

**EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
IN AMERICA**

Church Council

MINUTES

April 7-10, 2016

**Prepared by the
Office of the Secretary**

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**EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
CHURCH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES
April 7-10, 2016
Chicago, Illinois**

The eighty-sixth 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, April 7, 2016, followed at 1:00 p.m. by worship with Holy Communion in the Chapel of the Lutheran Center. The Rev. Michael R. Ward, presided; the Rev. Linda O. Norman, treasurer of the ELCA, preached. Mr. Allan J. Bieber served as assisting minister, and Mr. Vernon K. Veal was lector. The Rev. Martin A. Seltz, publisher, worship and music, Augsburg Fortress, Publishers, served as musician.

ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING

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

Voting members

Officers:

Bp. 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:

Bp. William O. Gafkjen, bishop of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod

Church Council:

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 D. Mellum
Ms. Amanda E. Briggs	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 (<i>excused</i>)	Ms. Leslie J. Swenson
Ms. Cynthia M. Gustavson	Mr. Oliver W. Thul
Pr. Stephen R. Herr (<i>excused</i>)	Pr. James H. Utt
Ms. Maren Hulden	Mr. Vernon K. Veal
Mr. James M. Hushagen	Pr. William O. Voss
Pr. Peder J. Johanson	Pr. Michael R. Ward

Representatives of the Conference of Bishops

Bp. Claire S. Burkat, Region 7	Bp. Stephen S. Talmage, Region 2
Bp. Suzanne D. Dillahunt, Region 6	Bp. B. Kirby Unti, Region 1
Bp. Mary B. Froiland, Region 5	Bp. Herman R. Yoos III, Region 9 (<i>excused</i>)
Bp. Richard H. Graham, Region 8	Bp. David B. Zellmer, Region 3
Bp. Brian D. Maas, Region 4	

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. Slattey, assistant to the presiding bishop for governance
Pr. Kevin L. Strickland, assistant to the presiding bishop for worship
Pr. F. Eric Wester, assistant to the presiding bishop for federal chaplaincy ministry

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. Stephen P. Bouman, executive director of the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit
Ms. Victoria Flood, director for mission support
Ms. Jocelyn Fuller, director for strategic communications
Pr. Ronald T. Glusenkamp, director for *The Campaign for the ELCA*
Ms. Christina Jackson-Skelton, executive director of the Mission Advancement unit
Pr. Rafael Malpica Padilla, executive director of the Global Mission unit
Pr. Daniel O. Rift, director for the ELCA World Hunger and Disaster Appeal
Ms. Evelyn B. Soto, director for operations and programs of the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit
Pr. Albert Starr, director for ethnic specific and multicultural ministries
Pr. Jonathan P. Strandjord, director for seminaries
Pr. David C. Wunsch, director for operations of the Global Mission unit

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, Mission Investment Fund
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

Guests:

Ms. Sarah Abendanon, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Suriname
Ms. Sthela Gun Holly Hanitrinirina, Malagasy Lutheran Church
Ms. Abby Lai, Lutheran Church in Malaysia
Ms. Yuen Ching Lee, Lutheran Church in Malaysia
Mr. Douglas D. Mason, a consultant with Gonser Gerber, Naperville, Ill.
Ms. Melissa Neo, Lutheran Church in Malaysia
Pr. Robin J. Steinke, president of Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minn.
Ms. Elisa Pérez Trejo, Mexican Lutheran Church
Ms. Suyapa Ucles, program coordinator, Comision Accion Social Menonita (CASM), Honduras

Ecumenical Guests:

Pr. Scott D. Anderson, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Pr. André Lavergne, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada
Pr. Elizabeth D. "Betsy" Miller, Moravian Church in America
Mr. Steven W. Nishibayashi, The Episcopal Church
Bp. Sharon Z. Rader, The United Methodist Church
Pr. Lisa Vander Wal, Reformed Church in America

Ethnic Association Guests:

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

Registered Guests

Pr. Kim L. Beckmann, legislative team, Goodsoil
Mr. Tim Fisher, legislative/communications assistant, ReconcilingWorks
Ms. Cheryl G. Stuart, vice president, Florida-Bahamas Synod

Thursday, April 7, 2016
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 2:03 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 the Theological Education Advisory Council (TEAC) proposals and from *en bloc* consideration. He presented 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.

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

VOTED:

CC16.04.01 To adopt the agenda 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.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDING BISHOP

(Agenda I.C.; *Reference:* Report of the Presiding Bishop)

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

Presiding Bishop Eaton said: "Good afternoon.

"I will paraphrase what I have here [in the written report]. You can read it later, if you like.

"We work here in the churchwide office with a corporate coach; Mike Hanson is his name. He has worked with churchwide units. He has worked with individuals. He helped us start, along with Wyvetta Bullock and Rhondean Johnson, the leadership development program, in which we identify emerging leaders in the churchwide organization and then give them extra training. So, he has been very helpful. We were meeting this week, and he said to me that he identified five major initiatives that we are working on from the churchwide expression but we hope all of this church will be working on this. He said, 'It is probably a safe thing to say that we cannot take on a whole lot more than these five things.' It is true. We do a lot. And I wanted to go over those five things. They are *Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA*, the Theological Education Advisory Council (TEAC), our mission support strategy, becoming a multicultural church and Called Forward Together in Christ. I would argue that there are a few other things that we are doing like AMMPARO, all the IT upgrades, the launch of Living Lutheran and, well, there is a little get-together this August in New Orleans that is capturing the Office of the Secretary's and Jodi's [Slattery] and other staff's time. We will not talk about those, but let us take a look at these. If each of these is executed with skill, energy and determination, it really could do a lot to change the church, relying completely on the will of God and being open to listening to the Spirit.

