

**EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
CHURCH COUNCIL
April 7-10, 2016
Chicago, Illinois**

AGENDA

Participants

Voting Members

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

Liaison Bishops

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

Resource People

Office of the Presiding Bishop

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

Office of the Secretary

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

Unit Staff

Pr. Stephen P. Bouman, Executive Director, Congregational and Synodical Mission (CSM)
Ms. Christina Jackson-Skelton, Executive Director, Mission Advancement (MA)
Pr. Rafael Malpica-Padilla, Executive Director, Global Mission (GM)
Ms. Evelyn Soto, Director for CSM Operations and Programs, CSM
Pr. David Wunsch, Director for Unit Operations and Programs, GM
Pr. Ronald Glusenkamp, Director for *The Campaign for the ELCA*, MA
Ms. Victoria Flood, Director for Mission Support, MA
Ms. Jocelyn Fuller, Director for Strategic Communications, MA
Pr. Albert Starr, Director for Ethnic Specific and Multicultural Ministries, CSM
Pr. Jonathan Strandjord, Program Director, Seminaries, CSM

Separately Incorporated Ministries

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

Press

Ms. Candice Hill Buchbinder, Mission Advancement
Ms. Melissa Ramirez Cooper, Mission Advancement

Ecumenical Guests

Pr. Scott Anderson, Presbyterian Church (USA)
Pr. André Lavergne, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada
Pr. Betsy Miller, Moravian Church in North America
Dr. Steven Nishibayashi, The Episcopal Church
Bp. Sharon Rader, United Methodist Church
Pr. Lisa Vander Wal, The Reformed Church in America

Ethnic Association Guests

Pr. Saïd Ailabouni, Association of Lutherans of Arab and Middle Eastern Heritage
Pr. Joan Conroy, American Indian Alaskan Native Lutheran Association
Pr. Margrethe Kleiber, Asian and Pacific Islander Association
Pr. Martín López Vega, Asociación Luterana de Ministerios Latinos
Pr. Russell Meyer, European Descent Lutheran Association for Racial Justice
Pr. Lamont Wells, African Descent Lutheran Association

Thursday, April 7, 2016

- 9:15 a.m. SpringHill Suites Shuttle from hotel to Lutheran Center
- 10:00 a.m. Executive Committee, Full Epiphany
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch for Executive Committee, outside Full Epiphany
- 12:15 p.m. SpringHill Suites Shuttle from hotel to Lutheran Center
- 12:45 p.m. SpringHill Suites Shuttle from hotel to Lutheran Center
- 1:00 p.m. **WORSHIP SERVICE WITH HOLY COMMUNION**, 1st Floor Chapel
Presider: Pr. Michael Ward
Preacher: Pr. Linda Norman
Assisting Minister: Mr. Allan Bieber
Lector: Mr. Vernon Veal

PLENARY SESSION ONE

Council Room
April 7, 2016
2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

I.A Call to Order and Adoption of the Agenda

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

CC ACTION

Recommended:

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

I.B Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of the [November 9-12, 2015](#) meeting of the Church Council have been distributed to council members electronically on My.ELCA.org. 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 on [November 12, 2015](#), [December 7, 2015](#), [January 15, 2016](#), [February 9, 2016](#), and [March 23, 2016](#), have been distributed electronically to members. Minutes for meetings held in executive session have been added to the protocol file in the Office of the Secretary.

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

CC ACTION

Recommended:

**To approve the minutes of November 12-15, 2015 meeting of the Church Council; and
To ratify actions of the council's Executive Committee as indicated in the minutes of the November 12, 2015, December 7, 2015, January 15, 2016, February 9, 2016, and March 23, 2016 meetings.**

I.C Report from the Presiding Bishop

I.D Greetings from Ethnic Specific Ministry Associations

At this meeting, we will be welcoming guests from this church's Ethnic Specific Ministry Associations. This is one opportunity for Church Council to hear from the ethnic association presidents, or their designated representative. We will have subsequent times throughout the agenda to hear from all the associations present with us.

The Ethnic Association presidents have provided a brief [written summary](#) of the association's work and how the ministry is actively assisting this church in working to become more culturally diverse and anti-racist.

I.E Greetings from Ecumenical Liaisons

At this meeting, we will be welcoming guests from this church's full communion partners. This is one opportunity for Church Council to hear from our ecumenical liaisons. We will have subsequent times in the agenda to hear from all of them throughout the meeting.

I.F Report from the Vice President

I.G Report of the Executive Committee

I.G.1 Theological Education Advisory Council

The [Theological Education Advisory Council](#) (TEAC) began its work in fall 2013 in accordance with the Church Council action "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." (CC13.04.12)

At its November 2015 meeting, the Church Council received a number of recommendations offered by TEAC. To assist in its work, the council appointed the creation of a working group "to receive feedback from around the church, craft possible specific implementing strategies that operationalize the recommendations in the TEAC [Theological Education Advisory Council] report, and to make a [report](#) to the Church Council prior to the April 2016 meeting." (CC11.15.46)

The council also asked the Budget and Finance Committee to consider funding implications of the recommendations. Background on the discussion can be found [here](#).

