5F)
12. Ms. Anna Czarnik-Neimeyer (5I)
13. Ms. Diana G. Haywood (9B)
14. Mr. Rod Schofield (1B)
15. Mr. Bill Mintz (4F); and

To authorize the Executive Committee of the Church Council to appoint additional members to the Memorials Committee for the 2016 Churchwide Assembly as needed.

H. Appointment of the Reference and Counsel Committee

Background:

The *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* states:

12.51. The Churchwide Assembly shall have a Reference and Counsel Committee, a Memorials Committee, and a Nominating Committee. The description of these committees shall be in the bylaws. The Churchwide Assembly may authorize such other committees as it deems necessary.

12.51.10. Reference and Counsel Committee

12.51.11. A Reference and Counsel Committee, appointed by the Church Council, shall review all proposed changes or additions to the constitution and bylaws and other items submitted that are not germane to items contained in the stated agenda of the assembly.

VOTED:

EN BLOC

CC15.11.52h To appoint the members of the Reference and Counsel Committee for the 2016 Churchwide Assembly:

1. Mr. Paul G. Archer (6A) – *co-chair*
2. Pr. Vicki T. Garber (6C) – *co-chair*
3. Ms. Maren Hulden (3G)
4. Mr. John W. Lohrmann (1D)
5. Bp. Suzanne D. Dillahunt (6F)
6. Bp. Jon V. Anderson (3F)
7. Pr. Alexis J. D. LaChapelle (5A)
8. Pr. Tracey L. Breashears Schultz (4F)
9. Pr. Raymond D. Ranker (8G)

10. Mr. Imran Siddiqui (9D)
11. Mr. Randall S. Foster (2B)
12. Ms. Pamela Killinger (5B)
13. Ms. Patsy A. Glista (7D)
14. Ms. Ella Peterson (7A)
15. Ms. Blythe Scott (9A); and

To authorize the Executive Committee of the Church Council to appoint additional members to the Reference and Counsel Committee for the 2016 Churchwide Assembly as needed.

I. Consideration of extension request for assessing the need for and feasibility of initiating social message processes

Background:

Three actions call on staff of the Office of the Presiding Bishop to bring to the Church Council assessments and possible recommendations regarding the need for and feasibility of developing social messages on the following topics:

- 1) Regenerative medicine
[CA11.04.17]: 8. To direct the Theological Discernment team of the Office of the Presiding Bishop to assess the feasibility of developing a social message on regenerative medicine, including, but not limited to, a range of stem cell technologies; and to bring to the ELCA Church Council in November 2013 a report and possible recommendations, in accordance with *Policies and Procedures of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for Addressing Social Concerns* (Chicago: ELCA, 1997, revised 2011).
- 2) U.S. national drug policy
[CA13.05.19]: 9. To direct the ELCA's Theological Discernment Team in the fall of 2015 to bring to the Church Council an assessment of the feasibility of developing a social message on U.S. national drug policy, in accordance with "Policies and Procedures of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for Addressing Social Concerns" (Chicago: ELCA, 1997, revised 2006, 2011).
- 3) Aging
[CC14.11.32]: To thank the Virginia Synod for its resolution on aging;
To receive the response from the Office of the Presiding Bishop;
To ask that the term "social statement" be avoided in the work of the synodical committee drafting a synod document on aging for the sake of clarity regarding the technical meaning "social statement" as used in "Policies and Procedures of the ELCA for Addressing Social Concerns;"
To acknowledge both the continuing limited staff capacity as well as the continuing presence of important social questions around aging;
To invite an assessment and possible recommendation from the Theological Discernment Team staff in the Office of the Presiding Bishop regarding the feasibility of developing a social message on aging that includes attention to the 1978 LCA statement, "Aging and the Older Adult"; and
To request that the secretary of this church inform the synod of this action.

Each assessment was to be completed by fall 2015 with a report and recommendation. They were not completed due to the realities of staff capacity in light of other pressing commitments on behalf of Church Council authorized tasks (e.g., social message on gender-based violence and a report on ministry to and with same-gender couples and their families).

To conduct the required research and consultations to conclude work on these assessments, an extension until fall 2016 was requested to determine the need for and feasibility of initiating social message processes on the three topics.

VOTED: *EN BLOC*
CC15.11.52i

To acknowledge the extenuating circumstances that led to the limited staff capacities to provide a thorough assessment on social message processes; and

To grant an extension until the November 2016 meeting of the Church Council a report and recommendations from the Theological Discernment Team staff in the Office of the Presiding Bishop regarding the feasibility of developing social message processes for the following three topics: regenerative medicine, including, but not limited to, a range of stem cell technologies; U.S. national drug policy; and aging.

J. Corporate Social Responsibility screen and issue papers

(Reference: CSR Screen and Issue Papers)

Background:

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America has a long history of working for justice through corporate social responsibility. ELCA bylaw 14.21.14. states:

The Church Council may direct the churchwide organization to exercise the corporate social responsibility of this church by filing shareholder resolutions, casting proxy ballots, and taking other actions as it deems appropriate.

In November 2003, the council put in place a process for writing and approving issue papers that address concerns within society that may require action by the Corporate Social Responsibility program. Issue papers interpret the social teaching of this church as they relate to investments.

In addition, this church is assisted in its decision-making through the development of social criteria investment screens that guide this church in evaluating the types of investments it wishes to hold. The original policy concerning these screens was developed in 1989 and revised in 2006.

The Program and Services Committee of the Church Council reviewed and recommended approval of one revised social criteria investment screen and three revised issue papers.

VOTED: *EN BLOC*
CC15.11.52j

To approve the amendments to the following corporate social responsibility issue paper and economic social criteria investment screens, and to request that the original issue papers be archived for historical and research purposes:

- **Community Economic Development Social Criteria Investment Screen**
- **Climate Change Issue Paper**
- **Domestic Access to Capital Issue Paper**
- **Caring for Creation Issue Paper**

K. Corporate Social Responsibility succession plan

(Reference: CSR Succession Plan)

Background:

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America has a long history of working for justice through corporate social responsibility. ELCA bylaw **14.21.14**. states:

The Church Council may direct the churchwide organization to exercise the corporate social responsibility of this church by filing shareholder resolutions, casting proxy ballots, and taking other actions as it deems appropriate.

Ms. Patricia Zerega carries out the ELCA's corporate social responsibilities through a half-time contract arrangement with the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit.

The council asked for succession planning and consideration of the future of corporate social responsibility work beyond Ms. Zerega's tenure. The Congregational and Synodical Mission unit report on staffing recommendations moves the half-time contract position to a half-time churchwide staff position over the next several years.

VOTED: *EN BLOC*
CC15.11.52k To affirm the succession plan proposed by the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit for the Corporate Social Responsibility position.

L. Candidacy Manual

(Reference: Candidacy Manual)

Background:

At its March 2012 meeting, the Conference of Bishops asked the Rev. Gregory J. Villalón, director for leadership for mission/candidacy, to review the ELCA's candidacy process outlined in the Candidacy Manual. More than two years of consultations with bishops, candidacy committees and many others produced a revised manual and candidacy process. The Conference of Bishops reviewed the proposed process at its October 2015 meeting and voted [CB15.10.25] "to endorse the revised Candidacy Process Manual."

VOTED: *EN BLOC*
**CC15.11.52l To adopt the revised Candidacy Manual; and
To authorize the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit, in consultation with the Office of the Secretary, to make any necessary corrections for clarity and accuracy.**

M-O. Church Council nominations and elections

(Reference: Biographies)

Background:

The *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* states:

20.64. The Committee on Appeals shall be comprised of six ordained ministers and six laypersons, elected by the Churchwide Assembly for a term of six years, without consecutive re-election.

To transition from a biennial to triennial election of members to the Committee on Appeals, the 2013 Churchwide Assembly adopted the following continuing resolution.

20.64.A13. *In the event that the term of any member of the Committee on Appeals expires before that member's successor is elected, the Church Council may elect an individual in the same category—ordained minister or layperson—to serve on the Committee until the next Churchwide Assembly. A member elected by the Church Council who serves less than one-half of a term shall be eligible for election to a full term by the Churchwide Assembly.*

The Church Council also has responsibilities of governance relating to ELCA seminaries and social ministry organizations.

VOTED: *EN BLOC*
CC15.11.52m To elect the following individuals to the Committee on Appeals to serve until the 2016 Churchwide Assembly: the Rev. Cheryl Meinschein Hausman, the Rev. E. Roy Riley, Ms. Louise A. Hemstead and Mr. Kevin D. Anderson.

VOTED: *EN BLOC*
CC15.11.52n To elect to the advisory council of Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary to a term from June 1, 2016, to May 31, 2019: the Rev. Richard J. Goeres, Ms. Miriam L. David, Ms. Carolyn S. Donges and the Rev. Kathryn A. Tiede;
To elect to the board of directors of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg to a four-year term expiring December 19, 2019: Ms. Nancy Dering Mock;
To elect to the board of trustees of Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia to a three-year term expiring October 31, 2018: the Rev. John C. Richter; and
To elect to the board of directors of Luther Seminary to a four-year term expiring June 30, 2020: Mr. John A. Blanchard and Ms. Beth Lewis.

VOTED: *EN BLOC*
CC15.11.52o To approve the designation of the following members of the board of directors of The Evangelical Lutheran Good Samaritan Society as representatives to the ELCA: Mr. David J. Horazdovsky [president], the Rev. John F. Holt [term ending in June 2016], Dr. Gwen Wagstrom Halaas [term ending in June 2016] and Mr. H. Theodore Grindal [term ending in June 2018].

P. Synod constitution amendments

Background:

Provision **10.12.** of the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* stipulates: "Each synod shall have a constitution, which shall become effective upon ratification by the Church Council. Amendments thereto shall be subject to like ratification"

VOTED: *EN BLOC*
CC15.11.52p To ratify the following amendments to the Montana, Minneapolis Area, Arkansas-Oklahoma, La Crosse Area, Southern Ohio (as amended), Metropolitan New York, Lower Susquehanna and North Carolina synod constitutions.

Montana Synod (1F) [2015]

S9.03. The NOMINATING COMMITTEE shall consist of ~~twelve~~ six members who shall be ~~appointed~~ elected by the Synod Council Assembly and serve for three-year staggered terms to serve for each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly. In making appointments to the Nominating Committee the Synod Council shall give consideration to geographical, clergy/lay, male/female and persons of color and/or persons whose primary language is other than English representation. In making nominations to the Nominating Committee, representational principles of geography, gender, lay/clergy, and age will be considered.

~~S9.11.~~ The Synod Council shall elect or appoint representatives to the council of Region I.

Minneapolis Area Synod (3G) [2015]

S9.03. There shall be a Nominating Committee consisting of ~~11~~ 10-15 members who shall be elected by each of the conferences to serve for each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly. Additional nominations may be made from the floor for all elections for which nominations are made by the Nominating Committee.

S9.04.e. During the balloting process, and according to a schedule outlined in the bylaws, printed information about ~~nominees~~ candidates shall be made available to voting members and opportunity to address the Synod Assembly shall be offered to ~~nominees~~ candidates for the office of bishop.

~~S9.11.~~ The Synod Council shall elect or appoint representatives to the steering committee of its region.

†S10.01. The Synod Council, consisting of ...

- b. The term of office of members of the Synod Council, with the exception of the officers and the youth member, shall be three ~~two~~ years.

~~S11.05.~~ The Committee on Ecumenism shall consist of six persons appointed by the Synod Council for a term of three years, renewable one time. Three shall be ordained ministers and three shall be laypersons. The functions of the Committee on Ecumenism shall be to advise the bishop on ways to strengthen ecumenical relationships within the territory of the synod, to assist congregations in the development of ecumenical relationships, and to maintain a relationship with the ecumenical agencies within the territory of the synod.

Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod (4C) [2015]

~~S9.07.~~ If the treasurer is elected, the Synod Council shall nominate at least one person for treasurer; additional nominations may be made from the floor.

S10.03. The functions of the Synod Council shall be to:

- a. Provide spiritual leadership for the Synod.
- b. Establish the vision, priorities, and goals of the Synod.
- c. Oversee the Synod Mission Teams, Tables, and Committees.
- d. Develop the Annual Mission Budget and oversight of the financial life of the Synod.
- e. Carry out the administrative functions and responsibilities assigned to it by the constitutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- fa. Exercise trusteeship responsibilities on behalf of this synod.
- b. ~~Recommend program goals and budgets to the regular meetings of the Synod Assembly.~~
- ge. Carry out the resolutions of the Synod Assembly.
- d. ~~Supervise the ministry of all committees, task forces, and other program units of the Synod.~~
- he. Provide for an annual review of the roster of ordained ministers and of other official rosters, receive and act upon appropriate recommendations regarding those persons whose status is subject to reconsideration and action under the constitution and bylaws

- of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and make a report to the Synod Assembly of the Synod Council's actions in this regard.
- if. Issue letters of call to ordained ministers and letters of call to associates in ministry, deaconesses, and diaconal ministers as authorized by Chapter 7 of the constitution and bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
 - ig. Fill vacancies until the next regular meeting of the Synod Assembly, except as may otherwise be provided in the constitution or bylaws of this synod, and determine the fact of the incapacity of an officer of this synod.
 - ih. Report its actions to the regular meeting of the Synod Assembly ~~and provide regular reports of its actions to congregations and pastors.~~
 - ii. Perform such other functions as are set forth in the bylaws of this synod, or as may be delegated to it by the Synod Assembly.

S11.06. Mission Endowment Fund Committee.

S11.40. Standing Committees, Teams, Tables, and Task Forces.

~~S11.41.~~ This synod shall have standing committees and task forces which will have responsibility for an identified portion of the program of this synod:

~~S11.50.~~ Evangelism ministry committees and other program units:

~~S11.60.~~ Leadership ministry committees and other program units:

~~S11.70.~~ Outreach ministry committees and other program units:

~~S11.80.~~ Stewardship ministry committees and other program units:

~~S11.90.~~ Youth ministry committees and other program units:

La Crosse Area Synod (5L) [2015]

S8.52. The term of the bishop shall begin on the first day of the ~~fourth~~ third month following the election. The terms of the vice-president, secretary and treasurer and the Synod Council members shall begin at the conclusion of the Synod Assembly at which they are elected.

Southern Ohio Synod (6F) [2015]

~~†S1.21.~~ The seal of this synod is ~~a cross with three united flames emanating from the base of the cross and three entwined circles beside the cross. The name of this synod and the year of its constituting convention shall form the circular outer edge of the seal~~ the emblem of the ELCA.

S7.13. Notice of the time and place of all meetings of the Synod Assembly shall be given by the ~~secretary of this Synod~~ Synod Council or by its appointed representative at least 30 days in advance of the meeting.

S7.26. This synod may establish processes through the Synod Council that permit representatives of authorized worshipping communities of the synod, under ELCA bylaw 10.02.03., to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly, consistent with †S7.21. Such authorized worshipping communities, acknowledged under criteria and procedures of the ~~ELCA Division for Outreach and the Church Council of the~~ Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, shall accept and adhere to the Confession of Faith and Statement of Purpose of this church, shall be served by leadership under the criteria of this church, and shall be subject to the discipline of this church.

S10.06. If a ~~member of the Synod Council~~ member who is an ordained minister ceases to be ~~a member in good standing~~ on a roster of this synod, ~~if an ordained minister,~~ or a Synod Council member who is a lay person ceases to be a voting member of a congregation of this synod, ~~if a layperson,~~ the office filled by such member immediately shall at once become be deemed vacant.

Metropolitan New York Synod (7C) [2015]

S9.03. There shall be a Nominating Committee consisting of no less than three nor more than nine members who shall be appointed by the Synod Council to serve for each regular meeting of ~~the Synod Assembly.~~ Additional nominations may be made from the floor for all elections for which nominations are made by the ~~Nominating Committee on Nominations and Elections.~~

S9.05. The ~~Nominating Committee on Nominations and Elections~~ shall nominate at least two persons for vice-president; additional nominations may be made from the floor.

Lower Susquehanna Synod (8D) [2015]

S7.24. Lay members of the Synod Assembly representing congregations shall continue as such until replaced by the election of new members or until they have been disqualified by termination of membership. Normally, congregations will hold elections prior to each regular meeting of the assembly.
Congregations shall elect voting members to the regular Synod Assembly prior to the conference assemblies preparing for the regular Synod Assembly.

S7.26. This synod may establish processes through the Synod Council that permit persons from mission settings formed with the intent of becoming recognized congregations under development and authorized worshipping communities of the synod, which have been authorized under ELCA bylaw 10.02.03., to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly, consistent with †S7.21.

S7.35. Immediately after the Order for the Opening of the Assembly, the Executive Committee of Synod Council shall certify to the ~~bishop in his/her capacity as~~ chairperson of the Synod Assembly the total number of persons who are eligible to vote at that assembly in accordance with the Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of this synod.

North Carolina Synod (9B) [2015]

~~**S7.24.** All ordained ministers on the roster of this synod shall remain as members of the Synod Assembly so long as their names appear on the roster of ordained ministers of this synod. Associates in ministry, deaconesses of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and diaconal ministers of this church serving under call on the roster of this synod shall remain as members of the Synod Assembly so long as they remain under call and so long as their names appear on the official lay roster of this synod. Lay members of the Synod Assembly representing congregations shall continue as such until replaced by the election of new members or until they have been disqualified by termination of membership. Normally, congregations will hold elections prior to each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.~~

- S8.42.** The treasurer shall ~~provide and~~ be accountable for:
- ...
- d. Maintenance of a ~~regular account with record~~ for each congregation of this synod and informing the congregation, at least quarterly, of the status of this ~~account record~~.
- ...
- f. Obtaining a fidelity ~~bond coverage~~ in the amount ~~determined~~ approved by the Synod Council for persons handling synod funds, which ~~bond coverage~~ shall be in the custody of the secretary. The premium for the ~~bond coverage~~ shall be paid by this synod. Fidelity coverage provided by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America shall be deemed a fulfillment of this requirement.
- S9.03.** There shall be a Nominating Committee consisting of ~~three lay persons and two pastors from each conference cluster~~ twelve members who shall be appointed by the Synod Council to serve for each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly. Additional nominations may be made from the floor for all elections for which nominations are made by the Nominating Committee.
- S9.07.** If the treasurer is to be elected by the Synod Assembly, the Synod Council shall nominate at least one person for treasurer; additional nominations may be made from the floor.
- S10.03.** The functions of the Synod Council shall be to:
- ...
- d. ~~Provide for an annual review of the roster of ordained ministers and of other official rosters, receive~~ Receive and act upon appropriate recommendations regarding ~~those~~ persons on the official rosters whose status is subject to reconsideration and action under the constitution and bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and make a report to the Synod Assembly of the Synod Council's actions in this regard.
- S13.21.** The alignment of congregations in ~~pastoral charges~~ a parish of multiple congregations, and ~~all any~~ alterations in ~~any the~~ alignment, shall be subject to approval ~~by the Synod Assembly or~~ by the Synod Council.
- S15.14.** Except when such procedure would jeopardize current operations, a reserve amounting to no more than ~~16 percent of the sum of the amounts~~ six months of operating expenses scheduled in the next year's budget for regular distribution to synodical causes shall be carried forward annually for disbursement in the following year in the interest of making possible a more even flow of income to such causes. The exact number of dollars to be held in reserve shall be determined by the Synod Council.

Q. NLCM Restated Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws

(Reference: Campus Ministry Report, Proposed Amendments to NLCM, Inc. Articles of Inc and Proposed Amendments to NLCM, Inc. Bylaws)

Background:

The changes to the National Lutheran Campus Ministry, Inc. (NLCM) Restated Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws were approved by the NLCM, Inc. board on October 6, 2015. The changes were considered primarily editorial, bringing the documents up to date with the restructuring in the churchwide organization.

VOTED:

EN BLOC

CC15.11.52q To approve the amended restated articles of incorporation and bylaws of National Lutheran Campus Ministry, Inc. as amended by the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee (deleting the word “program” from “program unit” each time it appears in the bylaws).

R. Proposed amendments to the *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* related to the Word and Service roster

Background:

Related to the report and recommendations of the Word and Service Task Force, the Office of the Secretary prepared constitutional amendments necessary to unify the three existing lay rosters into one Word and Service roster. Secretary Wm Chris Boerger also prepared a memorandum offering rationale for the amendments. It was indicated that, should the 2016 Churchwide Assembly decide not to endorse the report and recommendations of the task force, the following recommendation would be removed from the assembly’s agenda.

The Office of the Secretary presented several constitutional amendments not related to the Word and Service Task Force report and recommendations. The Church Council took action to recommend that the 2016 Churchwide Assembly adopt those amendments in addition to the following action. A two-thirds vote of the 2016 Churchwide Assembly is required for adoption.

VOTED:

EN BLOC

CC15.11.52r To recommend the following for adoption by the 2016 Churchwide Assembly of the *Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*:

To authorize the secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to strike the words “ordained minister/s” and replace with the words “minister/s of Word and Sacrament” in the *Constitutions, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*;

To authorize the secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to strike the word “clergy” and replace with the words “minister/s of Word and Sacrament” in the *Constitutions, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*;

To authorize the secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to strike the words “pastor/s” and replace with the words “minister/s of Word and Sacrament” where appropriate in the *Constitutions, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*, for the purpose of clarity and consistency;

To authorize the secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to strike the words “associate in ministry, diaconal minister and deaconess” and replace with the words “minister/s of Word and Service” in the *Constitutions, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*;

To authorize the secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to make editorial corrections that identify the rosters of this church and implement the creation of the ministers of Word and Service roster in the *Constitutions, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*; and

To adopt, *en bloc*, with the exception of such amendments as may be considered separately, the following amendments to the *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*.

7.20. ~~ORDAINED~~ MINISTRY OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

7.22. ~~An ordained minister of Word and Sacrament~~ of this church shall be a person whose commitment to Christ, soundness in the faith, aptness to preach, teach, and witness, and educational qualifications have been examined and approved in the manner prescribed in the documents of this church; who has been properly called and ordained; who accepts and adheres to the Confession of Faith of this church; who is diligent and faithful in the exercise of the ministry; and whose life and conduct are above reproach. ~~An ordained minister of Word and Sacrament~~ shall comply with this church's constitutions, bylaws, and continuing resolutions.

7.23. The standards for acceptance and continuance of ~~pastors in the ordained ministry ministers of Word and Sacrament~~ of this church shall be set forth in the bylaws.

7.24. The secretary of this church shall maintain a roster containing the names of ~~ordained ministers of Word and Sacrament~~ who qualify on the basis of constitutional provisions 7.22., 7.23., ~~7.30.~~, and 7.31., and related bylaws.

7.30. STANDARDS FOR ~~ORDAINED~~ MINISTERS OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

7.31. In accordance with the description of ~~an ordained minister~~ stated in 7.22., ~~pastors as ordained ministers of Word and Sacrament~~ shall be governed by the following standards, policies, and procedures.

~~7.31.10.~~ Basic Standards

~~7.31.101.~~ ~~Basic Standards.~~ Persons admitted to and continued in the ~~ordained ministry of Word and Sacrament~~ of this church shall satisfactorily meet and maintain the following, as defined by this church's constitutions, bylaws, and continuing resolutions and in policies developed by the appropriate churchwide unit, reviewed by the Conference of Bishops, and adopted by the Church Council:

...

~~7.31.102.~~ ~~Responsibilities.~~ Consistent with the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America,

a. Every ~~ordained minister of Word and Sacrament~~ shall:

...

6) ~~impart knowledge of this church and its wider ministry through distribution of its communications and publications;~~

7) witness to the Kingdom of God in the community, in the nation, and abroad; and

8) speak publicly to the world in solidarity with the poor and oppressed, calling for justice and proclaiming God's love for the world.

b. Each ~~ordained minister pastor~~ with a congregational call shall, within the congregation:

1) offer instruction, confirm, marry, visit the sick and distressed, and bury the dead;

2) ~~supervise relate to~~ all schools and organizations of the congregation;

3) ~~impart knowledge of this church and its wider ministry through distribution of its periodicals and other publications;~~

- 4) endeavor to increase the support given by the congregation to the work of the churchwide organization and synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America;
- 5) install regularly elected members of the Congregation Council; and
- 6) with the council, administer discipline; and
- 5) endeavor to increase the support given by the congregation to the work of the ELCA churchwide organization and its synod.
- 7.31.103. Preparation and Approval.** Except as provided below in 7.31.04, a candidate for ordination as a pastor the ministry of Word and Sacrament shall have:
- ...
- f. been examined and approved by the appropriate committee according to criteria, policies, and procedures recommended by the appropriate churchwide unit, after consultation with the Conference of Bishops, and adoption adopted by the Church Council;
- ...
- 7.31.104. Admission Approval under Other Circumstances.** Candidates for ordination as pastors or for reception the ministry of Word and Sacrament who by reason of (a) age and prior experience, (b) ordination in another Lutheran church body, or (c) ordination in another Christian church body, whether in North America or abroad, shall be approved by the candidacy committee for ordination or reception according to criteria, policies, and procedures recommended by the appropriate churchwide unit, reviewed by the Conference of Bishops, and adopted by the Church Council. In preparing such criteria, policies, and procedures, the appropriate churchwide unit shall consult with the seminaries of this church and, as appropriate, with other churchwide units.
- 7.31.105. Reinstatement.** A person seeking reinstatement to the ordained ministry as a pastor as a minister of Word and Sacrament, whether having served previously in this church or in one of its predecessor bodies, shall be registered by the pastor and council of the congregation of which such a person is a member with the candidacy committee of the synod in which the person was last rostered or, upon mutual agreement of the synodical bishops involved, after consultation with and approval by the secretary of this church, with the candidacy committee of the synod of current residence. The person then shall be interviewed, examined, and approved by the candidacy committee under criteria, policies, and procedures recommended by the appropriate churchwide unit, reviewed by the Conference of Bishops, and adopted by the Church Council. In this process, the committee shall review the circumstances related to the termination of earlier service together with subsequent developments. The person is reinstated after receiving and accepting a letter of call to serve as a pastor minister of Word and Sacrament in this church.
- 7.31.106. On Leave from Call.** An ordained minister of Word and Sacrament of this church, serving under a regularly issued letter of call, who leaves the work of that ministry without accepting another regularly issued letter of call, may be retained on the roster of ordained ministers of Word and Sacrament of this church, upon endorsement by the synodical bishop, by action of the Synod Council in the synod of which the ordained minister of Word and Sacrament is a member, under policy developed by the appropriate churchwide unit, reviewed by the Conference of Bishops, and adopted by the Church Council.
- a. Normative Pattern: By annual action of the Synod Council in the synod of which a member, upon endorsement by the synodical bishop, an ordained minister of Word and Sacrament who is without a current letter of call may be retained on the roster

- of ordained ministers of Word and Sacrament of this church for a maximum of three years, beginning at the completion of an active call.
- b. Study Leave: By annual action of the Synod Council in the synod of which a member, with the approval of the synodical bishop and in consultation with the appropriate churchwide unit, an ordained minister of Word and Sacrament engaged in graduate study, in a field of study that will enhance service in the ordained ministry of Word and Sacrament, may be retained on the roster of ordained ministers of Word and Sacrament of this church for a maximum of six years.
 - c. Family Leave: An ordained minister of Word and Sacrament who has been in active service under call for at least three years may request leave for family responsibilities. By annual action of the Synod Council in the synod of which a member, upon endorsement by the synodical bishop, such an ordained minister of Word and Sacrament who is without a current letter of call and who requests leave for the birth or care of a child or children of the ordained minister of Word and Sacrament or the care of an immediate family member (child, spouse, or parent) with a serious health condition may be retained on the roster of ordained ministers of Word and Sacrament of this church—under policy developed by the appropriate churchwide unit, reviewed by the Conference of Bishops, and adopted by the Church Council—for a maximum of six years beginning at the completion of an active call.

...

7.31.107. Ordination in Unusual Circumstances. For pastoral reasons in unusual circumstances, a synodical bishop may provide for the ordination by another pastor minister of Word and Sacrament of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America of an approved candidate who has received and accepted a properly issued, duly attested letter of call for the office of ordained ministry minister of Word and Sacrament. Prior to authorization of such an ordination, the bishop of the synod of the candidate's first call shall consult with the presiding bishop as this church's chief ecumenical officer and shall seek the advice of the Synod Council. The pastoral decision of the synodical bishop shall be in accordance with policy developed by the appropriate churchwide unit, reviewed by the Conference of Bishops, and adopted by the Church Council.

7.31.20. Invitation to Service

7.31.2108. Invitation to Service. In accord with bylaw 8.762.11. and following, an ordained minister of Word and Sacrament of a church body with which a relationship of full communion has been established by the Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America may serve contractually in a ministry setting of this church under a "Letter of Invitation to Service" upon the authorization of the bishop of the synod in which such service occurs.

7.31.09. Licensure and Synodically Authorized Ministry. When need exists to render Word and Sacrament ministry for a congregation or ministry of this church where it is not possible to provide appropriate pastoral leadership, the synod bishop—acting with the consent of the congregation or ministry, in consultation with the Synod Council, and in accord with standards and qualifications developed by the appropriate churchwide unit, reviewed by the Conference of Bishops, and approved by the Church Council—may authorize a person who is a member of a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to offer this ministry. Such an individual shall be supervised by a minister of Word and Sacrament appointed by the synod bishop; such service shall be rendered during its duration under the sacramental authority of the bishop as the synod's pastor. Such an individual will be trained and licensed to fulfill this ministry for a

- specified period of time and in a given location only. Authorization, remuneration, direct supervision, and accountability are to be determined by the appropriate synodical leadership according to churchwide standards and qualifications for this type of ministry. Authorization for such service shall be reviewed annually and renewed only when a demonstrated need remains for its continuation.
- 7.40. CALLS FOR ~~ORDAINED~~ **MINISTERS OF WORD AND SACRAMENT**
- 7.41. Letters of Call. Letters of call to **ordained ministers of Word and Sacrament** of this church or properly approved candidates for this church's roster of **ordained ministers of Word and Sacrament** shall be issued in keeping with this church's constitutions, bylaws, and continuing resolutions as well as policies regarding such calls developed by the appropriate churchwide unit, reviewed by the Conference of Bishops, and approved by the Church Council.
- ~~7.41.10.~~ **General Categories**
- ~~7.41.101.~~ **Service under Call.** An **ordained minister of Word and Sacrament** of this church shall serve under a letter of call properly extended by a congregation, a ~~synodical~~ **Synod Council** or, a **Synod Assembly**, the Church Council, or the Churchwide Assembly.
- a. Calls may be extended for stated periods of time and for shared-time ministry by the appropriate calling body under criteria recommended by the appropriate churchwide unit, reviewed by the Conference of Bishops, and adopted by the Church Council for service in a congregation, synod, or churchwide unit, in an institution or agency of this church, or in another setting in a category of work as provided by continuing resolution 7.44.A16.
- b. A pastor serving under call to a congregation shall be a member of that congregation. In a parish of multiple congregations, a pastor shall be a member of one of the congregations being served.
- c. **Ordained m**~~in~~**Ministers of Word and Sacrament** serving ~~as interim pastors in interim ministry~~ appointed by the synodical bishop may serve under a letter of call, according to policies developed by the appropriate churchwide unit, reviewed by the Conference of Bishops, and approved by the Church Council. A call to interim ministry shall be a term call extended by the Synod Council upon recommendation of the synodical bishop.
- ~~7.41.102.~~ **Initial Call to Congregational Service.** Because the responsibilities of the office of the **ordained ministry of Word and Sacrament** are most clearly focused in the congregational pastorate, experience in which is deemed by this church to be invaluable for all other **ordained service ministry of Word and Sacrament**, initial service of at least three years shall be in the parish ministry in a congregation of this church or, with the approval of the synodical bishop, a congregation of a church body with which a relationship of full communion exists. Exceptions to the three-year requirement may be granted under criteria and procedures recommended by the appropriate churchwide unit, reviewed by the Conference of Bishops, and adopted by the Church Council.
- ~~7.41.103.~~ **Calls to Non-Congregational Service.** Calls to serve in institutions, agencies, and other entities inside and outside this church may be extended where there is an identifiable relationship of the work to the purpose of the **ordained ministry of Word and Sacrament**. Such calls involve, for example, the care of the Word, the administration of the sacraments, pastoral care, and activities closely associated with those tasks including oversight in the church and in inter-Lutheran and inter-church agencies and institutions. Care is to be exercised so that positions in the church and in the world that can be filled adequately and appropriately by the laity not be filled by **ordained ministers of Word and Sacrament** for their convenience or status. Synodical councils and the Church Council may seek the advice of the Conference of Bishops in specific situations.

- 7.41.104. Non-Stipendiary Service Under Call.** When it is deemed necessary for the mission needs of this church, a letter of call may be issued by the Synod Council—according to criteria, policies, and procedures recommended by the appropriate churchwide unit, reviewed by the Conference of Bishops, and adopted by the Church Council—to ~~an~~ **ordained minister of Word and Sacrament** for non-stipendiary service after the Synod Council has sought and received approval by the Conference of Bishops. Care is to be exercised so that positions in the church and in the world that can be filled adequately and appropriately by the laity not be filled by ~~ordained ministers of Word and Sacrament~~ for their convenience, status, or personal preference. A call to non-stipendiary service is to be reviewed at least annually by the Synod Council and continued only as warranted for the ministry needs of this church. Such a call may be terminated by the Synod Council when it is deemed to be fulfilling no longer the mission needs of this church.
- 7.41.105. Calls to Serve in Unusual Circumstances.** When it is deemed to be in the interests of this church in the care of the Gospel, ~~ordained ministers of Word and Sacrament~~ may be called for a stated period of time, not to exceed three years, to minister on behalf of this church while employed in an occupation outside the traditional range of the ~~ordained ministry of Word and Sacrament~~. Such calls may be extended by a Synod Council or the Church Council upon recommendation by the Conference of Bishops according to criteria and procedures recommended by the appropriate churchwide unit, reviewed by the Conference of Bishops, and adopted by the Church Council. Such calls shall be reviewed annually.
- 7.41.106. Calls in Predecessor Church Bodies.** Accountability for specific calls to service extended in predecessor church bodies shall be exercised according to the policies and procedures of this church.
- 7.41.107. Retirement.** ~~Ordained m~~**Ministers of Word and Sacrament** may retire upon attainment of age 60, or after 30 years on the roster of ~~ordained ministers of Word and Sacrament~~ of this church or one of its predecessor bodies, and continue to be listed on the roster of ~~ordained ministers of Word and Sacrament~~ of this church, upon endorsement by the synodical bishop, by action of the Synod Council in the synod in which the ~~ordained minister of Word and Sacrament~~ is listed on the roster.
- a. The policies and procedures for granting retired status on the roster of ~~ordained ministers of Word and Sacrament~~ shall be developed by the appropriate churchwide unit, reviewed by the Conference of Bishops, and adopted by the Church Council.
 - b. If ~~an ordained minister of Word and Sacrament~~ who has been granted retired status resides at too great a distance from any congregation of this church to be able to sustain an active relationship with that congregation, ~~or if there are no ELCA congregations in the vicinity, other than a congregation previously served,~~ the bishop of the synod in which the ~~ordained minister of Word and Sacrament~~ is listed on the roster may grant permission for the ~~ordained minister of Word and Sacrament~~ to hold membership in a congregation ~~or parish~~ of a church body with which a relationship of full communion has been declared and established by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- 7.41.108. Disability.** ~~Ordained m~~**Ministers of Word and Sacrament** may be designated as disabled and continue to be listed on the roster of ~~ordained ministers of Word and Sacrament~~ of this church, upon endorsement by the synodical bishop, by action of the Synod Council in the synod in which the ~~ordained minister of Word and Sacrament~~ is listed on the roster.