First is *Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA*. You have all given to that, right? You do not need to answer out loud. We have pledge cards available. We have lists. We know who is on and who is not on the list. And, to our guests today, we would cheerfully accept ecumenical and other donations to the Campaign for the ELCA. We are 40 percent of the way into the campaign. We voted on this in 2013. It started on February 1, 2014. It is a five-year campaign — \$198 million. To date, 40 percent into the campaign, we have raised and received 40 percent of our goal — \$80 million in gifts and commitments. I am sure Christina [Jackson-Skelton] or Ron [Glusenkamp] will have an update on that. But we have also received \$17 million in planned gifts, which are not counted as part of that \$80 million total. So, when the campaign is finished, the new ministries that we have been able start will not end but continue into the future. That is amazing. We have never done that in the ELCA. I think the last time there was a major comprehensive campaign was with the ALC (American Lutheran Church), one of our predecessor church bodies. So, that is amazing in itself. And the generosity is amazing, and the amount of ministry that this makes possible is amazing. But for me, and maybe I have been hanging out with financial types too long and Mission Advancement, we started this thing from scratch. We did not know whether the Churchwide Assembly was going to approve this campaign. We had no campaign director. We did not have a database. We did not have the whole team in place. So, we built the infrastructure for this campaign as it was going on. Now, today, we are able to research and cultivate donors. We are able to thank them — something we were a little spotty on before that. We have a campaign team. We have developed all kinds of messaging from Mission Advancement. This means that we will have this infrastructure once the campaign is finished, so that we can continue to access and match the generosity of our members with the mission and ministry of this church. I do not think that is the way most people go about campaigns. Christina Jackson-Skelton heads the Mission Advancement unit, in which this effort is lodged. They are to be commended for building an entire infrastructure for a multi-million dollar campaign while engaged in the campaign.

“Dr. Steinke will be giving a presentation about the Theological Education Advisory Council (TEAC) report. They will be leading us and taking us through the report. You should have been receiving reports, and there will be a time for the plenary to hear about this work. This is also incredibly comprehensive. We are taking a look at the needs for theological education across this church as well as the way we deliver theological education across this church — cradle roll, Sunday school, camps, colleges and universities, seminaries, lay schools, synodical schools, congregational schools. One consultant we worked with said, ‘Your theological education delivery system is a “mosh pit.”’ She was right. But now, this group has worked on this, and the effort is for us to understand and see all the ways that we do deliver theological education and try to be more coordinated about it. One component is a discussion about our seminaries, but that is only one piece of this. If somehow we can work together on this, which means colleges, universities, lay schools and seminaries will cheerfully, voluntarily and promptly give us information about all of their theological offerings, and we will all trade with each other, we will act as if we are church together. The good news is this might be a path for us to walk toward being church together. The bad news is that we could revert to the usual way we behave, which is that we each do our own thing wherever we are. One of the classic examples of us being pixilated is that one of our synods had two lay schools of theology and neither school knew the existence of the other. I hope it was in Rocky Mountain or Southeastern [synods], where they have big geography, and not in Metropolitan New York. I guess that can happen there too. So, that is another huge thing we are doing.

“The Conference of Bishops has developed a new mission support strategy. This came out of, in part, the bishop’s think tank on mission support. We decided and took a look at this and said that the way we were doing mission support consultations needed to be re-evaluated. Margaret Payne, our former director for mission support, said it really needs to be a collaborative process, and it needs to be tailored to the context of each synod. In a lot of ways we are just alike. I have been all across this church, and, it does not matter where we are from, we do things the same. But in a lot of ways we have very distinct, unique contexts. So, someone coming from Chicago and saying ‘Try this,’ however well-meaning we were, is not going to work the same way in every synod. So, now we are going to be tailor-making 65 different consultations for 65 synods. The plan is to do that in collaboration with the synod bishop, with the director for evangelical mission, with the synod council and with whomever else the bishop and the synod identify as important partners for talking about mission support, as the church together. That is a lot of work. Sixty-five individual, tailor-made, unique consultations, but the Mission Advancement unit and the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit decided this could be done. They worked on this together. Then we called Victoria Flood, who cheerfully, at that time, accepted the

position as the director for mission support. The hope of this is that we can really demonstrate or live out this notion that we are church together, and it is not Chicago somehow dictating to synods or synods saying ‘I do not care about the rest of this church.’ That has never been what we tried to do and not what I have experienced either as a synod bishop or now. Realizing that bishops know their territory better than we do, how can we find common ground and build on that as we support the mission and ministry of this church?

“We are trying to become a multicultural church. I was shocked to find out, because I was at the Constituting Convention and do not remember this part, but the original proposal was that we would be 20 percent people of color or primary language other than English within 10 years of the founding of the ELCA. That was negotiated down and amended to 10 percent. Right now we are about 6 percent, and it is more than 10 years later. In November, you voted ‘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.’ That could take all of our time and all of our efforts, and we are doing four other things along with that. This is probably the most difficult and among the most critical things that we need to do as a church. When Dylan Roof, one of our members, shot and killed nine people in Mother Emanuel, two of whom attended one of our seminaries, it was absolutely clear to me, and I hope to all of us, that racism is not something that exists outside of us. It is in us, in individual members and in this church as well as in this nation. We started some live webcasts. We have had two so far, trying to model a way to talk about the reality of racism that affects every aspect of life in the United States as well as life in this church. I know that is not enough, but I do not want us to just take a look at communities of color and people whose primary language is other than English as problems that have to be solved. First and foremost, to become truly multicultural, we have to be honest about the fact of racial injustice in our church and in our nation. We need to see people of color or whose primary language is other than English as gifts and assets who are already members of our church, not some exotic show-and-tell or ‘here is this strange thing.’ These are Lutheran brothers and sisters who are members of this church, and we need to listen to the wisdom of those people as we try, not always very gracefully, to become what our nation already is and certainly to be an incarnation of the vision that the evangelist has in Revelation 7. That is a beautiful image of all nations, tribes, races, tongues streaming to the throne. We have a lot of work to do. Today, we have almost all of our ethnic association presidents here and some will be coming on Saturday. So, those voices and those bodies will be present with us as a resource but also as brothers and sisters, fully members of this church, not add-ons. They will be speaking to us. I hope we hear those voices. There is going to be a summit of our ethnic associations this summer. Pastor Albert Starr is working on that, and Judith Roberts is helping us work on that, so we can somehow bring together these great minds and these great faithful people to help us as this church to become the church God is calling this church to be. That is just going to take a long time. We cannot, in the next few years, eradicate close to 600 years of racial injustice in this country. We also know that, coming from some of our synods, is a memorial to repudiate the Doctrine of Discovery — a racist document, in which the pope in the 15th century decided that if you were not Christian you were not actually human. It declared that the entire continent was void of any population and whoever got here first — split it up between the Spaniards and the Portuguese — could take this because there were not really people here. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC) has already repudiated that doctrine. Even though the ELCIC was not one of the churches running the residential schools in Canada that took native children from their families (these children then suffered abuse, physical and sexual abuse, and this went on for 70 years), Bishop Susan Johnson accompanied her colleagues [in that repudiation] from the Anglican Church, the Roman Catholic Church and the United Church, because we are all complicit. There were not enough Lutherans to run the schools, or we might have been in the same boat. We have that same history here in this country, and our churches have run schools. So, we are looking to our brothers and sisters in the church in Canada. I have had the beginning of a conversation with The Episcopal Church, because they are starting to look into whether it is possible to have a Truth and Reconciliation Commission in the United States to look not only at American Indian and Alaska Native concerns but at our history of racism and what that would look like. They cannot do it by themselves and neither can we, but can we somehow find a way to work together. I have not committed us. I just had this conversation last week.