The Conference of Bishops had a conversation with seminary presidents and received an update on the TEAC working group's progress during its March 2016 meeting. The Conference of Bishops affirmed the following statement:

The Conference of Bishops, at its March 2016 meeting, affirms the importance of continuing theological education for rostered leaders lifted up in the TEAC report and affirms the expectation that every rostered leader engage in "a minimum of 50 contact hours per year of intentional continuing education." (Lifelong Learning and Development for Faithful Leaders adopted by the Churchwide Assembly in 1997) The Conference of Bishops further recommends that the CSM Leadership Committee of the CoB study the 1997 document, consult with other bishops and propose a plan for giving the 1997 recommendation meaningful structures of accountability, in service to Christ's mission.

We will hear the proposal from the working group during this time. The [action](#) on TEAC will be considered later in this meeting. **All materials related to TEAC can be found in the TEAC folder in the April 7, 2016, Executive Committee materials. The deadline for submitting amendments to the TEAC recommendations and implementing resolutions is Friday, April 8, 2016, at 6:00 p.m.**

4:00 p.m. *Called Forward Together in Christ*, Council Room
Facilitated Conversation led by Lyla Rogan

6:00 p.m. **Welcome Dinner**, Augsburg Room
Wine and beer available (\$5 suggested donation)

8:00 p.m. SpringHill Suites Shuttle from Lutheran Center to hotel, 2 runs

Friday, April 8, 2016

- 6:00 a.m. **Breakfast**, SpringHill Suites Hotel (Buffet opens at 6:00 a.m.)
- 7:45 a.m. SpringHill Suites Shuttle to Lutheran Center
- 8:30 a.m. *Called Forward Together in Christ*, Augsburg Room
Facilitated Conversation led by Lyla Rogan
- 11:45 a.m. Devotional Time
- 12:15 p.m. **Lunch**, Augsburg Room
- 1:30 p.m. Committees meet
 Budget and Finance, Epiphany
 Legal and Constitutional Review, Advent
 Program and Services, Pentecost
 Planning and Evaluation, 10th Floor Training Room
- 6:00 p.m. *Deadline for amendments to the recommendations and implementing
strategies from Theological Education Advisory Council*
- 6:00 p.m. Church Council Choir rehearsal, 1st Floor Chapel, 30 minutes
- 6:00 p.m. **Dinner**, Augsburg Room
Wine and beer available
- 8:15 p.m. SpringHill Suites Shuttle to hotel

Saturday, April 9, 2016

- 6:45 a.m. SpringHill Suites Shuttle to Lutheran Center for BDC members
- 7:00 a.m. Board Development Committee, Epiphany (*working breakfast*)
- 7:00 a.m. **Breakfast**, SpringHill Suites Hotel (Buffet opens at 7:00 a.m.)
- 8:15 a.m. SpringHill Suites Shuttle to Lutheran Center
- 8:45 a.m. SpringHill Suites Shuttle to Lutheran Center

PLENARY SESSION TWO

Council Room
April 9, 2016
9:00 – 10:10 a.m.

II.A Primer on Federal Chaplaincy Ministry

The Board Development Committee makes suggestions on primers that will be informative to the Church Council. This primer is focused on Federal Chaplaincy Ministry and will be led by Pr. Eric Wester, Assistant to the Presiding Bishop for Federal Chaplaincy Ministry. As part of this primer, we will have time via Skype with [Lieutenant Colonel Christopher Webb](#), who is a deployed federal chaplain.

II.B [Report from the Secretary](#)

II.C Greetings from Ethnic Specific Ministry Associations

**II.D [Report from the Conference of Bishops](#)
Bishop William Gafkjen, Chair of the Conference of Bishops**

- 10:15 a.m. *Called Forward Together in Christ*, Council Room
Facilitated Conversation led by Lyla Rogan
- 11:30 a.m. Mid-day Prayer Service, Chapel
Led by Bishop Mary Froiland
- 12:00 p.m. **SEPARATELY INCORPORATED MINISTRIES (SIM) LUNCH**
 Augsburg Fortress, Pentecost
 Lutheran Men in Mission, Epiphany I
 Mission Investment Fund, Advent
 Portico Benefit Services, Epiphany II
 Women of the ELCA, 10th Floor Training Room
- 1:00 p.m. *Deadline for Removal of Items from En Bloc*
Deadline for New Business
- 1:15 p.m. Health and Wellness Break
Group walk, meet by fountain outside of Augsburg Room

PLENARY SESSION THREE

Council Room
April 9, 2016
2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

III.A Personal Reflection on Faith by Ms. Amanda Briggs

III.B Report of Program and Services Committee

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

III.B.1 AMMPARO Strategy

At its November 2015 meeting, the Church Council received a first draft of the proposed [Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities \(AMMPARO\)](#) strategy. AMMPARO is a commitment by the ELCA, as a church in the world, to accompany vulnerable children today and in the future. This ELCA strategy will respond to the situation in Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala that has led to the migration of children and their families through Mexico into the United States. It will help to bring people together in new ways to walk with hundreds of migrant children and families on each step of their journey. It will involve companion churches and organizations in the countries of origin and in-transit as well as ELCA synods, congregations, social ministry organizations, agencies, institutions and other ecumenical partners in the U.S.