- a. The policies and procedures for designation of disability on the roster of **ordained ministers of Word and Sacrament** shall be developed by the appropriate churchwide unit, reviewed by the Conference of Bishops, and adopted by the Church Council.
- b. If **an ordained minister of Word and Sacrament** who has been granted disabled status resides at too great a distance from any congregation of this church to be able to sustain an active relationship with that congregation, **or if there are no ELCA congregations in the vicinity, other than a congregation previously served**, the bishop of the synod in which the **ordained minister of Word and Sacrament** is listed on the roster may grant permission for the **ordained minister of Word and Sacrament** to hold membership in a congregation **or parish** of a church body with which a relationship of full communion has been declared and established by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

7.41.109. Retention of Roster Records. When **an ordained minister of Word and Sacrament** resigns or is removed from **that the** roster of this church, the roster record shall be retained by the secretary of this church, and the synodical bishop shall invite the person at the time of resignation or removal to provide, annually, appropriate current information for the roster record.

7.42. Each pastor person on the roster of ordained ministers of Word and Sacrament of this church shall be related to that synod:

- a. to which the congregation issuing the call to the **ordained minister of Word and Sacrament** is related;
- b. which issues a letter of call to the **ordained minister of Word and Sacrament**;
- c. on whose roster the **ordained minister of Word and Sacrament** was listed at the time of the issuance of a letter of call from the Church Council;
- d. on whose roster the **ordained minister of Word and Sacrament**, if a seminary teacher or administrator, was assigned by the seminary board, subject to approval by the synodical bishop and Synod Council of each affected synod, to promote proportionate representation of faculty and administration in each synod of its region;
- e. on whose roster the **ordained minister of Word and Sacrament** was listed at the time of the issuance of a call to federal chaplaincy or on the roster of the synod of current address, if approved by the synodical bishop and received by the Synod Council;
- f. in which the **ordained minister of Word and Sacrament**, upon receiving a call from this church, serves as a deployed staff person or on the roster of one of the synods to which the **ordained minister of Word and Sacrament** is deployed;
- g. on whose roster the **ordained minister of Word and Sacrament** was listed when placed on leave from call;
- h. on whose roster the **ordained minister of Word and Sacrament**, if designated as disabled, was listed when last called or the synod of current address, upon application by the **ordained minister of Word and Sacrament** for transfer and the mutual agreement of the synodical bishops involved after consultation with and approval by the secretary of this church; or
- I. on whose roster the **ordained minister of Word and Sacrament**, if granted retired status, was listed when last called or the synod of current address, upon application by the **ordained minister of Word and Sacrament** for transfer and the mutual agreement of the synodical bishops involved after consultation with and approval by the secretary of this church.

7.42.01. If the service of **an ordained minister of Word and Sacrament** who receives and accepts a letter of call from this church, under 7.42.c., would be enhanced through transfer of

- roster status from the previous synod of roster to the synod of current address, such a transfer may be authorized upon mutual agreement of the synodical bishops involved after consultation with and approval by the secretary of this church.
- 7.42.02. In unusual circumstances, the transfer of **an ordained minister of Word and Sacrament** who is on leave from call may be authorized upon mutual agreement of the synodical bishops involved after consultation with and approval by the secretary of this church.
- 7.42.03. In certain circumstances for the sake of the ministry and mission needs of this church, the transfer of **an ordained minister of Word and Sacrament** serving under call in the churchwide organization may be authorized, at the initiative of the presiding bishop of this church, upon mutual agreement of the synodical bishops involved in such a transfer after consultation with and approval by the secretary of this church.
- 7.43. **A letter of call issued by a Synod Council or the Church Council to an ordained minister of Word and Sacrament of this church shall be either co-terminus with, or not longer than, the duration of the service or employment for which the call was issued. With the exception of persons designated as employees of a synod or the churchwide organization, such a call does not imply any employment relationship or contractual obligation in regard to employment on the part of the Synod Council or Church Council issuing the call. The recipient of such a call remains subject to this church's standards and discipline for ordained ministry of Word and Sacrament, as contained in this church's constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions and in the policy and procedure documents of this church.**
- 7.43.01. When the Synod Council or the Church Council, as the calling source, determines that the service or employment no longer fulfills the criteria under which a call was issued, the Synod Council or the Church Council shall vacate the call and direct that the individual be placed on leave from call or, if such leave status is not granted, the individual shall be removed from the roster of **ordained ministers of Word and Sacrament**.
- 7.43.02. **Ordained ministers of Word and Sacrament** previously under call to the churchwide organization or to a synod shall respect the integrity of the ministry in which they no longer serve and shall not interfere with or exercise the functions of the office or position in which they no longer serve unless invited to do so by the presiding bishop or Church Council in the churchwide organization or, in the synods, by the bishop or the Synod Council.
- 7.44. **Each synod shall maintain a roster containing the names of those ordained ministers of Word and Sacrament who are related to it on the basis of 7.42. of this constitution.**
- 7.44.A136. Sources of Calls for Ordained Ministers of Word and Sacrament**
- a. *Principles for Sources of Calls*
- 1) *A "call" is an action by expressions of this church, as specified in the "Table of Sources of Calls for Ordained Ministers of Word and Sacrament," through which a person is asked to serve in a specified ministry. Such an action is attested in a "letter of call."*
 - 2) *Interdependence within the body of this church suggests that any action of one of its entities affects other entities. Therefore, interdependence is expressed in all calls extended within this church.*
 - 3) *A call expresses a relationship between this church and the person called involving mutual service, support, accountability, supervision, and discipline.*
 - 4) *A letter of call is issued by that expression of this church authorized to do so which is most directly involved in accountability for the specified ministry.*

- 5) *Decisions on calls for ministries in unusual circumstances not otherwise provided for but deemed to be in the interests of this church's care of the Gospel are referred to the Conference of Bishops for recommendation to the appropriate calling body.*
- b. *Table of Sources of Calls for ~~Ordained~~ Ministers of Word and Sacrament*

<i>Setting</i>	<i>Calling Body</i>
1.0 <i>Congregational ministry</i>	
1.1 <i>Single congregation</i>	<i>Congregation meeting</i>
1.11 <i>Pastor</i>	
1.12 <i>Senior Pastor</i>	
1.13 <i>Associate/assistant pastor</i>	
1.14 <i>Co-pastor</i>	
1.15 <i>Shared-time pastor</i>	
1.2 <i>Multiple-congregation parish</i>	<i>Congregation meetings, acting on a common proposal</i>
1.21 <i>Pastor</i>	<i>One of the participating congregations</i>
1.22 <i>Other pastoral arrangements</i>	<i>One of the participating congregations</i>
1.3 <i>Coalition and cluster ministry</i>	<i>Synod Council</i>
1.4 <i>Congregations beyond ELCA</i>	
1.41 <i>Independent Lutheran congregation</i>	<i>Synod Council</i>
1.42 <i>Overseas independent Lutheran congregation</i>	<i>Church Council upon request of appropriate churchwide unit</i>
1.43 <i>Other</i>	<i>Synod Council or Church Council</i>
1.5 <i>Interim pastor</i>	<i>Synod Council</i>
1.6 <i>Pastor in a congregation under development</i>	<i>Synod Council</i>
2.0 <i>Synodical ministry</i>	
2.1 <i>Bishop</i>	<i>Synod Assembly</i>
2.2 <i>Assistant to bishop</i>	<i>Synod Council</i>
2.3 <i>Shared staff by two or more synods</i>	<i>Synod Council of oOne of the participating synods</i>
2.4 <i>Synod staff partially supported by grants from churchwide units</i>	<i>Synod Council</i>

-
- 3.0 *Regional ministry*
 - 3.1 *Staff* Church Council
 - 3.2 *Shared synodical-churchwide staff* Church Council
 - 4.0 *Churchwide ministry*
 - 4.1 *Presiding bishop and secretary* Churchwide Assembly
 - 4.2 *Treasurer* Church Council
 - 4.3 *Staff of the churchwide organization* Church Council
 - Presiding bishop's staff*
 - ~~4.4 *Office staff* Church Council~~
 - ~~4.5 *Unit executive director* Church Council~~
 - ~~4.6 *Other churchwide unit staff* Church Council~~
 - 5.0 *Chaplaincy and institutional ministry*
 - 5.1 *Institution/agency related or unrelated to a synod* Synod Council
 - 5.2 *Institution/agency related more to than one synod* Synod Council of one of the synods
 - 5.3 *ELCA-related institution/agency* Church Council upon request of appropriate churchwide unit
 - 5.4 *Federal agency/institution* Church Council
 - 5.5 *Military* Church Council
 - 6.0 *Campus ministry*
 - 6.1 *Staff* Synod Council
 - 7.0 *Church camp-Outdoor ministry*
 - 7.1 *Staff* Synod Council
 - 8.0 *Ecumenical ministry*
 - 8.1 *Related to a synod* Synod Council
 - 8.2 *Related to more than one synod* Synod Council of one of the synods
 - 8.3 *National/international organization* Church Council
 - 9.0 *Inter-Lutheran ministry*
 - 9.1 *Related to a synod* Synod Council
 - 9.2 *Related to more than one synod* Synod Council of one of the synods
 - 9.3 *National/International* Church Council
 - 10.0 *Educational ministry*
 - 10.1 *ELCA-related seminary chaplain/faculty/administrator* Church Council upon request of appropriate churchwide unit

10.2	<i>Chaplain/faculty/ administrator of seminary unrelated to ELCA</i>	<i>Church Council upon request of appropriate churchwide unit</i>
10.3	<i>ELCA-related college chaplain/faculty/ administrator</i>	<i>Synod Council of the synod in which college is located</i>
10.4	<i>Chaplain/faculty/ administrator of a college unrelated to ELCA</i>	<i>Synod Council of the synod in which college is located</i>
10.5	<i>ELCA-related school chaplain/faculty/ administrator</i>	<i>Congregation of which the school is a part or, if related to several congregations, Synod Council of the synod in which the school is located</i>
10.6	<i>Chaplain/faculty of a school unrelated to ELCA</i>	<i>Synod Council of the synod in which school is located</i>
10.7	<i>Director/staff of a continuing education center related to a churchwide unit</i>	<i>Synod Council in which the main office of center is located upon the request of appropriate churchwide unit</i>
11.0	<i>Missionary ministry</i>	
11.1	<i>Outside United States</i>	<i>Church Council upon request of appropriate churchwide unit</i>
11.2	<i>Within United States</i>	<i>Church Council upon request of appropriate churchwide unit</i>
12.0	<i>Other</i>	
12.1	<i>Non-stipendiary service under call</i>	<i>Synod Council upon approval by the Conference of Bishops</i>
12.2	<i>Unusual ministries (as in conjunction with occupations and in approved situations not otherwise specified)</i>	<i>Synod Council or Church Council upon recommendation by the Conference of Bishops</i>

7.45. In keeping with the historic discipline and practice of the Lutheran church and to be true to a sacred trust inherent in the nature of the pastoral office, no **ordained minister of Word and Sacrament** of this church shall divulge any confidential disclosure received in the course of the care of souls or otherwise in a professional capacity, nor testify concerning conduct observed by the **ordained minister of Word and Sacrament** while working in a pastoral capacity, except with the express permission of the person who has given confidential information to the **ordained minister of Word and Sacrament** or who was observed by the **ordained minister of Word and Sacrament**, or if the person intends great harm to self or others.

- 7.46. The provisions for termination of the mutual relationship between **an ordained minister of Word and Sacrament** and a congregation shall be as follows:
- a. The call of a congregation, when accepted by a pastor, shall constitute a continuing mutual relationship and commitment which shall be terminated only by death or, following consultation with the synodical bishop for the following reasons:
 - ...
 - 6) resignation or removal of the pastor from the roster of **ordained ministers of Word and Sacrament** of this church;
 - ...
 - b. When allegations of physical disability or mental incapacity of the pastor under paragraph a.4) above, or ineffective conduct of the pastoral office under paragraph a.3) above, have come to the attention of the bishop of this synod,
 - 1) the bishop in his or her sole discretion may investigate such conditions personally together with a committee of two **ordained ministers of Word and Sacrament** and one layperson, or
 - 2) when such allegations have been brought to the synod's attention by an official recital of allegations by the Congregation Council or by a petition signed by at least one-third of the voting members of the congregation, the bishop personally shall investigate such conditions together with a committee of two **ordained ministers of Word and Sacrament** and one layperson.
 - c. In case of alleged physical disability or mental incapacity under paragraph a.4) above, the bishop's committee shall obtain and document competent medical opinion concerning the pastor's condition. When a disability or incapacity is evident to the committee, the bishop of this synod may declare the pastorate vacant and the pastor shall be listed on the **clergy roster of ministers of Word and Sacrament** as disabled. Upon removal of the disability and restoration of the pastor to health, the bishop shall take steps to enable the pastor to resume the ministry, either in the congregation last served or in another appropriate call.
- ...
- 7.47. ~~Ordained m~~**Ministers of Word and Sacrament of this church** shall be subject to discipline as set forth in Chapter 20 of this constitution ~~and bylaws.~~
- 7.47.01. No person who belongs to any organization other than the Church which claims to possess in its teachings and ceremonies that which the Lord has given solely to the Church shall be **ordained called and received onto the roster of ministers of Word and Sacrament** or otherwise received into the ministry of this church, nor shall any person so **ordained called and received onto the roster of ministers of Word and Sacrament** or otherwise received by this church be retained in its ministry who subsequently joins such an organization. ~~Violation of this rule shall make such minister subject to discipline.~~
- 7.50. **OFFICIAL ROSTERS OF LAYPERSONS MINISTRY OF WORD AND SERVICE**
- 7.51. **This church may establish rosters of laypersons on which the names may be listed of those who qualify for such according to the bylaws and continuing resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.**
This church calls and receives onto the roster qualified persons to provide a ministry of Word and Service, exemplifying the life of Christ-like service to all persons and creation: nurturing, healing, leading, advocating dignity and justice,

and equipping the whole people of God for their life of witness and service within and beyond the congregation for the sake of God's mission in the world.

- 7.51.01.** The standards of acceptance and continuance on the lay rosters of this church as defined herein shall be included in the bylaws.
- 7.51.02.** Under constitutional provision 7.51., those persons previously rostered as commissioned church staff (The American Lutheran Church), deaconesses (The Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches), deaconesses (The American Lutheran Church), deacons (The Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches), lay professional leaders (the Lutheran Church in America), and commissioned teachers (The Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches) shall be retained as associates in ministry of this church (except for removals in accord with the governing documents, criteria, policies, and procedures of this church) in the recognized category of ministry of their previous church body for as long as they are in good standing according to the standards, criteria, policies, and procedures of this church. Accountability for specific calls shall be exercised according to the policies and procedures of this church. Such persons may resign from the roster or may elect to be rostered in another ELCA category by meeting the appropriate criteria established by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and by relinquishing their previous roster category.
- 7.51.03.** **Associates in Ministry.** This church shall maintain a lay roster of associates in ministry of those commissioned—according to the standards, criteria, policies, and procedures of this church—for such service within the life of this church in positions of Word and service on behalf of all of God's people. Associates in ministry are to be faithful to Jesus Christ, knowledgeable of the Word of God and the Confessions of this church, respectful of the people of God, and responsive to needs in a changing world as they serve in congregations and other ministry settings. The roster of associates in ministry, in addition to those listed in bylaw 7.51.02., shall be composed of:
- a. those certified during the period of January 1, 1988, through September 1, 1993, as associates in ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; and
 - b. those who are approved, subsequent to September 1, 1993, as associates in ministry in this church according to policies and procedures developed by the appropriate churchwide unit, reviewed by the Conference of Bishops, and adopted by the Church Council;
 - c. Upon receipt and acceptance of a valid, regularly issued letter of call, a newly approved candidate shall be commissioned, according to the proper service orders of this church, as an associate in ministry.
- Accountability for specific calls shall be exercised according to the policies and procedures of this church. Such persons may resign from the roster or may elect to be rostered in another ELCA category by meeting the appropriate criteria established by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and by relinquishing their previous roster category.
- 7.51.04.** **Deaconesses of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.** This church shall maintain a lay roster of the deaconesses of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America of those consecrated—according to the standards, criteria, policies, and procedures of this church—for such service within the life of this church in positions of Word and service on behalf of all of God's people. Deaconesses are to be faithful to Jesus Christ, knowledgeable of the Word of God and the Confessions of this

church, respectful of the people of God, and responsive to needs in a changing world. They are to be theologically trained to serve in congregations and other ministry settings.

a. A newly approved candidate for this roster shall be consecrated, according to the proper service orders of this church, as a deaconess of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

b. As used herein, references to deaconesses of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America mean members of the Deaconess Community of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America listed on this church's official rosters of laypersons as deaconesses of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

c. Unless otherwise specified, all constitutional provisions, bylaws, and continuing resolutions regarding associates in ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, except for the service order of consecration as a deaconess of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, shall apply to those on the lay roster of this church as deaconesses of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

7.51.05. Diaconal Ministers. This church shall establish and maintain a lay roster of diaconal ministers of those consecrated—according to the standards, criteria, policies, and procedures of this church—for service on behalf of this church in positions of Word and service that exemplify the servant life and that seek to equip and motivate others to live it. Diaconal ministers are to be faithful to Jesus Christ, knowledgeable of the Word of God and the Confessions of this church, respectful of the people of God, and responsive to needs in a changing world. Such diaconal ministers shall seek in a great variety of ways to empower, equip, and support all the baptized people of God in the ministry of Jesus Christ and the mission of God in the world.

a. Upon approval as a candidate for the lay roster of diaconal ministers, and upon receipt and acceptance of a valid, regularly issued letter of call, the candidate shall be consecrated, according to the service orders of this church, as a lay diaconal minister.

b. All constitutional provisions, bylaws, and continuing resolutions regarding associates in ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America shall apply to those on the lay roster of diaconal ministers of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

7.52. The standards of acceptance and continuance as associates in ministry, deaconesses, and diaconal ministers of this church shall be included in the bylaws.

A minister of Word and Service of this church shall be a person whose commitment to Christ, soundness in the faith, aptness to serve, teach, and witness, and educational qualifications have been examined and approved in the manner prescribed in the documents of this church; who has been properly called and received onto the roster; who accepts and adheres to the Confession of Faith of this church; who is diligent and faithful in the exercise of ministry; and whose life and conduct are above reproach. A minister of Word and Service shall comply with this church's constitutions, bylaws, and continuing resolutions.

7.52.10. Standards for the Official Rosters of Laypersons

7.52.11. Associates in ministry, deaconesses, and diaconal ministers shall be governed by the following standards, policies, and procedures:

a. **Basic Standards.** Persons approved and continued as associates in ministry, deaconesses, and diaconal ministers of this church shall satisfactorily meet and

maintain the following, as defined by this church in its governing documents and in policies developed by the appropriate churchwide unit, reviewed by the Conference of Bishops, and adopted by the Church Council:

- 1) commitment to Christ;
- 2) acceptance of and adherence to the Confession of Faith of this church;
- 3) willingness and ability to serve in response to the needs of this church;
- 4) academic and practical qualifications for the position, including leadership abilities and competence in interpersonal relationships;
- 5) commitment to lead a life worthy of the Gospel of Christ and in so doing to be an example in faithful service and holy living;
- 6) receipt and acceptance of a letter of call; and
- 7) membership in a congregation of this church.

b. Preparation and Approval of an Associate in Ministry. A candidate for approval and commissioning as an associate in ministry of this church shall have:

- 1) membership in a congregation of this church and registration by its pastor and council of the candidate with the appropriate synodical candidacy committee;
- 2) been granted entrance to candidacy by and under the guidance and supervision of the appropriate synodical candidacy committee for at least a year before being approved for call by the committee;
- 3) completed the academic and practical preparation for the work for which approved according to criteria and procedures established by the appropriate churchwide unit;
- 4) been examined and approved by the appropriate synodical candidacy committee according to criteria, policies, and procedures recommended by the appropriate churchwide unit after consultation with the Conference of Bishops and adoption by the Church Council;
- 5) received and accepted a properly issued and attested letter of call.

c. Preparation and Approval of a Deaconess of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. A candidate for approval and consecration as a deaconess of this church shall have:

- 1) membership in a congregation of this church and registration by its pastor and council of the candidate with the appropriate synodical candidacy committee;
- 2) been granted entrance to candidacy by and under the guidance and supervision of the synodical candidacy committee for at least a year before being approved by the synodical candidacy committee for call;
- 3) completed the academic and practical preparation for the work for which approved according to criteria and procedures established by the appropriate churchwide unit;
- 4) been examined and approved by the synodical candidacy committee according to criteria, policies, and procedures recommended by the appropriate churchwide unit after consultation with the Deaconess Community of the ELCA and the Conference of Bishops and adoption by the Church Council;
- 5) completed the required formation component, as defined by the appropriate churchwide unit, in the preparation program for service as a deaconess of this church;

- 6) been recommended for call by the bishop of the synod to which the candidate has been assigned in accordance with procedures recommended by the appropriate churchwide unit, reviewed by the Conference of Bishops, and adopted by the Church Council;
 - 7) received and accepted a properly issued and attested letter of call.
- d. Preparation and Approval of a Diaconal Minister.** A candidate for approval and consecration as a diaconal minister of this church shall have:
- 1) membership in a congregation of this church and registration by its pastor and council of the candidate with the appropriate synodical candidacy committee;
 - 2) been granted entrance to candidacy by and under the guidance and supervision of the synodical candidacy committee for at least a year before being approved by the synodical candidacy committee for call;
 - 3) demonstrated competence in at least one area of specialization or expertise according to guidelines established by the appropriate churchwide unit;
 - 4) completed a first theological degree from an accredited theological school in North America;
 - 5) completed approved work in Lutheran studies as defined by the appropriate churchwide unit;
 - 6) completed the required formation component in the preparation program for Lutheran diaconal ministry as defined by the appropriate churchwide unit;
 - 7) completed an approved internship or practical preparation as defined by the appropriate churchwide unit;
 - 8) been examined and approved by the appropriate synodical candidacy committee according to criteria, policies, and procedures recommended by the appropriate churchwide unit after consultation with the Conference of Bishops, and adoption by the Church Council;
 - 9) been recommended for call by the bishop of the synod to which the candidate has been assigned in accordance with procedures recommended by the appropriate churchwide unit, reviewed by the Conference of Bishops, and adopted by the Church Council;
 - 10) received and accepted a properly issued and attested letter of call.
- 7.52.12. Approval under Other Circumstances.** A candidate may, for reasons of age or prior experience, be granted approval under criteria and procedures which permit certain equivalencies as defined by the appropriate churchwide unit.
- 7.52.13. Reinstatement.** A person seeking reinstatement as an associate in ministry, whether having previously served in this church or in one of its predecessor bodies, a deaconess of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, or a diaconal minister of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America shall be endorsed by the pastor and council of the congregation of this church of which such a person is a member, and interviewed, examined, and approved for reinstatement by the synodical candidacy committee under criteria and procedures recommended by the appropriate churchwide unit, reviewed by the Conference of Bishops, and adopted by the Church Council. In this process, the committee shall review the circumstances related to the termination of earlier service together with subsequent developments. The person is reinstated after receiving and accepting a letter of call in this church.
- a. Any person removed from a lay roster that existed on December 31, 1987, as cited herein, who seeks to return to active lay roster status must apply for acceptance to a roster of this church under the standards, criteria, policies, and

procedures that apply to the official rosters of laypersons, as identified in 7.51.03.b. This same requirement shall apply to those certified during the period of January 1, 1988, through September 1, 1993, as associates in ministry of this church.

- b. A person on the roster of a previous church body or a person on the roster of associates in ministry of this church, who was so certified during the period between January 1, 1988, and September 1, 1993, shall relinquish such a roster category upon being received and accepted on another roster of this church.

7.52.14. Maintenance of Lay Rosters. Each synod shall maintain a lay roster or rosters containing the names of those related to the synod as members of its congregations who have been approved as associates in ministry, deaconesses of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and diaconal ministers—according to the bylaws and continuing resolutions of this church—for inclusion on such a roster or rosters.

- a. To promote proportionate representation of the rostered faculty and administration in each synod related directly to a seminary of this church, an associate in ministry, a deaconess, or a diaconal minister, if a seminary teacher or administrator, shall be assigned to the roster of a synod by the seminary board, subject to approval by the synodical bishop and Synod Council of the affected synod.

- b. For the sake of the ministry and mission needs of this church, an associate in ministry, a deaconess, or a diaconal minister, serving under call in the churchwide organization, may be assigned to a synod, at the initiative of the presiding bishop of this church, upon mutual agreement of the synodical bishops involved after consultation with and approval by the secretary of this church.

- c. An associate in ministry, a deaconess, or a diaconal minister, if granted retired or disability status on the roster, may be authorized to transfer from the synod where last rostered to the synod of current address, upon application for transfer and the mutual agreement of the synodical bishops involved after consultation with and approval by the secretary of this church.

- d. In unusual circumstances, the transfer of an associate in ministry, a deaconess, or a diaconal minister who is on leave from call may be authorized upon mutual agreement of the synodical bishops involved after consultation with and approval by the secretary of this church.

7.52.15. The secretary of this church shall maintain the lay rosters of associates in ministry, deaconesses of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and diaconal ministers on which shall be listed the names of those who qualify according to the constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions of this church.

7.52.20. Service as Rostered Laypersons

7.52.21. Service under Call. An associate in ministry, deaconess, or diaconal minister of this church shall serve under a letter of call properly extended by a congregation, synod, or the churchwide organization.

- a. A call may be extended either for indefinite or stated periods of time by the appropriate calling body for service in a congregation, synod, or churchwide unit, in an institution or agency of this church, or in another setting in a category of work as provided by continuing resolution 7.52.A13.

- b. Regular, valid calls in this church shall be in accord with criteria, policies, and procedures recommended by the appropriate churchwide unit, reviewed by the Conference of Bishops, and adopted by the Church Council.

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- c. An associate in ministry, deaconess, or diaconal minister serving under call to a congregation shall be a member of that congregation. In a parish of multiple congregations, an associate in ministry, deaconess, or diaconal minister shall be a member of one of the congregations being served.
- 7.52.22. On Leave from Call.** An associate in ministry, deaconess, or diaconal minister of this church, serving under a regularly issued letter of call, who leaves the work of that call without accepting another regularly issued letter of call, may be retained on the roster of associates in ministry, deaconesses, or diaconal ministers of this church, upon endorsement by the synodical bishop, by action of the Synod Council in the synod of which a member, under policy developed by the appropriate churchwide unit, reviewed by the Conference of Bishops, and adopted by the Church Council.
- a. Normative Pattern: By annual action of the Synod Council in the synod of which a member, upon endorsement by the synodical bishop, an associate in ministry, deaconess, or diaconal minister who is without a current letter of call may be retained on the roster of associates in ministry, deaconesses, or diaconal ministers of this church for a maximum of three years, beginning at the completion of an active call.
 - b. Study Leave: By annual action of the Synod Council in the synod of which a member, with the approval of the synodical bishop and in consultation with the appropriate churchwide unit, an associate in ministry, deaconess, or diaconal minister engaged in graduate study appropriate for service in this church may be retained on the roster of associates in ministry, deaconesses, or diaconal ministers of this church for a maximum of six years.
 - c. Family Leave: An associate in ministry, deaconess, or diaconal minister who has been in active service under call for at least three years may request leave for family responsibilities. By annual action of the Synod Council in the synod of which a member, upon endorsement by the synodical bishop, such a rostered layperson who is without a current letter of call and who requests leave for the birth or care of a child or children of the rostered layperson or the care of an immediate family member (child, spouse, or parent) with a serious health condition may be retained on the roster of associates in ministry, deaconesses, or diaconal ministers of this church—under policy developed by the appropriate churchwide unit, reviewed by the Conference of Bishops, and adopted by the Church Council—for a maximum of six years, beginning at the completion of an active call.
 - d. Exception to these limits for the purpose of serving the needs of this church may be granted in accordance with established policy of this church by the Synod Council in the synod of current roster after having received approval by the Conference of Bishops.
- 7.52.23. Issuance and Termination of the Call of an Associate in Ministry, Deaconess, or Diaconal Minister.**
- a. A letter of call to an associate in ministry, deaconess, or diaconal minister of this church shall be issued in keeping with this church's constitutions, bylaws, and continuing resolutions as well as policies regarding such calls developed by the appropriate churchwide unit, reviewed by the Conference of Bishops, and approved by the Church Council. In the case of alleged local difficulties that imperil the effective functioning of the congregation, the synodical bishop, following appropriate consultation, will recommend a course of action to the pastor, lay rostered person, and the congregation. If they agree to carry out such

recommendations, no further action shall be taken by the synod. If any party fails to assent, the congregation may dismiss the associate in ministry, deaconess, or diaconal minister under criteria, policies, and procedures recommended by the appropriate churchwide unit, reviewed by the Conference of Bishops, and adopted by the Church Council.

b. A letter of call issued by a Synod Council or the Church Council to an associate in ministry, deaconess, or diaconal minister of this church shall be either co-terminus with, or not longer than the duration of, the service or employment for which the call was issued. With the exception of persons designated as employees of a synod or the churchwide organization, such a call does not imply any employment relationship or contractual obligation in regard to employment on the part of the Synod Council or Church Council issuing the call. The recipient of such a call remains subject to this church's standards and discipline for associates in ministry, deaconesses, and diaconal ministers, as contained in this church's constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions and in the policy and procedure documents of this church.

c. When the Synod Council or the Church Council, as the calling source, determines that the service or employment no longer fulfills the criteria under which a call was issued, the Synod Council or the Church Council shall vacate the call and direct that the individual be placed on leave from call or, if such leave status is not granted, the individual shall be removed from the roster of associates in ministry, deaconesses, or diaconal ministers.

7.52.24. Retirement. Associates in ministry, deaconesses, and diaconal ministers may retire upon attainment of age 60, or after 30 years on a roster of this church or one of its predecessor bodies, and continue to be listed on the roster of associates in ministry, deaconesses, or diaconal ministers of this church, upon endorsement by the synodical bishop, by action of the Synod Council in the synod in which the associate in ministry, deaconess, or diaconal minister is listed on the roster.

a. The policies and procedures for granting retired status on the official rosters of laypersons shall be developed by the appropriate churchwide unit, reviewed by the Conference of Bishops, and adopted by the Church Council.

b. If an associate in ministry, deaconess, or diaconal minister who has been granted retired status resides at too great a distance from any congregation of this church to be able to sustain an active relationship with that congregation, the bishop of the synod in which the associate in ministry, deaconess, or diaconal minister is listed on the roster may grant permission for the individual to hold membership in a congregation or parish of a church body with which a relationship of full communion has been declared and established by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

7.52.25. Disability. Associates in ministry, deaconesses, and diaconal ministers may be designated as disabled, and continue to be listed on the roster of associates in ministry, deaconesses, or diaconal ministers of this church, upon endorsement by the synodical bishop, by action of the Synod Council in the synod in which the associate in ministry, deaconess, or diaconal minister is listed on the roster.

a. The policies and procedures for designation of disability on the official rosters of laypersons shall be developed by the appropriate churchwide unit, reviewed by the Conference of Bishops, and adopted by the Church Council.

b. If an associate in ministry, deaconess, or diaconal minister who has been granted disabled status resides at too great a distance from any congregation of this

- church to be able to sustain an active relationship with that congregation, the bishop of the synod in which the associate in ministry, deaconess, or diaconal minister is listed on the roster may grant permission for the individual to hold membership in a congregation or parish of a church body with which a relationship of full communion has been declared and established by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- 7.52.26. Retention of Roster Records.** When an associate in ministry, deaconess, or diaconal minister resigns or is removed from the roster of this church, the roster record shall be retained by the secretary of this church, and the synodical bishop shall invite the person at the time of resignation or removal to provide, annually, appropriate current information for the roster record.
- 7.52.27. Non-Stipendiary Service Under Call.** When necessary for the mission needs of this church, a letter of call may be issued by the Synod Council—according to criteria, policies, and procedures recommended by the appropriate churchwide unit, reviewed by the Conference of Bishops, and adopted by the Church Council—to an associate in ministry, deaconess, or diaconal minister for non-stipendiary service after the Synod Council has sought and received approval by the Conference of Bishops. A call to non-stipendiary service is to be reviewed at least annually by the Synod Council and continued only as warranted for the ministry needs of this church. Such a call may be terminated by the Synod Council when it is deemed to be fulfilling no longer the mission needs of this church.
- 7.53. Persons on the lay rosters of this church as defined herein shall be subject to discipline as set forth in the Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.**
- 7.53. The standards for acceptance and continuance of ministers of Word and Service of this church shall be set forth in the bylaws.**
- 7.54. The secretary of this church shall maintain a roster containing the names of ministers of Word and Service who qualify on the basis of constitutional provisions 7.52., 7.53., and 7.61., and related bylaws.**
- 7.54.01. Ministers of Word and Service shall be known as deacons.**
- 7.54.A16. Those persons rostered in predecessor church bodies as commissioned church staff (The American Lutheran Church), deaconesses (The Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches), deaconesses (The American Lutheran Church), deacons (The Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches), lay professional leaders (the Lutheran Church in America), and commissioned teachers (The Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches) shall be retained as deacons of this church (except for removals in accord with the governing documents, criteria, policies, and procedures of this church). Accountability for specific calls shall be exercised according to the policies and procedures of this church.**
- 7.54.B16. Those persons previously rostered as associates in ministry, deaconesses, or diaconal ministers in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America shall be retained as deacons of this church (except for removals in accord with the governing documents, criteria, policies, and procedures of this church). Accountability for specific calls shall be exercised according to the policies and procedures of this church.**
- 7.60. LICENSURE AND SYNODICALLY AUTHORIZED MINISTRY**
- 7.61.01.** When need exists to render Word and Sacrament ministry for a congregation or ministry of this church where it is not possible to provide appropriate ordained pastoral leadership, the synodical bishop—acting with the consent of the congregation or ministry, in consultation with the Synod Council, and in accord with standards and

qualifications developed by the appropriate churchwide unit, reviewed by the Conference of Bishops, and approved by the Church Council—may authorize a person who is a member of a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to offer this ministry. Such an individual shall be supervised by a pastor appointed by the synodical bishop; such service shall be rendered during its duration under the sacramental authority of the bishop as the synod's pastor. Such an individual will be trained and licensed to fulfill this ministry for a specified period of time and in a given location only. Authorization, remuneration, direct supervision, and accountability are to be determined by the appropriate synodical leadership according to churchwide standards and qualifications for this type of ministry. Authorization for such service shall be reviewed annually and renewed only when a demonstrated need remains for its continuation.