“We also have Called Forward Together in Christ, thanks again to the bishop’s think tank. We decided, if we are working on mission support, we cannot keep doing the same things we do all the time. We have to figure out what our

priorities are. They recommended to you, and you approved, that we develop a process to look our priorities and what future God is calling us to in this church. We did that. You are going to be experiencing that this afternoon and then tomorrow morning again as we go through the process that has been rolled out with the Conference of Bishops already, to many of our churchwide staff and in synods. It will be happening in synod assemblies and with as many different stakeholders we can find to have this conversation. I know of no other denomination in this country that is having a conversation of this depth and of this scope. I know my Presbyterian and Disciples of Christ colleagues have done surveys, but we are actually going to talk to each other. That is new for us. What else is new for many of us is that this is not just strategic planning, which is usually the way we launch into things — come up with a five-year plan, do some strategic planning and we are done. We are seeing this as a process of communal, spiritual discernment. We are not just going to go with our plan. Read the first chapter of 1 Corinthians. That is folly. We have to be open to find ways together to be listening to the Spirit. We are going to give you one example of a way to do this. You are all expected to go back to your home congregations and do this, or urge your bishops to do this, or urge your conference dean to do this. But that is new for us, to think that way, which is kind of shocking because we are church. But the most critical part of this whole process is whether we will have the resolve to put into action the things we discover after this conversation. That is going to be the test for all of us, because I am not sure what is going to come out of here. There may be something we give more emphasis to and maybe something we do not emphasize so much. We know that, when we have tried this, there has been push-back. For example, when we decided we did not have the capacity to do campus ministry, camps and early childhood education, and we said we will let that happen in different places, such as networks, we got major push-back, saying the church does not care about children, Christian education or college students. How will we hold ourselves accountable and stay in this? That could be a great gift.

“As you also know, this is Carlos’s [Peña] penultimate Church Council meeting. Carlos has been doing this for 13 years and was on the Church Council for 6 years. That is 19 years with the chance to serve this church. [Applause] Those of you who have experienced other vice presidents know that each vice president fashions his or her time in office in a particular way, but I know we have never had another vice president who has been so visible and so committed and so involved, not only in the work of the church but at synod assemblies, as a member of the World Council of Churches [Council], representing us as this wonderful ambassador for the ELCA. He has also broken in two presiding bishops and two secretaries, and he lived to tell about it. I am so grateful for Carlos, and have been for many years, for your calm but firm hand as presider at these meetings, especially when Chris [Boerger] and I were trying to make a transition. You always made us look good. And you made this church look good. Thank you for your service.”

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

GREETINGS FROM ETHNIC-SPECIFIC MINISTRY ASSOCIATIONS

(Agenda I.D.; *Reference*: Ethnic Association Reports)

Background:

Representatives of ELCA ethnic-specific ministry associations were guests of the Church Council at this meeting. Time was reserved at several points in the agenda to received greetings from the associations, and each association was invited to provide the council with 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.

Church Council discussion:

Vice President Carlos E. Peña welcomed representatives of ethnic-specific ministry associations.

The Rev. Lamont A. Wells, director for evangelical mission of the Metropolitan New York Synod, brought a greeting from the African Descent Lutheran Association.

The Rev. Margrethe S.C. Kleiber, pastor of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Alexandria, Va., represented the Rev. Edmond Yee, president of the Asian and Pacific Islander Association.

GREETINGS FROM ECUMENICAL LIAISONS

(Agenda I.E.; *Reference:* Presbyterian Church [USA] Report)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña welcomed ecumenical liaisons from churches with which a relationship of full communion has been established by the ELCA.

The Rev. Lisa Vander Wal brought a greeting from the Reformed Church in America and talked about issues that church and this church share as concerns. She related upcoming programs and transitions in the RCA.

The Rev. Scott D. Anderson brought a greeting from the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and related current affairs of that church body.

The Rev. Elizabeth D. “Betsy” Miller brought a greeting from the Northern and Southern Provinces of the Moravian Church in America.

REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

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

Vice President Carlos E. Peña relinquished the chair to Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton, who called on Mr. Peña for the report of the vice president.

Vice President Peña read and reflected on Philippians 2:3-4 before leading the gathering in prayer. He invited participants to view a series of images from his recent mission trip to Cambodia with donors and staff of ELCA World Hunger and the Global Mission and Mission Advancement units. He also noted that he had spoken to the Conference of Bishops about inviting Church Council members to synod assemblies, and he encouraged council members to accept the invitation as a service to the synod.

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.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

(Agenda I.G.)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña drew the attention of the Church Council to agenda items provided by the Executive Committee. He reported that the Executive Committee had approved [EC16.03.07d] the Protocol for Churchwide Officer Background Checks and Screening, the biographical information form for churchwide officers, the background check authorization and the disclosure form for nominees.

THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

(Agenda I.G.1.)

Background:

At its April 2013 meeting, the Church Council created [CC13.04.11] the Theological Education Advisory Council (TEAC) and authorized it “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.”