The AMMPARO strategy can be found in the Program and Services Committee section in My.ELCA.org. The action will be considered at this meeting to forward the recommendation to the 2016 Churchwide Assembly.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

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

To express gratitude to this church's members, congregations, synods, and churchwide organization as well as our faithful partnership with this church's companion churches and partners for the work to accompany migrant children and families fleeing the humanitarian crisis in Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala;

To approve the Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities (AMMPARO) strategy as a whole church response to the migration of children and their families around protection, advocacy, representation, and opportunities; and

To encourage this church's members, congregations, synods, and churchwide organization to continue their work in advocating for migrant children and their families.

III.C Report of the Executive Committee, continued

This is a continuation of the report of the Executive Committee. Additional items or revised actions may be distributed following the committee's meeting. *En Bloc* items will be acted upon later in the meeting.

III.C.1. Theological Education Advisory Council (TEAC)

Earlier in this meeting, council members received a verbal presentation on the implementation of the TEAC recommendations. At this time, council will consider the action. Deadline for amendments to the recommendations and implementing strategies from Theological Education Advisory Council is Friday, April 8 at 6:00 p.m.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To claim and name the abundant gifts of our church to create and sustain a network of theological education that serves the mission of the gospel.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To approve TEAC Recommendation 1A and accompanying implementing strategies:

TEAC Recommendation 1A: To create a new advisory committee to the Church Council (hereafter the Advisory Committee) whose charge it is to sustain a robust network of theological education for the ELCA and to ~~implement~~ **prioritize and to oversee the implementation of the TEAC recommendations.**

Implementing Strategies:

- To establish an Advisory Committee as a committee of the Church Council, consisting of nine members. Representational principles of this church ELCA Constitution 5.01.f. are to be used in determining the membership of this committee. Committee members shall be appointed by the Executive Committee of the Church Council.

Committee members shall include:

- 2 members of the Church Council, one of whom shall be named as convener by the presiding bishop
- 1 member of the Conference of Bishops
- 1 member identified by the seminary presidents and chief administrative officers
- 1 member from lay schools of this church
- 1 member from the synod vice-presidents
- 3 at-large members

Staff support shall include:

- 1 person from the Office of the Presiding Bishop
- 1 person from the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit
- Additional staff as necessary

- Committee members shall serve a term of three-years with no term limits. The initial appointment of members shall stagger terms so that three members would be appointed or reappointed each year.
- To identify the responsibilities of the Advisory Committee as such:
 - Identify clear goals, outcomes and metrics of assessment to fulfill the TEAC recommendations.
 - Advise the Church Council on the mission, shape and scope of theological education in this church.
 - Monitor and report to the council on the implementation of the TEAC recommendation.
 - With the Office of the Presiding Bishop, the Conference of Bishops and the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit (CSM), monitor and encourage the maintenance of a robust network of theological education in the ELCA.
 - Monitor and report to the Church Council the work of the seminaries in developing “a common theological education enterprise” and the work of developing a common learning platform.
 - Report to the Church Council with recommended actions needed to sustain theological education and the theological education networks in this church.
 - With existing seminaries and the other partners in our theological education network, report areas or resources that need to be developed to meet the current and emerging needs of this church.
 - With the Office of the Presiding Bishop, the Conference of Bishops and the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit, identify changes needed for theologically trained leaders for the future of this church.
 - Work with the churchwide organization, the Conference of Bishops, seminaries and lay schools to review and recommend appropriate modification to the funding formula used by the churchwide organization and synods.
 - Work with the Office of the Presiding Bishop and the Conference of Bishops on issues of lifelong learning and rostered leader continuing education.
 - Cooperate with the Executive Committee of the Church Council in an annual review of the committee’s responsibilities, with an assessment after two years whether this advisory committee should continue.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To approve and refer the remaining recommendations to the Advisory Committee and the Office of the Presiding Bishop for analysis and implementation.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To approve TEAC Recommendation 1B and accompanying implementing strategies:

TEAC Recommendation 1B: To direct the Office of the Presiding Bishop to call on synods and congregations to join the churchwide organization in staffing and resourcing the ELCA theological education network in ways that recognize its centrality to the church’s mission and future vitality.