7.61.02. When needed to provide for diaconal ministry as part of a congregation or ministry of this church where it is not possible for such ministry to be provided by appropriately rostered lay ministry, the synodical bishop—acting with the consent of the congregation or ministry, in consultation with the Synod Council, and in accord with standards and qualifications developed by the appropriate churchwide unit, reviewed by the Conference of Bishops, and approved by the Church Council—may authorize a non-rostered person who is a member of a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to offer such non-sacramental ministry. Such an individual shall be supervised by an ordained minister appointed by the synodical bishop and shall be trained and authorized to fulfill a particular ministry for a specific period of time in a given location only. Authorization, remuneration, direct supervision, and accountability are to be determined by the appropriate synodical leadership according to churchwide standards and qualifications for this type of ministry. Authorization for such service shall be reviewed annually and renewed only when a demonstrated need remains for its continuation.

7.60. **STANDARDS FOR MINISTERS OF WORD AND SERVICE**

7.61. **In accordance with the description stated in 7.52, ministers of Word and Service shall be governed by the following standards, policies, and procedures:**

7.61.01. **Basic Standards.** Persons admitted to and continued in the ministry of Word and Service of this church shall satisfactorily meet and maintain the following, as defined by this church's constitutions, bylaws, and continuing resolutions and in policies developed by the appropriate churchwide unit, reviewed by the Conference of Bishops, and adopted by the Church Council:

- a. commitment to Christ;
- b. acceptance of and adherence to the Confession of Faith of this church;
- c. willingness and ability to serve in response to the needs of this church;
- d. academic and practical qualifications for ministry, including leadership abilities and competence in interpersonal relationships;
- e. commitment to lead a life worthy of the Gospel of Christ and in so doing to be an example in faithful service and holy living;
- f. receipt and acceptance of a letter of call; and
- g. membership in a congregation of this church.

7.61.02. **Responsibilities.** Consistent with the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, every minister of Word and Service shall:

- a. Be rooted in the Word of God, for proclamation and service;

- b. Advocate a prophetic diakonia that commits itself to risk-taking and innovative service on the frontiers of the Church's outreach, giving particular attention to the suffering places in God's world;
- c. Speak publicly to the world in solidarity with the poor and oppressed, calling for justice and proclaiming God's love for the world, witnessing to the realm of God in the community, the nation, and abroad;
- d. Equip the baptized for ministry in God's world that affirms the gifts of all people;
- e. Encourage mutual relationships that invite participation and accompaniment of others in God's mission;
- f. Practice stewardship that respects God's gift of time, talents, and resources;
- g. Be grounded in a gathered community for ongoing diaconal formation;
- h. Share knowledge of the ELCA and its wider ministry of the gospel, and advocate for the work of all expressions of this church; and
- i. Identify and encourage qualified persons to prepare for ministry of the gospel.

7.61.03. Preparation and Approval. Except as provided in 7.61.04., a candidate who is to be called and received onto the roster as a minister of Word and Service shall have:

- a. membership in a congregation of this church and registration, by its pastor and council, of the candidate with the candidacy committee;
- b. been granted entrance to candidacy by and under the guidance and supervision of the appropriate committee for at least a year before being approved for call;
- c. completed the academic and practical preparation according to criteria and procedures established by the appropriate churchwide unit, after consultation with the Conference of Bishops, and adopted by the Church Council;
- d. been examined and approved by the appropriate committee according to criteria, policies, and procedures recommended by the appropriate churchwide unit, after consultation with the Conference of Bishops, and adopted by the Church Council;
- e. been recommended to a congregation or other entity by the bishop of the synod to which the candidate has been assigned for first call in accordance with the procedures recommended by the appropriate churchwide unit, reviewed by the Conference of Bishops, and adopted by the Church Council; and
- f. received and accepted a properly issued and attested letter of call.

7.61.04. Approval under Other Circumstances. A candidate may, for reasons of age or prior experience, be granted approval under criteria and procedures which permit certain equivalencies as defined by the appropriate churchwide unit, reviewed by the Conference of Bishops, and adopted by the Church Council.

7.61.05. Reinstatement. A person seeking reinstatement as a minister of Word and Service shall be registered by the pastor and council of the congregation of which such a person is a member with the candidacy committee of the synod in which the person was last rostered or, upon mutual agreement of the synodical bishops involved, after consultation with and approval by the secretary of this church, with the candidacy committee of the synod of current residence. The person then shall be interviewed, examined, and approved for reinstatement by the candidacy committee under criteria, policies, and procedures recommended by the appropriate churchwide unit, reviewed by the Conference of Bishops, and adopted by the Church Council. In this process, the committee shall review the circumstances related to the termination of earlier service together with subsequent developments. The person is reinstated after receiving and accepting a letter of call to serve as a minister of Word and Service in this church.

7.61.06. On Leave from Call. A minister of Word and Service of this church, serving under a regularly issued letter of call, who leaves the work of that ministry without accepting

another regularly issued letter of call, may be retained on the roster of ministers of Word and Service of this church, upon endorsement by the synodical bishop, by action of the Synod Council in the synod of which the minister of Word and Service is a member, under policy developed by the appropriate churchwide unit, reviewed by the Conference of Bishops, and adopted by the Church Council.

- a. Normative Pattern: By annual action of the Synod Council in the synod of which a member, upon endorsement by the synodical bishop, a minister of Word and Service who is without a current letter of call may be retained on the roster of ministers of Word and Service of this church for a maximum of three years, beginning at the completion of an active call.
- b. Study Leave: By annual action of the Synod Council in the synod of which a member, with the approval of the synodical bishop and in consultation with the appropriate churchwide unit a minister of Word and Service engaged in graduate study, in a field of study that will enhance service in the ministry of Word and Service in this church, may be retained on the roster of ministers of Word and Service of this church for a maximum of six years.
- c. Family Leave: A minister of Word and Service who has been in active service under call for at least three years may request leave for family responsibilities. By annual action of the Synod Council in the synod of which a member, upon endorsement by the synodical bishop, such a minister of Word and Service who is without a current letter of call and who requests leave for the birth or care of a child or children of the minister of Word and Service or the care of an immediate family member (child, spouse, or parent) with a serious health condition may be retained on the roster of ministers of Word and Service of this church—under policy developed by the appropriate churchwide unit, reviewed by the Conference of Bishops, and adopted by the Church Council—for a maximum of six years, beginning at the completion of an active call.
- d. Exception to these limits for the purpose of serving the needs of this church may be granted in accordance with established policy of this church by the Synod Council in the synod of current roster after having received approval by the Conference of Bishops.

7.61.A16. *Any person removed from the roster of ministers of Word and Service that existed on December 31, 1987, as cited herein, who seeks to return to active roster status must apply for acceptance to a roster of this church under the standards, criteria, policies, and procedures that apply to the official roster of ministers of Word and Service. This same requirement shall apply to those certified during the period of January 1, 1988, through September 1, 1993, as associates in ministry of this church.*

7.61.B16. *A person on the roster of a previous church body or a person on the roster of associates in ministry of this church, who was so certified during the period between January 1, 1988, and September 1, 1993, shall relinquish such a roster category upon being received and accepted on another roster of this church.*

7.70. **CALLS FOR MINISTERS OF WORD AND SERVICE**

7.71. **Letters of Call. Letters of call to ministers of Word and Service of this church or properly approved candidates for this church's roster of ministers of Word and Service shall be issued in keeping with this church's constitutions, bylaws, and continuing resolutions as well as policies regarding such calls developed by the appropriate churchwide unit, reviewed by the Conference of Bishops, and approved by the Church Council.**

- 7.71.01.** **Service under Call.** A minister of Word and Service of this church shall serve under a letter of call properly extended by a congregation, the Synod Council, the Synod Assembly, the Church Council, or the Churchwide Assembly.
- a. Calls may be extended either for stated periods of time and for shared-time ministry by the appropriate calling body under criteria recommended by the appropriate churchwide unit, reviewed by the Conference of Bishops, and adopted by the Church Council for service in a congregation, synod, or churchwide unit, in an institution or agency of this church, or in another setting in a category of work as provided by continuing resolution 7.74.A16.
 - b. A minister of Word and Service serving under call to a congregation shall be a member of that congregation. In a parish of multiple congregations, a minister of Word and Service shall be a member of one of the congregations being served.
- 7.71.02.** **Non-Stipendiary Service Under Call.** When it is deemed necessary for the mission needs of this church, a letter of call may be issued by the Synod Council— according to criteria, policies, and procedures recommended by the appropriate churchwide unit, reviewed by the Conference of Bishops, and adopted by the Church Council—to a minister of Word and Service for non-stipendiary service after the Synod Council has sought and received approval by the Conference of Bishops. A call to non-stipendiary service is to be reviewed at least annually by the Synod Council and continued only as warranted for the ministry needs of this church. Such a call may be terminated by the Synod Council when it is deemed to be fulfilling no longer the mission needs of this church.
- 7.71.03.** **Calls in Predecessor Church Bodies.** Accountability for specific calls to service extended in predecessor church bodies shall be exercised according to the policies and procedures of this church.
- 7.71.04.** **Retirement.** Ministers of Word and Service may retire upon attainment of age 60, or after 30 years on a roster of this church or one of its predecessor bodies, and continue to be listed on the roster of ministers of Word and Service of this church, upon endorsement by the synodical bishop, by action of the Synod Council in the synod in which the minister of Word and Service is listed on the roster.
- a. The policies and procedures for granting retired status on the roster of ministers of Word and Service shall be developed by the appropriate churchwide unit, reviewed by the Conference of Bishops, and adopted by the Church Council.
 - b. If a minister of Word and Service who has been granted retired status resides at too great a distance from any congregation of this church to be able to sustain an active relationship with that congregation, or if there are no ELCA congregations in the vicinity besides the congregation previously served, the bishop of the synod in which the minister of Word and Service is listed on the roster may grant permission for the minister of Word and Service to hold membership in a congregation or parish of a church body with which a relationship of full communion has been declared and established by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- 7.71.05.** **Disability.** Ministers of Word and Service may be designated as disabled, and continue to be listed on the roster of ministers of Word and Service of this church, upon endorsement by the synodical bishop, by action of the Synod Council in the synod in which the minister of Word and Service is listed on the roster.
- a. The policies and procedures for designation of disability on the official roster of ministers of Word and Service shall be developed by the appropriate churchwide unit, reviewed by the Conference of Bishops, and adopted by the Church Council.

- b. If a minister of Word and Service who has been granted disabled status resides at too great a distance from any congregation of this church to be able to sustain an active relationship with that congregation, or if there are no ELCA congregations in the vicinity besides the congregation previously served, the bishop of the synod in which the minister of Word and Service is listed on the roster may grant permission for the individual to hold membership in a congregation of a church body with which a relationship of full communion has been declared and established by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- 7.71.06. Retention of Roster Records.** When a minister of Word and Service resigns or is removed from the roster of this church, the roster record shall be retained by the secretary of this church, and the synodical bishop shall invite the person at the time of resignation or removal to provide, annually, appropriate current information for the roster record.
- 7.72. Each person on the roster of ministers of Word and Service of this church shall be related to that synod:**
- a. to which the congregation issuing the call to the minister of Word and Service is related;
 - b. which issues a letter of call to the minister of Word and Service;
 - c. on whose roster the minister of Word and Service was listed at the time of the issuance of a letter of call from the Church Council;
 - d. on whose roster the minister of Word and Service, if a seminary teacher or administrator, was assigned by the seminary board, subject to approval by the synodical bishop and Synod Council of each affected synod, to promote proportionate representation of faculty and administration in each synod of its region;
 - e. in which the minister of Word and Service, upon receiving a call from this church, serves as a deployed staff person or on the roster of one of the synods to which the minister of Word and Service is deployed;
 - f. on whose roster the minister of Word and Service was listed when placed on leave from call;
 - g. on whose roster the minister of Word and Service, if designated as disabled, was listed when last called, or the synod of current address, upon application by the minister of Word and Service for transfer and the mutual agreement of the synodical bishops involved after consultation with and approval by the secretary of this church; or
 - h. on whose roster the minister of Word and Service, if granted retired status, was listed when last called, or the synod of current address, upon application by the minister of Word and Service for transfer and the mutual agreement of the synodical bishops involved after consultation with and approval by the secretary of this church.
- 7.72.01.** If the service of a minister of Word and Service who receives and accepts a letter of call from this church, under 7.72.c., would be enhanced through transfer of roster status from the previous synod of roster to the synod of current address, such a transfer may be authorized upon mutual agreement of the synodical bishops involved after consultation with and approval by the secretary of this church.
- 7.72.02.** In unusual circumstances, the transfer of a minister of Word and Service who is on leave from call may be authorized upon mutual agreement of the synodical bishops involved after consultation with and approval by the secretary of this church.
- 7.72.03.** In certain circumstances for the sake of the ministry and mission needs of this church, the transfer of a minister of Word and Service serving under call in the churchwide

- organization may be authorized, at the initiative of the presiding bishop of this church, upon mutual agreement of the synodical bishops involved in such a transfer after consultation with and approval by the secretary of this church.
- 7.73.** **A letter of call issued by a Synod Council or the Church Council to a minister of Word and Service of this church shall be either co-terminus with, or not longer than, the duration of the service or employment for which the call was issued. With the exception of persons designated as employees of a synod or the churchwide organization, such a call does not imply any employment relationship or contractual obligation in regard to employment on the part of the Synod Council or Church Council issuing the call. The recipient of such a call remains subject to this church's standards and discipline for ministry of Word and Service, as contained in this church's constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions and in the policy and procedure documents of this church.**
- 7.73.01.** When the Synod Council or the Church Council, as the calling source, determines that the service or employment no longer fulfills the criteria under which a call was issued, the Synod Council or the Church Council shall vacate the call and direct that the individual be placed on leave from call or, if such leave status is not granted, the individual shall be removed from the roster of ministers of Word and Service.
- 7.73.02.** Ministers of Word and Service previously under call to the churchwide organization or to a synod shall respect the integrity of the ministry in which they no longer serve and shall not interfere with or exercise the functions of the office or position in which they no longer serve unless invited to do so by the presiding bishop or Church Council in the churchwide organization or, in the synods, by the bishop or the Synod Council.
- 7.74.** **Each synod shall maintain a roster containing the names of those ministers of Word and Service who are related to it on the basis of 7.72. of this constitution.**
- ~~7.52.A13. **Sources of Calls for Associates in Ministry, Deaconesses, and Diaconal Ministers**~~
- ~~a. *The principles governing sources of calls for ordained ministers shall, as appropriate, also govern sources of letters of call for associates in ministry, deaconesses, and diaconal ministers of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.*~~
- ~~b. *Table of Sources of Call for Associates in Ministry, Deaconesses, and Diaconal Ministers*~~
- 7.74.A16. **Sources of Calls for Ministers of Word and Service****
- a. *Principles for Sources of Calls***
- 1) *A "call" is an action by expressions of this church, as specified in the "Table of Sources of Calls for Ministers of Word and Service," through which a person is asked to serve in a specified ministry. Such an action is attested in a "letter of call."***
- 2) *Interdependence within the body of this church suggests that any action of one of its entities affects other entities. Therefore, interdependence is expressed in all calls extended within this church.***
- 3) *A call expresses a relationship between this church and the person called involving mutual service, support, accountability, supervision, and discipline.***
- 4) *A letter of call is issued by that expression of this church authorized to do so which is most directly involved in accountability for the specified ministry.***
- 5) *Decisions on calls for ministries in unusual circumstances not otherwise provided for but deemed to be in the interests of this church's care of the***

Gospel are referred to the Conference of Bishops for recommendation to the appropriate calling body.

b. Table of Sources of Call for Ministers of Word and Service

Setting	Calling Body
1.0 Congregational ministry	
1.1 Single congregation	Congregation meeting
1.2 Multiple-congregation parish	Congregation meetings, acting on a common proposal, <u>with one of the participating congregations issuing the call</u>
1.3 Coalition and cluster ministry	Synod Council
1.4 Other Congregations <u>beyond the ELCA</u>	
1.41 Independent Lutheran congregation	Synod Council
1.42 Other	Synod Council
2.0 Synodical ministry	Synod Council
<u>2.1 Assistant to the Bishop</u>	<u>Synod Council</u>
<u>2.2 Shared staff of two or more synods</u>	<u>Synod Council</u>
<u>2.3 Staff partially supported by grants from churchwide units</u>	<u>Synod Council</u>
3.0 Regional ministry	Church Council
<u>3.1 Staff</u>	<u>Church Council</u>
<u>3.2 Shared synodical-churchwide staff</u>	<u>Church Council</u>
4.0 Churchwide ministry	
4.1 Officer's staff <u>Secretary</u>	Church Council <u>Churchwide Assembly</u>
4.2 Unit executive director <u>Treasurer</u>	Church Council
4.3 Other churchwide unit staff <u>Staff of the churchwide organization</u>	Church Council
5.0 Social ministry institutions <u>Institutional ministry</u>	
5.1 Institution/agency related or unrelated to a synod	Synod Council
5.2 Institution/agency related more to than one synod	Synod Council of one of the synods
5.3 ELCA-related institution/agency	Church Council upon request of appropriate churchwide unit
5.4 Other	Church Council
6.0 Campus ministry	
6.1 Staff	Synod Council

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- 7.0 ~~Church camp~~ **Outdoor** ministry
 - 7.1 Staff Synod Council
 - 8.0 Ecumenical ministry
 - 8.1 Related to a synod Synod Council
 - 8.2 Related to more than one synod Synod Council of one of the synods
 - 8.3 National/international organization Church Council
 - 9.0 Inter-Lutheran ministry
 - 9.1 Related to a synod Synod Council
 - 9.2 Related to more than one synod Synod Council of one of the synods
 - 9.3 National/International Church Council
 - 10.0 Educational ministry
 - 10.1 ELCA-related seminary Church Council upon request of appropriate churchwide unit
 - 10.2 Seminary unrelated to ELCA Church Council upon request of appropriate churchwide unit
 - 10.3 ELCA-related college Synod Council of the synod in which college is located
 - 10.4 College unrelated to ELCA Synod Council of the synod in which college is located
 - 10.5 ELCA-related school Congregation of which the school is a part or, if related to several congregations, Synod Council of the synod in which the school is located
 - 10.6 School unrelated to ELCA Synod Council of the synod in which school is located
 - 10.7 Director/staff of a continuing education center related to a churchwide unit Synod Council in which the ~~center~~ **center's main office of center** is located upon the request of appropriate churchwide unit
 - 11.0 Missionary ministry
 - 11.1 Outside United States Church Council upon request of appropriate churchwide unit
 - 11.2 Within United States Church Council upon request of appropriate churchwide unit
 - 12.0 Other
 - 12.1 Non-stipendiary service under call Synod Council upon approval by the Conference of Bishops

12.2 *Unusual ministries (as in conjunction with occupations and in approved situations not otherwise specified)* *Synod Council or Church Council upon recommendation by the Conference of Bishops*

7.75.

The provisions for termination of the mutual relationship between a minister of Word and Service and a congregation shall be as follows:

a. The call of a congregation, when accepted by a minister of Word and Service shall constitute a continuing mutual relationship and commitment which shall be terminated only by death or following consultation with the synodical bishop for the following reasons:

- 1) mutual agreement to terminate the call or the completion of a call for a specific term;**
- 2) resignation of the minister of Word and Service, which shall become effective, unless otherwise agreed, no later than 30 days after the date on which it was submitted;**
- 3) inability to conduct the office to which they have been called effectively in that congregation in view of local conditions;**
- 4) physical disability or mental incapacity of the minister of Word and Service;**
- 5) suspension of the minister of Word and Service through discipline for more than three months;**
- 6) resignation or removal of the minister of Word and Service from the roster of ministers of Word and Service of this church;**
- 7) termination of the relationship between this church and the congregation;**
- 8) dissolution of the congregation or the termination of a parish arrangement; or**
- 9) suspension of the congregation through discipline for more than six months.**

b. When allegations of physical disability or mental incapacity of the deacon under paragraph a.4) above, or ineffective conduct of the office under paragraph a.3) above, have come to the attention of the bishop of this synod,

- 1) the bishop in his or her sole discretion may investigate such conditions personally together with a committee of two rostered ministers and one non-rostered person, or**
- 2) when such allegations have been brought to the synod's attention by an official recital of allegations by the Congregation Council or by a petition signed by at least one-third of the voting members of the congregation, the bishop personally shall investigate such conditions together with a committee of two rostered ministers and one non-rostered person.**

c. In case of alleged physical disability or mental incapacity under paragraph a.4) above, the bishop's committee shall obtain and document competent medical opinion concerning the minister of Word and Service's condition. When a disability or incapacity is evident to the committee, the bishop of this synod may declare the position vacant and the minister of Word and Service shall be listed on the roster of ministers of Word and Service as disabled. Upon removal of the disability and restoration of the minister of Word and

Service to health, the bishop shall take steps to enable the minister of Word and Service to resume the ministry, either in the congregation last served or in another appropriate call.

- d. In the case of alleged local difficulties that imperil the effective functioning of the congregation under paragraph a.3) above, the bishop's committee shall endeavor to hear from all concerned persons, after which the bishop together with the committee shall present their recommendations first to the minister of Word and Service and then to the congregation. The recommendations of the bishop's committee must address whether the minister of Word and Service's call should come to an end and, if so, may suggest appropriate severance arrangements. The committee may also propose other actions that should be undertaken by the congregation and by the minister of Word and Service, if appropriate. If the minister of Word and Service and congregation agree to carry out such recommendations, no further action need be taken by the synod.**
- e. If either party fails to assent to the recommendations of the bishop's committee concerning the minister of Word and Service's call, the congregation may dismiss the minister of Word and Service only at a legally called meeting after consultation with the bishop, either (a) by a two-thirds majority vote of the voting members present and voting where the bishop and the committee did not recommend termination of the call, or (b) by a simple majority vote of the voting members present and voting where the bishop and the committee recommended termination of the call.**
- f. If, in the course of proceedings described in paragraph c. or paragraph d. above, the bishop's committee concludes that there may be grounds for discipline, the committee shall make recommendations concerning disciplinary action in accordance with the provisions of this church's constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions.**

7.76. Ministers of Word and Service of this church shall be subject to discipline as set forth in Chapter 20 of this constitution.

7.76.01. No person who belongs to any organization other than the Church which claims to possess in its teachings and ceremonies that which the Lord has given solely to the Church shall be called and received onto the roster of ministers of Word and Service or otherwise received into the ministry of this church, nor shall any person so called and received onto the roster of ministers of Word and Service or otherwise received by this church be retained in its ministry who subsequently joins such an organization.

Chapter 20.

CONSULTATION, DISCIPLINE, APPEALS, AND ADJUDICATION

20.10. CONSULTATION AND DISCIPLINE

20.11. There shall be set forth in the bylaws a process of discipline governing officers, ~~ordained ministers of Word and Sacrament, ministers of Word and Service, diaconal ministers, associates in ministry, deaconesses,~~ congregations, and members of congregations. Except as provided in 20.18. or 20.19., such process shall assure due process and due protection for the accused, other parties, and this church. Since synods have responsibility for admittance of persons into the ~~ordained ministry of this church or onto other rosters~~ **rostered ministries of this church and have oversight of pastoral and congregational relationships, the**

disciplinary process shall be a responsibility of the synod on behalf of this church.

- 20.17. None of the provisions of this chapter is intended nor shall be construed to limit the authority of a Synod Council to ~~remove~~ **determine roster status**, under the bylaws of this church, ~~from the rosters of this church an ordained of a minister or other person~~ who is without regular call ~~and not retired~~, for any reason, even though such reason might also be the basis for disciplinary proceedings under this chapter.
- 20.20. ~~ORDAINED MINISTERS~~ **The Committee on Appeals shall establish definitions and guidelines, subject to approval by the Church Council, to enable clear and uniform application of the grounds for discipline of officers, rostered ministers, congregations, and members of congregations.**
- 20.21. **The disciplinary process for ministers of Word and Sacrament shall be set forth in the bylaws.**
- 20.21.01. ~~Ordained m~~**Ministers of Word and Sacrament** shall be subject to discipline for:
- preaching and teaching in conflict with the faith confessed by this church;
 - conduct incompatible with the character of the ministerial office;
 - willfully disregarding or violating the functions and standards established by this church for the office of **ministry of Word and Sacrament**;
 - willfully disregarding the provisions of the constitutions, bylaws, and continuing resolutions; or
 - willfully failing to comply with the requirements ordered by a discipline hearing committee under 20.23.08.
- 20.21.02. The disciplinary actions which may be imposed are:
- private censure and admonition by the bishop of the synod;
 - suspension from the office and functions of the ~~ordained~~ **ministry of Word and Sacrament** in this church for a designated period or until there is satisfactory evidence of repentance and amendment; or
 - removal from the ~~ordained ministry~~ **roster of ministers of Word and Sacrament** of this church.
- 20.21.03. Charges against ~~an ordained~~ **minister of Word and Sacrament** which could lead to discipline must be specific and in writing, subscribed to by the accuser(s), and be made by one or more of the following:
- at least two-thirds of the members of the congregation's council, submitted to the synodical bishop;
 - at least one-third of the voting members of the congregation, submitted to the synodical bishop;
 - at least two-thirds of the members of the governing body to which the ~~ordained~~ **minister of Word and Sacrament**, if not a ~~parish-congregational~~ pastor, is accountable, submitted to the synodical bishop;
 - at least 10 ~~ordained~~ **ministers of Word and Sacrament or ministers of Word and Service** of the synod on whose roster the accused ~~ordained~~ **minister of Word and Sacrament** is listed, submitted to the synodical bishop;
 - the synodical bishop; or
 - the presiding bishop of this church, but only with respect to an accused who is a synodical bishop (or who was a synodical bishop at any time during the 12 months preceding the filing of written charges), submitted to the secretary of this church.

- 20.21.04.** When there are indications that a cause for discipline may exist and before charges are made, efforts shall be made by the bishop of the synod to resolve the situation by consultation; for assistance in these efforts, the bishop may utilize either a consultation panel or an advisory panel as herein provided:
- a. When requested by the synodical bishop, a consultation panel consisting of five persons (three ~~ordained ministers of Word and Sacrament~~ and two laypersons) appointed from the members of the Consultation Committee of the synod by the synodical bishop, or, at the request of the synodical bishop, by the Synod Council's Executive Committee or other committee authorized to do so by the Synod Council, shall assist the synodical bishop in efforts to resolve a situation by consultation.
 - b. When requested by the synodical bishop, an advisory panel consisting of five persons (three ~~ordained ministers of Word and Sacrament~~ and two laypersons) appointed by the synodical bishop shall assist the synodical bishop in efforts to resolve a situation by consultation.
- 20.21.05.** If appointed, a consultation panel or advisory panel shall advise the synodical bishop as to whether or not the bishop should bring charges or may make other recommendation for resolution of the controversy that would not involve proceedings before a discipline hearing committee. To these ends, the panel may meet with complaining witnesses as well as with the concerned ~~ordained minister of Word and Sacrament~~. If requested by the synodical bishop, members of the panel also may assist, as representatives of the accuser, in the presentation of evidence and examination of witnesses before a discipline hearing committee.
- 20.21.11.** The Churchwide Committee on Discipline shall consist of 24–36 members, half of whom should be ~~ordained ministers of Word and Sacrament~~ and half of whom should be laypersons, elected by the Churchwide Assembly for a term of six years. Each member will serve until a successor is elected, without consecutive re-election, and will serve as needed on a discipline hearing committee in any of the synods in this church.
- 20.21.12.** The accused shall have the privilege of selecting two persons (one ~~clergy minister of Word and Sacrament~~ and one ~~layperson~~) and their alternates of the six persons from the churchwide Committee on Discipline to serve on a discipline hearing committee. The remaining four persons (two ~~clergy minister of Word and Sacrament~~ and two ~~laypersons~~) and their alternates, or six, if the accused does not exercise the privilege, and their alternates shall be selected by the Executive Committee of the Church Council.
- 20.21.23.** If there are indications that a cause for discipline exists or if in the course of the proceedings it should become apparent to the bishop of the synod that the pastoral office cannot be conducted effectively in the congregation(s) being served by the ~~ordained minister of Word and Sacrament~~ due to local conditions or that local conditions may be adversely affected by the continued service by the ~~ordained minister pastor~~, the bishop of the synod may temporarily suspend the pastor from service in the congregation(s) without prejudice and with pay provided through a joint synodical and churchwide fund and with housing provided by the congregation(s).
- 20.21.24.** If there are indications that a cause for discipline exists or if in the course of proceedings it becomes apparent to the bishop of the synod that the circumstances require, the bishop of the synod may temporarily suspend an ~~ordained minister of~~

Word and Sacrament serving under letter of call issued other than by a congregation from the office and functions of ordained-ministry of Word and Sacrament without prejudice and without affecting compensation and housing.

20.22. ~~LAY ROSTERED MINISTERS~~ The disciplinary process for ministers of Word and Service shall be set forth in the bylaws.

20.22.01. ~~Laypersons on official rosters~~ Ministers of Word and Service shall be subject to discipline for:

- a. confessing and teaching in conflict with the faith confessed by this church;
- b. conduct incompatible with the standards for the rostered ministries of this church character of the ministerial office;
- c. willfully disregarding or violating the functions and standards established by this church for the lay roster or rosters ministers of Word and Service;
- d. willfully disregarding the provisions of the constitutions, bylaws, and continuing resolutions; or
- e. willfully failing to comply with the requirements ordered by a discipline hearing committee under 20.23.08.

20.22.02. The disciplinary actions that may be imposed are:

- a. private censure and admonition by the bishop of the synod;
- b. suspension from the role and functions of an associate in ministry, a deaconess, or a diaconal minister of Word and Service for a designated period or until there is satisfactory evidence of repentance and amendment; or
- c. removal from the official roster for laypersons of ministers of Word and Service of this church.

20.22.03. Charges against a layperson on an official roster minister of Word and Service of this church that could lead to discipline must be specific and in writing, subscribed to by the accuser(s), and be made by one or more of the following:

- a. at least two-thirds of the members of the Congregation Council of the congregation in which the layperson minister of Word and Service is serving, submitted to the synodical bishop;
- b. at least one-third of the voting members of the congregation in which the layperson minister of Word and Service is serving, submitted to the synodical bishop;
- c. at least two-thirds of the members of the governing body to which the layperson minister of Word and Service is accountable, submitted to the synodical bishop;
- d. at least 10 ordained ministers or laypersons on official ministers of Word and Sacrament or ministers of Word and Service on the rosters of the synod on whose roster the accused layperson minister of Word and Service is listed, submitted to the synodical bishop; or
- e. the synodical bishop.

20.22.04. When there are indications that a cause for discipline exists, efforts shall be made by the bishop of the synod to resolve the situation by consultation in the same manner as set forth above for ordained ministers of Word and Sacrament in 20.21.04. through 20.21.06.

20.22.05. If those efforts fail, the procedures for discipline shall be the same as that set forth above for ordained ministers of Word and Sacrament in 20.21.07. through 20.21.22.

20.22.06. If there are indications that a cause for discipline exists or if in the course of the proceedings it should become apparent to the bishop of the synod that the role and function of the associate in ministry, deaconess, or diaconal a minister of Word and Service cannot be conducted effectively in the congregation(s) being served by a

~~rostered layperson~~ the minister of Word and Service due to local conditions or that local conditions may be adversely affected by the continued service by ~~a rostered layperson~~ the minister of Word and Service, the bishop of the synod may temporarily suspend ~~a rostered layperson~~ the minister of Word and Service from service in the congregation(s) without prejudice and with pay provided through a joint churchwide-synodical-congregation fund.

20.22.07. If there are indications that a cause for discipline exists or if in the course of proceedings it becomes apparent to the bishop of the synod that the circumstances require, the bishop of the synod may temporarily suspend a ~~rostered layperson~~ minister of Word and Service serving under letter of call issued other than by a congregation from the office and functions of a ~~rostered layperson~~ minister of Word and Service without prejudice and without affecting compensation.

20.23. **LIMITED DISCIPLINE A process for limited discipline of rostered ministers shall be set forth in the bylaws.**

20.23.01. Where the written charges specify that the accuser will not seek ~~in the case of an ordained minister, removal from the ordained ministry of this church or suspension from the office and functions of the ordained ministry in this church for a period exceeding three months, or, in the case of a layperson on one of the rosters of this church, the rostered minister's removal from such roster~~ the ministry of this church or suspension from the office/role and functions of ~~a person on such roster~~ the ministry of this church for a period not exceeding three months, 20.23.01. through 20.23.09. shall apply to the exclusion of 20.21.08. through 20.21.24. and 20.22.05. through 20.22.07.

20.23.08. The discipline hearing committee shall conclude its meeting(s) and render its decision in writing within 45 days of the commencement of the meeting for which written notice was given under 20.23.06. The written decision shall be in two parts:

...

b. Determination. In this part, the committee shall state whether, based upon the facts that it has found, it believes discipline should be imposed and if so, which one or more of the following should be imposed:

- 1) private censure and admonition by the synodical bishop.
- 2) suspension for a period not exceeding three months from the ~~office and functions of the ordained ministry in the case of an ordained minister or from the /role and functions of a rostered layperson in the case of a layperson on a roster of ministry in~~ this church.

...

~~20.30.~~ **CONGREGATIONS**

~~20.31.~~ **The disciplinary process for congregations shall be set forth in the bylaws.**

20.31.02. The disciplinary actions which may be imposed are:

- a. censure and admonition by the bishop of the synod;
- b. suspension from this church for a designated period, the consequences of such suspension being the loss of voting rights of any member (including ordained ministers of Word and Sacrament and ministers of Word and Service) of the congregation at synod or churchwide assemblies, the loss of the right to petition, and the forfeiture of eligibility by any member of the congregation to serve on

any council, board, committee, or other group of this church, any of its synods, or any other subdivision thereof;

...

20.31.04. When there are indications that a cause for discipline exists, efforts shall be made by the bishop of the synod to resolve the situation by consultation in the same manner as set forth above for ordained ministers of Word and Sacrament in 20.21.04. and 20.21.05.

20.31.05. If those efforts fail, the procedures for discipline shall be the same as that set forth above for ordained ministers of Word and Sacrament in 20.21.07. through 20.21.22.

20.40. **MEMBERS OF CONGREGATIONS**

20.41. **The disciplinary process for members of congregations shall be set forth in the bylaws.**

20.41.04. If the counseling, censure and admonitions pursuant to bylaw 20.41.02.a. and b. do not result in repentance and amendment of life, charges against the accused member(s) that are specific and in writing may be prepared by the Congregation Council, signed, and submitted to the vice president of the synod. The vice president shall select from the synod's Consultation Committee a panel of five members (three lay persons and two clergy ministers of Word and Sacrament). A copy of the written charges shall be provided to consultation panel and the accused member(s). The consultation panel, after requesting a written reply to the charges from the accused member(s), shall consider the matter and seek a resolution by means of investigation, consultation, mediation, or whatever other means may seem appropriate.