Representatives of the advisory council provided an update and a presentation of its report and recommendations to the Conference of Bishops and to the Church Council’s Executive Committee in October 2015.

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.”

At its November 2015 meeting, the Church Council 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.

The TEAC working group consisted of the Rev. M. Wyvetta Bullock, Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton, Mr. Randall S. Foster, the Rev. Stephen R. Herr, Ms. Maren Hulden, Mr. Paul C. Pribbenow, the Rev. Robin J. Steinke, the Rev. Jonathan P. Strandjord and the Rev. Herman R. Yoos III, bishop of the South Carolina Synod.

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. Members of the conference drafted this statement:

The Conference of Bishops, at its March 2016 meeting, affirms the importance of continuing education for rostered leaders, lifted up in the TEAC (Theological Education Advisory Council) report, and affirms the expectation that every rostered leader engage in "a minimum of 50 contact hours per year of intentional continuing education" ("Life-Long Learning and Development for Faithful Leaders" adopted by the Churchwide Assembly in 1997). The Conference of Bishops further recommends that the Congregational and Synodical Mission (Leadership) Committee of the conference study the 1997 document, consult with other bishops and propose a plan for giving the 1997 recommendation meaningful structures of accountability for the sake of Christ's mission.

Church Council discussion:

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on the Rev. Robin J. Steinke, president of Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minn., and co-chair of the Theological Education Advisory Council (TEAC).

Pastor Steinke reviewed the background information and mandate of the advisory council. She said the advisory council's work was mission-focused, involved careful listening and testing, was data-driven and sought to operationalize its ideas in concrete strategies. She categorized the TEAC recommendations as dealing with the broadest understanding of theological education, vocational discernment and the stability of the seminaries. She detailed the four recommendations in each category and the implementing strategies that the working group had identified for them. She mentioned that the Executive Committee had amended the first TEAC recommendation in its recommendation to the Church Council.

Participants discussed the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg and the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia creating a new venture together in Pennsylvania, the change in TEAC Recommendation 1A that the Executive Committee was recommending and the committee's recommendation to approve and refer the remaining TEAC recommendations, disparities between survey results and other feedback regarding the recommendations, applications of the Baker Tilly report included in the TEAC report, and the possible financial implications of creating an Advisory Committee and approving the other TEAC recommendations.

Vice President Peña reminded Church Council members of the deadline to submit amendments to the proposed recommendations and implementing strategies.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

(Agenda I.B.)

Background:

The minutes of the Nov.12-15, 2015, meeting of the Church Council were distributed to council members electronically. 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 Nov. 12, 2015, Dec. 7, 2015, Jan. 15, 2016, Feb. 9, 2016, and March 23, 2016, were distributed electronically to council 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 November 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 Nov. 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 Nov. 12, 2015, Dec. 7, 2015, Jan. 15, 2016, Feb. 9, 2016, and March 23, 2016, meetings.

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

VOTED:

CC16.04.02

**To approve the minutes of the Nov. 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 Nov. 12, 2015, Dec. 7, 2015, Jan. 15, 2016, Feb. 9, 2016, and March 23, 2016,
meetings.**

Vice President Peña declared the motion was adopted.

RECESS

The April 2016 meeting of the Church Council recessed at 3:50 p.m.

CALLED FORWARD TOGETHER IN CHRIST

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.

At its November 2015 meeting, the Church Council 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.

In December 2015, the Executive Committee appointed [EC15.12.24] Bishop Jon V. Anderson [Southwestern Minnesota Synod], Bishop Tracie L. Bartholomew [New Jersey Synod], Mr. Allan J. Bieber, Mr. Matthew Bishop, Ms. Julie Bock, the Rev. Tiffany C. Chaney, Mr. Randall S. Foster, the Rev. Vicki T. Garber, the Rev. Daniel W. Gerriettes, Mr. Raphael Graybill, the Rev. Stephen R. Herr, the Rev. Connie A. Miller and Mr. David Trost to serve on the Future Directions Table. In January 2016 the committee also appointed [EC16.01.02] the Rev. Francisco Javier Goitía Padilla.

Church Council discussion:

Meeting participants gathered at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Room of the Lutheran Center for a facilitated conversation, led by Ms. Lyla Rogan, regarding the priorities and future directions of the ELCA.

RECESS

The April 2016 meeting of the Church Council recessed for Thursday, April 7, 2016, at approximately 6:00 p.m.

**Friday, April 8, 2016
Committee Meetings**

Meeting participants assembled at 8:30 a.m. in the Augsburg Room of the Lutheran Center for Called Forward Together in Christ, a facilitated conversation led by Ms. Lyla Rogan, regarding the priorities and future directions of the ELCA.

Devotional time began at 11:45 a.m. and concluded with lunch at 12:15 p.m.

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 1:30 p.m. in the Lutheran Center. Committee meetings adjourned at various times on Friday, April 8, 2016.

The deadline to propose amendments to the Theological Education Advisory Council recommendations or working group implementing strategies was at 6:00 p.m.

**Saturday, April 9, 2016
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 9:02 a.m. in the Council Room of the Lutheran Center.

PRIMER ON FEDERAL CHAPLAINCY MINISTRY

(Agenda II.A.; Reference: Chaplain Webb Biography *and* Primer [2016] ELCA Federal Chaplaincy Ministries)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on the Rev. F. Eric Wester, assistant to the presiding bishop for federal chaplaincy ministry.

On recommendation of the Board Development Committee, Pastor Wester presented a primer on federal chaplaincy ministry that included a video conference with Chaplain [Lt. Col.] Christopher D. Webb.

REPORT FROM THE SECRETARY

(Agenda II.B.; Reference: Report of the Secretary)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña invited Secretary Wm Chris Boerger to present his report.

Secretary Boerger noted that Feb. 15 was the deadline for congregations to submit their parochial reports, however, it is possible to submit reports online after that date. A summary of those reports is to be presented to the Church Council at its November 2016 meeting. He emphasized the importance of the data that the parochial reports provide. He described a congregational vitality project, which included questions on the 2016 forms.