Implementing Strategies:

- To direct the Office of the Presiding Bishop to organize an integrated communications plan that aligns all expressions of this church (churchwide, synodical and congregational) in a clear and compelling campaign to lift up how our teaching and learning ministry is central to the life of faith in the world. This campaign would involve all vehicles available, including print media, social media and personal testimonies by church leaders – rostered and lay – to express the clear message that the baptized are called to hear the Word, ask “What does this mean?” and live as God’s faithful people in the world – the organizing themes of our tradition and the heart of theological education.
- To direct the Presiding Bishop to work with the Conference of Bishops and the Church Council to develop clear criteria for prioritizing resource alignment within the churchwide and synodical organizations (and by extension, congregations) aimed at enhancing and extending the network of theological education across this church.
- To direct the Advisory Committee to monitor the impact of these alignment efforts for communications and resources, looking for opportunities to enhance these efforts.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To approve TEAC Recommendation 1C and accompanying implementing strategies:

TEAC Recommendation 1C: To strongly encourage the seminaries in leading the development of a common learning platform that can serve to integrate and make widely accessible resources for theological education.

Implementing Strategies:

- To commend the work already underway in crafting a learning exchange and securing funding to operate the learning exchange for at least the first three-year start-up period.
- To request the seminaries provide a progress report to the fall 2016 meeting of the ELCA Church Council.
- To request the seminaries share an update on the learning exchange at the 2016 ELCA Churchwide Assembly.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To approve TEAC Recommendation 1D and accompanying implementing strategies:

TEAC Recommendation 1D: To direct the ELCA Research and Evaluation team to support the development of an ongoing robust asset-mapping process that identifies all theological education activity across the church, catalogs it and explores synergies, opportunities for scaling good practices and undoing redundancies, and that makes possible an interactive and widely accessible web-based depository of theological education resources across our church.

Implementing Strategies:

- To direct the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit, in consultation with the Office of the Treasurer, Information Technology, to identify potential web-based, interactive models for creating interactive asset-maps of program offerings – the requirements of these models will guide information gathering as the maps are developed.
- To direct the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit (CSM) to work with the Global Mission unit (GM), for resources related to Latino theological education; and with GM, the Network of ELCA Colleges and Universities, seminaries, and synods for resources related to young adult faith formation to identify relevant resources to include in asset-maps aimed at each audience.
- To request the relevant churchwide, synodical and congregational entities use the asset-maps for Hispanic and Young Adult theological education resources to engage constituents in the efficacy of such maps for meeting the needs of their communities.
- Based on the results of these “pilot” asset-maps, to direct the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit to explore similar maps for other key constituencies for theological education, with the aim of expanding the asset-mapping to include a comprehensive roster of theological education resources for this church and an interactive web-based model for use across the church to identify and use those resources.
- To direct the Office of the Treasurer to work the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit to explore the resources required to create and sustain the asset maps.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To link vocational discernment and theological education for specific target audiences within and beyond the church, with a focus on those whose leadership will strengthen the missional future of the ELCA.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To approve TEAC Recommendation 2A and accompanying implementing strategies:

TEAC Recommendation 2A: To direct the churchwide organization to call on synods, congregations and our theological education network to join it in encouraging young adults in vocational discernment by expanding model programs such as Project Connect and Youth Theology Institutes at the synodical level to serve as pathways for future leaders in the church.

Implementing Strategies:

- To direct the Office of the Presiding Bishop through Research and Evaluation to, in conjunction with the asset-mapping pilot, take stock of the churchwide resources directed to leadership and discernment and assess their respective impact on calls to church leadership. Among other things, this effort should consider the impact of this church’s investment in Young Adults in Global Mission, Campus Ministry, Outdoor Ministry, and other young-adult focused programs.

- To direct the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit to work with the Conference of Bishops to explore and develop a proposal to fund and coordinate experiential, immersive church leadership opportunities for young adults across the church. To request the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit provide a proposal to the fall 2017 meeting of the ELCA Church Council.
- To direct the Advisory Committee, in conjunction with seminaries, synods, and the Office of the Presiding Bishop through Research and Evaluation, to identify congregations across this church that regularly and effectively invite and encourage young people to consider church leadership and develop resources and tools that synodical bishops and staff can use to support congregations and rostered leaders to better invite and encourage young people to consider church leadership. The Advisory Committee should consider how sharing or receiving these resources could fit into the pilot project for continuing education requirements.
- To request synods to designate a staff member or volunteer to serve as a coordinator for young adult discernment and leadership work in the synod, collaborating with partners to explore and regularly offer vocational discernment retreats for young people.
- To request each of the seminaries to designate one seminary staff member to serve as a regional coordinator and connector for the young adult discernment and leadership work in a given region. This person would, informed by the asset-mapping pilot project, seek to connect the various church and extra-church groups doing discernment and leadership for young people, including synods, congregations, ELCA colleges, ELCA seminaries, the Youth Ministry Network, Campus Ministry, Outdoor Ministries, Lutheran Volunteer Corps, and intentional young adult living communities.
- To direct the Office of the Presiding Bishop and the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit to convene a leadership and discernment convocation, inviting those across this church identified through the asset mapping project to come together to explore, vision and plan how the church in all its expressions can more intentionally invite young people into leadership in the church.
- To direct the newly-formed Advisory Committee to investigate the factors potential candidates consider with regard to the practical realities of church leadership, such as finances, assignment, and placement, in order to consider what changes could be made to make church leadership a more welcoming calling.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To approve TEAC Recommendation 2B and accompanying implementing strategies:

TEAC Recommendation 2B: To call upon the seminaries in collaboration with the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit, the Global Mission unit, the Lutheran World Federation and ecumenical partners to develop networked theological education programs, resources and opportunities for ethnic-specific communities (for example, a Latino theological education network with the capacity to reach a wide range of geographic locations with growing Latino populations).