20.50. **RECALL OR DISMISSAL**

20.51. **A process for the recall or dismissal of officers shall be set forth in the bylaws.**

20.51. *[provision to become bylaw]*

20.51.01. The recall or dismissal of the presiding bishop, vice president, or secretary of this church and the vacating of office may be effected:

- a. for willful disregard or violation of the constitutions, bylaws, and continuing resolutions;
- b. for such physical or mental disability as renders the officer incapable of performing the duties of office; or
- c. for such conduct as would subject the officer to disciplinary action as an ordained rostered minister or as a member of a congregation of this church.

20.52. *[provision to become bylaw]*

20.51.02. Proceedings for the recall or dismissal of such an officer shall be instituted by petition by:

- a. the Church Council on a vote of at least two-thirds of its elected members; or
- b. the Churchwide Assembly on a vote of at least two-thirds of its members.

The petition shall be filed with the chair of the Committee on Appeals and shall set forth the specific charge or charges.

20.51.03. **Notice of a decision by the Committee on Appeals that the charges have been sustained shall be given to the accused person, the Church Council shall be notified of the entry of such judgment, and the office shall be vacated.**

20.52.A116. **Recall or Dismissal of an Churchwide Officer**

- a. *The petition for recall or dismissal described in 20.52. shall be filed with the chair of the Committee on Appeals (in care of the secretary of the Evangelical*

Lutheran Church in America, 8765 West Higgins Road, Chicago, Illinois 60631, except if the subject of the petition is the secretary, the petition shall be in care of the presiding bishop of this church at the same address).

- b. In the case of alleged physical or mental incapacity of the officer,
- 1) with respect to the officer the procedures outlined in 13.63. shall first be followed, and if such officer does not accept the decision of the Church Council, the Church Council may proceed to petition for proceedings for recall or dismissal.
 - 2) in the event of such petition, four members of the Committee on Appeals, designated by the committee chair and consisting of two **ordained ministers of Word and Sacrament** and two laypersons, shall
 - a) investigate such conditions in person;
 - b) seek competent medical testimony;
 - c) seek the counsel and advice of the other officers of this church; and
 - d) submit a written report of their findings to the other members of the Committee on Appeals.
 - 3) the members of the Committee on Appeals, other than those who investigated the conditions and other than those who are disqualified, shall review the findings of the investigation committee and by an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of those present and voting may adopt the findings and grant the petition.
- c. If the officer is **an ordained minister of Word and Sacrament**, grounds for recall or dismissal include those set forth in 20.21.01. and as defined under the process described in **20.71.11. and 20.71.12. 20.20. as grounds for discipline of ordained minister. If the officer is a minister of Word and Service, grounds for recall or dismissal include those set forth in 20.22.01. and as defined under the process described in 20.20. as grounds for discipline. If the officer is a layperson, grounds for recall or dismissal include those set forth in 20.41.01. and as defined under the process described in 20.20. as grounds for discipline.**
- d. In the case of alleged willful disregard or violation of the constitutions, bylaws, and continuing resolutions or of alleged conduct as would subject the officer to disciplinary action, the following procedures shall apply:
- 1) The petition shall be referred to the Committee on Appeals which shall function as the discipline hearing committee that shall conduct a hearing in accordance with the rules provided for in 20.21.16., except to the extent that those rules are in conflict with 20.51., 20.52., 20.53., or with the provisions of this continuing resolution; and
 - 2) the members of the Committee on Appeals, other than those who are disqualified, may grant the petition by an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of those present and voting.
- e. Upon the filing of a written petition, the Executive Committee of the Church Council may temporarily suspend the officer from service without prejudice, but with continuation of compensation, including benefits, if the officer is a salaried employee. **Appeals from such temporary suspension shall be provided in 13.63.**
- 20.53. Notice of a decision by the Committee on Appeals that the charges have been sustained shall be given to the accused person, the Church Council shall be notified of the entry of such judgment, and the office shall be vacated.**

20.53.11. The Church Council shall appoint three members from the Committee on Appeals who shall recommend a similar process for the recall or dismissal of an officer of a synod, which process shall become operative when ratified by the Church Council.

20.53.A11. Recall or Dismissal of a Synod Officer

a. The recall or dismissal of the bishop, vice president, secretary, or treasurer of a synod of this church and the vacating of office may be effected:

- 1) for willful disregard or violation of the constitutions, bylaws, and continuing resolutions;
- 2) for such physical or mental disability as renders the officer incapable of performing the duties of office; or
- 3) for such conduct as would subject the officer to disciplinary action as an ordained minister of Word and Sacrament or as a member of a congregation of this church.

b. Proceedings for the recall or dismissal of a synodical bishop shall be instituted by written petition by:

- 1) the Synod Council on an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of its elected members present and voting;
- 2) the Synod Assembly on an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of its members present and voting;
- 3) at least 10 synodical bishops; or
- 4) the presiding bishop of this church.

The petition shall be filed with the chair of the Committee on Appeals (in care of the secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, 8765 West Higgins Road, Chicago, Illinois 60631) and shall set forth the specific charge or charges.

c. Proceedings for the recall or dismissal of an officer of a synod, other than the synodical bishop, shall be instituted by written petition by:

- 1) the Synod Council on an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of its elected members present and voting;
- 2) the Synod Assembly on an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of its members present and voting; or
- 3) the synodical bishop.

The petition shall be filed with the chair of the Committee on Appeals (in care of the secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, 8765 West Higgins Road, Chicago, Illinois 60631) and shall set forth the specific charge or charges.

d. In the case of alleged physical or mental incapacity of an officer of a synod:

1) the procedures outlined in ¶S8.56. shall first be followed, and if such officer does not accept the decision of the Synod Council, the Synod Council may proceed to petition for proceedings for recall or dismissal.

2) four members of the Committee on Appeals, designated by the committee chair and consisting of two ordained ministers of Word and Sacrament and two laypersons, shall

- a) investigate such conditions in person;
- b) seek competent medical testimony;
- c) seek the counsel and advice of the presiding bishop of this church if such officer is the synodical bishop;
- d) seek the counsel and advice of the synodical bishop if such officer is the vice president, secretary, or treasurer of the synod; and
- e) submit a written report of their findings to the other members of the Committee on Appeals.

- 3) ~~the members of the Committee on Appeals, other than those who investigated the conditions and other than those who are disqualified, shall review the findings of the investigation committee and by an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of those present and voting shall adopt the findings and grant the petition.~~
- e. ~~If the synod officer is an ordained minister of Word and Sacrament, grounds for recall or dismissal include those set forth in 20.21.01. and as defined under the process described in 20.71.11. and 20.71.12. for discipline of ordained ministers of Word and Sacrament.~~
- f. ~~If the synod officer is a layperson, grounds for recall or dismissal include those set forth in 20.41.01.~~
- g. ~~If the case of alleged willful disregard or violation of the constitutions, bylaws, and continuing resolutions or of alleged conduct as would subject the officer to disciplinary action, the following procedures shall apply:~~
- 1) ~~if the proceedings were instituted by the presiding bishop of this church, the synodical bishop, or at least 10 other synodical bishops, the petitioner shall first meet with the Executive Committee of the Synod Council in which the officer serves. The Executive Committee shall function as a consultation panel to give advice to the petitioner;~~
- 2) ~~if as a result of the consultation the petition is not filed, no further proceedings shall be required;~~
- 3) ~~if as a result of the consultation the petition is filed or if the proceedings were instituted by the Synod Assembly or the Synod Council, the petition shall be referred to the Committee on Appeals, which shall function as the discipline hearing committee that shall conduct a hearing in accordance with the rules provided for in 20.21.16. except to the extent that those rules are in conflict with the provisions of this continuing resolution; and~~
- 4) ~~the members of the Committee on Appeals, other than those who are disqualified, may grant the petition by an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of those present and voting.~~
- h. ~~Upon the filing of a written petition, the Executive Committee of the Synod Council may temporarily suspend the officer from service in the synod without prejudice, but with continuation of compensation, including benefits, if the officer is a salaried employee of the synod. Appeals from such temporary suspension shall be provided in ¶S8.56.~~
- I. ~~Written notice of a decision by the Committee on Appeals that the charges have been sustained shall be given to the affected officer. The Synod Council shall be notified of such decision and the office shall be vacated if the charges have been sustained.~~

20.60. COMMITTEE ON APPEALS

20.61. There shall be a Committee on Appeals to which may be referred appeals from disciplinary proceedings and petitions for the recall of an officer. The Church Council shall appoint three members from the Committee on Appeals who shall recommend rules of procedure for the performance of its duties. The rules shall become effective when ratified by the Church Council.

20.62. The Committee on Appeals shall be comprised of six ministers of Word and Sacrament and six laypersons, elected by the Churchwide Assembly for a term of six years, without consecutive re-election.

20.62.A16. *In the event that the term of any member of the Committee on Appeals expires before that member's successor is elected, the Church Council may elect an individual in the same category—minister of Word and Sacrament or layperson—to serve on the Committee until the next Churchwide Assembly. A member elected by the Church Council who serves less than one-half of a term shall be eligible for election to a full term by the Churchwide Assembly.*

20.63. **The Committee on Appeals shall elect its own officers.**

20.64. **The decision of a discipline hearing committee may be appealed to the Committee on Appeals by:**

- a. the accuser(s) who brought charges upon which a discipline hearing committee has acted;**
- b. a minister of Word and Sacrament upon whom discipline has been imposed by a discipline hearing committee;**
- c. a minister of Word and Service upon whom discipline has been imposed by a discipline hearing committee; or**
- d. a congregation upon whom discipline has been imposed by a discipline hearing committee.**

20.64.A13. **Rules of the Committee on Appeals**

- a. Any appeal to the Committee on Appeals shall be made in writing within 30 days after the decision of the discipline hearing committee has been delivered to the accused and the accuser(s). Appeals may be made only by the accused or the accuser(s) or their respective designated representative. Notice of the appeal shall be given by certified or registered letter addressed to the Committee on Appeals (in care of the secretary of this church, 8765 West Higgins Road, Chicago, Illinois 60631), with a copy to the other party.
- b. The Committee on Appeals shall normally render its written decision within 60 days from the due date for the last written statement to be submitted under item h. below.
- c. The material that shall be reviewed by the Committee on Appeals (herein referred to as the record on appeal) shall consist of the following:
 - 1) a copy of the specific charges referred to the discipline hearing committee;
 - 2) copy of any rules governing the hearing before the discipline hearing committee;
 - 3) information concerning the composition of the discipline hearing committee that heard the case;
 - 4) the verbatim record made by the stenographer or court reporter or the audio or video recording of the hearing before the discipline hearing committee;
 - 5) all documents or physical evidence presented at the hearing before the discipline hearing committee;
 - 6) the written decision of the discipline hearing committee; and
 - 7) proof that the written decision was delivered to the accused and the accuser(s).
- d. It shall be the responsibility of the chair of the discipline hearing committee to furnish the record on appeal to the Committee on Appeals (in care of the secretary of this church, 8765 West Higgins Road, Chicago, Illinois 60631), certifying to the completeness and accuracy of the record on appeal, within 30 days of the receipt of the appeal, unless the chair of the Committee on Appeals grants additional time for compelling reasons.

- e. *If the Committee on Appeals has reason to believe that a required action was taken by a discipline hearing committee, but such action is not revealed in the record on appeal, the Committee on Appeals may, by written request to the chair of the discipline hearing committee, with copies to the accused and the accuser(s), solicit written confirmation of such action. Copies of such confirmation shall be supplied to the accused and the accuser(s).*
- f. *The persons or entities who may appeal to the Committee on Appeals are set forth in 20.63.*
- g. *The circumstances for which the Committee on Appeals may reverse or set aside the decision of a discipline hearing committee are set forth in 20.62.01., and consequences of such circumstances are set forth in 20.62.02.*
- h. *The party taking an appeal may present a written statement of reasons why the decision of a discipline hearing committee should be reversed or set aside. The other party shall have an opportunity to make a written response to the Committee on Appeals. The party taking an appeal then may present a written rebuttal. Appropriate limitations and due dates for these statements may be established by the committee chair. In the event of cross appeals, the committee chair may permit the filing of additional statements so that both parties have adequate opportunity to present their respective appeals and respond to the statement of each other. Parties shall promptly give to each other copies of any written statement filed with the Committee on Appeals.*
- I. *Final decisions of the Committee on Appeals require an affirmative vote by at least two-thirds of those present and voting.*
- j. *Notice of decisions of the Committee on Appeals shall be given in writing to the accused, the accuser(s), the chair of the discipline hearing committee, the synodical bishop, and the secretary of this church.*
- k. *The Committee on Appeals also shall prepare a brief summary of each appeal, which shall be presented to the Churchwide Assembly. Such summary shall not disclose the names of the accused, the accuser(s), or any witness. If the decision of the discipline hearing committee was reversed or remanded, the summary shall indicate the reasons for such reversal or remand.*
- l. *The Committee on Appeals shall elect the following officers: chair, vice-chair, secretary, and assistant secretary. In addition to the duties prescribed in Chapter 20, the chair shall schedule and preside at committee meetings. In the absence of the chair, the vice-chair shall act as chair. The secretary, or assistant secretary, shall keep such record of proceedings of the committee as is necessary.*
- m. *Meetings of the Committee on Appeals may be held in person or by conference telephone call.*
- n. *A majority of the members of the Committee on Appeals who are not disqualified shall constitute a quorum for the conduct of its business at a scheduled meeting, and three-fourths of the members of the Committee on Appeals who are not disqualified shall constitute a quorum for the conduct of its business by conference telephone call.*
- o. *Members of the Committee on Appeals shall refrain from discussing appeals made to the committee, except as required to discharge the duties of the committee membership.*
- p. *No member of the Committee on Appeals shall serve on any case if such a member is related (as defined in 19.61.04.) to the accused, the accuser(s), any*

witness who testified before the discipline hearing committee, or a member of the consultation or discipline hearing committee that considered the case, or where such member is a member or former member of a congregation that was an accuser or an accused. A member of the Committee on Appeals also may voluntarily disqualify himself or herself.

q. See 20.52.A11. and 20.53.A11. for additional rules of procedure applicable in proceedings for recall or dismissal.

r. See 20.61.B95. for additional rules of procedure applicable to stays.

20.614.B95.

Any party who has appealed to the Committee on Appeals for review of a decision of a discipline hearing committee may request a stay in the effective date or other provision contained in said decision pending the appeal. Such request shall be in writing and shall set forth the reasons why the requested stay is advisable. The request shall be forwarded to the Committee on Appeals, c/o ELCA Secretary, 8765 West Higgins Road, Chicago, Illinois 60631, with copy to the other party. The Committee on Appeals may grant the other party an opportunity to respond in writing. The Committee on Appeals may grant a stay for such period, and may renew the stay for such further periods, as it determines to be appropriate. The Committee on Appeals may make the grant of a stay subject to such conditions as it determines to be appropriate. Such determinations shall be final.

20.625.

The circumstances for which the Committee on Appeals may reverse or set aside the decision of a discipline hearing committee and the consequences of such action shall be set forth in the bylaws.

20.625.01.

The judgment of a discipline hearing committee must be sustained unless the Committee on Appeals finds that one of the following conditions exists:

- a. The discipline hearing committee abused its discretion. The discipline hearing committee may not be found to have abused its discretion unless at least one of the following is true:
 - 1) The discipline hearing committee's Determination was not supported by any evidence in the record.
 - 2) One or more of the discipline hearing committee's Findings of Fact is clearly erroneous. A Finding of Fact is clearly erroneous when, although there is evidence to support it, the Committee on Appeals on the entire evidence is left with the definite and firm conviction that a mistake has been committed. The Committee on Appeals may not reverse a finding of the discipline hearing committee simply because the Committee on Appeals concludes that it would have found differently had it been the discipline hearing committee. The Committee on Appeals must give due regard to the opportunity of the discipline hearing committee to judge the credibility of the witnesses.
 - 3) Although the Findings of Fact are not clearly erroneous, the discipline hearing committee's Determination is nevertheless one with which no reasonable person, acting objectively, could agree. The committee's Determination may not be reversed simply because the Committee on Appeals, had it been the discipline hearing committee, would have reached a different conclusion. The discipline hearing committee's Determination must be sustained if reasonable people can disagree as to its propriety.
- b. Due process has not been followed.
- c. New evidence has been submitted by one of the parties, which evidence, in the judgment of the Committee on Appeals, should be considered.

- d. The record of the proceedings before the discipline hearing committee is insufficient to permit the Committee on Appeals to determine whether the committee abused its discretion or followed due process.

20.625.02. When the Committee on Appeals has decided to reverse or set aside the decision of the discipline hearing committee, the Committee on Appeals shall proceed as follows:

- a. If the Committee on Appeals has determined that one of the conditions listed in **20.625.01.a.1)** or **20.625.01.a.2)** exists, the Committee on Appeals may return the matter to the discipline hearing committee for further proceedings or render its own decision, which shall be final and unappealable.
- b. If the Committee on Appeals has determined that the condition listed in **20.625.01.a.3)** exists, it shall render its own decision, which shall be final and unappealable.
- c. If the Committee on Appeals has determined that one of the conditions listed in **20.625.01.b.**, **20.625.01.c.**, or **20.625.01.d.** exists, it shall return the matter to the discipline hearing committee for further proceedings.

20.63. ~~The decision of a discipline hearing committee may be appealed to the Committee on Appeals by:~~

- ~~a. the accuser(s) who brought charges upon which a discipline hearing committee has acted;~~
- ~~b. an ordained minister upon whom discipline has been imposed by a discipline hearing committee;~~
- ~~c. a congregation upon whom discipline has been imposed by a discipline hearing committee; or~~
- ~~d. other persons on the official rosters of this church upon whom discipline has been imposed by a discipline hearing committee.~~

20.64. ~~The Committee on Appeals shall be comprised of six ordained ministers and six laypersons, elected by the Churchwide Assembly for a term of six years, without consecutive re-election.~~

20.64.A13. ~~In the event that the term of any member of the Committee on Appeals expires before that member's successor is elected, the Church Council may elect an individual in the same category—ordained minister or layperson—to serve on the Committee until the next Churchwide Assembly. A member elected by the Church Council who serves less than one-half of a term shall be eligible for election to a full term by the Churchwide Assembly.~~

20.65. ~~The Committee on Appeals shall elect its own officers.~~

20.66. Decisions of the Committee on Appeals shall be final; an affirmative vote by at least two-thirds of those present and voting shall be necessary to render a decision or opinion. Each decision or opinion shall be reported as soon as practical in writing to the parties concerned, and a summary of action taken shall be reported to the Churchwide Assembly.

20.70. ~~DEFINITIONS AND GUIDELINES~~

20.71.11. ~~The Committee on Appeals shall establish definitions and guidelines, subject to approval by the Church Council, to enable clear and uniform application of the grounds for discipline in each of the above categories.~~

20.71.12. ~~The Committee on Appeals shall present to the Church Council for consideration and recommendation a process and definitions, as required in bylaw 20.71.11.~~

- 20.870.** ADJUDICATION
- 20.871.** The presiding bishop and the Executive Committee of the Church Council shall be available to give counsel when disputes arise within this church.
- 20.872.** When there is disagreement on a substantive issue among churchwide units or between or among synods of this church that cannot be resolved by the parties, the aggrieved party or parties may appeal to the presiding bishop and the Executive Committee of the Church Council for consultation. If this consultation fails to resolve the issue, a petition may be addressed by the parties to the Church Council requesting it to ~~mediate~~ resolve the matter.
- 20.873.** When a component ~~or beneficiary~~ of a churchwide unit ~~or office~~ has a disagreement on a substantive issue which it cannot resolve ~~with the board of its~~ within the unit or office, it may address an appeal to the presiding bishop and the Executive Committee of the Church Council. In this case, the decision of the Executive Committee shall prevail, except that upon the motion of a member of the Church Council, the decision shall be referred to the Church Council for final action.
- 20.874.** When there is disagreement on a substantive issue between a synod or synods and the churchwide organization that cannot be resolved by the parties, the aggrieved party or parties may appeal to the Committee on Appeals for consultation and adjudication. If this appeal fails to resolve the issue, a petition may be addressed by the parties to the Churchwide Assembly, whose decision shall be final.
- 20.875.** When there is disagreement among factions within a congregation on a substantive issue which cannot be resolved by the parties, members of a congregation shall have access to the synodical bishop for consultation after informing the chair of the Congregation Council of their intent. If the consultation fails to resolve the issue(s), the Consultation Committee of the synod shall consider the matter. If the Consultation Committee of the synod shall fail to resolve the issue(s), the matter shall be referred to the Synod Council, whose decision shall be final.

CONSTITUTION FOR SYNODS

Chapter 14.

~~ORDAINED MINISTERS AND LAY ROSTERED MINISTERS~~

S14.10. Ministers of Word and Sacrament

†S14.011. The time and place of the ordination of those persons properly called to congregations or ~~extra-parish non-congregational~~ service of this synod shall be authorized by the bishop of this synod.

†S14.012. Consistent with the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America,
a. Every ~~ordained minister of Word and Sacrament~~ shall:

...

- 4) provide pastoral care;
- 5) seek out and encourage qualified persons to prepare for the ministry of the Gospel;
- 6) impart knowledge of this church and its wider ministry through distribution of its communications and publications;
- 7) witness to the Kingdom of God in the community, in the nation and abroad; and
- 58) speak publicly to the world in solidarity with the poor and oppressed, calling for justice and proclaiming God's love for the world.

- b. Each ~~ordained minister~~ ~~pastor~~ with a congregational call shall, within the congregation:
- 1) offer instruction, confirm, marry, visit the sick and distressed, and bury the dead;
 - 2) ~~supervise~~ ~~relate to~~ all schools and organizations of the congregation;
 - 3) install regularly elected members of the Congregation Council; and
 - 4) with the council, administer discipline;

~~c.~~ Every pastor shall:

- 1) strive to extend the Kingdom of God in the community, in the nation, and abroad;
- 2) seek out and encourage qualified persons to prepare for the ministry of the Gospel;
- 3) impart knowledge of this church and its wider ministry through distribution of its periodicals and other publications; and
- 4) endeavor to increase the support given by the congregation to the work of the ELCA churchwide organization and of this ELCA synod.

[Update the numbering of subsequent provisions in Chapter 14.]

S14.015. Each ~~ordained minister of Word and Sacrament~~ on the roster of this synod shall submit a report of his or her ministry to the bishop of the synod at least 90 days prior to each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.

†**S14.116.** When a congregation of this church desires to call a pastor or a candidate for the ~~pastoral office in the ordained ministry of Word and Sacrament~~ of this church:

...

- b. For issuance of a letter of call to a pastor or ~~pastoral~~ candidate by a congregation of this synod in accord with ELCA constitutional provision 7.41., a two-thirds ~~majority ballot~~ vote shall be required of ~~voting members~~ of the congregation present and voting at a meeting regularly called for the purpose of issuing such a call.

...

S14.127. No ~~ordained minister of Word and Sacrament~~ shall accept a call without first conferring with the bishop of this synod. ~~An ordained minister of Word and Sacrament~~ shall respond with an answer of acceptance or declination to a letter of call within 30 days of receipt of such call. In exceptional circumstances with the approval of the bishop of this synod and the chair of the Congregation Council of the congregation issuing the call, an additional 15 days may be granted to respond to a letter of call.

†**S14.138.** ~~The provisions for termination of the mutual relationship between a minister of Word and Sacrament and a congregation shall be as follows:~~

- a. The call of a congregation, when accepted by a pastor, shall constitute a continuing mutual relationship and commitment which shall be terminated only by death or, following consultation with the synodical bishop, for the following reasons:

...

- 6) resignation or removal of the pastor from the roster of ~~ordained ministers of Word and Sacrament~~ of this church;

...

- b. When allegations of physical disability or mental incapacity of the pastor under paragraph a.4) above, or ineffective conduct of the pastoral office under paragraph a.3) above, have come to the attention of the bishop of this synod,

- 1) the bishop in his or her sole discretion may investigate such conditions personally together with a committee of two ~~ordained~~ ~~rostered~~ ministers and one layperson, or

- 2) when such allegations have been brought to the synod's attention by an official recital of allegations by the Congregation Council or by a petition signed by at least one-third of the voting members of the congregation, the bishop personally shall investigate such conditions together with a committee of two **ordained rostered ministers** and one layperson.
- c. In case of alleged physical disability or mental incapacity under paragraph a.4) above, the bishop's committee shall obtain and document competent medical opinion concerning the pastor's condition. When a disability or incapacity is evident to the committee, the bishop of this synod may declare the pastorate vacant ~~and the pastor shall be listed on the clergy roster as disabled. When the pastorate is declared vacant, the Synod Council shall list the pastor on the roster of ministers of Word and Sacrament as disabled.~~ Upon removal of the disability and restoration of the pastor to health, the bishop shall take steps to enable the pastor to resume the ministry, either in the congregation last served or in another appropriate call.
- ...
- e. If either party fails to assent to the recommendations of the bishop's committee concerning the pastor's call, the congregation may dismiss the pastor only at a legally called meeting after consultation with the bishop, either (a) by a two-thirds **majority** vote of the voting members present and voting where the bishop and the committee did not recommend termination of the call, or (b) by a **simple** majority vote of the voting members present and voting where the bishop and the committee recommended termination of the call.

...

†S14.149. ~~Ordained m~~ **Ministers of Word and Sacrament** shall respect the integrity of the ministry of congregations which they do not serve and shall not exercise ministerial functions therein unless invited to do so by the pastor, or if there is no duly called pastor, then by the interim pastor in consultation with the Congregation Council.

†S14.152. The parochial records of all baptisms, confirmations, marriages, burials, communicants, members received, members transferred or dismissed, members who have become inactive, or members excluded from the congregation shall be kept accurately and permanently. They shall remain the property of each congregation. At the time of the closure of a congregation, such records shall be sent to the regional archives. The secretary of the congregation shall attest to the bishop of this synod that such records have been placed in his or her hands in good order by a departing pastor before:

- a. installation in another **field of labor call**, or
- b. **the issuance of a certificate of dismissal or transfer approval of a request for change in roster status.**

†S14.162. The pastor shall make satisfactory settlement of all financial obligations to a former congregation before:

- a. installation in another **field of labor call**, or
- b. **the issuance of a certificate of dismissal or transfer approval of a request for change in roster status.**

†S14.173. During service to a congregation, an interim pastor shall have the rights and duties in the congregation of a regularly called pastor. The interim pastor may delegate the same in part to an interim supply pastor with the consent of the bishop of this synod. The interim pastor and any **ordained-rostered minister** who may assist shall refrain from exerting influence in the selection of a pastor. Upon completion of service, the interim pastor shall certify to the bishop of this synod that the parochial records, for the period for which the interim pastor was responsible, are in order.

~~†S14.1824.~~ With the approval of the synodical bishop expressed in writing, which sets forth a clear statement of the purpose to be served by such a departure from the normal rule of permanency of the call as expressed in ~~†S14.1318.~~, a congregation may call a pastor for a specific term. Details of such calls shall be in writing setting forth the purpose and conditions involved. Prior to the completion of a term, the bishop of this synod or a representative of the bishop shall meet with the pastor and representatives of the congregation for a review of the call. Such call may also be terminated before its expiration in accordance with the provisions of ~~†S14.1318.~~

~~S14.215.~~ All ~~ordained ministers of Word and Sacrament~~ under a call shall attend meetings of the Synod Assembly, and the pastors of congregations shall also attend the meetings of the conference, cluster, coalition, or other area subdivision to which the congregation belongs.

~~S14.30.~~ **Official Rosters of Laypersons Ministers of Word and Service**

~~†S14.31.~~ The provisions in the churchwide documents and such provisions as may be developed by the appropriate churchwide unit governing associates in ministry, deaconesses, and diaconal ministers of this church shall apply in this synod:

- ~~a.~~ When a congregation of this synod desires to call an associate in ministry, deaconess, or diaconal minister or a candidate for these official rosters of laypersons of this church:
 - ~~1)~~ Such a congregation of this synod shall consult the synodical bishop before taking any steps leading to extending such a call.
 - ~~2)~~ Issuance of such a letter of call shall be in accord with criteria, policies, and procedures developed by the appropriate churchwide unit, reviewed by the Conference of Bishops, and adopted by the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
 - ~~3)~~ When the congregation has voted to issue a call to an associate in ministry, deaconess, or diaconal minister, the letter of call shall be submitted to the bishop of this synod for the bishop's signature.
- ~~b.~~ An associate in ministry, deaconess, or diaconal minister shall confer with the bishop of this synod before accepting a call within this synod.
- ~~c.~~ The call of a congregation, when accepted by an associate in ministry, deaconess, or diaconal minister, shall constitute a continuing mutual relationship and commitment which, except in the case of the death of the individual, shall be terminated only following consultation with the synodical bishop in accordance with policy developed by the appropriate churchwide unit, reviewed by the Conference of Bishops, and adopted by the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- ~~d.~~ Associates in ministry, deaconesses, and diaconal ministers on the roster of this synod who are serving under call shall attend meetings of the Synod Assembly.

~~The time and place of the consecration of those persons properly called to congregations or non-congregational service of this synod shall be authorized by the bishop of this synod.~~

~~†S14.32.~~ Consistent with the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, every Minister of Word and Service shall:

- ~~a.~~ Be rooted in the Word of God, for proclamation and service;
- ~~b.~~ Advocate a prophetic diakonia that commits itself to risk-taking and innovative service on the frontiers of the Church's outreach, giving particular attention to the suffering places in God's world;

- c. Speak publicly to the world in solidarity with the poor and oppressed, calling for justice and proclaiming God's love for the world, witnessing to the realm of God in the community, the nation, and abroad;
 - d. Equip the baptized for ministry in God's world that affirms the gifts of all people;
 - e. Encourage mutual relationships that invite participation and accompaniment of others in God's mission;
 - f. Practice stewardship that respects God's gift of time, talents, and resources;
 - g. Be grounded in a gathered community for ongoing diaconal formation;
 - h. Share knowledge of the ELCA and its wider ministry of the gospel, and advocate for the work of all expressions of this church; and
 - i. Identify and encourage qualified persons to prepare for ministry of the gospel.
- S14.33.** The minister of Word and Service shall become a member of the congregation upon receipt and acceptance of the letter of call. In a parish of multiple congregations, the minister of Word and Service shall hold membership in one of the congregations.
- S14.34.** Each minister of Word and Service on the roster of this synod shall submit a report of his or her ministry to the bishop of the synod at least 90 days prior to each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.
- †S14.41.** When a congregation of this church desires to call a minister of Word and Service or a candidate for the ministry of Word and Service of this church:
- a. Each congregation of this synod shall consult the bishop of this synod before taking any steps leading to the extending of a call to a prospective minister of Word and Service.
 - b. For issuance of a letter of call to a minister of Word and Service or candidate by a congregation of this synod in accord with ELCA constitutional provision 7.71., a two-thirds vote shall be required of members of the congregation present and voting at a meeting regularly called for the purpose of issuing such a call.
 - c. When the congregation has voted to issue a call to a prospective minister of Word and Service, the letter of call shall be submitted to the bishop of this synod for the bishop's signature.
- S14.42.** No minister of Word and Service shall accept a call without first conferring with the bishop of this synod. A minister of Word and Service shall respond with an answer of acceptance or declination to a letter of call within 30 days of receipt of such call. In exceptional circumstances with the approval of the bishop of this synod and the chair of the Congregation Council of the congregation issuing the call, an additional 15 days may be granted to respond to a letter of call.
- †S14.43.** a. The call of a congregation, when accepted by a minister of Word and Service, shall constitute a continuing mutual relationship and commitment which shall be terminated only by death or, following consultation with the synodical bishop, for the following reasons:
- 1) mutual agreement to terminate the call or the completion of a call for a specific term;
 - 2) resignation of the minister of Word and Service, which shall become effective, unless otherwise agreed, no later than 30 days after the date on which it was submitted;
 - 3) inability to conduct the office effectively in that congregation in view of local conditions;
 - 4) physical disability or mental incapacity of the minister of Word and Service;
 - 5) suspension of the minister of Word and Service through discipline for more than three months;

- 6) resignation or removal of the minister of Word and Service from the roster of ministers of Word and Service of this church;
 - 7) termination of the relationship between this church and the congregation;
 - 8) dissolution of the congregation or the termination of a parish arrangement; or
 - 9) suspension of the congregation through discipline for more than six months.
- b. When allegations of physical disability or mental incapacity of the minister of Word and Service under paragraph a.4) above, or ineffective conduct of the ministry of Word and Service under paragraph a.3) above, have come to the attention of the bishop of this synod,
- 1) the bishop in his or her sole discretion may investigate such conditions personally together with a committee of two rostered ministers and one layperson, or
 - 2) when such allegations have been brought to the synod's attention by an official recital of allegations by the Congregation Council or by a petition signed by at least one-third of the voting members of the congregation, the bishop personally shall investigate such conditions together with a committee of two rostered ministers and one layperson.
- c. In case of alleged physical disability or mental incapacity under paragraph a.4) above, the bishop's committee shall obtain and document competent medical opinion concerning the minister of Word and Service's condition. When a disability or incapacity is evident to the committee, the bishop of this synod may declare the position vacant and the minister of Word and Service shall be listed on the roster of ministers of Word and Service as disabled. Upon removal of the disability and restoration of the minister of Word and Service to health, the bishop shall take steps to enable the minister of Word and Service to resume the ministry, either in the congregation last served or in another appropriate call.
- d. In the case of alleged local difficulties that imperil the effective functioning of the congregation under paragraph a.3) above, the bishop's committee shall endeavor to hear from all concerned persons, after which the bishop together with the committee shall present their recommendations first to the minister of Word and Service and then to the congregation. The recommendations of the bishop's committee address whether the minister of Word and Service's call should come to an end and, if so, may suggest appropriate severance arrangements. The committee may also propose other actions that should be undertaken by the congregation and by the minister of Word and Service, if appropriate. If the minister of Word and Service and congregation agree to carry out such recommendations, no further action need be taken by the synod.
- e. If either party fails to assent to the recommendations of the bishop's committee concerning the minister of Word and Service's call, the congregation may dismiss the minister of Word and Service only at a legally called meeting after consultation with the bishop, either (a) by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present and voting where the bishop and the committee did not recommend termination of the call, or (b) by a majority vote of the voting members present and voting where the bishop and the committee recommended termination of the call.
- f. If, in the course of proceedings described in paragraph c. or paragraph d. above, the bishop's committee concludes that there may be grounds for disciplinary action, the committee shall make recommendations concerning disciplinary action in accordance with the provisions of this church's constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions.
- †S14.44. Ministers of Word and Service shall respect the integrity of the ministry of congregations which they do not serve and shall not exercise ministerial functions therein unless invited to do so by the Congregation Council.