The secretary talked about planning for the 2016 Churchwide Assembly and several topics it is to address, such as unifying the official lay rosters into a Ministry of Word and Service roster and the election of a vice president. He outlined the formula to determine the number of registering voting members from each synod, and he assessed its ability to seat youth, young adults, people of color or people whose primary language is other than English.

Secretary Boerger reported on progress to rewrite the roster manual, and he mentioned efforts to digitize records now maintained in paper files in the Office of the Secretary.

In response to questions, the secretary spoke more about the number of youth and young adults to serve as voting members of the 2016 Churchwide Assembly, the election of Church Council members and the biographical information voting members requested of people in advance of the election of a vice president.

GREETINGS FROM ETHNIC-SPECIFIC MINISTRY ASSOCIATIONS

(Agenda II.C.; Reference: Ethnic Association Reports)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña welcomed representatives of ethnic specific ministry associations.

The Rev. Saïd R. Ailabouni, pastor of Grace Lutheran Church, La Grange, Ill., brought greetings from Mr. Fuad B. Nijim, Santa Clara, Calif., president of the Association of Lutherans of Arab and Middle Eastern Heritage.

The Rev. Russell L. Meyer, pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Tampa, Fla., brought greetings from the European Descent Lutheran Association for Racial Justice, of which he serves as president.

REPORT FROM THE CONFERENCE OF BISHOPS

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

Vice President Carlos E. Peña asked the Rev. William O. Gafkjen, bishop of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod and chair of the Conference of Bishops, to present the conference's report.

Bishop Gafkjen thanked the Rev. Stephen R. Herr, Mr. Clarence M. Smith and Mr. Vernon K. Veal for attending the March 2016 meeting of the Conference of Bishops. The bishop invited more conversation about the role of Church Council members at conference meetings, and he reported that the conference's relationships with churchwide staff and other networks of this church were also being reviewed.

Bishop Gafkjen described several issues the Conference of Bishops was addressing, including the assignment process, rethinking "bound conscience" as the phrase was used by the 2009 Churchwide Assembly and the authority of bishops to convene.

There being no comments or questions, Vice President Peña thanked Bishop Gafkjen for his report. The vice president asked Church Council members to consider attending the October 2016 meeting of the Conference of Bishops.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN LEADERS

At the invitation of the chair, Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton introduced six international women leaders who were visiting the Lutheran Center at that time.

- Ms. Sarah Abendanon, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Suriname, studying business management at Augsburg College, Minneapolis, Minn.;
- Ms. Sthela Gun Holly Hanitrinirina, Malagasy Lutheran Church, studying social work at Luther College, Decorah, Iowa;
- Ms. Abby Lai, Lutheran Church in Malaysia, studying accounting and business at Newberry College, Newberry, S.C.;
- Ms. Yuen Ching Lee, Lutheran Church in Malaysia, studying English and education at Luther College;
- Ms. Melissa Neo, Lutheran Church in Malaysia, studying psychology at Luther College; and
- Ms. Elisa Pérez Trejo, Mexican Lutheran Church, studying history at Newberry College.

Presiding Bishop Eaton and Ms. Tammy Jackson, director for the international leaders program, spoke about this church's efforts "to enhance the capacity of the global church for mission and ministry."

RECESS

The April 2016 meeting of the Church Council recessed at 10:25 a.m.

CALLED FORWARD TOGETHER IN CHRIST (CONTINUED)

Meeting participants gathered at 10:30 a.m. for a facilitated conversation, led by Ms. Lyla Rogan, regarding the priorities and future directions of the ELCA.

RECESS

(*Reference:* Augsburg Fortress Digest of Board Actions, Augsburg Fortress Summary, Lutheran Men in Mission Summary, Mission Investment Fund Summary, Overview of Augsburg Fortress for Unit Lunch, Portico Digest of Board Actions, Portico Summary *and* Women of the ELCA Summary)

The April 2016 meeting of the Church Council recessed at 11:15 a.m.

The Rev. Mary B. Froiland, bishop of the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin, led a Midday Prayer Service that began at 11:30 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, April 9, 2016
Plenary Session III**

CALL TO ORDER

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called the third plenary session to order at 2:00 p.m. in the Council Room of the Lutheran Center.

PERSONAL REFLECTION ON FAITH

(Agenda III.A.)

At the invitation of the chair, Ms. Amanda E. Briggs shared a personal faith reflection. Ms. Briggs talked about her experience as an exchange student in South Africa.

REPORT OF THE PROGRAM AND SERVICES COMMITTEE

(Agenda III.B.; *Reference*: Program and Services Committee Presentation)

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 provided an update on the Women and Justice: One in Christ social statement being developed for consideration by the 2019 Churchwide Assembly, the effects of the social message on gender-based violence, and implementation of the Ministry to and with Same-Gender Couples and Their Families Working Group recommendations. He also discussed the revised liturgical review policy which was included in the *en bloc* resolution for approval.

AMMPARO STRATEGY

(Agenda III.B.1.; *Reference*: AMMPARO Strategy and AMMPARO Strategy Presentation)

Background:

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 to accompany vulnerable children today and in the future. This strategy is a response 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 is meant to 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 United States.

Church Council action:

Mr. Archer reviewed a presentation on the Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities (AMMPARO) strategy to the Church Council at its November 2015.

The Rev. Stephen P. Bouman, executive director of the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit, and the Rev. Rafael Malpica Padilla, executive director of the Global Mission unit, spoke about the need for the strategy and its commitments. They introduced Ms. Suyapa Ucles, program coordinator, Comision Accion Social Menonita (CASM), Honduras.

Ms. Ucles described the situations in El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras that youth and their families were fleeing, as well as solutions the ELCA was pursuing with companion churches there.

Pastor Malpica invited Church Council members to view a video on the Guardian Angel program, a court-watch and advocacy program started by the Southwest California Synod.

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 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.

Mr. Archer made the following motion to amend.

Moved;
Seconded:

To amend the first paragraph of the recommendation by insertion and deletion:

To express gratitude to this church's members, congregations, synods and churchwide organization as well as **to 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;

Mr. Archer explained the reason for the amendment.

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

Moved;
Seconded;
Carried:

To amend the first paragraph of the recommendation by insertion and deletion:

To express gratitude to this church's members, congregations, synods and churchwide organization as well as **to 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;

The chair declared the motion to amend had been adopted, and the main motion as amended was on the floor.