Implementing Strategies:

- To direct the Global Mission unit to convene the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit, the Lutheran World Federation and the seminaries to develop a common global theological education strategy and report back to the fall 2016 meeting of the ELCA Church Council.
- To direct the Global Mission unit to convene the Conference of Bishops' representatives and the seminary leadership to develop a strategy to deploy some companion synod funds in service to theological education with our global partners and report back to the fall 2016 meeting of the ELCA Church Council.
- To direct the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit to convene the Conference of Bishops' representatives and seminary leadership to create a strategy on coordinating ethnic-specific leadership training with measureable and realistic goals and report back to the fall 2016 meeting of the ELCA Church Council.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To approve TEAC Recommendation 2C and accompanying implementing strategies:

TEAC Recommendation 2C: To call upon the theological education network to organize and make available a variety of opportunities for education, training and certification of lay leaders for missional service in congregations and communities.

Implementing Strategies:

- To direct the Office of the Presiding Bishop to convene key providers of Life Long Learning opportunities to share, reimagine and coordinate the learning outcomes of their programs so that they can better advance the mission of the gospel by creating integrated curricular paths for lay leaders. This will serve both individual growth needs and help to link communities of learning.
- To direct the Office of the Presiding Bishop to work with the Conference of Bishops to design appropriate ways to recognize and credential lay leaders who complete a curricular program in theological education so that the various gifts of these leaders – gifts of teaching, preaching, service and so on – might be lifted up and put to work in ways that honor the leaders, build up the church in service to the world, and serve the gospel mission.
- To direct the Office of the Presiding Bishop through Research and Evaluation to explore the creation of a social media tool (ala "Linked-In") that would enable lay leaders to create virtual communities of practice in their work on behalf of the church and the world. Such a tool would allow these lay leaders to communicate with each other; to share good practices, helpful resources and common experiences; and to invite others committed to this work to become part of the community of practice.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To approve TEAC Recommendation 2D and accompanying implementing strategies:

TEAC Recommendation 2D: To authorize the Advisory Committee, in collaboration with the Conference of Bishops and the leaders of theological education network partners, to develop recommendations for how continuing education for rostered leaders can become the norm, widely recognized as essential if rostered leaders are to lead and exercise their teaching office faithfully and effectively in a changing church in a rapidly changing culture.

Implementing Strategies:

- To direct the Office of the Presiding Bishop to work with the Conference of Bishops, in consultation with the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit, to develop consistent requirements for all rostered leaders of this church for continuing theological education – requirements that are communicated as part of the call process, supported by both synods and congregations, and enforced through an annual reporting process monitored by synod bishops and councils (through the appropriate synodical committees).
- To direct the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit to work with the Advisory Committee, the Network of ELCA Colleges and Universities, seminaries and related organizations – with the assistance of Research and Evaluation – to develop a web-based catalog of theological education opportunities – delivered in person, on-line and in hybrid formats – that are available to meet the continuing theological education requirements for rostered leaders.
- To request the Conference of Bishops to implement the continuing theological education requirement for rostered leaders on a three-year trial basis across the church, at the conclusion of which the experience of the trial period will be evaluated by the Advisory Committee and revised as appropriate.
- To direct the Office of the Treasurer to determine the human and financial resources needed – through churchwide, synodical and congregational sources – to undertake this recommendation.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

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

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To approve TEAC Recommendation 3A:

TEAC Recommendation 3A: 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 (1) enable regular strategic sharing of the faculty resources of the seminaries along with other qualified teachers; (2) organize common recruitment and a common application process; (3) generate a common research agenda that serves the flourishing of the church; and (4) enable operational efficiencies that free up the resources needed for expanded work and new experiments in theological education.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To approve TEAC Recommendation 3B:

TEAC Recommendation 3B: To encourage the seminaries, as they pursue the development of a common online learning platform (as stated in Recommendation 1.C) that could bring together the theological education resources of seminaries, lay schools, colleges and universities and other partners, to include an experimental online portfolio that could support lifelong learning for all the baptized and a continuing education requirement for rostered leaders.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To approve TEAC Recommendation 3C:

TEAC Recommendation 3C: To support the efforts of the seminaries to balance their budgets and increase reserves while also reducing seminarian student debt by exploring alternative organizational models, exploiting underutilized property assets, sharing administrative infrastructure, testing alternative degree models and expanding coordinated scholarships and degree-accelerating arrangements that can make theological education more affordable for more persons.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To approve TEAC Recommendation 3D:

TEAC Recommendation 3D: To develop a process for making available synodical and churchwide funds for innovation in both academic and administrative practices as incentives to strengthen the work and financial condition of seminaries.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To approve implementing strategies for TEAC Recommendations 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D:

Implementing Strategies:

- To commend to the Presiding Bishop the convening of seminary presidents, board chairs, and representation from the bishops on seminary boards on a regular basis to seek common ground in implementing specific strategies that lead to a more integrated, strategic, faithful and effective theological education system across the eight seminaries of this church. Regular reports on these conversations should be made to the Advisory Committee and concrete plans for collaboration and integration should be documented and supported. Among the key themes for these consultations are:

- How the concept of an integrated system of theological education can be implemented and governed among the seminaries.
 - Ways in which curricular reform can be integrated and supported across the system.
 - Ways in which student registration (common registrar) can be centrally coordinated/integrated among the schools.
 - Ways in which a common application for all ELCA seminaries might streamline the enrollment process.
 - How enrollment in on-line educational offerings can be maximized through expanded offerings made available to other campuses.
 - How to establish a cross-bridge between the TEEM certificate and the M.Div. degree through a common program for assessment of demonstrated competencies.
 - How to create and sustain a system-wide research agenda for theological education.
 - How to prioritize faculty sharing (dually appointed), common back office management, distributed-learning and other forms of seminary/college collaboration that serves intentional movement toward system-wide coordination.
 - How to establish common accounting and general ledger modules for use by all seminaries.
- To request seminary leadership, as they develop the shared learning exchange, to include creation of a personal portfolio that can be developed and accessed by each rostered leader in support of his or her lifelong learning goals, and encourage the continuation of rostered leader learning cohorts and the formation of cohorts which may emerge out of using the portfolio.
 - To call upon each of the seminaries to share with the Advisory Committee by September 2016 (a) a progress report on its efforts to move toward meeting the fiscal benchmarks identified in the TEAC Report; and (b) a plan of action to advance this work in the next two years, including measures to:
 - Improve liquidity and operating results (Net Income, Net Operating Revenue, Viability and Composite Ratios, student enrollment and student debt)
 - Maximize use of property assets (achieving efficiencies from rental/lease agreements and/or sale of unused property).
 - Coordinate and integrate systems across the seminaries with proposed Common Platform (identify level of involvement, investment and short- and long-term benefits)
 - Establish educational partnerships to reduce costs, improve efficiencies while anticipating increased affordability for students.
- To request the Advisory Committee bring the following proposals to the fall 2016 meeting of the Church Council (a) a proposal for developing a new pattern of establishing benchmarks for synodical support to seminaries, including the designation of some portion of this support for innovative work that the seminaries and their supporting synods together identify as ways to strengthen their partnership in theological education; and (b) a proposed revision of the ELCA churchwide funding formula for seminaries

which would be effective at the beginning of the 2017-2018 academic year, designating a portion (10-15 percent) of the total grant to be directed to promote and facilitate measures undertaken by the seminaries to move toward a common theological enterprise that enables operational efficiencies and innovation that free up resources needed for expanded work and new experiments.

III.D Executive Session: Legal Briefing

Mr. Philip Harris, General Counsel, will provide a briefing to Church Council on legal matters. This is an executive session for Church Council, Administrative Team and Minutes Team.

3:30 p.m. Break

PLENARY SESSION FOUR

Council Room
April 9, 2016
4:00 – 5:45 p.m.

IV.A Bible Study led by Pr. Eric Wester

Pr. Eric Wester serves as the Assistant to the Presiding Bishop of Federal Chaplaincy Ministry, and will lead us in a Bible study.

IV.B Report of the Budget and Finance Committee

The following report is provided by the Budget and Finance Committee. Additional items or revised actions may be distributed following the committee's meeting. *En Bloc* items will be acted upon later in the meeting. Background information can be found in the Budget and Finance Committee section of My.ELCA.org.

IV.B.1 [2016 Income Estimate and Expenditure Authorization](#)

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To approve a revised 2016 fiscal year ELCA World Hunger spending authorization of \$22,000,000.

VI.B.2 [Proposed 2017-2019 Triennium Budget](#)

The Church Council is responsible for submitting budget proposals for approval by the Churchwide Assembly and authorizing expenditures within the parameters of approved budgets [ELCA Constitution 14.21.05.].