- †S14.45. The minister of Word and Service shall make satisfactory settlement of all financial obligations to a former congregation before:
- a. installation in another call, or
 - b. approval of a request for change in roster status.
- †S14.46. With the approval of the synodical bishop expressed in writing, which sets forth a clear statement of the purpose to be served by such a departure from the normal rule of permanency of the call as expressed in †S14.43., a congregation may call a minister of Word and Service for a specific term. Details of such calls shall be in writing setting forth the purpose and conditions involved. Prior to the completion of a term, the bishop of this synod or a representative of the bishop shall meet with the minister of Word and Service and representatives of the congregation for a review of the call. Such call may also be terminated before its expiration in accordance with the provisions of †S14.43.
- S14.47. All ministers of Word and Service under a call shall attend meetings of the Synod Assembly, and the ministers of Word and Service of congregations shall also attend the meetings of the conference, cluster, coalition, or other area subdivision to which the congregation belongs.

MODEL CONSTITUTION FOR CONGREGATIONS

Chapter 9.

THE PASTOR ROSTERED MINISTER

- *C9.01. Authority to call a pastor shall be in this congregation by at least a two-thirds majority ballot vote of voting members present and voting at a meeting legally called for that purpose. Before a call is issued, the officers, or a committee elected by [this congregation][the Congregation Council] to recommend the call, shall seek the advice and help of the bishop of the synod.
- *C9.02. Only a member of the clergy roster of ministers of Word and Sacrament of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America or a candidate for the roster of ordained ministers of Word and Sacrament who has been recommended for the congregation by the synodical bishop may be called as a pastor of this congregation.
- *C9.03. Consistent with the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America,
- a. Every ordained minister of Word and Sacrament shall:
...
 - 4) provide pastoral care;
 - 5) seek out and encourage qualified persons to prepare for the ministry of the Gospel;
 - 6) impart knowledge of this church and its wider ministry through distribution of its communications and publications;
 - 7) witness to the Kingdom of God in the community, in the nation and abroad; and
 - 8) speak publicly to the world in solidarity with the poor and oppressed, calling for justice and proclaiming God's love for the world.
 - b. Each ordained minister-pastor with a congregational call shall, within the congregation:
...
 - 3) install regularly elected members of the Congregation Council; and
 - 4) with the council, administer discipline;
 - c. Every pastor shall:
...
 - 1) strive to extend the Kingdom of God in the community, in the nation, and abroad;
 - 2) seek out and encourage qualified persons to prepare for the ministry of the Gospel;

- 3) impart knowledge of this church and its wider ministry through distribution of its periodicals and other publications; and
- 4) endeavor to increase the support given by the congregation to the work of the ELCA churchwide organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and of the *(insert name of synod)* Synod of the ELCA.

***C9.05.** The provisions for termination of the mutual relationship between a minister of Word and Sacrament and this congregation shall be as follows:

- a. The call of ~~a~~-this congregation, when accepted by a pastor, shall constitute a continuing mutual relationship and commitment, which shall be terminated only by death or, following consultation with the synodical bishop, for the following reasons:
- ...
- 6) resignation or removal of the pastor from the roster of ordained ministers of Word and Sacrament of this church;
- ...
- b. When allegations of physical disability or mental incapacity of the pastor under paragraph a.4) above, or ineffective conduct of the pastoral office under paragraph a.3) above, have come to the attention of the bishop of this synod,
- 1) the bishop in his or her sole discretion may investigate such conditions personally together with a committee of two ordained ministers of Word and Sacrament and one layperson, or
- 2) when such allegations have been brought to the synod's attention by an official recital of allegations by the Congregation Council or by a petition signed by at least one-third of the voting members of the congregation, the bishop personally shall investigate such conditions together with a committee of two ordained ministers of Word and Sacrament and one layperson.
- ...
- e. If either party fails to assent to the recommendations of the bishop's committee concerning the pastor's call, the congregation may dismiss the pastor only at a legally called meeting after consultation with the bishop, either (a) by a two-thirds majority vote of the voting members present and voting where the bishop and the committee did not recommend termination of the call, or (b) by a simple majority vote of the voting members present and voting where the bishop and the committee recommended termination of the call.
- f. If, in the course of proceedings described in paragraph c. or paragraph d. above, the bishop's committee concludes that there may be grounds for disciplinary action discipline, the committee shall make recommendations concerning disciplinary action in accordance with the provisions of this church's constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions.

***C9.07.** During the period of service, an interim pastor shall have the rights and duties in the congregation of a regularly called pastor and may delegate the same in part to a supply pastor with the consent of the bishop of the synod and this congregation or Congregation Council. The interim pastor and any ordained pastor rostered minister providing assistance shall refrain from exerting influence in the selection of a pastor. Unless previously agreed upon by the Synod Council, an interim pastor is not available for a regular call to the congregation served.

C9.20. Ecumenical pastoral ministry

C9.21.

C9.15.

Under special circumstances, subject to the approval of the synodical bishop and the concurrence of this congregation, an ordained minister of Word and Sacrament of a church body with which the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America officially has established a relationship of full communion may serve temporarily as pastor of this congregation under a contract between the congregation and the ordained minister pastor in a form proposed by the synodical bishop and approved by the congregation.

***C9.21.** Authority to call a minister of Word and Service shall be in this congregation by at least a two-thirds vote of voting members present and voting at a meeting legally called for that purpose. Before a call is issued, the officers, or a committee elected by [this congregation][the Congregation Council] to recommend the call, shall seek the advice and help of the bishop of the synod.

***C9.22.** Only a member of the roster of ministers of Word and Service of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America or a candidate for the roster of ministers of Word and Service who has been recommended for this congregation by the synodical bishop may be called as a deacon of this congregation.

***C9.23.** Consistent with the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, every minister of Word and Service shall:

- a. Be rooted in the Word of God, for proclamation and service;
- b. Advocate a prophetic diakonia that commits itself to risk-taking and innovative service on the frontiers of the Church's outreach, giving particular attention to the suffering places in God's world;
- c. Speak publicly to the world in solidarity with the poor and oppressed, calling for justice and proclaiming God's love for the world, witnessing to the realm of God in the community, the nation, and abroad;
- d. Equip the baptized for ministry in God's world that affirms the gifts of all people;
- e. Encourage mutual relationships that invite participation and accompaniment of others in God's mission;
- f. Practice stewardship that respects God's gift of time, talents, and resources;
- g. Be grounded in a gathered community for ongoing diaconal formation;
- h. Share knowledge of the ELCA and its wider ministry of the gospel, and advocate for the work of all expressions of this church; and
- i. Identify and encourage qualified persons to prepare for ministry of the gospel.

***C9.24.** The specific duties of the deacon, compensation, and other matters pertaining to the service of the deacon shall be included in a letter of call, which shall be attested by the bishop of the synod.

***C9.25.** The provisions for termination of the mutual relationship between a minister of Word and Service and a congregation shall be as follows:

- a. The call of a congregation, when accepted by a deacon, shall constitute a continuing mutual relationship and commitment, which shall be terminated only by death or, following consultation with the synodical bishop, for the following reasons:
 - 1) mutual agreement to terminate the call or the completion of a call for a specific term;
 - 2) resignation of the deacon, which shall become effective, unless otherwise agreed, no later than 30 days after the date on which it was submitted;
 - 3) inability to conduct the ministry of Word and Service effectively in this congregation in view of local conditions;

- 4) physical disability or mental incapacity of the deacon;
 - 5) suspension of the deacon through discipline for more than three months;
 - 6) resignation or removal of the deacon from the roster of ministers of Word and Service of this church;
 - 7) termination of the relationship between this church and this congregation;
 - 8) dissolution of this congregation or the termination of a parish arrangement; or
 - 9) suspension of this congregation through discipline for more than six months.
- b. When allegations of physical disability or mental incapacity of the deacon under paragraph a.4) above, or ineffective conduct of the office of minister of Word and Service under paragraph a.3) above, have come to the attention of the bishop of this synod,
- 1) the bishop in his or her sole discretion may investigate such conditions personally together with a committee of two rostered ministers and one layperson, or
 - 2) when such allegations have been brought to the synod's attention by an official recital of allegations by the Congregation Council or by a petition signed by at least one-third of the voting members of this congregation, the bishop personally shall investigate such conditions together with a committee of two rostered ministers and one layperson.
- c. In case of alleged physical disability or mental incapacity under paragraph a.4) above, the bishop's committee shall obtain and document competent medical opinion concerning the deacon's condition. When a disability or incapacity is evident to the committee, the bishop of this synod may declare the office vacant and the deacon shall be listed on the roster of ministers of Word and Service as disabled. Upon removal of the disability and the restoration of the deacon to health, the bishop shall take steps to enable the deacon to resume the ministry, either in the congregation last served or in another appropriate call.
- d. In the case of alleged local difficulties that imperil the effective functioning of this congregation under paragraph a.3) above, the bishop's committee shall endeavor to hear from all concerned persons, after which the bishop together with the committee shall present their recommendations first to the deacon and then to this congregation. The recommendations of the bishop's committee must address whether the deacon's call should come to an end and, if so, may suggest appropriate severance arrangements. The committee may also propose other actions that should be undertaken by this congregation and by the deacon, if appropriate. If the deacon and congregation agree to carry out such recommendations, no further action need be taken by the synod.
- e. If either party fails to assent to the recommendations of the bishop's committee concerning the deacon's call, this congregation may dismiss the deacon only at a legally called meeting after consultation with the bishop, either (a) by a two-thirds majority vote of the voting members present and voting where the bishop and the committee did not recommend termination of the call, or (b) by a simple majority vote of the voting members present and voting where the bishop and the committee recommended termination of the call.
- f. If, in the course of proceedings described in paragraph c. or paragraph d. above, the bishop's committee concludes that there may be grounds for discipline, the committee shall make recommendations concerning disciplinary action in accordance with the provisions of this church's constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions.

- *C9.26.** The deacon shall make satisfactory settlement of all financial obligations to a former congregation before:
- a. installation in another field of labor, or
 - b. the issuance of a certificate of dismissal or transfer.
- *C9.27.** When a deacon is called to serve in company with another rostered minister or other rostered ministers, the privileges and responsibilities of each rostered minister shall be specified in documents to accompany the call and to be drafted in consultation involving the rostered ministers, the Congregation Council, and the bishop of the synod. As occasion requires, the documents may be revised through a similar consultation.
- *C9.28.** With the approval of the bishop of the synod, this congregation may depart from *C9.25.a. and call a deacon for a specific term. Details of such calls shall be in writing setting forth the purpose and conditions involved. Prior to the completion of a term, the bishop or a designated representative of the bishop shall meet with the deacon and representatives of this congregation for a review of the call. Such a call may also be terminated before its expiration in accordance with the provisions of *C9.25.a.
- *C9.29.** The deacon shall become a member of this congregation upon receipt and acceptance of the letter of call. In a parish of multiple congregations, the deacon shall hold membership in one of the congregations.
- *C9.31.** The deacon(s) shall submit a report of his or her ministry to the bishop of the synod at least 90 days prior to each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.

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

Background:

Rationale for the proposed amendments has been provided in an earlier memorandum from Secretary Wm Chris Boerger. A two-thirds vote of the 2016 Churchwide Assembly is required for adoption.

VOTED:

EN BLOC

CC15.11.52s *To recommend the following for adoption by the 2016 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:*

*To adopt, en bloc, with the exception of such amendments as may be considered separately, the following amendments to the *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*:*

- 3.02.** **This church confesses the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church and is resolved to serve Christian unity throughout the world.**
- 3.03.** The Church exists both as an inclusive fellowship and as local congregations gathered for worship and Christian service. Congregations find their fulfillment in the universal community of the Church, and the universal Church exists in and through congregations. This church, therefore, derives its character and powers both from the sanction and representation of its congregations and from its inherent nature as an expression of the broader fellowship of the faithful. In length, it acknowledges itself to be in the historic continuity of the communion of saints; in breadth, it expresses the fellowship of believers and congregations in our day.
- 3.04.** **This church, inspired and led by the Holy Spirit, participates in the Lutheran World Federation as a global communion of churches, engaging in faithful witness**

to the gospel of Jesus Christ and in service for the sake of God's mission in the world.

5.01. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America shall be one church. This church recognizes that all power and authority in the Church belongs to the Lord Jesus Christ, its head. Therefore, all actions of this church by congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization shall be carried out under his rule and authority in accordance with the following principles:

...

f. Except as otherwise provided in this constitution and bylaws, the churchwide organization, through the Church Council, shall establish processes that will ensure that at least 60 percent of the members of its assemblies, councils, committees, boards, and other organizational units shall be laypersons; that as nearly as possible, 50 percent of the lay members of these assemblies, councils, committees, boards, or other organizational units shall be female and 50 percent shall be male, and that, where possible, the representation of ordained ministers shall be both female and male. At least 10 percent of the members of these assemblies, councils, committees, boards, or other organizational units shall be persons of color and/or persons whose primary language is other than English. Processes shall be developed that will assure that in selecting staff there will be a balance of women and men, persons of color and persons whose primary language is other than English, laypersons, and persons on the roster of ordained ministers. This balance is to be evident in **terms of both executive staff and support the selection of** staff consistent with the inclusive policy of this church.

...

5.01.A87. ~~*It shall be a goal of this church that within 10 years of its establishment its membership shall include at least 10 percent people of color and/or primary language other than English.*~~

5.01.A16. *This church commits itself to ethnic and racial diversity. Each expression of this church shall annually assess its ethnic and racial diversity when compared to the demographic data of its community or territory. The churchwide organization will work with synods as they assist congregations to reach out to persons of color or whose primary language is other than English.*

5.01.B87. ~~*With regard to the minimum goal that 10 percent of the membership of synod assemblies, councils, committees, boards, and/or other organizational units be persons of color and/or persons whose primary language is other than English, it is understood that initially there may be exceptions to the attainment of this goal based on the makeup of the membership within a particular synod. By the time of its second assembly, each synod shall establish a plan to attain this goal within 10 years.*~~

5.01.B16. *Each synod shall develop goals and strategies that monitor progress toward reaching the commitment expressed in 5.01.A16 as part of its consultation process with the churchwide organization.*

5.01.D16. *The Churchwide Assembly shall receive reports from the presiding bishop and the secretary that monitor this church's progress toward meeting the commitment expressed in 5.01.A16.*

- 8.10.** RELATIONSHIP ~~BETWEEN OF~~ CONGREGATIONS, SYNODS, ~~AND~~ THE CHURCHWIDE ORGANIZATION, ~~AND THE LUTHERAN WORLD FEDERATION~~
- 8.13.** The synod shall provide for pastoral care of the congregations, **ordained ministers, associates in ministry, deaconesses, and diaconal ministers of Word and Sacrament, and ministers of Word and Service** within its boundaries. It shall plan for, facilitate, and nurture the life and mission of its people and shall enlarge the ministries and extend the outreach into society on behalf of and in connection with the congregations and the churchwide organization. **Conferences, clusters, coalitions, other area subdivisions, or networks shall serve to assist the congregations and synods in exercising their mutual responsibilities.**
- 8.18.** **This church affirms the relationship established through the Lutheran World Federation as a communion of churches that confess the triune God, agree in the proclamation of the Word of God, and are united in pulpit and altar fellowship.**
- 8.18.01.** The bylaws on ecumenical availability of ministers of Word and Sacrament under relationships of full communion shall apply to such service within this church of such ministers of other member churches of the Lutheran World Federation.
- ~~**8.20.** RELATIONSHIP THROUGH OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL UNITS~~
- ~~**8.21.** Conferences, clusters, coalitions, other area subdivisions, or networks shall serve to assist the congregations and synods in exercising their mutual responsibilities.~~

[Update numbering of subsequent provisions and bylaws in Chapter 8.]

- 8.322.03.** Primary responsibility for recruiting members for its board belongs to each college or university of this church. This responsibility is best exercised when appropriate structures of this church are substantially involved. The college or university and the appropriate synods shall determine how many of the college or university board members are to be elected or ratified by the approved form of relationship as provided in **8.322.02.**
- 8.322.04.** The responsibility for initiating changes in constitutional documents rests with each college or university of this church. Each college or university will reach agreement with the appropriate structures of this church as identified in **8.322.02.** regarding changes in constitutional documents. This church's participation may range from prior consultation to final approval.
- 8.322.06.** In addition to and consistent with the above provision **8.322.** and bylaws **8.322.01.** through **8.322.05.**, colleges and universities of this church where a school, department, or unit of that institution is a seminary of this church must comply with all requirements, policies, procedures, and standards specified in provision **8.321.** and bylaws **8.321.01.** through **8.321.02.**
- 8.762.11.** An ordained minister of this church, serving temporarily in a church body with which a relationship of full communion has been declared and established by a Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, may be retained on the roster of ordained ministers—upon endorsement by the synodical bishop and by action of the Synod Council in the synod in which the ordained minister is listed on the roster—under policies developed at the direction of the presiding bishop and secretary, reviewed by the Conference of Bishops, and adopted by the Church Council. An associate in ministry, deaconess, or diaconal minister of this church serving temporarily in a church body with which a relationship of full communion has been declared and established by

a Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, may be retained on the appropriate roster—upon endorsement by the synodical bishops and by action of the Synod Council in the synod in which the associate in ministry, deaconess, or diaconal minister is listed on the roster—under policies developed at the direction of the presiding bishop and secretary, reviewed by the Conference of Bishops, and adopted by the Church Council.

...

~~d. A letter of call to an ordained minister of this church or to an associate in ministry, deaconess, or diaconal minister who serves in a congregation of another church body, under a relationship of full communion, or an institution of such a church body on the territory of the synod, may be issued by the Synod Council. A letter of call to an ordained minister of this church or to an associate in ministry, deaconess, or diaconal minister who serves in a national or international agency or institution of another church body, under a relationship of full communion, may be issued by the Church Council.~~

~~c. A first call may not be served in a congregation or other entity of a full-communication partner church.~~

~~8.73. This church acknowledges the relationship established through the Lutheran World Federation as a communion of member churches which confess the triune God, agree in the proclamation of the Word of God, and are united in pulpit and altar fellowship. The bylaws on ecumenical availability of ordained ministers under relationships of full communion shall apply to such service within this church of ordained ministers from other member churches of the Lutheran World Federation.~~

9.25. A congregation newly formed by this church and any congregation seeking recognition and reception by this church shall:

...

b. Adopt governing documents that include fully and without alterations the Preamble, Chapter 1, where applicable, and all required provisions of Chapters 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 15, 16, 17, 18, and 19 in the *Model Constitution for Congregations* consistent with requirements of this constitution and the *Constitution for Synods* of this church. Bylaws and continuing resolutions, appropriate for inclusion in these chapters and not in conflict with these required provisions in the *Model Constitution for Congregations*, the constitution of the synod, or the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*, may be adopted as described in Chapters ~~16 17~~ and 18 of the *Model Constitution for Congregations*.

...

9.53.06. A congregation considering a relocation shall confer with the bishop of the synod in which it is territorially located and the appropriate ~~program~~ unit of the churchwide organization before any steps are taken leading to such action. The approval of the Synod Council shall be received before any such action is effected.

9.53.08. A congregation considering development of an additional site to be used regularly for worship shall confer with the bishop of the synod in which it is territorially located and

the appropriate ~~program~~ unit of the churchwide organization before any steps are taken leading to such action.

~~9.80.~~ ~~DISCIPLINE OF CONGREGATIONS~~
~~See Chapter 20.~~

[Update numbering of subsequent provisions and bylaws in Chapter 9.]

~~10.01.10.~~ ~~Names and Boundaries~~

~~10.01.101.~~ ~~Names and Boundaries.~~ The names and boundaries of the synods shall be:

...

Synod 1.B—Northwest Washington. The counties of Island, King (north), San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish, Whatcom in the state of WASHINGTON; the congregation Bethany, Kitsap County, in the state of WASHINGTON.

...

Synod 1.D—Eastern Washington-Idaho. The state of IDAHO; the counties of Adams, Asotin, Benton, Chelan, Columbia, Douglas, Ferry, Franklin, Garfield, Grant, Kittitas, Klickitat, Lincoln, Okanogan, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens, Walla Walla, Whitman, Yakima in the state of WASHINGTON; the congregation Shepherd of the Mountains, Teton County, and the congregation Star Valley United, Lincoln County, in the state of WYOMING.

...

Synod 3.C—South Dakota. The state of SOUTH DAKOTA; the congregation Union Creek, Plymouth County, in the state of IOWA.

...

Synod 3.H—Saint Paul Area. The counties of Chisago, Dakota, Ramsey, Washington in the state of MINNESOTA; the congregations St. Mark, Our Savior's, and Living Waters in Anoka County, the congregation Spring Lake, Isanti County, and the congregation Christiania, Scott County, in the state of MINNESOTA.

...

Synod 5.E—Western Iowa. The counties of Adair, Adams, Audubon, Buena Vista, Calhoun, Carroll, Cass, Cherokee, Clay, Crawford, Dallas (west), Dickinson, Emmet, Fremont, Greene, Guthrie, Hamilton (west), Hancock, Harrison, Humboldt, Ida, Kossuth, Lyon, Mills, Monona, Montgomery, O'Brien, Osceola, Page, Palo Alto, Plymouth, Pocahontas, Pottawattamie, Ringgold, Sac, Shelby, Sioux, Taylor, Union, Webster, Winnebago, Woodbury, and ~~Wright (west)~~ in the state of IOWA.

Synod 5.F—Northeastern Iowa. The counties of Allamakee, Black Hawk, Bremer, Buchanan, Butler, Cerro Gordo, Chickasaw, Clayton, Delaware, Dubuque, Fayette, Floyd, Franklin, Grundy, Hamilton (east), Hardin, Howard, Jackson (north), Mitchell, Story (north), Tama (north), Winneshiek, Worth, ~~Wright (east)~~ in the state of IOWA.

...

Synod 5.K—South-Central Synod of Wisconsin. The counties of Columbia, Dane, Dodge, Grant, Green, Iowa, Jefferson, Lafayette, Richland, Rock, Sauk, Walworth in the state of WISCONSIN; the congregation Trinity, Adams County, in the state of WISCONSIN, and the congregation Jefferson Prairie, Boone County, in the state of ILLINOIS.

...

Synod 6.F—Southern Ohio. The counties of Adams, Athens, Belmont, Brown, Butler, Champaign, Clark, Clermont, Clinton, Coshocton, Darke, Delaware, Fairfield, Fayette, Franklin, Gallia, Greene, Guernsey, Hamilton, Highland, Hocking, Jackson, Knox,

Lawrence, Licking, Logan, Madison, Meigs, Miami, Monroe, Montgomery, Morgan, Muskingum, Noble, Perry, Pickaway, Pike, Preble, Ross, Scioto, Shelby, Union, Vinton, Warren, Washington in the state of OHIO; the congregation St. Mark, Auglaize County, in the state of OHIO, and the congregation Bethel, Greenup County, in the state of KENTUCKY.

...

Synod 8.D—Lower Susquehanna. The counties of Adams, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Fulton, Lancaster, Lebanon, Perry, York in the state of PENNSYLVANIA; the congregations St. Michael and Zion in Schuylkill County in the state of PENNSYLVANIA.

Synod 8.E—Upper Susquehanna. The counties of Clinton, Columbia, Juniata, Lycoming, Mifflin, Montour, Northumberland, Snyder, Tioga, Union in the state of PENNSYLVANIA; the congregation Trinity, Luzerne County, and the congregation Zion, Dauphin County, in the state of PENNSYLVANIA.

...

Synod 8.H—West Virginia-Western Maryland. The county of Garrett in the state of MARYLAND; the state of WEST VIRGINIA; the congregation Calvary, Allegany County, the congregations Holy Trinity Memorial and Salem in Washington County in the state of MARYLAND; the congregation Fairview, Frederick County, in the state of VIRGINIA.

Synod 9.A—Virginia. The counties of Albemarle, Alleghany, Amelia, Amherst, Appomattox, Augusta, Bath, Bedford, Bland, Botetourt, Brunswick, Buchanan, Buckingham, Campbell, Caroline, Carroll, Charles City, Charlotte, Chesterfield, Clarke, Craig, Culpeper, Cumberland, Dickenson, Dinwiddie, Essex, Fauquier, Floyd, Fluvanna, Franklin, Frederick, Giles, Gloucester, Goochland, Grayson, Greene, Greensville, Halifax, Hanover, Henrico, Henry, Highland, Isle of Wight, James City, King and Queen, King George, King William, Lancaster, Lee, Louisa, Lunenburg, Madison, Mathews, Mecklenburg, Middlesex, Montgomery, Nelson, New Kent, Northumberland, Nottoway, Orange, Page, Patrick, Pittsylvania, Powhatan, Prince Edward, Prince George, Pulaski, Rappahannock, Richmond, Roanoke, Rockbridge, Rockingham, Russell, Scott, Shenandoah, Smyth, Southampton, Spotsylvania, Stafford, Surry, Sussex, Tazewell, Warren, Washington, Westmoreland, Wise, Wythe, York, and the independent cities within the territory of these counties in the state of VIRGINIA; the congregation of Immanuel in Mercer County in the state of WEST VIRGINIA; the congregation Lakeside in Halifax County in the state of NORTH CAROLINA.

...

Synod 9.F—Caribbean. The commonwealth of PUERTO RICO; the territory of the U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS.

10.31.02. The presiding bishop of this church, or a bishop appointed by the presiding bishop of this church, shall preside for the installation into office, in accord with the policy and approved rite of this church, of each newly elected synod bishop.

[Update numbering of subsequent bylaws under provision 10.31.]

10.32. ~~CONFLICTS OF INTEREST~~ The procedures governing matters of potential conflicts of interest for synodical bishops shall be set forth in the bylaws.

10.32.01. The following procedures shall govern matters of potential conflicts of interest for synodical bishops:

- a. Whenever a synodical bishop determines that a matter of the kind described in **10.32.01.b2**, may require his or her determination or action with respect to a related individual as defined in **10.32.01.c3**, the synodical bishop shall withdraw from personal involvement in such matter and shall so notify the presiding bishop. The presiding bishop shall then appoint another synodical bishop from the same region to handle the matter to conclusion. In dealing with such matter, the appointed bishop shall exercise all of the functions and authority to the same extent as if the appointed bishop were the elected bishop of the withdrawing bishop's synod.
- b-10.32.02.** Matters include any proceedings under Chapter 20, proceedings under provision 7.46. (~~§14.1318~~), candidacy, reinstatement, and similar matters where determinations or actions by the synodical bishop could change, limit, restrict, approve, authorize, or deny the related individual's ministry on one of the **official** rosters of this church.
- c-10.32.03.** A related individual is one who, with respect to the synodical bishop, is a spouse, parent, son, daughter, sibling, uncle, aunt, niece, nephew, grandparent, grandchild, including corresponding members of blended families, and in-laws (parent, son, daughter, or sibling of a spouse, spouse of a sibling, or the parent or sibling of the spouse of a sibling).
- 10.41.** Each synod shall have a Synod Assembly, which shall be its highest legislative authority, and which shall meet at least **biennially triennially**. Special meetings may be called as needed. With the exception of **ordained** ministers on the rosters of synods other than their synod of residence, each member of the Synod Assembly, the Synod Council, a board, committee, or other organizational unit of the synod shall be a voting member of a congregation of the synod.
- 10.71.** Each synod shall remit to the churchwide organization a percentage **or amount** of all donor-unrestricted receipts contributed to it by the congregations of the synod; **such percentage to be determined by the Churchwide Assembly. Individual exceptions may be made by the Church Council upon request of a synod. The actual percentage or amount shall be determined through individual consultations with each synod. Consultations may recognize and include receipts other than unrestricted receipts in establishing and reporting the synod's remittance to the churchwide organization.**
- 10.71.01.** The percentage or amount determined by consultation shall be acted upon by the synod assembly as part of the adoption of the synod's budget. Should the synod assembly not approve the agreed upon percentage or amount, the synod and the churchwide organization should engage in a new consultation process to reach a mutually agreed upon percentage or amount of donor-unrestricted receipts or other receipts.
- 10.71.02.** The percentage or amount determined by consultation shall come to the Church Council for approval or a request to reopen consultation.
- 10.80.** **INSTALLATION**
- 10.81.01.** The presiding bishop of this church, or a bishop appointed by the presiding bishop of this church, shall preside for the installation into office, in accord with the policy and approved rite of this church, of each newly elected synodical bishop.

[Update numbering of subsequent provisions, bylaws and continuing resolutions in Chapter 10.]

- 12.31. The assembly shall meet **biennially in regular session through 2013, and triennially thereafter**. Special meetings may be called by a two-thirds vote of the Church Council. The purpose for a special meeting shall be stated in the notice.
- 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 **on this church's website and** 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 **on this church's website and** in this church's periodical at least 30 days in advance of the special assembly. 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 email addresses, unless the voting member or voting member-elect has requested that written notice be mailed.
- 12.41.11. Each synod shall elect one voting member of the Churchwide Assembly for every 6,000 baptized members in the synod. In addition, each synod shall elect one voting member for every 50 congregations in the synod. The synodical bishop, who is *ex officio* a member of the Churchwide Assembly, shall be included in the number of voting members so determined. **Unless otherwise determined by the synod, the synodical vice president shall serve as an *ex officio* member of the Churchwide Assembly and be included in the number of the synod's voting members.** These voting members elected by each synod shall comply with the principles of organization, commitment to inclusiveness, and interdependence as specified in Chapter 5 of this constitution. In addition, each synod shall elect one additional voting member who is a youth or young adult at the time of the election and one additional voting member who is a person of color or a person whose primary language is other than English. **There shall be at least two voting members from each synod.** The Church Council may allocate up to 10 additional voting members among synods, but no single synod may be allocated more than two additional voting members. The secretary shall notify each synod of the number of assembly members it is to elect.
- ~~12.41.20.~~ **Ex Officio Members**
- 12.41.21. **Ex Officio Members.** The officers of the churchwide organization and the bishops of the synods shall serve as *ex officio* members of the Churchwide Assembly. **Unless otherwise determined by a synod, the synodical vice presidents shall also serve as *ex officio* members of the Churchwide Assembly. *Ex officio* members They** shall have voice and vote.
- ~~12.41.22.~~ **Unless otherwise determined by the synod, the synodical vice president shall serve as a voting member of the Churchwide Assembly.**
- ~~12.41.30.~~ **Advisory Members**
- 12.41.31. **Advisory Members.** Members of the Church Council, unless otherwise elected as voting members, shall serve as advisory members of the Churchwide Assembly. In addition, executive directors of units of the churchwide organization, the executive for administration, and other persons from the churchwide organization designated by the presiding bishop shall serve as advisory members of the Churchwide Assembly. The Church Council also may designate other persons as advisory members of the Churchwide Assembly. ~~12.41.32.~~ **Advisory members shall have voice but not vote.**
- ~~12.41.40.~~ **Other Non-Voting Members**

- 12.41.4117. **Other Non-Voting Members.** Other categories of non-voting members may be established by the Churchwide Assembly.
- ~~12.51.10. Reference and Counsel Committee~~
12.51.4101. **Reference and Counsel Committee.** A Reference and Counsel Committee, appointed by the Church Council, shall review all proposed changes or additions to the constitution and bylaws and other items submitted that are not germane to items contained in the stated agenda of the assembly.
- ~~12.51.20. Memorials Committee~~
12.51.2102. **Memorials Committee.** A Memorials Committee, appointed by the Church Council, shall review memorials from synodical assemblies and make appropriate recommendations for assembly action.
- ~~12.51.30. Nominating Committee~~
12.51.3103. **Nominating Committee.** A Nominating Committee, elected by the Churchwide Assembly, shall **nominate at least one person present nominations** for each position for which an election will be held by the Churchwide Assembly **and for which a nominating procedure has not otherwise been designated in the constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions of this church in accordance with Chapter 19 of this constitution.**
- 13.21. The presiding bishop shall be an ordained minister of this church who, as its pastor, shall be a teacher of the faith of this church and shall provide leadership for the life and witness of this church. The presiding bishop shall:
...
k. **Recommend legal counsel to the Church Council.**
l. **Serve as an advisory member, with voice but not vote, on all committees of this church and all boards or committees of churchwide units, or designate a person to serve as the presiding bishop's representative.**
- 13.41.02. The secretary shall:
...
e. **Coordinate** ~~Oversee the general counsel and coordinate~~ the use of legal services by the churchwide organization.
...
- 14.21.12. The Church Council shall provide for the installation of the churchwide officers. At the installation of a newly elected presiding bishop of this church, the presiding minister shall be the **retiring previous** presiding bishop of this church or, where that is not possible, a synodical bishop designated by the Church Council.
- 14.31. The voting members of the Church Council shall consist of the four churchwide officers, the chair of the Conference of Bishops, and at least **33-32** and not more than 45 other persons elected by the Churchwide Assembly.
- 14.32.03. Any Church Council member appointed to fill a vacancy of less than three years in a Church Council position not restricted to a specific synod shall not be deemed to have served a term and is eligible for election to a full term if she or he otherwise satisfies the criteria for election.**

- ~~14.41.10.~~ **Executive Committee**
- ~~14.41.1101.~~ **Executive Committee.** The Church Council shall have an Executive Committee composed of the churchwide officers, the chair of the Conference of Bishops, and seven members of the Church Council elected by the council. The vice president of this church shall chair this committee. The Executive Committee shall:
- ...
- 16.11.01. ~~Consistent with applicable personnel policies, churchwide units and offices will have staff persons, some of whom shall be executive staff and others of whom shall be support staff. In conformity with this church's commitment to inclusive practice, churchwide units and offices will assure that staff include a balance of women and men, persons of color and persons whose primary language is other than English, laypersons, and persons on the roster of ordained rostered ministers. This balance is to be evident in terms of both executive staff and support staff consistent with the inclusive policy of this church.~~
- 17.50.05. The board of this organization shall meet at least two times per year and shall be responsible to the assembly that elected it. The assembly of this organization shall be representative of local and other groupings of women who are members of the women's organization. Upon two successive absences that have not been excused by the board, a board member's position shall be declared vacant and the board shall arrange for election to fill the vacancy under Article ~~4~~ XIII, Section ~~4~~ 5, Item 9, of the constitution and bylaws of the women's organization.
- ~~18.01.01.~~ **Functions.** ~~The regions shall be a means for coordinated responses by synods and the churchwide organization to mission and program opportunities within the region.~~
- ~~18.01.02.~~ ~~The region shall be a forum where the synods and the churchwide organization may study, plan, and share together in developing common programs unique to the region. Responsibilities carried out together will vary from region to region depending on the decision of the synods and churchwide units.~~
- ~~18.01.03.~~ ~~Additional programs or services may be developed in each region upon the request of two or more synods, or upon the request of the churchwide organization and one or more synods, providing that each requesting synod and the churchwide organization supply the necessary financial support for the services requested.~~
- ~~18.01.04.~~ ~~The funding of the region shall be shared by the participating synods and the churchwide organization according to a cost allocation as decided jointly by the synods and the churchwide organization.~~
- ~~18.10.10.~~ **Functions**
- ~~18.11.11.~~ ~~The regions shall be a means for coordinated responses by synods and the churchwide organization to mission and program opportunities within the region.~~
- ~~18.11.12.~~ ~~The region shall be a forum where the synods and the churchwide organization may study, plan, and share together in developing common programs unique to the region. Responsibilities carried out together will vary from region to region depending on the decision of the synods and churchwide units.~~
- ~~18.11.13.~~ ~~Additional programs or services may be developed in each region upon the request of two or more synods, or upon the request of the churchwide organization and one or more synods, providing that each requesting synod and the churchwide organization supply the necessary financial support for the services requested.~~

- 18.11.14.** ~~The funding of the region shall be shared by the participating synods and the churchwide organization according to a cost allocation as decided jointly by the synods and the churchwide organization.~~

[Update the numbering of subsequent continuing resolutions.]