Church Council discussed the information provided in the presentation.

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

Vice President Peña called for the vote.

VOTED:
CC16.04.03

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 **to our 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.

The chair declared the motion had been adopted.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (CONTINUED)
THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL
(Agenda III.C.1.)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called attention to the recommendation of the Executive Committee in the meeting's agenda regarding the Theological Education Advisory Council (TEAC) recommendations and the working group's implementing strategies, which were introduced earlier in the meeting.

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

Moved;

Seconded: 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.

There being no further discussion, Vice President Peña invited Mr. Clarence M. Smith to lead the Church Council in singing "Oh Lord, Hear My Prayer" (ELW #751).

The chair called for the vote.

VOTED:

CC16.04.04 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.

Vice President Peña declared the motion had been adopted.

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

Moved;

Seconded: To approve TEAC Recommendation 1A and accompanying implementing strategies.

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

VOTED:

CC16.04.05 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 prioritize and 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 recommendations.
 - With the Office of the Presiding Bishop, the Conference of Bishops and the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit, 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.

- o 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.
- o Work with the Office of the Presiding Bishop and the Conference of Bishops on issues of lifelong learning and rostered leader continuing education.
- o 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.

The chair declared the motion had been adopted.

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

Moved;

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

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

VOTED:

CC16.04.06 To approve the remaining recommendations and refer them to the Advisory Committee and the Office of the Presiding Bishop for analysis and implementation.

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 communication 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.

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 that the seminaries provide a progress report to the fall 2016 meeting of the ELCA Church Council.
- To request that the seminaries share an update on the learning exchange at the 2016 ELCA Churchwide Assembly.

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 this church, catalogs it, explores synergies and opportunities for scaling good practices and undoing redundancies, and makes possible an interactive and widely accessible web-based depository of theological education resources across this 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 to work with the Global Mission unit for resources related to Latino theological education and with the Global Mission unit, the Network of ELCA Colleges and Universities, seminaries and synods for resources related to young adult faith formation to identify relevant resources for including in asset maps aimed at each audience.
- To request that 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 this church to identify and use those resources.
- To direct the Office of the Treasurer to work with the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit to explore the resources required to create and sustain the asset maps.

TEAC Recommendation 2: To link vocational discernment and theological education for specific target audiences within and beyond this church, with a focus on those whose leadership will strengthen the missional future of the ELCA.

TEAC Recommendation 2A: To direct the churchwide organization to call on synods, congregations and the ELCA 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 this church. To request that 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 ask 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 ask 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 this church in all its expressions can more intentionally invite young people into leadership in the church.
- To direct the 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.

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 measurable and realistic goals and report back to the fall 2016 meeting of the ELCA Church Council.

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, re-imagine 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 (a la “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.

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, online and in hybrid formats – that are available to meet the continuing theological education requirements for rostered leaders.
- To ask 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.

TEAC Recommendation 3: 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.

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.

TEAC Recommendation 3B: To encourage the seminaries, as they pursue the development of a common online learning platform (as stated in Recommendation 1C) that could bring together the theological education resources of seminaries, lay schools,

colleges, 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.

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 people.

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.

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 online 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/seminary and 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 ask 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 on 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 and improve efficiencies while anticipating increased affordability for students.
- To request that 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.

Vice President Peña declared the motion had been adopted.

GREETING FROM AN ETHNIC-SPECIFIC MINISTRY ASSOCIATION

(Agenda II.C.; *Reference:* Ethnic Association Reports)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña welcomed the Rev. Martín J. López Vega Sr., pastor of Iglesia Evangélica Luterana Getsemaní, Caguas, Puerto Rico, who brought a greeting to the Church Council from the Asociación Luterana de Ministerios Latinos.

COUNCIL MEMBERS' OBSERVATIONS OF THE CONFERENCE OF BISHOPS MEETING

Vice President Carlos E. Peña asked Mr. Clarence M. Smith and Mr. Vernon K. Veal for their observations of the March 2016 meeting of the Conference of Bishops.

Mr. Smith and Mr. Veal shared their thoughts about the meeting and discussed the roles and responsibilities of Church Council members at conference meetings.

POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

The Rev. Robert G. Moore requested a personal privilege to announce that he would resign from the Church Council effective early July 2016, when he begins a three-year call, through the Global Mission unit, to represent the ELCA in Leipzig, Germany, during events surrounding the 500th anniversary of the Reformation.

REPORT OF THE PLANNING AND EVALUATION COMMITTEE

(Agenda V.C.; *Reference:* Planning and Evaluation Committee Presentation *and* Report of the Executive for Administration)

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

2015 CHURCHWIDE ORGANIZATION OPERATIONAL PLAN REPORT

(Agenda V.C.1.; *Reference:* Report of the Churchwide Organization)

Background:

Under the direction of the Rev. M. Wyvetta Bullock, assistant to the presiding bishop and executive for administration, the churchwide organization first produced an operational plan for 2011-2013 that the Planning and Evaluation Committee of the Church Council used periodically to review the work of the churchwide organization in achieving specific goals and commitments.

At its November 2013 meeting, the Church Council affirmed [CC13.11.59] the strategic intent of the 2014–2016 Churchwide Organization Operational Plan. The three-year plan was used to develop annual plans, and the Planning and Evaluation Committee analyzed the 2015 plan to evaluate the work of the churchwide organization for the past year.

Church Council action:

Ms. Christine P. Connell said the Planning and Evaluation Committee had assessed the work of the churchwide organization, based on the 2015 Churchwide Organization Operational Plan, which was part of the 2014-2016 Operational Plan. She outlined the six goals of the plan.

The committee asked that the social message on gender-based violence be included in the ELCA Guidebook for the 2016 Churchwide Assembly and that staff consider ways to involve voting members in conversation about the document.

Ms. Connell made the following motion on behalf of the Planning and Evaluation Committee.

Moved;

Seconded:

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.

Church Council members expressed gratitude for the work of churchwide staff and discussed details of the operational plan, as well as requests for the social message on gender-based violence to be available to the Churchwide Assembly.