CC ACTION

Recommended:

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

2017 Budget Proposal

**To approve a 2017 current fund spending authorization of \$65,296,005;
To approve a 2017 ELCA World Hunger income proposal of \$24,800,000; and
To authorize the Church Council to revise the spending authorizations after periodic review of revised income estimates.**

2018 Budget Proposal

**To approve a 2018 current fund income proposal of \$64,057,220;
To approve a 2018 ELCA World Hunger income proposal of \$25,000,000; and
To authorize the Church Council to establish a spending authorization after periodic review of revised income estimates.**

2019 Budget Proposal

**To approve a 2019 current fund income proposal of \$64,151,175;
To approve a 2019 ELCA World Hunger income proposal of \$25,000,000; and
To authorize the Church Council to establish a spending authorization after
periodic review of revised income estimates.**

IV.B.3 Revisions to 2016 Synod Mission Support Plans

The ELCA Church Council has a fiduciary responsibility for reviewing and taking action on synod mission support plans as an interdependent partner with congregations and synods in implementing and strengthening the financial support for the work of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA Constitution, 8.15 and 10.71). Since the November 2015 meeting, we have received the following revisions from synods for 2016 mission support plans.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To acknowledge with appreciation the action of the following synod(s) to maintain the percentage of sharing of 2016 mission support contributions by congregations for synodical and churchwide ministries but estimating an adjustment in the projected amount to be shared:

Arkansas-Oklahoma, Rocky Mountain, Southeastern Minnesota, Southeastern Iowa, Upstate New York, Southeastern Pennsylvania synods; 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.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

As a grateful church that affirms the partnership of congregation, synod and churchwide expressions, we affirm the percentage of sharing of 2016 mission support by congregations for synodical and churchwide ministries:

La Crosse Area, Southeast Michigan, Western Iowa 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 to direct synod and churchwide staff, including the directors for evangelical mission, to deepen their partnership in efforts to strengthen financial support for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; and

We will steward these gifts to maximize their impact in mission for the sake of God's Work, Our Hands in the world.

IV.B.4 Synod Mission Support Plans for 2017

To date, we have received 2017 mission support plans from sixty-one synods. Compared to the prior year, thirteen synods are showing increased percentages, five decreased percentages and the remaining forty-three synods are maintaining current levels of percentage sharing.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

As a grateful church that affirms the partnership of congregation, synod and churchwide expressions, we acknowledge with gratitude the actions of the following synods and to affirm the percentage of sharing of 2017 mission support by congregations for synodical and churchwide ministries:

Alaska, Allegheny, Caribbean, Central States, Central/Southern Illinois, Delaware-Maryland, East-Central Synod of Wisconsin, Eastern North Dakota, Eastern Washington-Idaho, Florida-Bahamas, Grand Canyon, Greater Milwaukee, Indiana-Kentucky, La Crosse Area, Lower Susquehanna, Metropolitan Chicago, Metropolitan New York, Metropolitan Washington D.C., Minneapolis Area, Montana, Nebraska, New England, New Jersey, North Carolina, North/West Lower Michigan, Northeastern Iowa, Northeastern Minnesota, Northeastern Ohio, Northeastern Pennsylvania, Northern Great Lakes, Northern Illinois, Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana, Northwestern Minnesota, Northwestern Ohio, Northwestern Pennsylvania, Northwest Synod of Wisconsin, Northwest Washington, Oregon, Pacifica, Rocky Mountain, Saint Paul Area, Sierra-Pacific, Slovak Zion, South Carolina, South Dakota, South-Central Synod of Wisconsin, Southeast Michigan, Southeastern, Southeastern Iowa, Southeastern Minnesota, Southeastern Pennsylvania, Southern Ohio, Southwest California, Southwestern Minnesota, Southwestern Pennsylvania, Southwestern Texas, Southwestern Washington, Upper Susquehanna, Upstate New York, Virginia, West Virginia-Western Maryland, Western Iowa, Western North Dakota 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 to direct synod and churchwide staff, including the directors for evangelical mission, to deepen their partnership in efforts to strengthen financial support for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America;

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

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

IV.C [Report from the Treasurer](#)

IV.D Church Council Joys and Concerns

IV.E Process Observations

IV.F Hymn and Prayer

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

6:00 p.m. SpringHill Suites Shuttle to hotel

Sunday, April 10, 2016

- 7:00 a.m. **Breakfast**, SpringHill Suites Hotel (Buffet opens at 7:00 a.m.)
- 8:15 a.m. SpringHill Suites Shuttle to Lutheran Center (*bring your luggage*)
- 8:45 a.m. SpringHill Suites Shuttle to Lutheran Center (*bring your luggage*)
- 9:00 a.m. **WORSHIP SERVICE WITH HOLY COMMUNION**, 1st Floor Chapel
Offering: ELCA World Hunger
- Presider: Bp. William Gafkjen
 Preacher: Pr. Scott Anderson, PCUSA Ecumenical Representative
 Assisting Minister: Ms. Cynthia Gustavson
 Lector: Mr. John Lohrmann

PLENARY SESSION FIVE

Council Room
April 10, 2016
10:15 – 11:55 a.m.

V.A Update on [Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA](#)

Pr. Ron Glusenkamp, director for the campaign, will provide an update on the Campaign for the ELCA. During this time, council members will receive information and training on the use of a campaign toolkit. In addition, Mr. Doug Mason, Campaign for the ELCA consultant, will engage with council members about the campaign.