- 19.01.01.** The treasurer shall be elected by a two-thirds vote of the Church Council.
- 19.01.02.** The presiding bishop shall be elected by the Churchwide Assembly by ecclesiastical ballot. Three-fourths of the votes cast shall be necessary for election on the first ballot. If no one is elected, the first ballot shall be considered the nominating ballot. Three-fourths of the votes cast on the second ballot shall be necessary for election. The third ballot shall be limited to the seven persons (plus ties) who received the greatest number of votes on the second ballot, and two-thirds of the votes cast shall be necessary for election. The fourth ballot shall be limited to the three persons (plus ties) who receive the greatest number of votes on the third ballot, and 60 percent of the votes cast shall be necessary for election. On subsequent ballots, a majority of the votes cast shall be necessary for election. These ballots shall be limited to the two persons (plus ties) who receive the greatest number of votes on the previous ballot.
- 19.01.03.** The vice president shall be elected by the Churchwide Assembly by ecclesiastical ballot. The election shall proceed without oral nominations. If the first ballot for vice president does not result in an election, it shall be considered a nominating ballot. On the first ballot, three-fourths of the votes cast shall be required for election. Thereafter only such votes as are cast for persons who received votes on the first or nominating ballot shall be valid. On the second ballot, three-fourths of the votes cast shall be required for election. On the third ballot, the voting shall be limited to the seven persons (plus ties) receiving the greatest number of votes on the second ballot and two-thirds of the votes cast shall be necessary for election. On the fourth ballot, voting shall be limited to the three persons (plus ties) receiving the greatest number of votes on the previous ballot and 60 percent of the votes cast shall elect. On subsequent ballots, voting shall be limited to the two persons (plus ties) receiving the greatest number of votes on the previous ballot and a majority of votes cast shall elect.
- 19.01.04.** The secretary shall be elected by the Churchwide Assembly by ecclesiastical ballot. The election shall proceed without oral nominations. If the first ballot for secretary does not result in an election, it shall be considered a nominating ballot. On the first ballot, three-fourths of the votes cast shall be required for election. Thereafter only such votes as are cast for persons who received votes on the first or nominating ballot shall be valid. On the second ballot, three-fourths of the votes cast shall be required for election. On the third ballot, the voting shall be limited to the seven persons (plus ties) receiving the greatest number of votes on the second ballot and two-thirds of the votes cast shall be necessary for election. On the fourth ballot, voting shall be limited to the three persons (plus ties) receiving the greatest number of votes on the previous ballot and 60 percent of the votes cast shall elect. On subsequent ballots, voting shall be limited to the two persons (plus ties) receiving the greatest number of votes on the previous ballot and a majority of the votes cast shall elect.
- 19.01.B09.** Background checks and screening shall be required and completed for persons nominated as churchwide officers prior to their election, if possible, or as soon as practical after their election. The specific procedures and timing of background checks and screening shall be determined by the Church Council.

19.01.C94. ***Ecclesiastical Ballot.** An “ecclesiastical ballot” for the election of officers (other than treasurer) of the churchwide organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is an election process:*

- a. in which on the first ballot the name of any eligible individual may be submitted for nomination by a voting member of the assembly;*
- b. through which the possibility of election to office exists on any ballot by achievement of the required number of votes cast by voting members of the assembly applicable to a particular ballot;*
- c. that precludes spoken floor nominations;*
- d. in which the first ballot is the nominating ballot if no election occurs on the first ballot;*
- e. in which the first ballot defines the total slates of nominees for possible election on a subsequent ballot, with no additional nominations;*
- f. that does not preclude, after the reporting of the first ballot, the right of persons nominated to withdraw their names prior to the casting of the second ballot;*
- g. in which any name appearing on the second ballot may not be subsequently withdrawn;*
- h. that does not preclude an assembly’s adoption of rules that permit, at a defined point in the election process and for a defined period of time, speeches to the assembly by nominees or their representatives and/or a question-and-answer forum in which the nominees or their representatives participate; and*
- I. in which the number of names that appear on any ballot subsequent to the second ballot shall be determined in accordance with provisions of the governing documents.*

19.01.D07. ***Election Procedures Utilizing the Ecclesiastical Ballot***

- a. For each election by ecclesiastical or nominating ballot, the exact number of appropriate ballot sets equal to the number of voting members from each synod will be given to the bishop of that synod. The bishop of the synod, or his or her designee, will be responsible for distributing the ballot sets to each of the voting members from the synod.*
- b. Unless otherwise ordered by the chair, one of the numbered ballots from the appropriate ballot set is to be used on each ballot for elections determined by ecclesiastical or nominating ballot. The chair will announce the number of the ballot from the appropriate ballot set that is to be used for each ballot. Failure to use the correct numbered ballot will result in an illegal ballot.*
- c. On the first two ballots for each office being selected by ecclesiastical or nominating ballot, both the first and last names of a nominee should be used. Members should endeavor to use correct spelling and should provide, on the first ballot, any additional accurate information identifying the nominee, such as title, synod, or residence.*
- d. On the third and subsequent ballots conducted by written ballot, only the last name of the nominee need be used, provided there is no other nominee with the same or similar name.*
- e. A member may vote for only one nominee on each ballot.*
- f. Ballots should not be marked prior to the time the chair advises the voting members to do so.*
- g. Written ballots should not be folded.*
- h. Written ballots will be collected from the voting members in accordance with instructions from the Elections Committee or from the chair.*

- I. When the results of the first ballot are presented, the chair will announce when and how persons nominated may withdraw their names prior to the casting of the second ballot.*
- i. Whenever the number of names of nominees that will appear on a ballot is nine or less, on recommendation of the chair and with the consent of the assembly, voting may be by means of electronic device.*
- k. When voting by electronic device, the first position on each ballot shall be given to the nominee who received the greatest number of votes on the immediately preceding ballot, with the remaining positions assigned to the other nominees in descending order of the number of votes received on the immediately preceding ballot. If two or more nominees were tied with the same vote on the immediately preceding ballot, their respective positions shall be determined by draw by the chair of the Elections Committee.*
- l. On each ticket for which balloting is conducted by electronic device, the polls will remain open for a reasonable time, as determined by the chair, to permit voting members to record their votes.*

19.02. The members of the Church Council, **except the chair of the Conference of Bishops and the treasurer of this church**, shall be elected by the Churchwide Assembly. In preparation for the Churchwide Assembly, the Church Council shall determine how this church's commitment to inclusive representation will affect the next election to the Church Council. For ~~33~~ **32** of the council members, the Nominating Committee shall invite each eligible synod to submit suggested nominees and shall then nominate persons who fulfill the categories assigned by the Church Council. With respect to the other nominees, the Church Council shall review its size and composition and take into consideration the experience and expertise of existing members and synodical nominees as well as the needs of the council in seeking to fulfill its duties and responsibilities. Based upon this analysis, the Church Council shall instruct the Nominating Committee to provide nominations in specific categories for the remaining positions up to ~~12~~ **13**. Excluding the churchwide officers and the chair of the Conference of Bishops, there shall not be more than two members of the Church Council from a synod. The Church Council shall have at least two members from each region. The terms of office of persons elected to regular terms on the Church Council by the Churchwide Assembly shall begin at the conclusion of the Churchwide Assembly at which such persons were elected. If there is no Churchwide Assembly in the year when terms are scheduled to conclude, they end on August 31.

19.02.A13. *The Nominating Committee shall strive to ensure that at least 10 percent of the voting membership of the Church Council shall be youth or young adults. Youth members shall be younger than 18 at the time of their election, and young adults shall be older than 18 and younger than 30 years of age at the time of their election.*

19.02.B11. *On behalf of the Nominating Committee, the secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America—in the year preceding each regular meeting of the Churchwide Assembly—shall solicit from eligible synods on a rotating basis the names of two persons in specified categories, in keeping with the representation principles of this church, for possible election to the Church Council. Upon their selection by the assemblies of the respective synods, the names of the two persons shall be presented to the Nominating Committee for submission to the Churchwide Assembly. In the event that any nominee withdraws or is disqualified from possible service, the Nominating Committee shall submit a replacement name from the same synod as the original nominee. In the event that the vacancy occurs subsequent to the preparation of the*

report of the Nominating Committee to the Churchwide Assembly, a floor nomination shall be provided from the same synod as the original nominee. Except as provided herein, no floor nominations for positions on the Church Council shall be permitted at the Churchwide Assembly.

19.02.C05. For purposes of nominations for the Church Council on a rotating basis, the following pairing of synods shall be observed insofar as possible: Alaska Synod and Northwest Washington Synod; Eastern Washington-Idaho Synod and Montana Synod; Southwestern Washington Synod and Oregon Synod; Sierra Pacific Synod and Southwest California Synod; Pacifica Synod and Grand Canyon Synod; Rocky Mountain Synod and South Dakota Synod; Western North Dakota Synod and Eastern North Dakota Synod; Northwestern Minnesota Synod and Northeastern Minnesota Synod; Southwestern Minnesota Synod and Southeastern Minnesota Synod; Minneapolis Area Synod and Saint Paul Area Synod; Nebraska Synod and Central States Synod; Arkansas-Oklahoma and Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Synod; Southwestern Texas Synod and Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod; Northwest Synod of Wisconsin and Northern Great Lakes Synod; East-Central Synod of Wisconsin and South-Central Synod of Wisconsin; La Crosse Area Synod and Northeastern Iowa Synod; Western Iowa Synod and Southeastern Iowa Synod; Northern Illinois Synod and Central/Southern Illinois Synod; Metropolitan Chicago Synod and Greater Milwaukee Synod; North/West Lower Michigan Synod and Southeast Michigan Synod; Indiana-Kentucky Synod and Northwestern Ohio Synod; Northeastern Ohio Synod and Southern Ohio Synod; New Jersey Synod and New England Synod and Slovak Zion Synod; Metropolitan New York Synod and Upstate New York Synod; Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod and Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod; Northwestern Pennsylvania Synod and Allegheny Synod; Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod and West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod; Upper Susquehanna Synod and Lower Susquehanna Synod; Delaware-Maryland Synod and Metropolitan Washington, D.C., Synod; Virginia Synod and North Carolina Synod; South Carolina Synod and Southeastern Synod; Florida-Bahamas Synod and Caribbean Synod.

19.03.01. Before electing a member to fill a vacancy on a board or committee, the Church Council shall consult with the board or committee.

19.04.01. The terms of office of persons elected to regular terms on the Nominating Committee of the Churchwide Assembly, the Committee on Discipline, and the Committee on Appeals shall begin at the conclusion of the Churchwide Assembly at which such persons were elected, except as may be specified in continuing resolutions with respect to particular pending discipline matters.

19.04.A91. With respect to committees that consider disciplinary cases or appeals:

- a. Any member of the churchwide Committee on Discipline who has been appointed to serve on a discipline hearing committee for a particular pending case shall continue to serve to discharge that appointment notwithstanding that his or her successor has been subsequently elected at a Churchwide Assembly.
- b. Any member of the synodical Committee on Discipline who is serving at the time that the Executive Committee of the Church Council appoints members from the churchwide Committee on Discipline to a discipline hearing committee shall continue as a member of that discipline hearing committee for the particular pending case, notwithstanding that his or her successor has been subsequently elected at a Synod Assembly.

- c. Any member of the Committee on Appeals who is serving at the time that an appeal is made shall continue to serve to decide that appeal, notwithstanding that his or her successor has been subsequently elected at a Churchwide Assembly.

19.06. Further procedures for elections and qualifications for office may be set forth in the bylaws and continuing resolutions, provided that such provisions do not conflict with any other provisions in this constitution.

19.10. NOMINATION AND ELECTION CONSIDERATIONS

19.1106.01. In the nomination and election process the following general considerations shall be observed:

- a. It shall be the responsibility of the Church Council to assure that this church maintains its commitment to inclusive representation.

19.06.02. b. In all elections by the Churchwide Assembly, other than for the presiding bishop, vice president, and secretary, a majority of the votes cast on the first ballot shall be necessary for election. If an election does not occur on the first ballot, the names of the two persons receiving the highest number of votes cast shall be placed on the second ballot. On the second ballot, a majority of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election.

~~c. Before electing a member to a vacancy on a board or committee, the Church Council shall consult with the board or committee.~~

~~d. On the final ballot for the election of the presiding bishop, vice president, and secretary of this church, when only two names appear on the ballot, a majority of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election.~~

19.06.03. e. Each triennium the Conference of Bishops shall select a bishop to serve as an advisory member of each board of a separately incorporated ministry and advisory committee of the churchwide organization. No synodical bishop, with the exception of the chair of the Conference of Bishops, shall serve as a voting member of the Church Council.

19.06.04. The Church Council shall from time to time, by continuing resolution, establish committees and procedures for the conduct of elections at the Churchwide Assembly.

19.06.05. No member of the Church Council, a committee of the Church Council, a board of a separately incorporated ministry, or committee of the churchwide organization shall receive emolument for such service, nor shall any member be simultaneously an officer of this church, an elected member of the Church Council, or a voting member of a committee of the churchwide organization or board of a separately incorporated ministry. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit the payment of the costs of insurance on behalf of a person who is or was a member of the Church Council, a committee of the Church Council, or committee against any liability asserted against and incurred by such person in or arising from that capacity, whether or not the churchwide organization would have been required to indemnify such person against the liability under provisions of law or otherwise.

19.06.06. No employee of the churchwide organization of this church or its regions, nor any individual under contract to any unit of the churchwide organization or a region shall be eligible for nomination to or membership on the Church Council, an advisory committee, a board of a separately incorporated ministry, the Committee on Appeals, the Committee on Discipline, or the churchwide Nominating Committee during the period of employment or service under contract, except the full-time salaried officers as specified in the Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran

Church in America. (The phrase “under contract” shall not mean short-term contracts for specific, limited purposes, usually not to exceed six months.)

19.06.07. No person related to a staff member of the churchwide organization shall be eligible for nomination to or membership on the Church Council or a committee that advises the unit in which the person’s relative is employed. For this purpose, a related individual is one who, with respect to the churchwide employee, is a spouse, parent, son, daughter, sibling, uncle, aunt, niece, nephew, grandparent, grandchild, including corresponding members of blended families and in-laws (parent, son, daughter, or sibling of a spouse, spouse of a sibling, or the parent or sibling of the spouse of a sibling).

19.06.A02. **Election Procedures Utilizing the Common Ballot**

- a. The common ballot is used in those elections when the ecclesiastical or nominating ballot is not used.
- b. For the first common ballot, the exact number of ballot forms equal to the number of voting members from each synod will be given to the bishop of that synod. The bishop of the synod, or his or her designee, will be responsible for distributing the ballot forms to each of the voting members from the synod.
- c. Upon recommendation of the chair and with the consent of the assembly, the second common ballot may be conducted by electronic device. Unless the second common ballot is conducted by electronic device, the distribution of ballot forms for the second common ballot will be in the same manner as the first common ballot.
- d. Any discrepancy between the number of ballots given to a synodical bishop and the number of voting members (including the synodical bishop) from such synod must be reported by the synodical bishop to the Elections Committee.
- e. Each ticket for which an election is held will be considered a separate ballot.
- f. A voting member may vote for only one nominee on each ticket.
- g. Failure to vote for a nominee for every ticket does not invalidate a ballot for the tickets for which a nominee is marked.
- h. Ballots must be marked in accordance with the instructions presented in plenary session.
- I. Ballot forms should not be folded.
- i. Marked ballot forms must be deposited at the designated Ballot Stations at certain exits of the hall in which plenary sessions are held.
- k. If a ballot is damaged so that it cannot be scanned, a replacement ballot may be obtained at the Ballot Station upon surrender of the damaged ballot.
- l. Unless otherwise ordered by the assembly, polls for the first common ballot close at the time designated in the assembly’s Rules of Organization and Procedure.
- m. On each ticket for which balloting is conducted by electronic device, the polls will remain open for a reasonable time, as determined by the chair, to permit members to record their votes.
- n. Unless the second ballot is conducted by electronic device, polls for the second common ballot close at the time designated in the assembly’s Rules of Organization and Procedure or as otherwise ordered by the assembly.
- o. On the second ballot, whether by common ballot or by electronic device, the first position on each ticket shall be given to the nominee who received the greatest number of votes on the first ballot. If two nominees are tied for the highest vote, the first position on the ticket shall be determined by draw by the chair of the Elections Committee.

19.06.B98. Breaking Ties in Elections

- a.** *On the ballot for the election of the presiding bishop, vice president, and secretary, when only two names appear, the marked ballot of the treasurer shall be held by the chair of the Elections Committee and shall be counted only where necessary to break a tie that would otherwise exist.*
- b.** *On the first common ballot, the blank ballots of the treasurer and vice president shall be held by the chair of the Elections Committee to be presented to the treasurer for her or his vote only in those elections where a tie would otherwise exist, and to be presented to the vice president for his or her vote only in those elections to break a tie remaining after the ballot of the treasurer has been counted.*
- c.** *On the second common ballot, the marked ballot of the treasurer shall be held by the chair of the Elections Committee and shall be counted only where necessary to break a tie that would otherwise exist.*

19.06.C13. *A former full-time or part-time employee shall not be eligible for a minimum of six years subsequent to such employment, for nomination or election to the board of the separately incorporated ministry or committee related to the churchwide unit in which the employee served.*

19.2011. There shall be a Nominating Committee.

19.211.01. ~~There shall be a~~ Nominating Committee shall consist of 12–18 members elected by the Churchwide Assembly. Each member shall be elected to one six-year term and shall serve until a successor is elected. Members of the Nominating Committee shall not be eligible for consecutive re-election. The Church Council shall place in nomination the names of two persons for each position. The committee shall consist of at least one member but no more than three members from any region. Nominations from the floor shall also be permitted, but each floor nomination shall be presented as an alternative to a specific category named by the Church Council and shall therefore meet the same criteria as the persons against whom the nominee is nominated. In the materials provided in advance to each member of the assembly, the Church Council shall set forth the criteria applicable to each category that must be met by persons nominated from the floor.

19.211.02. ~~The~~ Except as otherwise provided, the Nominating Committee shall nominate two persons for each council, board, or committee position, according to the process described in continuing resolutions, for which an election will be held by the Churchwide Assembly. In the case of re-election, if authorized, or for nominees from church bodies with which this church is in a relationship of full communion, only one person need be nominated. Nominations from the floor, where permitted in the nomination process, shall be presented as an alternative to a specific category named by the Nominating Committee and shall therefore meet the same criteria as the persons against whom the nominee is nominated. In the materials provided in advance to each member of the assembly, the Nominating Committee shall set forth the criteria applicable to each category that must be met by persons nominated from the floor.

19.211.03. The Nominating Committee shall nominate at least one person for the board of trustees of each of the separately incorporated ministries identified in Chapter 17 of this constitution, according to the process described in continuing resolutions, for which an election will be held by the Churchwide Assembly. Nominations from the floor, where permitted in the nomination process, shall be presented as an alternative to a specific category named by the Nominating Committee and shall therefore meet the same criteria as the persons against whom the nominee is nominated. In the materials provided in

advance to each member of the assembly, the Nominating Committee shall set forth the criteria applicable to each category that must be met by persons nominated from the floor.

[Update numbering of subsequent bylaws in Chapter 19.]

19.21.05.

19.11.06.

The Nominating Committee shall strive to ensure that all persons nominated for any position, including the boards of separately incorporated ministries, possess the necessary competence and experience for the position. All persons elected to any position, whether nominated by the Nominating Committee or not, shall strive to represent this church and not just a particular geographic area.

19.11.A15.

Nominations Desk and Nominations Form

- a.** Nominations from the floor at the Churchwide Assembly shall be made at the Nominations Desk, which shall be maintained under the supervision of the secretary of this church.
- b.** A nomination from the floor shall be made by using the form provided by the secretary of this church. Nomination forms may be obtained from the Nominations Desk at times prescribed in the assembly's Rules of Organization and Procedure.
- c.** The required form to be used in making nominations from the floor shall include the nominee's name, address, phone number, gender, lay or clergy status, white or person of color or primary language other than English status, congregational membership, synodical membership, and affirmation of willingness to serve, if elected; the name, address, and synodical membership of the voting member who is making the nomination; and such other information as the secretary of this church shall require.
- d.** For purposes of nomination procedures, "synodical membership" means:
 - 1)** In the case of a layperson who is not on the roster of this church, the synod that includes the congregation in which such person holds membership; and
 - 2)** In the case of a rostered minister, the synod on whose roster such minister's name is maintained.

19.11.B05.

Floor Nominations

- a.** Floor nominations for positions on a board or committee of a churchwide unit require, in addition to the nominator, the written support of at least 10 other voting members. Floor nominations for the Church Council, the Nominating Committee, or other churchwide committee to be elected by the Churchwide Assembly require, in addition to the nominator, the written support of at least 20 other voting members.
- b.** A nomination from the floor for any position (other than presiding bishop, vice president, and secretary) shall be made by filing the completed nomination form with the Nominations Desk at times prescribed in the assembly's Rules of Organization and Procedure.
- c.** Nominations will be considered made in the order in which filed at the Nominations Desk.

19.11.C05.

Restrictions on Floor Nominations for Boards

- a.** Nominations from the floor for positions on churchwide boards or committees shall comply with criteria and restrictions established by the Nominating Committee and set forth in materials provided to each voting member of the assembly.
- b.** So long as the number of incumbent members from a given synod serving on a board or committee with terms not expiring plus the number of positions on the

same board or committee to which individuals from the same synod already have been nominated (whether by the Nominating Committee or from the floor) total less than the maximum number of two individuals from the same synod who may serve on that board or committee, an individual from the same synod may be nominated for another position on that board or committee, provided other criteria and restrictions are met. Individuals from the same synod may be nominated for a position on a board or committee to which individuals from the same synod already have been nominated, provided other criteria and restrictions are met.

19.11.D16. Restriction on Floor Nominations for Church Council

Nominations for positions on the Church Council shall comply with criteria and restrictions established by the Church Council and Nominating Committee and set forth in materials provided to each voting member of the assembly.

19.11.E98. Restriction on Floor Nominations for Nominating Committee

a. Nominations from the floor for positions on the Nominating Committee shall comply with criteria and restrictions established by the Church Council and set forth in materials provided to each voting member of the assembly.

b. So long as the number of incumbent members from a given region serving on the Nominating Committee with terms not expiring plus the number of Nominating Committee positions to which individuals from the same region have already been nominated (whether by the Church Council or from the floor) total less than the maximum number of three individuals from the same region who may serve on the Nominating Committee, an individual from the same region may be nominated for another Nominating Committee position, provided other criteria and restrictions are met. Provided other criteria and restrictions are met, individuals may be nominated for a Nominating Committee position for which someone from the same region has already been nominated.

~~19.21.A13. The Nominating Committee shall strive to ensure that at least 10 percent of the voting membership of the Church Council shall be youth or young adults. Youth members shall be younger than 18 at the time of their election, and young adults shall be older than 18 and younger than 30 years of age at the time of their election.~~

~~19.21.B11. On behalf of the Nominating Committee, the secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America—in the year preceding each regular meeting of the Churchwide Assembly—shall solicit from eligible synods on a rotating basis the names of two persons in specified categories, in keeping with the representation principles of this church, for possible election to the Church Council. Upon their selection by the assemblies of the respective synods, the names of the two persons shall be presented to the Nominating Committee for submission to the Churchwide Assembly. In the event that any nominee withdraws or is disqualified from possible service, the Nominating Committee shall submit a replacement name from the same synod as the original nominee. In the event that the vacancy occurs subsequent to the preparation of the report of the Nominating Committee to the Churchwide Assembly, a floor nomination shall be provided from the same synod as the original nominee. Except as provided herein, no floor nominations for positions on the Church Council shall be permitted at the Churchwide Assembly.~~

~~19.21.C05. For purposes of nominations for the Church Council on a rotating basis, the following pairing of synods shall be observed insofar as possible: Alaska Synod and Northwest Washington Synod; Eastern Washington-Idaho Synod and Montana Synod; Southwestern Washington Synod and Oregon Synod; Sierra Pacific Synod and Southwest California Synod; Pacifica Synod and Grand Canyon Synod; Rocky~~

Mountain Synod and South Dakota Synod; Western North Dakota Synod and Eastern North Dakota Synod; Northwestern Minnesota Synod and Northeastern Minnesota Synod; Southwestern Minnesota Synod and Southeastern Minnesota Synod; Minneapolis Area Synod and Saint Paul Area Synod; Nebraska Synod and Central States Synod; Arkansas-Oklahoma and Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Synod; Southwestern Texas Synod and Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod; Northwest Synod of Wisconsin and Northern Great Lakes Synod; East-Central Synod of Wisconsin and South-Central Synod of Wisconsin; La Crosse Area Synod and Northeastern Iowa Synod; Western Iowa Synod and Southeastern Iowa Synod; Northern Illinois Synod and Central/Southern Illinois Synod; Metropolitan Chicago Synod and Greater Milwaukee Synod; North/West Lower Michigan Synod and Southeast Michigan Synod; Indiana-Kentucky Synod and Northwestern Ohio Synod; Northeastern Ohio Synod and Southern Ohio Synod; New Jersey Synod and New England Synod and Slovak Zion Synod; Metropolitan New York Synod and Upstate New York Synod; Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod and Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod; Northwestern Pennsylvania Synod and Allegheny Synod; Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod and West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod; Upper Susquehanna Synod and Lower Susquehanna Synod; Delaware-Maryland Synod and Metropolitan Washington, D.C., Synod; Virginia Synod and North Carolina Synod; South Carolina Synod and Southeastern Synod; Florida-Bahamas Synod and Caribbean Synod.

19.30. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

19.31.01. The churchwide officers shall be elected as follows:

- a. The presiding bishop shall be elected by the Churchwide Assembly by ecclesiastical ballot. Three-fourths of the votes cast shall be necessary for election on the first ballot. If no one is elected, the first ballot shall be considered the nominating ballot. Three-fourths of the votes cast on the second ballot shall be necessary for election. The third ballot shall be limited to the seven persons (plus ties) who received the greatest number of votes on the second ballot, and two-thirds of the votes cast shall be necessary for election. The fourth ballot shall be limited to the three persons (plus ties) who receive the greatest number of votes on the third ballot, and 60 percent of the votes cast shall be necessary for election. On subsequent ballots, a majority of the votes cast shall be necessary for election. These ballots shall be limited to the two persons (plus ties) who receive the greatest number of votes on the previous ballot.
- b. The vice president shall be elected by the Churchwide Assembly by ecclesiastical ballot. The election shall proceed without oral nominations. If the first ballot for vice president does not result in an election, it shall be considered a nominating ballot. On the first ballot, three-fourths of the votes cast shall be required for election. Thereafter only such votes as are cast for persons who received votes on the first or nominating ballot shall be valid. On the second ballot, three-fourths of the votes cast shall be required for election. On the third ballot, the voting shall be limited to the seven persons (plus ties) receiving the greatest number of votes on the second ballot and two-thirds of the votes cast shall be necessary for election. On the fourth ballot, voting shall be limited to the three persons (plus ties) receiving the greatest number of votes on the previous ballot and 60 percent of the votes cast shall elect. On subsequent ballots, voting shall be limited to the two persons (plus ties) receiving the greatest number of votes on the previous ballot and a majority of votes cast shall elect.

c. The secretary shall be elected by the Churchwide Assembly by ecclesiastical ballot. The election shall proceed without oral nominations. If the first ballot for secretary does not result in an election, it shall be considered a nominating ballot. On the first ballot, three-fourths of the votes cast shall be required for election. Thereafter only such votes as are cast for persons who received votes on the first or nominating ballot shall be valid. On the second ballot, three-fourths of the votes cast shall be required for election. On the third ballot, the voting shall be limited to the seven persons (plus ties) receiving the greatest number of votes on the second ballot and two-thirds of the votes cast shall be necessary for election. On the fourth ballot, voting shall be limited to the three persons (plus ties) receiving the greatest number of votes on the previous ballot and 60 percent of the votes cast shall elect. On subsequent ballots, voting shall be limited to the two persons (plus ties) receiving the greatest number of votes on the previous ballot and a majority of the votes cast shall elect.

d. The treasurer shall be elected by a two-thirds vote of the Church Council.

19.31.A09. *Background checks and screening shall be required and completed for persons nominated as churchwide officers prior to their election, if possible, or as soon as practical after their election. The specific procedures and timing of background checks and screening shall be determined by the Church Council.*

19.40. **TERMS OF OFFICE**

19.41.01. The terms of office of persons elected to regular terms on a committee or board by the Churchwide Assembly shall begin at the conclusion of the assembly at which such persons were elected.

19.41.02. The terms of office of persons elected to regular terms on the Nominating Committee of the Churchwide Assembly, the Committee on Discipline, and the Committee on Appeals shall begin at the conclusion of the Churchwide Assembly at which such persons were elected, except as may be specified in continuing resolutions with respect to particular pending discipline matters.

19.41.A91. *With respect to committees that consider disciplinary cases or appeals:*

a. *Any member of the churchwide Committee on Discipline who has been appointed to serve on a discipline hearing committee for a particular pending case shall continue to serve to discharge that appointment notwithstanding that his or her successor has been subsequently elected at a Churchwide Assembly.*

b. *Any member of the synodical Committee on Discipline who is serving at the time that the Executive Committee of the Church Council appoints members from the churchwide Committee on Discipline to a discipline hearing committee shall continue as a member of that discipline hearing committee for the particular pending case, notwithstanding that his or her successor has been subsequently elected at a Synod Assembly.*

c. *Any member of the Committee on Appeals who is serving at the time that an appeal is made shall continue to serve to decide that appeal, notwithstanding that his or her successor has been subsequently elected at a Churchwide Assembly.*

19.50. **EXPERIENCE AND EXPERTISE**

19.51.01. The Churchwide Assembly shall elect all members of the board of trustees of the Publishing House of the ELCA, the board of trustees of the Mission Investment Fund, and the board of trustees of the Board of Pensions. The Nominating Committee shall seek to ensure that these boards have within their membership persons with the expertise and experience essential to the fulfillment of the work of these separately incorporated ministries.

19.60. OTHER MATTERS RELATED TO NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

19.61.01. The Church Council shall from time to time, by continuing resolution, establish committees and procedures for the conduct of elections at the Churchwide Assembly.

19.61.02. No member of the Church Council, a committee of the Church Council, a board of a separately incorporated ministry, or committee of the churchwide organization shall receive emolument for such service, nor shall any member be simultaneously an officer of this church, an elected member of the Church Council, or a voting member of a committee of the churchwide organization or board of a separately incorporated ministry. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit the payment of the costs of insurance on behalf of a person who is or was a member of the Church Council, a committee of the Church Council, or committee against any liability asserted against and incurred by such person in or arising from that capacity, whether or not the churchwide organization would have been required to indemnify such person against the liability under provisions of law or otherwise.

19.61.03. No employee of the churchwide organization of this church or its regions, nor any individual under contract to any unit of the churchwide organization or a region shall be eligible for nomination to or membership on the Church Council, an advisory committee, a board of a separately incorporated ministry, the Committee on Appeals, the Committee on Discipline, or the churchwide Nominating Committee during the period of employment or service under contract, except the full-time salaried officers as specified in the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*. (The phrase "under contract" shall not mean short-term contracts for specific, limited purposes, usually not to exceed six months.)

19.61.04. No person related to an executive director or an executive staff member of the churchwide organization shall be eligible for nomination to or membership on the Church Council or a committee that advises the unit in which the person's relative is employed. For this purpose, a related individual is one who, with respect to the churchwide employee, is a spouse, parent, son, daughter, sibling, uncle, aunt, niece, nephew, grandparent, grandchild, including corresponding members of blended families and in-laws (parent, son, daughter, or sibling of a spouse, spouse of a sibling, or the parent or sibling of the spouse of a sibling).

19.61.A94. *Ecclesiastical Ballot.* An "ecclesiastical ballot" for the election of officers (other than treasurer) of the churchwide organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is an election process:

- a. in which on the first ballot the name of any eligible individual may be submitted for nomination by a voting member of the assembly;
- b. through which the possibility of election to office exists on any ballot by achievement of the required number of votes cast by voting members of the assembly applicable to a particular ballot;
- c. that precludes spoken floor nominations;
- d. in which the first ballot is the nominating ballot if no election occurs on the first ballot;
- e. in which the first ballot defines the total slates of nominees for possible election on a subsequent ballot, with no additional nominations;
- f. that does not preclude, after the reporting of the first ballot, the right of persons nominated to withdraw their names prior to the casting of the second ballot;
- g. in which any name appearing on the second ballot may not be subsequently withdrawn;

- ~~h. that does not preclude an assembly's adoption of rules that permit, at a defined point in the election process and for a defined period of time, speeches to the assembly by nominees or their representatives and/or a question-and-answer forum in which the nominees or their representatives participate; and~~
- ~~I. in which the number of names that appear on any ballot subsequent to the second ballot shall be determined in accordance with provisions of the governing documents.~~

19.61.B15. Nominations Desk and Nominations Form

- ~~a. Nominations from the floor at the Churchwide Assembly shall be made at the Nominations Desk, which shall be maintained under the supervision of the secretary of this church.~~
- ~~b. A nomination from the floor shall be made by using the form provided by the secretary of this church. Nomination forms may be obtained from the Nominations Desk at times prescribed in the assembly's Rules of Organization and Procedure.~~
- ~~c. The required form to be used in making nominations from the floor shall include the nominee's name, address, phone number, gender, lay or clergy status, white or person of color or primary language other than English status, congregational membership, synodical membership, and affirmation of willingness to serve, if elected, the name, address, and synodical membership of the voting member who is making the nomination, and such other information as the secretary of this church shall require.~~
- ~~d. For purposes of nomination procedures, "synodical membership" means:
 - ~~1) In the case of a layperson who is not on the official rosters of this church, the synod that includes the congregation in which such person holds membership; and~~
 - ~~2) In the case of an ordained minister, the synod on whose roster such ordained minister's name is maintained.~~
 - ~~3) In the case of an associate in ministry, a deaconess, or a diaconal minister, the synod on whose roster such person's name is maintained.~~~~

19.61.C05. Floor Nominations

- ~~a. Floor nominations for positions on a board or committee of a churchwide unit require, in addition to the nominator, the written support of at least 10 other voting members. Floor nominations for the Church Council, the Nominating Committee, or other churchwide committee to be elected by the Churchwide Assembly require, in addition to the nominator, the written support of at least 20 other voting members.~~
- ~~b. A nomination from the floor for any position (other than presiding bishop, vice president, and secretary) shall be made by filing the completed nomination form with the Nominations Desk at times prescribed in the assembly's Rules of Organization and Procedure.~~
- ~~c. Nominations will be considered made in the order in which filed at the Nominations Desk.~~

19.61.D05. Restrictions on Floor Nominations for Boards

- ~~a. Nominations from the floor for positions on churchwide boards or committees shall comply with criteria and restrictions established by the Nominating Committee and set forth in materials provided to each voting member of the assembly.~~
- ~~b. So long as the number of incumbent members from a given synod serving on a board or committee with terms not expiring plus the number of positions on the same board or committee to which individuals from the same synod already have been nominated (whether by the Nominating Committee or from the floor) total less~~

than the maximum number of two individuals from the same synod who may serve on that board or committee, an individual from the same synod may be nominated for another position on that board or committee, provided other criteria and restrictions are met. Individuals from the same synod may be nominated for a position on a board or committee to which individuals from the same synod already have been nominated, provided other criteria and restrictions are met.