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

VOTED:

CC16.04.07 **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.

The chair declared the motion had been adopted.

Ms. Connell indicated that the committee also began studying the Churchwide Organization Operational Plan Report for 2016, especially how it may incorporate information from the Called Forward Together in Christ process.

THE LUTHERAN WORLD FEDERATION STUDY PROCESS

(Agenda: V.C.2.)

Background:

The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) Council invited the ELCA to study “the significance of the Lutheran communion for LWF member churches” by discussing a study document, *Self-Understanding of the Lutheran Communion*, which it made available on the LWF website (<http://www.lutheranworld.org>). The objective of the study is to reach “a deepened understanding of the Lutheran communion and increased ownership of this understanding in order to foster meaningful relationships among the members of the LWF.”

Church Council action:

Ms. Christine P. Connell provided background information on a study document distributed by The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) that the Planning and Evaluation Committee examined.

Ms. Connell made the following motion on behalf of the committee.

Moved;

Seconded:

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.

The Rev. Elizabeth E. Ekdale spoke about the perspective of the Lutheran communion that she received from a recent visit to LWF offices in Geneva, Switzerland, and she commended study of the document in ELCA congregations.

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

VOTED:

CC16.04.08

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.

The chair declared the motion had been adopted.

Vice President Peña noted that time for the report of the Rev. M. Wyvetta Bullock, executive for administration, was relinquished to provide time for the Church Council to participate in the Called Forward Together in Christ process.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

(Agenda III.D.)

The April 2016 meeting of the Church Council recessed at 3:20 p.m and entered into executive session at 3:23 p.m. to receive a legal briefing from Mr. Phillip H. Harris, general counsel, and Mr. Thomas A. Cunniff, associate general counsel. Minutes for meetings held in executive session are added to the protocol file in the Office of the Secretary.

RECESS

The executive session concluded and the April 2016 meeting of the Church Council recessed at 3:33 p.m.

**Saturday, April 9, 2016
Plenary Session IV**

CALL TO ORDER

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called the fourth plenary session to order at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Room of the Lutheran Center.

BIBLE STUDY

(Agenda IV.A.; *Reference*: Devotional Page - Centurion Connections)

The Rev. F. Eric Wester, assistant to the presiding bishop for federal chaplaincy ministry, led the meeting participants in a study of Acts 10.

REPORT OF THE BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

(Agenda IV.B.; *Reference*: Budget and Finance Committee Presentation)

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 2016 SYNOD MISSION SUPPORT PLANS

(Agenda IV.B.3.)

Background:

ELCA provision 10.71. provides:

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 noted that nine synods had submitted revisions to their 2016 mission support plans — five maintain the planned percentages but decrease the dollar amounts, three decrease both the planned percentages and the dollar amounts and one maintains its planned percentage but increases the dollar amount. She made the following motion on behalf of the Budget and Finance Committee.

Moved;

Seconded:

To acknowledge with appreciation the action of the following synods 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 and 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.

Church Council members discussed how the synods are acknowledged regarding the plan revisions. There being no further discussion, Vice President Carlos E. Peña called for the vote.

VOTED:

CC16.04.09

To acknowledge with appreciation the action of the following synods 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 and 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.

The chair declared the motion had been adopted.

Pastor 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 affirm the percentage of sharing of 2016 mission support by congregations for synodical and churchwide ministries:

La Crosse Area, Southeast Michigan and 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.

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

VOTED:

CC16.04.10

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 and 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.

The chair declared the motion had been adopted.

2017 SYNOD MISSION SUPPORT PLANS

(Agenda IV.B.4.)

The Rev. Vicki T. Garber indicated that most synods had submitted a mission support plan for 2017. She 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 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 and 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.

Church Council members discussed the progress of several synods in a pilot program regarding mission support planning and methods of informing synods of council actions.

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

VOTED:

CC16.04.11

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 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 and 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.

The chair declared the motion had been adopted.

2016 INCOME ESTIMATE AND EXPENDITURE AUTHORIZATION

(Agenda IV.B.1.)

Background:

In November 2015, the Church Council approved a revised 2016 fiscal year current fund spending authorization of \$66,514,340 and a revised 2016 fiscal year ELCA World Hunger spending authorization of \$21,000,000.

Church Council action:

The Rev. Vicki T. Garber indicated there was no recommended change in the current fund spending authorization. An increase of \$1 million was proposed for the ELCA World Hunger spending authorization. She made the following motion on behalf of the Budget and Finance Committee.

Moved;

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

Church Council members discussed ELCA World Hunger contributions as part of its being the 2016 emphasis of *Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA*.

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

VOTED:

CC16.04.12 To approve a revised 2016 fiscal year ELCA World Hunger spending authorization of \$22,000,000.

The chair declared the motion had been adopted.

PROPOSED 2017-2019 TRIENNIUM BUDGET

(Agenda VI.B.2.)

Background:

ELCA bylaw 14.21.05. states:

The Church Council, upon recommendation of the presiding bishop, shall submit budget proposals for approval by the Churchwide Assembly and authorize expenditures within the parameters of approved budgets.

Church Council action:

The Rev. Vicki T. Garber said the Office of the Treasurer provided the Budget and Finance Committee with income estimates for the next three years and a churchwide organization spending proposal for 2017. The balanced current fund budget proposal for 2017 was 2 percent less than the 2016 budget. The recommended action of the Churchwide Assembly would authorize the council to revise the spending authorization of the churchwide organization as needed. ELCA World Hunger income and expenses were expected to be \$25 million in 2018 and 2019.

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

Moved;

Seconded:

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.

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

VOTED:

CC16.04.13

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.

The chair declared the motion had been adopted.

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

Moved;

Seconded:

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

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.

Church Council members discussed the proposals and asking to authorize spending when there is a clearer estimate of a fiscal year's income and expenses.

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

VOTED:

CC16.04.14 *To recommend the following for adoption by the 2016 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:*

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.

The chair declared the motion had been adopted.