V.B Report of Legal and Constitutional Review Committee

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

V.C Report of the Planning and Evaluation Committee

The following report is provided by the Planning and Evaluation Committee. Additional items may be distributed following the committee's meeting. Background information can be found in the Planning and Evaluation Committee section of My.ELCA.org.

Pr. Wyvetta Bullock relinquished her report time for the Called Forward Together in Christ process. Therefore, following the report of the Planning and Evaluation Committee, time will be provided to ask questions council members may have of Pr. Wyvetta Bullock, the [Executive for Administration](#).

V.C.1 2015 ELCA Churchwide Organization Operational Plan Report

CC ACTION

Recommended:

**To receive the ELCA Churchwide Organization Operational Plan Report for 2015; and
To thank the staff of the churchwide organization for their ongoing work, with
particular thanks to those staff members who actively participated in the review of the
report.**

V.C.2 The Lutheran World Federation Study Process

The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) is a global communion of Christian churches in the Lutheran tradition. LWF now has 143 member churches in 79 countries representing 70.5 million Lutherans worldwide. General Secretary Martin Junge wrote in the preface for "[The Self-Understanding of the Lutheran Communion](#), "As the Lutheran communion journeys toward the Reformation Anniversary in 2017,

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the LWF wants to attest to what it means to be an ecclesial communion from a Lutheran perspective.”

As a member communion, the ELCA is invited to an LWF study process on the significance of the Lutheran communion for LWF member churches. The objective of the study process is to reach “a deepened understanding of the Lutheran communion and increased ownership of this understanding in order to foster meaningful relationships between the members of the LWF.”

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To acknowledge with gratitude the long standing and deep connection the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and its predecessor bodies have with the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) and its member churches;

To look forward to the 2016 Churchwide Assembly when the assembly will act on the Church Council recommendation to amend the ELCA Constitution to emphasize this church’s participation in the “LWF 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;”

To receive with appreciation The Lutheran World Federation’s invitation to study the significance of the Lutheran communion for the LWF member churches; and

To invite and encourage the ELCA in its three expressions to explore what it means to be an ecclesial communion from a Lutheran perspective using the document *The Self-Understanding of the Lutheran Communion - A Study Document* as a guide for such conversations.

- V.D Consideration of Items Removed from *En Bloc***
- V.E New Business**
- V.F Greetings from Ethnic Specific Ministry Associations**
- V.G Greetings from Ecumenical Liaisons**
- V.H Hymn and Prayer**

12:00 p.m. **Lunch**, Augsburg Room
Executive Committee meets with officers
 With Bishop Eaton, 11A
 With Treasurer Norman, Luther Room
 With Secretary Boerger, OS Conference Room

PLENARY SESSION SIX

Council Room
April 10, 2016
1:15 – 3:00 p.m.

VI.A Personal Reflection on Faith by Mr. Oliver Thul

VI.B *En Bloc* Approval of Certain Items

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

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

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

CC ACTION (Two-thirds approval required)

Recommended:

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

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To take action *En Bloc* on the remaining items listed in *En Bloc Items*.

VI.C Report of the Board Development Committee

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

VI.D Board orientation: Role of the Church Council at the Churchwide Assembly

The Board Development Committee requested that a primer on the role of Church Council members at the Churchwide Assembly be presented by Jodi Slattery, assistant to the presiding bishop and chair of the Churchwide Assembly Planning Committee. A summary of the information to be shared is below.

The Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is currently comprised of 37 members, including the four officers of this church. The 33 elected members of the Church Council serve as advisory members of the assembly, with voice but not vote, unless they are elected by their respective synods to serve as a voting

member of the assembly. The four ELCA officers are voting members by virtue of the offices held.

In accord with the ELCA constitution and bylaws, the Church Council serves as the “interim legislative authority” between meetings of the Churchwide Assembly. In this role, the Church Council reviews recommendations from churchwide units for consideration by the Churchwide Assembly, arranges for appropriate elections and submits a budget proposal for Churchwide Assembly action.

At the Churchwide Assembly, members of the Church Council are present to advise voting members on Church Council actions related to these responsibilities. In addition to its advisory function, the Church Council appoints members of the Memorials Committee and the Committee of Reference and Counsel. Members of the Church Council chair these committees and make up a portion of the members. Church Council members also provide leadership by facilitating the hearings, participating as members of “ad hoc” committee, leading prayer during plenary sessions, and serving as liaison for the Vice President nominees. Members will be notified by the vice president of specific assignments early in the summer.

Information about the [draft schedule](#) for the 2016 Churchwide Assembly is available in My.ELCA.org.

VI.E Church Council Joys and Concerns

VI.F Process Observation

VI.G Evaluation and Debriefing

VI.H Hymn and Prayer

VI.I Adjournment

2:45 p.m. SpringHill Suites Shuttle from Lutheran Center to O’Hare Airport

3:15 p.m. SpringHill Suites Shuttle from Lutheran Center to O’Hare Airport