19.61.E05. Restriction on Nominations for Church Council

Nominations for positions on the Church Council shall comply with criteria and restrictions established by the Church Council and Nominating Committee and set forth in materials provided to each voting member of the assembly.

19.61.F98. Restriction on Floor Nominations for Nominating Committee

a. Nominations from the floor for positions on the Nominating Committee shall comply with criteria and restrictions established by the Church Council and set forth in materials provided to each voting member of the assembly.

b. So long as the number of incumbent members from a given region serving on the Nominating Committee with terms not expiring plus the number of Nominating Committee positions to which individuals from the same region have already been nominated (whether by the Church Council or from the floor) total less than the maximum number of three individuals from the same region who may serve on the Nominating Committee, an individual from the same region may be nominated for another Nominating Committee position, provided other criteria and restrictions are met. Provided other criteria and restrictions are met, individuals may be nominated for a Nominating Committee position for which someone from the same region has already been nominated.

19.61.G02. Election Procedures Utilizing the Common Ballot

a. The common ballot is used in those elections when the ecclesiastical or nominating ballot is not used.

b. For the first common ballot, the exact number of ballot forms equal to the number of voting members from each synod will be given to the bishop of that synod. The bishop of the synod, or his or her designee, will be responsible for distributing the ballot forms to each of the voting members from the synod.

c. Upon recommendation of the chair and with the consent of the assembly, the second common ballot may be conducted by electronic device. Unless the second common ballot is conducted by electronic device, the distribution of ballot forms for the second common ballot will be in the same manner as the first common ballot.

d. Any discrepancy between the number of ballots given to a synodical bishop and the number of voting members (including the synodical bishop) from such synod must be reported by the synodical bishop to the Elections Committee.

e. Each ticket for which an election is held will be considered a separate ballot.

f. A voting member may vote for only one nominee on each ticket.

g. Failure to vote for a nominee for every ticket does not invalidate a ballot for the tickets for which a nominee is marked.

h. Ballots must be marked in accordance with the instructions presented in plenary session.

i. Ballot forms should not be folded.

j. Marked ballot forms must be deposited at the designated Ballot Stations at certain exits of the hall in which plenary sessions are held.

k. If a ballot is damaged so that it cannot be scanned, a replacement ballot may be obtained at the Ballot Station upon surrender of the damaged ballot.

- ~~l. Unless otherwise ordered by the assembly, polls for the first common ballot close at the time designated in the assembly's Rules of Organization and Procedure.~~
 - ~~m. On each ticket for which balloting is conducted by electronic device, the polls will remain open for a reasonable time, as determined by the chair, to permit members to record their votes.~~
 - ~~n. Unless the second ballot is conducted by electronic device, polls for the second common ballot close at the time designated in the assembly's Rules of Organization and Procedure or as otherwise ordered by the assembly.~~
 - ~~o. On the second ballot, whether by common ballot or by electronic device, the first position on each ticket shall be given to the nominee who received the greatest number of votes on the first ballot. If two nominees are tied for the highest vote, the first position on the ticket shall be determined by draw by the chair of the Elections Committee.~~
- 19.61.H07. Election Procedures Utilizing the Ecclesiastical Ballot**
- ~~a. For each election by ecclesiastical or nominating ballot, the exact number of appropriate ballot sets equal to the number of voting members from each synod will be given to the bishop of that synod. The bishop of the synod, or his or her designee, will be responsible for distributing the ballot sets to each of the voting members from the synod.~~
 - ~~b. Unless otherwise ordered by the chair, one of the numbered ballots from the appropriate ballot set is to be used on each ballot for elections determined by ecclesiastical or nominating ballot. The chair will announce the number of the ballot from the appropriate ballot set that is to be used for each ballot. Failure to use the correct numbered ballot will result in an illegal ballot.~~
 - ~~c. On the first two ballots for each office being selected by ecclesiastical or nominating ballot, both the first and last names of a nominee should be used. Members should endeavor to use correct spelling and should provide, on the first ballot, any additional accurate information identifying the nominee, such as title, synod, or residence.~~
 - ~~d. On the third and subsequent ballots conducted by written ballot, only the last name of the nominee need be used, provided there is no other nominee with the same or similar name.~~
 - ~~e. A member may vote for only one nominee on each ballot.~~
 - ~~f. Ballots should not be marked prior to the time the chair advises the voting members to do so.~~
 - ~~g. Written ballots should not be folded.~~
 - ~~h. Written ballots will be collected from the voting members in accordance with instructions from the Elections Committee or from the chair.~~
 - ~~i. When the results of the first ballot are presented, the chair will announce when and how persons nominated may withdraw their names prior to the casting of the second ballot.~~
 - ~~j. Whenever the number of names of nominees that will appear on a ballot is nine or less, on recommendation of the chair and with the consent of the assembly, voting may be by means of electronic device.~~
 - ~~k. When voting by electronic device, the first position on each ballot shall be given to the nominee who received the greatest number of votes on the immediately preceding ballot, with the remaining positions assigned to the other nominees in descending order of the number of votes received on the immediately preceding ballot. If two or more nominees were tied with the same vote on the immediately~~

preceding ballot, their respective positions shall be determined by draw by the chair of the Elections Committee.

- l. On each ticket for which balloting is conducted by electronic device, the polls will remain open for a reasonable time, as determined by the chair, to permit voting members to record their votes.*

19.61.I98. Breaking Ties in Elections

- a. On the ballot for the election of the presiding bishop, vice president, and secretary, when only two names appear, the marked ballot of the treasurer shall be held by the chair of the Elections Committee and shall be counted only where necessary to break a tie that would otherwise exist.*

- b. On the first common ballot, the blank ballots of the treasurer and vice president shall be held by the chair of the Elections Committee to be presented to the treasurer for her or his vote only in those elections where a tie would otherwise exist, and to be presented to the vice president for his or her vote only in those elections to break a tie remaining after the ballot of the treasurer has been counted.*

- c. On the second common ballot, the marked ballot of the treasurer shall be held by the chair of the Elections Committee and shall be counted only where necessary to break a tie that would otherwise exist.*

19.61.J13. *A former full-time or part-time employee shall not be eligible for a minimum of six years subsequent to such employment, for nomination or election to the board of the separately incorporated ministry or committee related to the churchwide unit in which the employee served.*

CONSTITUTION FOR SYNODS

†S3.02. “Determined by the Churchwide Assembly,” as stipulated by †S3.01., is understood to include the reported changes in synod relationship made by any congregation in a border area agreed under ELCA bylaws 10.01.†01. and 10.02.02.

†S5.02. *This church confesses the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church and is resolved to serve Christian Unity throughout the world.*

†S5.03. The Church exists both as an inclusive fellowship and as local congregations gathered for worship and Christian service. Congregations find their fulfillment in the universal community of the Church, and the universal Church exists in and through congregations. This church, therefore, derives its character and powers both from the sanction and representation of its congregations and from its inherent nature as an expression of the broader fellowship of the faithful. In length, it acknowledges itself to be in the historic continuity of the communion of saints; in breadth, it expresses the fellowship of believers and congregations in our day.

†S5.04. *This church, inspired and led by the Holy Spirit, participates in the Lutheran World Federation as a global communion of churches, engaging in faithful witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ and in service for the sake of God’s mission in the world.*

~~†S6.04.A01.~~ *[continuing resolution becomes bylaw]*

†S6.04.01. It is the goal of this synod that 10 percent of the membership of synod assemblies, councils, committees, boards and/or other organizational units be persons of color and/or persons whose primary language is other than English.

~~†S6.04.B09.~~ *[continuing resolution becomes bylaw]*

~~†S6.04.02.~~ 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.

~~†S7.11.~~ A regular meeting of the Synod Assembly shall be held at least ~~biennially~~ triennially.

~~S7.11.01.~~ The time and place of the Synod Assembly shall be determined by the Synod Council. The time and place for the next regular assembly normally shall be announced months prior to the assembly.

S8.55. Should the vice president, secretary, or treasurer die, resign, or be unable to serve, the bishop, with the approval of the Executive Committee of the Synod Council, shall arrange for the appropriate care of the responsibilities of the officer until an election of a new officer can be held or, in the case of temporary disability, until the officer is able to serve again. The term of the successor officer, elected by the next Synod Assembly, shall be years. If the treasurer is appointed by the Synod Council, the Synod Council shall appoint a new treasurer to a year term.

~~†S8.57.~~ The recall or dismissal of an officer may be effected in accordance with the procedure established by the Committee on Appeals of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the vacating of office may be effected for willful disregard or violation of the constitutions, bylaws, and continuing resolutions of this church; for such physical or mental disability as renders the officer incapable of performing the duties of office; or for such conduct as would subject the officer to disciplinary action as a rostered minister or as a member of a congregation of this church.

a. Proceedings for the recall or dismissal of a synodical bishop shall be instituted by written petition by:

- 1) the Synod Council on an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of its elected members present and voting;
- 2) the Synod Assembly on an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of its members present and voting;
- 3) at least 10 synodical bishops; or
- 4) the presiding bishop of this church.

b. Proceedings for the recall or dismissal of an officer of a synod, other than the synodical bishop, shall be instituted by written petition by:

- 1) the Synod Council on an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of its elected members present and voting;
- 2) the Synod Assembly on an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of its members present and voting; or
- 3) the synodical bishop.

c. The petition shall be filed with the chair of the Committee on Appeals (in care of the secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, 8765 West Higgins Road, Chicago, Illinois 60631) and shall set forth the specific charge or charges.

- d. Upon the filing of a written petition, the Executive Committee of the Synod Council may temporarily suspend the officer from service in the synod without prejudice, but with continuation of compensation, including benefits, if the officer is a salaried employee of the synod.
 - e. In the case of alleged physical or mental incapacity of an officer of the synod, the procedures outlined in †S8.56. shall be followed, and such officer shall comply with the decision of the Synod Council. If such officer fails or refuses to comply, the Synod Council may proceed to petition for recall or dismissal as follows:
 - 1) the Synod Council will submit a written report of their findings and the basis of their decision to the Committee on Appeals.
 - 2) the Committee on Appeals, other than those who are disqualified, shall review the findings and decision of the Synod Council and by an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of those present and voting may adopt the findings and grant the petition.
 - f. If the synod officer is a minister of Word and Sacrament, grounds for recall or dismissal include those set forth in ELCA bylaw 20.21.01. and as defined under the process described in ELCA constitutional provisions 20.20. and 20.21. as grounds for discipline. If the officer is a minister of Word and Service, grounds for recall or dismissal include those set forth in ELCA bylaw 20.22.01. and as defined under the process described in ELCA constitutional provisions 20.20. and 20.21. as grounds for discipline.
 - g. If the officer is a layperson, grounds for recall or dismissal include those set forth in ELCA bylaw 20.41.01. as grounds for discipline.
 - h. If the case of alleged willful disregard or violation of the constitutions, bylaws, and continuing resolutions or of alleged conduct as would subject the officer to disciplinary action, the following procedures shall apply:
 - 1) the petition shall be referred to the Committee on Appeals, which shall function as the discipline hearing committee that shall conduct a hearing in accordance with the rules provided for in ELCA bylaw 20.21.16. except to the extent that those rules are in conflict with the provisions of this bylaw; and
 - 2) the members of the Committee on Appeals, other than those who are disqualified, may grant the petition by an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of those present and voting.
 - I. Written notice of a decision by the Committee on Appeals that the charges have been sustained shall be given to the affected officer and to the Synod Council, and the office shall be vacated.
- †S9.01. The Synod Assembly shall elect such officers of this synod and such other persons as the constitution and bylaws may require, according to procedures set forth in the bylaws. The Synod Assembly shall elect members of the Churchwide Assembly in accordance with bylaw 12.41.11. of the constitution and bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- †S9.10. When notified by the secretary of this church, on behalf of the Nominating Committee of the Churchwide Assembly, the Synod Assembly shall nominate two persons in the specified categories for possible election by the Churchwide Assembly to the Church Council.

- †S11.03. The Committee on Discipline of this synod shall consist of 12 persons, of whom six shall be ordained ministers and six shall be laypersons, who shall each be elected by the Synod Assembly for a term of six years without consecutive re-election.
- a. The functions of the Committee on Discipline of this synod are set forth in Chapter 20 of the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*.
 - b. ~~The terms of committee members shall be staggered so that the terms of four committee members (two clergy and two lay) expire every two years.~~
 - c. The Synod Council shall fill vacancies on the Committee on Discipline for any unexpired term.

†S14.138. The provisions for termination of the mutual relationship between a minister of Word and Sacrament and a congregation shall be as follows:

...

- c. In case of alleged physical disability or mental incapacity under paragraph a.4) above, the bishop's committee shall obtain and document competent medical opinion concerning the pastor's condition. When a disability or incapacity is evident to the committee, the bishop of this synod may declare the pastorate vacant and the pastor shall be listed on the clergy roster as disabled. When the pastorate is declared vacant, the Synod Council shall list the pastor on the roster of ministers of Word and Sacrament as disabled. Upon removal of the disability and restoration of the pastor to health, the bishop shall take steps to enable the pastor to resume the ministry, either in the congregation last served or in another appropriate call.

...

†S14.1521. The parochial records of all baptisms, confirmations, marriages, burials, communicants, members received, members transferred or dismissed, members who have become inactive, or members excluded from the congregation shall be kept accurately and permanently. They shall remain the property of each congregation. At the time of the closure of a congregation, such records shall be sent to the regional archives. The secretary of the congregation shall attest to the bishop of this synod that such records have been placed in his or her hands in good order by a departing pastor before:

- a. installation in another field of labor call, or
- b. the issuance of a certificate of dismissal or transfer approval of a request for change in roster status.

†S14.1622. The pastor shall make satisfactory settlement of all financial obligations to a former congregation before:

- a. installation in another field of labor call, or
- b. the issuance of a certificate of dismissal or transfer approval of a request for change in roster status.

†S15.11. Since the congregations, synods, and churchwide organization are interdependent units that share responsibly in God's mission, all share in the responsibility to develop, implement, and strengthen the financial support program of the whole church. The gifts and offerings of the members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America are given to support all parts of this church and thus partnership in this church should be evidenced in determining each part's share of the gifts and offerings. Therefore:

...

- b. This synod shall receive the proportionate share of the mission support from its congregations, and shall transmit that percentage or amount of each congregation's mission support as determined by the Churchwide Assembly to the treasurer of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in consultation with the churchwide organization and approved by the Synod Assembly as part of its budget consideration.
- c. Should the Synod Assembly not approve the proportionate share of mission support determined in consultation with the churchwide organization, a new consultation with the churchwide organization shall take place. The Synod Council is authorized to amend the budget adopted by the Synod Assembly to reflect the results of this consultation.
- †S15.12. The annual budget of this synod shall reflect the entire range of its own activities and its commitment to partnership funding with other synods and the churchwide organization. Unless an exception is granted upon the request of this synod by the Church Council, each budget shall include the percentage of congregational mission support assigned to it by the Churchwide Assembly.
- †S18.12. Whenever the secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America officially informs this synod that the Churchwide Assembly has amended the *Constitution for Synods*, this constitution may be amended to reflect any such amendment by a simple majority vote at any subsequent meeting of the Synod Assembly without presentation at a prior Synod Assembly. An amendment that is identical to a provision of the *Constitution for Synods* shall be deemed to have been ratified upon its adoption by this synod. The Church Council, through the secretary of this church, shall be given prompt notification of its adoption.

MODEL CONSTITUTION FOR CONGREGATIONS

- *C3.02. This church confesses the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church and is resolved to serve Christian Unity throughout the world.
- *C3.03. The Church exists both as an inclusive fellowship and as local congregations gathered for worship and Christian service. Congregations find their fulfillment in the universal community of the Church, and the universal Church exists in and through congregations. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, therefore, derives its character and powers both from the sanction and representation of its congregations and from its inherent nature as an expression of the broader fellowship of the faithful. In length, it acknowledges itself to be in the historic continuity of the communion of saints; in breadth, it expresses the fellowship of believers and congregations in our day.
- *C3.04. This church, inspired and led by the Holy Spirit, participates in the Lutheran World Federation as a global communion of churches, engaging in faithful witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ and in service for the sake of God's mission in the world.
- *C3.0305. The name Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA or "this church") as used herein refers in general references to this whole church, including its three expressions: congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization. The name Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is also the name of the corporation of the churchwide organization to which specific references may be made herein.
- *C5.03. Only such authority as is delegated to the Congregation Council or other organizational units in this congregation's governing documents is recognized. All remaining authority is retained by the congregation. The congregation is authorized to:

- ...
- d. adopt amendments to the constitution, as provided in Chapter ~~17~~ 16, amendments to the bylaws, as specified in Chapter ~~16~~ 17, and continuing resolutions, as provided in Chapter 18;
- ...

*C6.05. ~~A~~ This congregation may terminate its relationship with ~~this church~~ the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America by the following procedure:

- ...
- f. Notice of termination shall be forwarded by the bishop to the secretary of ~~this church~~ the ELCA, who shall report the termination to the Churchwide Assembly.
- g. This congregation shall abide by these covenants by and among the three expressions of this church:
- 1) Congregations seeking to terminate their relationship with this church which fail or refuse to comply with each of the foregoing provisions in *C6.05. shall be required to receive Synod Council approval before terminating their membership in this church.
 - ~~fr~~ 2) Congregations which had been members of the Lutheran Church in America shall be required, in addition to complying with the foregoing provisions in *C6.05., to receive synodical approval before terminating their membership in this church.
 - ~~f~~ 3) Congregations established by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America shall be required, in addition to complying with the foregoing provisions in *C6.05., to satisfy all financial obligations to this church and receive Synod Council approval before terminating their membership in this church.
- ~~jh~~ If ~~a~~ this congregation fails to achieve the required two-thirds vote of voting members present at the congregation's first meeting as specified in paragraph a. above, another special meeting to consider termination of relationship with this church may be called no sooner than six months after that first meeting. If ~~a~~ this congregation fails to achieve the required two-thirds vote of voting members present at the congregation's second meeting as specified in paragraph d. above, another attempt to consider termination of relationship with this church must follow all requirements of *C6.05. and may begin no sooner than six months after that second meeting.

*C7.03. If ~~a~~ two-thirds majority of the voting members of this congregation present at a legally called and conducted special meeting of this congregation vote to transfer to another Lutheran church body, title to property shall continue to reside in this congregation, provided the process for termination of relationship in *C6.05. has been followed. Before this congregation takes action to transfer to another Lutheran church body, it shall consult with representatives of the *(insert name of synod)* Synod.

*C7.04. If ~~a~~ two-thirds majority of the voting members of this congregation present at a legally called and conducted special meeting of this congregation vote to become independent or relate to a non-Lutheran church body and have followed the process for termination of relationship in *C6.05., title to property of this congregation shall continue to reside in this congregation only with the consent of the Synod Council. The Synod Council, after consultation with this congregation by the established synodical process, may give approval to the request to become independent or to relate to a non-Lutheran church body, in which case title shall remain with the majority of this congregation. If the Synod Council fails to give such approval, title shall remain with those members who desire to continue as a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

*C8.02. Members shall be classified as follows:

- ...
- c. **Voting** members are confirmed members. Such confirmed members, during the current or preceding calendar year, shall have communed in this congregation and shall have made a contribution of record to this congregation. Members of this congregation who have satisfied these basic standards shall have the privilege of voice and vote at every regular and special meeting of the congregation as well as the other rights and privileges ascribed to voting members by the provisions of this constitution and its bylaws.
 - d. **Associate** members are persons holding membership in other [ELCA] [Lutheran] [Christian] congregations who wish to retain such membership but desire to participate in the life and mission of this congregation, or persons who wish to retain a relationship with this congregation while being members of other congregations. They These individuals have all the privileges and duties of membership except voting rights and eligibility for elected offices or membership on the Congregation Council of this congregation or other rights and privileges ascribed to voting members by the provisions of this constitution and its bylaws.
 - e. **Seasonal** members are voting members of other ELCA congregations who wish to retain such membership but desire to participate in the life and mission of this congregation, including exercising limited voting rights in this congregation. The Congregation Council may grant seasonal membership to such persons provided that this congregation is a member of a synod where the Synod Council has approved seasonal member voting on its territory. Such seasonal members shall have all the privileges and duties of voting members except that:
 - 1) they shall not be eligible for elected office in, or for membership on the Congregation Council or on a call committee of, this congregation;
 - 2) they shall not have the right to vote on any matter concerning or affecting the call or termination of call of any minister of this congregation;
 - 3) they shall not have the right to vote on any matter concerning or affecting the affiliation of this congregation with the ELCA;
 - 4) they shall not be eligible to serve as voting members from this congregation of the Synod Assembly or the Churchwide Assembly;
 - 5) they shall not, even if otherwise permitted by this congregation, vote by proxy or by absentee ballot; and
 - 6) they shall not, within any two calendar month period, exercise voting rights in this congregation and in the congregation where they remain voting members.

*C8.05. Membership in this congregation shall be terminated by any of the following:

- a. death;
- b. resignation;
- c. transfer or release;
- d. disciplinary action in accordance with ELCA constitutional provision 20.4041, and the accompanying bylaws; or
- e. removal from the roll due to inactivity as defined in the bylaws in accordance with the provisions of this constitution and its bylaws.

Such persons who have been removed from the roll of members shall remain persons for whom the Church has a continuing pastoral concern.

- C10.02.** A special Congregation Meeting may be called by the [senior] pastor, the Congregation Council, or the president of this congregation, and shall be called by the president of the congregation upon the written request of _____ [number][percent] of the voting members. The president of the Congregation Council shall call a special meeting upon request of the synodical bishop. The call for each special meeting shall specify the purpose for which it is to be held, and no other business shall be transacted.
- C10.04.** _____ percent of the voting members shall constitute a quorum.
- C12.12.** A quorum for the transaction of business shall consist of a majority of the members of the Congregation Council, including the [senior] pastor or interim pastor, except when the [senior] pastor or interim pastor requests or consents to be absent and has given prior approval to the agenda for a particular regular or special meeting, which shall be the only business considered at that meeting. Chronic or repeated absence of the [senior] pastor or interim pastor who has refused approval of the agenda of a subsequent regular or special meeting shall not preclude action by the Congregation Council, following consultation with the synodical bishop.

Chapter 16:
BYLAWS

- ~~*C16.01.~~ This congregation may adopt bylaws. No bylaw may conflict with this constitution.
- ~~*C16.02.~~ Bylaws may be adopted or amended at any legally called meeting of this congregation with a quorum present by a majority vote of those voting members present and voting.
- ~~*C16.03.~~ Changes to the bylaws may be proposed by any voting member, provided that such additions or amendments be submitted in writing to the Congregation Council at least 60 days before a regular or special Congregation Meeting called for that purpose. The Congregation Council shall notify the congregation's members of the proposal with the council's recommendations at least 30 days in advance of the Congregation Meeting. Notification may take place by mail or electronic means, as permitted by state law.
- ~~*C16.04.~~ Approved changes to the bylaws shall be sent by the secretary of this congregation to the synod.

Chapter 176:
AMENDMENTS

- *C176.01.** Unless provision *C176.04. is applicable, those sections of this constitution that are not required, in accord with the *Model Constitution for Congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*, may be amended in the following manner. Amendments may be proposed by at least _____ voting members or by the Congregation Council. Proposals must be filed in writing with the Congregation Council 60 days before formal consideration by this congregation at a regular or special Congregation Meeting called for that purpose. The Congregation Council shall notify the congregation's members of the proposal together with the council's recommendations at least 30 days in advance of the meeting. Notification may take place by mail or electronic means, as permitted by state law.
- *C176.02.** An amendment to this constitution, proposed under *C176.01., shall:
- be approved at a legally called Congregation Meeting according to this constitution by a majority vote of those voting members present and voting;
 - be ratified without change at the next annual meeting by a two-thirds majority vote of those voting members present and voting; and

c. have the effective date included in the resolution² and noted in the constitution.

***C176.03.** Any amendments to this constitution that result from the processes provided in ***C176.01.** and ***C176.02.** shall be sent by the secretary of this congregation to the synod. The synod shall notify the congregation of its decision to approve or disapprove the proposed changes; the changes shall go into effect upon notification that the synod has approved them.

***C176.04.** This constitution may be amended to bring any section into conformity with a section or sections, either required or not required, of the *Model Constitution for Congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* as most recently amended by the Churchwide Assembly. Such amendments may be approved by a **simple**-majority vote of those voting members present and voting at any legally called meeting of the congregation without presentation at a prior meeting of the congregation, provided that the Congregation Council has submitted by mail or electronic means, as permitted by state law, notice to the congregation of such an amendment or amendments, together with the council's recommendations, at least 30 days prior to the meeting. Upon the request of **at least two (2)** voting members of the congregation, the Congregation Council shall submit such notice. Following the adoption of an amendment, the secretary of the congregation shall submit a copy thereof to the synod. Such provisions shall become effective immediately following a vote of approval.

Chapter 17.

BYLAWS

***C17.01.** This congregation may adopt bylaws. No bylaw may conflict with this constitution.

***C17.02.** Bylaws may be adopted or amended at any legally called meeting of this congregation with a quorum present by a **majority two-thirds** vote of those voting members present and voting.

***C17.03.** Changes to the bylaws may be proposed by any voting member, provided that such additions or amendments be submitted in writing to the Congregation Council at least 60 days before a regular or special Congregation Meeting called for that purpose. The Congregation Council shall notify this congregation's members of the proposal with the council's recommendations at least 30 days in advance of the Congregation Meeting. Notification may take place by mail or electronic means, as permitted by state law.

***C17.04.** Approved changes to the bylaws shall be sent by the secretary of this congregation to the synod.

Chapter 20.

PARISH AUTHORIZATION

[* Required provisions when congregation is part of a parish]

***C20.01.** This congregation may unite in partnership with one or more other congregations recognized by the synod named in ***C6.01.** to form a parish. Except as provided in ***C20.02.** and ***C20.03.**, a written agreement, developed in consultation with the synod and approved by the voting members of each congregation participating in the parish, shall specify the powers and responsibilities that have been delegated to a Parish Council.

***C20.02.** Whenever a letter of call is being recommended for extension to an ordained minister of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America or a candidate for the roster of ordained ministers who has been recommended to the congregation by the synodical bishop to serve the congregations of a parish, such letter of call shall be first approved by a two-thirds vote at congregational meetings of each of the congregations forming the

² ² Such an effective date must be stated in relation to the requirements of ***C17.03.** to allow time for synodical review of the amendment.

- parish. If any congregation of the parish should fail to approve extending this call, the other congregation(s) in the same parish shall have the right to terminate the parish arrangement.
- *C20.03.** Any one of the congregations of a parish may terminate the call of a pastor as provided in †S14.13.d. of the synodical constitution of the synod named in *C6.01. In such case, the other congregation(s) in the same parish shall have the right to terminate the parish arrangement.
- *C20.04.** Whenever a parish arrangement is terminated, the call of any rostered person serving that parish is terminated. Should any congregation that formerly was part of the parish arrangement desire to issue a new call to that rostered person, it may do so in accordance with the call process of this church.
- *C20.01.** This congregation may unite in partnership with one or more other congregations recognized by the synod named in *C6.01. to form a parish. Except as provided in *C20.02. and *C20.03., a written agreement, developed in consultation with the synod and approved by the voting members of each congregation participating in the parish, shall specify the powers and responsibilities that have been delegated to the Parish Council. The Parish Agreement shall identify which congregation of the parish issues calls on behalf of the member congregations or shall establish a process for identifying which congregation issues calls on behalf of the member congregations.
- *C20.02.** One congregation of a parish shall issue a call on behalf of the member congregations to a minister of Word and Sacrament or a candidate for the roster of ministers of Word and Sacrament who has been recommended by the synodical bishop to serve the congregations of the parish. Such a call shall be approved prior to issuance by a two-thirds vote at a congregational meeting of each congregation forming the parish. If any congregation of the parish should fail to approve the call, the other congregations of the parish shall have the right to terminate the parish agreement.
- *C20.03.** One congregation of a parish may issue a call on behalf of the member congregations to a minister of Word and Service or a candidate for the roster of ministers of Word and Service who has been recommended by the synodical bishop to serve the congregations of the parish. Such a call shall be approved prior to issuance by a two-thirds vote at a congregational meeting of each congregation forming the parish. If any congregation of the parish should fail to approve the call, the other congregations of the parish shall have the right to terminate the parish agreement.
- *C20.04.** Any one of the congregations of the parish may terminate their relationship with the pastor as provided in †S14.18.d. of the synodical constitution of the synod named in *C6.01. In such case, the other congregation(s) of the same parish shall have the right to terminate the parish agreement.
- *C20.05.** Any one of the congregations of the parish may terminate their relationship with a minister of Word and Service as provided in †S14.43.d. of the synodical constitution of the synod named in *C6.01. In such case, the other congregation(s) of the same parish shall have the right to terminate the parish agreement.
- *C20.06.** Whenever a parish agreement is terminated, the call of any rostered minister serving that parish is terminated. Should any congregation that was formerly part of the parish agreement desire to issue a new call to that rostered minister, it may do so in accordance with the call process of this church.

RESPONSES TO SYNODICAL RESOLUTIONS

T. U.S. Government aid to the State of Israel

Metropolitan Chicago Synod (5A) [2015]

RESOLVED, that members of the congregations of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod be encouraged to contact their congressional representatives and their senators to encourage their support and action to terminate U.S. financial aid until the state of Israel seeks a peace agreement, ends its occupation of Palestinian territory and enables an independent Palestinian state; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan Chicago Synod Assembly through the Synod Council make this resolution known to members of the Illinois Congressional delegation who serve citizens living in our synod and the public at large; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan Chicago Synod Assembly direct the Synod Council to forward this resolution to the Church Council for consideration and possible action.

Executive Committee action [EC15.08.14]

To receive the resolution from the Metropolitan Chicago Synod concerning U.S. Government Aid to the State of Israel; and

To refer the resolution to the Global Mission unit, in consultation with the Office of the Presiding Bishop and the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit, for a report or for a timeline on when this resolution will receive further attention.

Response from the Global Mission unit (November 2015)

This church encourages ELCA members on a near-monthly basis to be in touch with their elected officials with regard to the importance of reaching a just peace agreement between Israel and Palestine. Often the importance of ending the occupation and the need for a two-state solution are included. The ELCA has raised the issue of U.S. financial aid to Israel and the need for it to be used consistent with human rights provisions in U.S. law from time to time, most notably in an October 2012 letter to Members of Congress and most recently in an August 2015 action alert. Other related memorials have already been forwarded to the Office of the Secretary, and this matter will be considered among the memorials being sent to the 2016 Churchwide Assembly.

VOTED:

EN BLOC

CC15.11.52t To receive the response from the Global Mission unit related to the resolution of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod concerning U.S. Government Aid to the State of Israel;

To note that this matter will be considered along with other memorials on Israel and Palestine already addressed to the 2016 Churchwide Assembly as the response of Church Council to the resolution of this synod; and

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

U. Strategic plan

Southeastern Minnesota Synod (3I) [2015]

RESOLVED, that the Southeastern Minnesota Synod, in assembly, ask the ELCA Church Council to initiate, in partnership with the Office of the Presiding Bishop and the synodical expression of this church, a thorough assessment of all churchwide and synodical ministries:

1. to identify and review which ministries each expression is doing individually, cooperatively and in partnership with other agencies;
2. to identify any additional ministries each expression should be doing;

3. to evaluate the importance and effectiveness of those ministries to the mission of this church; and
4. to develop an opinion about which ministries can be done most effectively by each expression individually, cooperatively or in partnership with other agencies; and be it further
RESOLVED, that the Southeastern Minnesota Synod request that, on the basis of that assessment, the Church Council develop funding proposals for those ministries including new mission support goal percentages; and be it further
RESOLVED, that the Southeastern Minnesota Synod ask the Church Council to present recommendations arising from this strategic plan to the 2016 Churchwide Assembly for action.

Executive Committee action [EC15.07.12c]

To receive the resolution from the Southeastern Minnesota Synod concerning a strategic plan for this church; and
To refer the resolution to the Office of the Presiding Bishop for a report or for a timeline on when this resolution will receive further attention.

Response from the Office of the Presiding Bishop (November 2015)

At its April 2015 meeting, the Church Council took action on a number of mission funding matters. It acknowledged that the “uniform percentage guidelines for mission support are no longer appropriate across all synods” (CC15.04.11). Further, it approved “the development, in consultation with the Conference of Bishops and the Office of the Presiding Bishop, of a contextually sensitive, substantive and collaborative process which will result in synod-specific percentage goals for each of the 65 synods by no later than the April 2018 meeting of the Church Council” (CC15.04.11).

In addition, Church Council asked 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 A. 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 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 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.

Bishop Eaton is seeking broad participation across this church, including the Southeastern Minnesota Synod. As was intended in the Church Council action, the “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.

VOTED: *EN BLOC*
CC15.11.52u **To receive the response from the Office of the Presiding Bishop related to the resolution of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod concerning a strategic plan for this church;**
 To note that this matter is currently being initiated through the presiding bishop's process design; and
 To request that the secretary of this church inform the synod of this action.

**V. Amending the "Model Constitution for Congregations" regarding discipline
Eastern Washington-Idaho Synod (1D) [2015]**

RESOLVED, that the Eastern Washington-Idaho Synod Assembly recommend changes in the congregational disciplinary process (C15.01., ff.) laid out in the latest iteration of the "Model Constitution for Congregations of the ELCA" either to return to the previous wording, which has Congregational Councils part of the process, or to find language which puts Congregational Councils back into the currently prescribed system; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Eastern Washington-Idaho Synod Assembly direct the Synod Council to forward this resolution to the Church Council's Executive Committee for referral and disposition to the appropriate unit or office of the churchwide organization in accordance with the bylaws and continuing resolutions of this church.

Executive Committee action [EC15.07.12c]

To receive the resolution from the Eastern Washington-Idaho Synod concerning amendments to the "Model Constitution for Congregations" regarding discipline; and

To refer the resolution to the Office of the Secretary for a report or for a timeline on when this resolution will receive further attention.

Response from the Office of the Secretary (November 2015)

The previous wording that is requested by this resolution had the congregation council acting in multiple roles in the process of the discipline of congregation members. It also allows the member who might be under discipline to appeal to the Synod Council. The current process does not remove the congregation council from the process. The congregation council, instead of being the recipient of the charges, now is the body that prepares the charges for submission to the appropriate synod committees and represents the congregation throughout the process.

In fact, the previous system did not work to resolve conflicts in part because the congregation council was placed in an impossible situation. The current process has the council taking a significant role, but not the role of determining the outcome. The current process seeks to establish a method of hearing the complaint and deciding on possible discipline while allowing the council to continue to function in providing leadership for the whole congregation. It is the opinion of the secretary that this resolution's proposed change should not be made.

VOTED: *EN BLOC*
CC15.11.52v **To receive with thanks the resolution of the Eastern Washington-Idaho Synod concerning constitutional amendments in the congregational disciplinary process;**
 To receive the response from the Office of the Secretary related to the resolution;
 To decline to amend the "Model Constitution for Congregations"; and
 To request that the secretary of this church inform the synod of this action.

W. Solar power at Phebe Hospital in Liberia

Northeastern Minnesota Synod (3E) [2015]

RESOLVED, that the Northeastern Minnesota Synod endorse the Phebe Hospital solar energy project and encourage the intentional efforts of each congregation throughout the synod to raise awareness and funding for this project in the month of August; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Northeastern Minnesota Synod call upon the other synods in Minnesota and across the ELCA to embrace the “Solar August” awareness and funding opportunity; and be it further

RESOLVED that the Northeastern Minnesota Synod Assembly direct the Northeastern Minnesota Synod Council to forward this resolution to the Church Council’s Executive Committee for proper referral and disposition under the bylaws and continuing resolutions of this church.

Solar power at Phebe Hospital in Liberia

Northwestern Minnesota Synod (3D) [2015]

RESOLVED, that the Northwestern Minnesota Synod Assembly answer the Northeastern Minnesota Synod Assembly’s call and stand with its brothers and sisters in faith to support the Phebe Hospital solar energy project and encourage the intentional efforts of each congregation throughout its synod to raise awareness and funding for this project in the month of August; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Northwestern Minnesota Synod Assembly direct the Northwestern Minnesota Synod Council to unite with the Northeastern Minnesota Synod Council in forwarding this resolution to the Church Council’s Executive Committee for proper referral and disposition under the bylaws and continuing resolutions of this church.

Solar power at Phebe Hospital in Liberia

Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod (7E) [2015]

RESOLVED, that the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod Assembly answer the Northeastern Minnesota Synod Assembly’s call and stand with its brothers and sisters in faith to support the Phebe Hospital solar energy project and encourage the intentional efforts of each congregation throughout this synod to raise awareness and funding for this project in the month of August; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod Assembly direct the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod Council to unite with the Northeastern Minnesota Synod Council in forwarding this resolution to the Church Council’s Executive Committee for proper referral and disposition under the bylaws and continuing resolutions of this church.

Solar power at Phebe Hospital in Liberia

Upper Susquehanna Synod (8E) [2015]

RESOLVED that the Upper Susquehanna Synod Assembly answer the Northeastern Minnesota Synod Assembly’s call and stand with its brothers and sisters in faith to support the Phebe Hospital solar energy project and encourage the intentional efforts of each congregation throughout its synod to raise awareness and funding for this project in the month of August, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Upper Susquehanna Synod Assembly direct the Upper Susquehanna Synod Council to unite with the Northeastern Minnesota Synod Council in forwarding this resolution to the Church Council’s Executive Committee.

Executive Committee action [EC15.05.09]

To receive the resolution from the Northeastern Minnesota Synod concerning solar power at Phebe Hospital in Liberia; and

To refer the resolution to the Global Mission unit for a report or for a timeline on when this resolution will receive further attention.

Executive Committee action [EC15.07.12c]

To receive the resolutions from the Northwestern Minnesota, Northeastern Pennsylvania and the Upper Susquehanna synods concerning solar power at Phebe Hospital in Liberia; and

To refer the resolutions to the Global Mission unit for a report or for a timeline on when this resolution will receive further attention.

Response from the Global Mission unit (November 2015)

The Global Mission unit is working with Women of the ELCA, which is coordinating the fund-raising effort to bring solar power to Phebe Hospital in Liberia. A Global Mission staff member in Liberia, who has an engineering background, is liaising with the Rural Renewal Energy Alliance for the planning and anticipated implementation phases of the project. Therefore, Global Mission expects to have this staff expertise continue to be available to help oversee the project's implementation if and when the required funds have been received.

VOTED:

EN BLOC

CC15.11.52w To receive the response from the Global Mission unit related to the resolutions of the Northwestern Minnesota, Northeastern Minnesota, Northeastern Pennsylvania and Upper Susquehanna synods concerning solar power at Phebe Hospital in Liberia; and To request that the secretary of this church inform these synods of this action.

RESPONSE TO CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY ACTION

X. Implementation of the social statement "Genetics, Faith and Responsibility"

Churchwide Assembly action [CA11.04.17]

1. To call upon members of this church to pray, work, advocate and apply genetic knowledge and technology in ways that respect and promote the community of life justly and wisely;
2. To call upon congregations and other sites of ministry to give renewed attention to becoming places of koinonia in Christ that foster a deepened understanding of and commitment to baptismal vocation, everyday callings and moral formation and discernment;
3. To encourage leaders in conferences, synods or other appropriate bodies to compile lists of resources for their jurisdictions to which pastors, counselors and individuals can turn for help when seeking information or guidance in dealing with genetic issues;
4. To call upon this church's advocacy ministries to support and advocate for measures consistent with this social statement;
5. To affirm the study document "Genetics and Faith: Power, Choice and Responsibility" as a resource for ongoing deliberation and discernment, and to direct the Theological Discernment team of the Office of the Presiding Bishop to maintain its availability as long as demand continues;
6. To affirm the 2004 ELCA Social Policy Resolution "Genetically Modified Organisms in the Food Supply" and its continuing value for the mission and ministry of the ELCA;
7. To encourage the churchwide organization to maintain a database of ELCA members with expertise related to genetic science and technology that can serve as a primary resource for consultation;
8. To direct the Theological Discernment team of the Office of the Presiding Bishop to assess the feasibility of developing a social message on regenerative medicine, including, but not limited to, a range of stem cell technologies; and to bring to the ELCA Church Council in November 2013 a report and possible recommendations, in accordance with Policies and Procedures of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for Addressing Social Concerns (Chicago: ELCA, 1997, revised 2011); and
9. To call upon the Office of the Presiding Bishop to establish and oversee a process of implementation and accountability for "Genetics, Faith and Responsibility" and to report annually

on implementation to the ELCA Church Council through November 2015, with progress reports made available through www.ELCA.org.

Response from the Office of the Presiding Bishop (November 2015)

In recent social statements an implementing resolution has been included that directed or called upon units of the churchwide organization to provide for accountability and report on implementation. Resolution #9 of "Genetics, Faith and Responsibility" (2011) called for an annual report to Church Council through the fall of November 2015. While there have been numerous activities to report in previous years, (see Fall Church Council reports 2012-2014), visible activity has waned in 2015 with some important exceptions.

Resolutions #1 and 2 of "Genetics, Faith and Responsibility" are unquantifiable or difficult to assess, especially in terms of congregations seeking "to becoming places of koinonia in Christ." Barring a churchwide survey, it also remains difficult to report accurately on what actions were generated by Resolution #3, which encourages church leaders "to compile lists of resources for their jurisdictions" that might help pastors and others seeking to deal with generic issues.

ELCA advocacy ministries (Resolution #4) have not placed a high priority on genetic issues in 2015 because other concerns have been more dominant across the country. Advocacy staff is familiar with the statement and indicate that they refer to it on occasion. Likewise, the study that led to the social statement remains available as directed in Resolution #5, but very few copies have been purchased. If staff capacity permits in 2016, a study guide will be created to fulfill ELCA protocol of providing a standing study guide to each social statement and this will replace the dated and lengthy study "Genetics and Faith: Power, Choice and Responsibility."

Although activity has waned this year, there are two significant indicators of the statement's efficacy. As ELCA social responsibility screens and an issue paper are being revised, themes and commitments from "Genetics, Faith and Responsibility" are altering or reinforcing commitments in those documents, as is evident this year in the case of the Corporate Social Responsibility documents on climate change and environmental. Most notably, The Episcopal Church at its July General Convention adopted resolutions and an action plan regarding genetically modified organisms that explicitly referenced the ELCA statement. The "Working Paper on Resolution A-013," which led to the Convention's actions, cites "Genetics, Faith and Responsibility" and "Genetically Modified Organisms in the Food Supply" [reaffirmed in Resolution #6] as source documents. Further, "Resolution A-013" expressly "commends the leadership of the ELCA [for its work.] Noting that the issues are complex, [it] calls upon the [Episcopal] Church to follow the example of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America and other denominations in seeking to identify the moral, ethical and theological principles....the ELCA adopted in 2011 a social statement on genetics that reviews theological and ethical issues of genetic engineering in significantly greater depth and with an impressive sense for nuance."

Resolution #7 encourages the churchwide organization to maintain a database of ELCA members with relevant expertise and an initial, brief list compiled in late 2011 remains available. No further efforts have been made to create an integrated database at the churchwide organization as a matter of staff capacity. It is notable that not a single request has come asking for help in identifying expertise. Resolution #8 directs the theological discernment team in the Office of the Presiding Bishop to assess "the feasibility of developing a social message on regenerative medicine..." and to bring a report to the ELCA Church Council by November 2013, but an extension has been requested until November 2016.

VOTED:

CC15.11.52x

To receive the final annual report from the Office of the Presiding Bishop in response to the 2011 Churchwide Assembly action related to the implementing resolutions for the social statement, "Genetics, Faith and Responsibility."

EN BLOC

CONSIDERATION OF ITEMS REMOVED FROM *EN BLOC*

(Agenda VI.E.; *Reference: En Bloc Items and Responses to Churchwide Assembly Actions*)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña asked Secretary Wm Chris Boerger to present the items that had been removed from the *en bloc* resolutions for separate consideration.

RESPONSE TO CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY ACTION: ISRAEL AND PALESTINE

Background:

The Report of the Memorials Committee of the 2013 Churchwide Assembly includes the full text of the synodical memorials to that assembly under category C1: Israel and Palestine.

Churchwide Assembly action [CA13.06.27]

To receive with gratitude the memorials of the Southwestern Texas, Saint Paul Area, Rocky Mountain, Southeast Michigan, Oregon, Sierra Pacific, Northwest Washington, Greater Milwaukee, Southwest California, Metropolitan Chicago, Southeastern Iowa, Northeastern Pennsylvania, Indiana-Kentucky, New England, Lower Susquehanna, Upper Susquehanna, Metropolitan Washington, D.C., and Minneapolis Area synods related to Peacemaking with Justice in Israel and Palestine;

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. Learn more about the experiences of both Israelis and Palestinians and their mutual fears, aspirations, and hopes;
3. Work to convey the concerns and perspectives of Palestinians and Israelis that dispel stereotypes and caricatures and promote better understanding;
4. 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;
5. Continue to help alleviate the humanitarian needs of all of those affected by the conflict;
6. Support U.S. funding that promotes peace and cooperation for all parties to the conflict; and
7. Continue to pray for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land and our brothers and sisters in the Middle East;

To reaffirm the 2011 Churchwide Assembly action [CA11.04.27] to receive, read, and discuss the Kairos Palestine document as an “authentic word from our brothers and sisters in the Palestinian Christian community” that “warrants our respect and attentiveness;”

To reaffirm the 2011 Churchwide Assembly action [CA11.04.27] “to commend the policy, ‘ELCA Economic Social Criteria Investment Screens,’ to the members, congregations, synods, and agencies of this church; and to decline to undertake a review of the investment of funds managed within the ELCA but to commend these recommendations to the Office of the Treasurer, the Office of the Secretary, the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit, the Mission Advancement unit, and the ELCA Board of Pensions for consideration;”

To encourage this church’s members, congregations, synods, and agencies to call on the President of the United States and their representatives in Congress to commit to a goal of facilitating a just and peaceful resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict; and

To refer to the Global Mission unit, the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit, the Mission Advancement unit, the Office of the Secretary, the Office of the Treasurer, and Portico Benefit Services the matter of evaluating possibilities for investing in specific Palestinian economic endeavors and other projects that would promote peace and cooperation between Israelis and Palestinians; and to provide a report with recommendations to the April 2014 meeting of the Church Council.

Response from Global Mission unit (April 2014)

At this time, conversations are ongoing with the various churchwide units as well as Portico Benefit Services. The Global Mission unit would appreciate the opportunity to make a fuller report, including a comprehensive strategy, to a subsequent meeting of the Church Council.

Church Council action (CC14.04.13e)

To receive the response from Global Mission and to grant an extension for a final report and possible recommendations; and

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

Response from the Global Mission unit (April 2015)

The 2013 Churchwide Assembly action (CA13.06.27) requested, among other things, that a number of churchwide offices and units evaluate “possibilities for investing in specific Palestinian economic endeavors and other projects that would promote peace and cooperation between Israelis and Palestinians.” The offices and units were the Global Mission unit (convener), the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit, the Mission Advancement unit, the Office of the Secretary, the Office of the Treasurer and Portico Benefit Services. Global Mission convened representatives of these entities and the Mission Investment Fund on March 9, 2015.

In addition to those entities mentioned above, Global Mission requested a member of its staff with accounting expertise and who resides in Jerusalem to undertake an initial informal survey of Palestinian investment possibilities. Other Global Mission and Congregational and Synodical Mission staff collected information about the activities of other churches and church-related organizations with respect to Palestinian investment. The information and findings were shared with those attending the March 9, 2015, meeting.

Staff also held an initial conversation with Bishop Munib Younan of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL) in January and consultation will continue with him prior to the preparation of a final report. Among the topics discussed on March 9 were: background on earlier policy statements about economic measures; definitions of “investment” (economic, social, etc.) in this context; the range of recent financial support to the region by the ELCA; a continuum of possible economic instruments or measures that should be examined; and an outline of investment initiatives by other church-related entities in the region.

Staff of the Global Mission unit will continue to study these and other topics, and in the context of a small working group, craft language for the representatives of this ad hoc committee to review and discuss for a final report.

In consultation with Bishop Younan of the ELCJHL, the *ad hoc* committee, through the Global Mission unit as convener, will bring a final report and possible recommendations to the Church Council meeting in fall 2015.

Church Council action (CC15.04.31i)

To receive the progress report from the Global Mission unit regarding Israel and Palestine; and

To request that a final report with possible recommendations be presented to the Church Council at its November 2015 meeting.

Response from the Global Mission unit (November 2015)

The Global Mission unit was designated to take the lead in preparing a response to the 2013 Churchwide Assembly memorial. After meeting with representatives from all of the ELCA units referenced in the memorial, the Global Mission unit-based steering committee pursued four areas of inquiry:

1. engaged in conversation with Bishop Munib Younan and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL) throughout the process, exploring “positive investment” vehicles in addition to the Global Mission unit’s current financial commitments. A colleague based in Jerusalem, with accounting expertise, consulted Palestinian entrepreneurs and financial institutions, such as the Bank of Palestine.
2. interviewed each partner named in the memorial, the Mission Investment Fund and other stakeholders to understand their definitions of investment (economic, social, other) in Palestine. Staff of the Global Mission

unit also interviewed representatives of units and organizations that oversee ELCA fund management to better understand their fiduciary duty in seeking a market rate of return.

3. reviewed the work of other denominations, specifically the Presbyterian Foundation and The Episcopal Church.
4. reviewed the range of past and current financial commitments with the ELCJHL, Lutheran World Federation (LWF) – Jerusalem and other partners.

In January 2015, staff met with Bishop Younan to brief him on the task assigned to the Global Mission unit, seek his advice on the possibilities available for “positive investment,” and describe plans for response.

Determining possible parameters of “investment” was critical to the process, and staff of the Global Mission unit examined a continuum of investment options available to the ELCA. They began by looking at traditional (financial) investment practices as well as the possibilities for other forms of economic investment (such as micro-finance and online commerce). They examined social investment or philanthropy; that is investing in the lives of people and communities without expectation for a financial return. In a related development, Portico has revealed a new initiative, Social Impact First, in the fall of 2015. For this report, the Global Mission unit speaks of social investment as philanthropy, and Portico identifies social investment as one that provides a financial return. Traditional and social investments are both options for the ELCA.

The Global Mission unit interviewed staff of Portico, the Mission Investment Fund, Mission Advancement and Office of the Treasurer to understand their specific charters and financial responsibilities. All of these ministries implement ELCA guidelines for socially responsible investing along a continuum, while maintaining their fiduciary responsibility to be effective stewards of the funds entrusted to them. Portico’s Social Impact First investing strives for greater social impact, by accepting when necessary, a slightly lower return and/or slightly higher risk (for up to 10 percent of assets in existing social purpose funds).

To see if investing in Palestine might be feasible, Portico has been collaborating with ecumenical partners, including the Pension Board of the United Church of Christ and the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits of the United Methodist Church (Wespath), to learn more about potential investments in Palestine. However, it is uniquely challenging to uphold fiduciary responsibility while investing in Palestine. Given the volatility of the Middle East, the economic constraints inherent in the Occupation of Palestine, and the very low volume of options available, the financial return of investment in the region is well below market rate and considered high-risk. Therefore, because of the fiduciary duty of the aforementioned entities, opportunities for financial investment in Palestine are rather limited. Similarly, economic investment, as understood in a free market, is significantly restrained under the Israeli occupation where freedom of movement of people and goods is restricted; where access to education, healthcare and employment opportunities are restricted; and where access to and development of land is restricted. They also researched options in micro-finance (Oikocredit and Kiva) and online commerce (Indiegogo and Kickstarter). Neither Oikocredit nor Kiva offered designated investing in Palestine; and the projects seeking funding in Indiegogo and Kickstarter suit individual investors, not large scale investing.

Concurrently, staff of the Global Mission unit examined the Presbyterian and The Episcopal Church investment practices in Palestine. They reviewed the work of the Presbyterian Foundation’s Transformational Investment, where Presbyterian congregations and other Presbyterian-related entities are able to participate in the program through a revocable charitable trust of the Presbyterian Foundation. Currently, the Presbyterian Foundation and the Presbyterian Mission Agency have committed to invest up to \$1.5 million. The Episcopal Church purchased, in 2013, a three-year certificate of deposit for \$500,000 in the Bank of Palestine. The investment will be for green loan programs and loans to help start and sustain small businesses. This investment was in response to a resolution at their 77th General Convention that affirmed positive investment in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

The ELCA is dedicated to long-term social investment with long-standing financial commitments to companion church and related partners in Palestine. Therefore, the ELCA definition of investment includes social return on the ELCA’s engagement with the ELCJHL, LWF – Jerusalem, and other entities. From Fiscal Year 2012 to Fiscal Year 2014, the ELCA has given over \$2.2 million in grants to the ELCJHL, the LWF-operated Augusta Victoria Hospital, and to smaller initiatives like the Peace Center for the Blind. The Mission Investment Fund, reaching beyond its primarily domestic mission, loaned \$1.2 million to Dar Al-Kalima College (also a beneficiary of the Presbyterian Foundation) and \$1.5 million to the ELCJHL for the construction of the Baptismal Pilgrimage Site and Retreat Center at the Jordan River

in Jordan. When reporting these financial commitments to those offices and units named in the memorial, many were impressed with the scope and depth of financial investment and encouraged that this information be shared.

In summary, the ELCA continues to stand with ELCJHL and ELCJHL's work to promote a just peace; the ELCA continues its long-term social investment in the region and the ELCA continues to advocate through the Peace Not Walls campaign for the end of the Occupation at which time a range of financial investments may be possible in a free market environment.

The Global Mission unit recommends that the Church Council:

- 1) commend the ELCA's current social investment commitments to the ELCJHL, the LWF and other companions in the region; and
- 2) consider this report as an appropriate response to the action of the 2013 Churchwide Assembly on this matter.

Church Council action:

Secretary Wm Chris Boerger presented the background information regarding the response to the action of the 2013 Churchwide Assembly on Israel and Palestine. He made the following motion.

Moved;

Seconded:

To receive the report from the Global Mission unit in response to the 2013 Churchwide Assembly action related to the matter of evaluating possibilities for investing in specific Palestinian economic endeavors and other projects that would promote peace and cooperation between Israelis and Palestinians;

To commend the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's current social investment commitments to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land, The Lutheran World Federation and other companions in the region; and

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

Mr. Paul G. Archer provided his reasons for asking that this matter be removed from *en bloc* consideration. He stated that his concerns had been addressed by staff of the Global Mission unit since making that request.

There being no further discussion, Vice President Carlos E. Peña called for the vote.

VOTED:

CC15.11.53

To receive the report from the Global Mission unit in response to the 2013 Churchwide Assembly action related to the matter of evaluating possibilities for investing in specific Palestinian economic endeavors and other projects that would promote peace and cooperation between Israelis and Palestinians;

To commend the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's current social investment commitments to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land, The Lutheran World Federation and other companions in the region; and

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

The chair declared that the motion was adopted.

RECOMMENDATION TO THE 2016 CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY REGARDING CONTINUING RESOLUTION 5.01.A87.
(Reference: Rationale Memo for CBCR Amendments)

In a Sept. 1, 2015, memorandum regarding proposed amendments to the *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*, Secretary Wm Chris Boerger provided the rationale for the Church Council to propose that the 2016 Churchwide Assembly amend continuing resolution **5.01.A87**:

The previous language of the continuing resolution established a goal of inclusivity that this church did not achieve. The new continuing resolution changes a goal to a commitment by describing the ongoing work required to achieve it. The proposal also replaces an arbitrary percentage (10 percent) with an ongoing commitment to reflect the real diversity that exists in the places where this church is located.

Church Council action:

Secretary Wm Chris Boerger noted that the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee had removed the recommendation to the 2016 Churchwide Assembly to amend continuing resolution 5.01.A87. from its section of the *En Bloc* Items document and was proposing a change in the recommendation. He made the following motion.

Moved;

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

To adopt the following amendment to continuing resolution 5.01.A87. in the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*.

5.01.A87. *It shall be a goal of this church that within 10 years of its establishment its membership shall include at least 10 percent people of color and/or primary language other than English.*

5.01.A16. *This church commits itself to ethnic and racial diversity. Each expression of this church shall annually assess its ethnic and racial diversity when compared to the demographic data of its community or territory. The churchwide organization will work with synods as they assist congregations to reach out to persons of color or whose primary language is other than English.*

The Rev. Stephen R. Herr, chair of the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee, related the discussion of the committee. He noted the committee's editing.

Secretary Boerger explained that the Church Council was authorized to amend continuing resolutions, but this amendment would change a goal to a commitment of this church. So, it was being recommended that the Churchwide Assembly make such a commitment.

There being no further discussion, Vice President Carlos E. Peña called for the vote.

VOTED:

CC15.11.54 *To recommend the following for adoption by the 2016 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:*

To adopt the following amendment to continuing resolution 5.01.A87. in the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*.

~~5.01.A87. It shall be a goal of this church that within 10 years of its establishment its membership shall include at least 10 percent people of color and/or primary language other than English.~~

5.01.A16. This church commits itself to ethnic and racial diversity. Each expression of this church shall annually assess its ethnic and racial diversity when compared to the demographic data of its community or territory. The churchwide organization will work with synods as they assist congregations to reach out to persons of color or whose primary language is other than English.

The chair declared that the motion was adopted.

NEW BUSINESS

COMMITMENT TO ETHNIC AND RACIAL DIVERSITY

(Agenda VI.G.; Reference: New Business Commitment on Racism)

Background:

The Church Council's agenda included a possible recommendation that the 2016 Churchwide Assembly amend the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* by deleting the continuing resolution:

5.01.A87. *It shall be a goal of this church that within 10 years of its establishment its membership shall include at least 10 percent people of color and/or primary language other than English.*

and by replacing it with:

5.01.A16. *This church commits itself to ethnic and racial diversity. Each expression of this church shall annually assess its ethnic and racial diversity when compared to the demographic data of its community or territory. The churchwide organization will work with synods as they assist congregations to reach out to persons of color or whose primary language is other than English.*

In the conversation surrounding this recommendation, members of the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee discussed this church's failure to achieve the goal it had set (5.01.A87.) for its first 10 years of existence and its commitment to more closely reflect the ethnic and racial character of the general population.

Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton described several manners, especially in the aftermath of the June 17, 2015, murders of nine people at a historic African American church in Charleston, S.C., in which she has called on the ELCA to confront the many ways racism manifests itself within both church and society.

Church Council action:

Vice President Carlos E. Peña noted that the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee had brought an item of new business.

Ms. Maren Hulden made the following motion.

Moved;

Seconded:

To recognize and affirm the extensive efforts by the presiding bishop to call the entire church to confront racism and to add our voice to that call; and

To invite the presiding bishop to include the current efforts in a broader, comprehensive strategy toward becoming a racially and ethnically diverse church committed to dismantling racism.

Church Council members discussed the background information and the committee's related conversation.

Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton talked about ELCA efforts to confront and dismantle racism. Staff of the churchwide organization commented on possible elements of a comprehensive strategy, including the involvement of each expression of this church.

There being no further discussion, the chair invited the Rev. Vicki T. Garber to lead the council in prayer.

Vice President Peña called for the vote.

VOTED:

CC15.11.55 **To recognize and affirm the extensive efforts of the presiding bishop to call the entire church to confront racism and to add our voice to that call; and**
 To invite the presiding bishop to include the current efforts in a broader, comprehensive strategy toward becoming a racially and ethnically diverse church committed to dismantling racism.

The vice president declared the motion was adopted.

CONSIDERATION OF ITEMS REMOVED FROM EN BLOC (CONT.)

AMENDMENT OF CONTINUING RESOLUTIONS RELATED TO 16.12.C11.

(Agenda VI.E.; Reference: En Bloc Items)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña asked Secretary Wm Chris Boerger to present the remaining item that had been removed from the *en bloc* resolutions for separate consideration.

Secretary Boerger identified proposed amendments to continuing resolutions related to The Lutheran magazine and responsibilities of the Mission Advancement unit, noting that some language had been changed since it was provided in the *En Bloc* Items document. He made the following motion.

Moved;

Two-thirds vote required

Seconded:

To adopt the following amendment to continuing resolution 16.12.C11. in the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*; and
To delete continuing resolutions 16.12.D11. and 14.32.B13.

~~**14.32.B13.** *One voting member of the Church Council shall be selected in each triennium to serve in accord with 16.12.D11.d.4. as a member of the Advisory Committee for the Church Periodical.*~~

~~**16.12.C11.5.** *Mission Advancement Unit*~~

~~*The Mission Advancement unit shall be responsible for coordinating this church's communication, marketing, public relations, mission funding, major gifts, planned gifts, and constituent data management. It also shall oversee the work of the following:*~~

~~_____ a. *The Lutheran magazine*~~

~~_____ b. *The ELCA Foundation.*~~

The Mission Advancement unit shall be responsible for planning, coordinating and carrying out this church's communications through publications and other tools. It shall also be responsible for Mission Support interpretation and consultations, the management of constituent data and shall lead its fundraising and development efforts including current, major and planned gifts.

- ~~16.12.D11. The church periodical, The Lutheran, shall be published by the churchwide organization. The following shall apply to the church periodical:~~
- ~~a. The Church Council shall elect the editor of the church periodical by a two-thirds vote to a four-year term. The editor shall be eligible for re-election. Employment of the editor may be terminated jointly by the presiding bishop of this church and a two-thirds vote of the members of the Church Council present and voting.~~
 - ~~b. The editor shall be responsible to the Church Council. The editor shall select the editorial staff of the church periodical and shall be solely responsible for the periodical's content.~~
 - ~~c. Official notices of this church shall be published in the periodical.~~
 - ~~d. An advisory committee for The Lutheran shall have the responsibility for the church periodical. The advisory committee, in consultation with the presiding bishop of this church, shall nominate the editor for the church periodical. The advisory committee of the church periodical shall be composed of nine members elected by the Church Council:
 - ~~1) The members of the advisory committee of the church periodical, who shall be nominated through the Church Council's nomination process, shall include persons chosen for their understanding of periodical publishing.~~
 - ~~2) Each member of the advisory committee for The Lutheran shall be elected for one six-year term, with no consecutive re-election and with one-third of the members elected every two years.~~
 - ~~3) The terms of office of persons so elected to regular terms on the advisory committee of the church periodical shall begin on the first day of the month following each regular meeting of the Church Council.~~
 - ~~4) The Church Council shall appoint one voting member of the council to serve as an advisory member of this committee.~~
 - ~~5) The Conference of Bishops shall elect one bishop to serve as an advisory member of this committee.~~
 - ~~6) The advisory committee of the church periodical shall:
 - ~~a. develop editorial and advertising guidelines.~~
 - ~~b. receive periodic reports from the editor.~~
 - ~~c. consult with the editor from the perspective of the expertise of committee members.~~
 - ~~d. be responsible, together with the presiding bishop of this church, for the annual performance review of the editor.~~~~~~

Church Council members discussed the prospect of the editor of The Lutheran no longer being directly responsible to the council. They also talked about maintaining the editorial integrity of the magazine.

There being no further discussion, Vice President Carlos E. Peña invited the Rev. Joyce M. Graue to lead the council in prayer.

The chair called for the vote by show of hands.

VOTED:

CC15.11.56

TWO-THIRDS VOTE

To adopt the following amendment to continuing resolution 16.12.C11. in the Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; and

To delete continuing resolutions 16.12.D11. and 14.32.B13.

~~14.32.B13.~~ ~~One voting member of the Church Council shall be selected in each triennium to serve in accord with 16.12.D11.d.4. as a member of the Advisory Committee for the Church Periodical.~~

16.12.C1115. Mission Advancement Unit

~~The Mission Advancement unit shall be responsible for coordinating this church's communication, marketing, public relations, mission funding, major gifts, planned gifts, and constituent data management. It also shall oversee the work of the following:~~

- ~~a. The Lutheran magazine~~
- ~~b. The ELCA Foundation.~~

The Mission Advancement unit shall be responsible for planning, coordinating and carrying out this church's communications through publications and other tools. It shall also be responsible for Mission Support interpretation and consultations, the management of constituent data and shall lead its fundraising and development efforts including current, major and planned gifts.

~~16.12.D11.~~ ~~The church periodical, The Lutheran, shall be published by the churchwide organization. The following shall apply to the church periodical:~~

- ~~a. The Church Council shall elect the editor of the church periodical by a two-thirds vote to a four-year term. The editor shall be eligible for re-election. Employment of the editor may be terminated jointly by the presiding bishop of this church and a two-thirds vote of the members of the Church Council present and voting.~~
- ~~b. The editor shall be responsible to the Church Council. The editor shall select the editorial staff of the church periodical and shall be solely responsible for the periodical's content.~~
- ~~c. Official notices of this church shall be published in the periodical.~~
- ~~d. An advisory committee for The Lutheran shall have the responsibility for the church periodical. The advisory committee, in consultation with the presiding bishop of this church, shall nominate the editor for the church periodical. The advisory committee of the church periodical shall be composed of nine members elected by the Church Council:
 - ~~1) The members of the advisory committee of the church periodical, who shall be nominated through the Church Council's nomination process, shall include persons chosen for their understanding of periodical publishing.~~
 - ~~2) Each member of the advisory committee for The Lutheran shall be elected for one six-year term, with no consecutive re-election and with one-third of the members elected every two years.~~
 - ~~3) The terms of office of persons so elected to regular terms on the advisory committee of the church periodical shall begin on the first day of the month following each regular meeting of the Church Council.~~~~

- ~~4) The Church Council shall appoint one voting member of the council to serve as an advisory member of this committee.~~
- ~~5) The Conference of Bishops shall elect one bishop to serve as an advisory member of this committee.~~
- ~~6) The advisory committee of the church periodical shall:
 - ~~a. develop editorial and advertising guidelines.~~
 - ~~b. receive periodic reports from the editor.~~
 - ~~c. consult with the editor from the perspective of the expertise of committee members.~~
 - ~~d. be responsible, together with the presiding bishop of this church, for the annual performance review of the editor.~~~~

Vice President Peña declared that the motion was adopted.

Secretary Boerger stated that there were no other items removed from *en bloc* consideration or new business.

PERSONAL REFLECTION ON FAITH

(Agenda VI.B.)

At the invitation of the chair, the Rev. Loren D. Mellum shared a personal faith reflection.

Pr. Mellum related some of his experiences from sabbatical that he found inspiring.

REPORT OF THE BOARD DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

(Agenda VI.C.)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on Ms. Pamela E. Pritt, co-chair of the Board Development Committee, who presented the committee's report.

Ms. Pritt said the committee considered primers for Church Council meetings, orientation for council members to be elected in 2016 and the possibility of a council retreat in April 2017.

UPDATE ON ELCA COMMUNITY

(Agenda VI.D.)

Mr. Paul Edison-Swift, Web developer/analyst, gave the Church Council an update on the development of ELCA Community and my.ELCA.org, employing technology the ELCA is already using. The new platform is expected to support the council's materials for its April 2016 meeting.

Mr. Edison-Swift responded to questions about mobile devices accessing the platform and the ELCA Guidebook app being used for the 2016 Churchwide Assembly.

CHURCH COUNCIL JOYS AND CONCERNS

(Agenda VI.H.)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on Mr. Paul G. Archer, who provided some instructions on keeping and using prayer concern lists from the Church Council meetings.

Specific people raised joys and concerns the Church Council may include in their prayers.

EVALUATION AND DEBRIEFING

(Agenda VI.I.)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña reminded Church Council members to complete and submit evaluation forms that were available online at ELCA Community.

Ms. Jodi L. Slattery, assistant to the presiding bishop for governance, explained how the Executive Committee used evaluations of both the council meeting and the meetings of the committees to plan future meetings.

Church Council members noted elements of the meeting that reflected attention to previous evaluations.

PROCESS OBSERVATIONS

(Agenda VI.J.)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña asked the Rev. Loren D. Mellum to present process observations.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on Secretary Wm Chris Boerger for announcements.

Secretary Boerger asked that expense reports be submitted promptly.

Several Church Council members discussed their travel plans for the day.

HYMN AND PRAYER

(Agenda VI.K.)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña invited the Rev. Jonathan Splichal Larson to close the meeting with prayer and to lead the Church Council in singing a hymn. Mr. Clarence M. Smith accompanied on the piano.

ADJOURNMENT

(Agenda VI.L.)

The eighty-fifth meeting of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America adjourned Sunday, Nov. 15, 2015, at 2:45 p.m.

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