Pastor Garber stated that the Budget and Finance Committee had studied the recommendations of the Theological Education Advisory Council to consider any funding implications. On behalf of the committee, she thanked the advisory council and working group for their vision and contributions to this church and affirmed "the need for evaluating the budget implications and sustainable funding models for the churchwide organization as well as theological education partners across the ecology of this church as we consider the recommendations of the Theological Education Advisory Council (TEAC) and the implementing strategies of the TEAC working group." She commended the Office of the Treasurer for a detailed assessment of current spending on theological education and acknowledged, "with thanksgiving, the \$15.7 million in fiscal year 2015 churchwide funding in support of the leadership priorities of this church, including theological education and formation for current and emerging leaders." The committee recognized the importance of the Called Forward Together in Christ process for setting priorities of financial resource allocation. The committee also decided "to continue considering, in consultation with the proposed Advisory Committee, financial implications and recommendations and implementing strategies as they are developed and to give progress reports to the November 2016 and April 2017 meetings of the Church Council."

Mr. Clarence M. Smith referred to comments earlier in the meeting about sending acknowledgments of mission support to synods and noted that the Budget and Finance Committee had begun a program of writing such messages. He also recommended that such notice should be made when invited to speak to synod assemblies.

Secretary Wm Chris Boerger pointed out that recognition should be made to congregations for their mission support of the whole ELCA.

Pastor Garber concluded the report of the Budget and Finance Committee.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

(Agenda IV.C.; *Reference*: Report of the Treasurer April 2016 *and* Report of the Treasurer Presentation)

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

Treasurer Norman provided financial highlights of the churchwide organization for fiscal year 2015, which ended Jan. 31, 2016. Current fund revenue and expenses for the 12-month period were similar to projections. Mission support was 99.5 percent of the \$47.2 million goal for the year, which was 2.6 percent less than the previous year. The churchwide organization's investment portfolio and cash management were in compliance with policy and guidelines. The year was challenging in terms of investment returns, which were generally positive but worth monitoring for making projections. Mission support was bolstered by other income — including the Vision for Mission annual appeal, Global Church Sponsorship, endowment distributions, bequests and trusts, investment income and Mission Investment Fund grant — of \$19 million for total revenue of \$66.2 million. Restricted and designated funds of almost \$3.6 million were released to match expenses of nearly \$69 million. The current fund ended fiscal year 2015 with \$760,000 in net operating income. The positive outcome allowed for a transfer of \$380,000 to the mission development fund, functioning as an endowment of the Church Council. The treasurer compared each item with its corresponding amount from the previous year. She also explained how the churchwide organization spent nearly \$69 million in 2015, within the spending authorization. ELCA World Hunger began the fiscal year with a balance of \$2.9 million, received about \$18 million in direct giving and more than \$4 million in other income and expended about \$20 million to end the year with a balance of \$4.75 million. She outlined how 71.7 percent of ELCA World Hunger funds were distributed internationally, 20.2 percent domestically and 8.1 percent for fundraising purposes. She presented current fund and ELCA World Hunger expenses separately and combined. She noted that the five-year ELCA Malaria Campaign had received \$15.4 million and allocated \$12.6 million, and that plans were in place to distribute the remaining funds in African countries where the program had begun. ELCA members and partners contributed \$6.9 million for Lutheran Disaster Response in 2015, primarily in support of Nepal Region earthquake relief, migration crises, domestic flood relief efforts and undesignated programs. *Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA* raised 40.4 percent of the \$198 million goal for Jan. 31, 2019. The treasurer described the churchwide organization's cash flow as it complied with its cash management policy. The Endowment Fund Pooled Trust had \$589 million in more than 508,000 units. She also talked about this church's deferred and charitable gift programs.

In response to a question, the treasurer said she saw no direct correlation between declining mission support and increasing support for ELCA World Hunger.

Participants discussed the progress of programs funded by the ELCA Malaria Campaign, as well as the response to the spread of the Zika virus and the use of undesignated gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response.

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

CHURCH COUNCIL JOYS AND CONCERNS

(Agenda IV.D.)

At the invitation of Vice President Carlos E. Peña, several Church Council members expressed their joys and concerns.

The chair called on Ms. Maren Hulden, who asked specific people how the council may pray for them.

ECUMENICAL GREETING

The Rev. André Lavergne, assistant to the national bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada for ecumenical and interfaith relations, brought a greeting to the Church Council on behalf of the ELCIC and spoke of several of its issues similar to those the ELCA was addressing.

PROCESS OBSERVATIONS

(Agenda IV.E.)

At the invitation of the chair, Ms. Marjorie B. Ellis presented observations of meeting processes.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on Secretary Wm Chris Boerger, who made announcements about events on the schedules for the evening and the following day. Others provided details.

HYMN AND PRAYER

(Agenda IV.F.)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña invited the Rev. Elizabeth E. Ekdale to close the session with prayer. Mr. Clarence M. Smith assisted her in leading the Church Council in singing a hymn.

RECESS

The April 2016 meeting of the Church Council recessed at 5:47 p.m. for Saturday, April 9, 2016.

**Sunday, April 10, 2016
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. William O. Gafkjen, bishop of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod and chair of the Conference of Bishops, presided, the Rev. Scott D. Anderson of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) preached, and Ms. Cynthia M. Gustavson served as assisting minister. Mr. John W. Lohrmann was lector. An offering of \$2,556 was received for ELCA World Hunger.

CALL TO ORDER

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called the fifth plenary session to order at 10:20 a.m. in the Council Room of the Lutheran Center.

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

(Agenda V.A.; Reference: Campaign for the ELCA Report April 2016, Campaign for the ELCA Update and Malaria Campaign impact and plans)

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

Ms. Jackson-Skelton introduced the Rev. Ronald T. Glusenkamp, director for the campaign, and Mr. Douglas D. Mason, a consultant with Gonser Gerber, Naperville, Ill.

Pastor Glusenkamp invited the gathering to view a video regarding the ongoing impact of the ELCA Malaria Campaign. He reported that, as of two years into the five-year campaign — Jan. 31, 2016, the campaign had received \$76 million in gifts and pledges and \$4 million in commitments for a total \$80 million or 40 percent of the \$198 million goal. Another \$17 million in planned gifts had also been secured.

Mr. Mason described the infrastructure for charitable giving that the campaign has built for the ELCA. He asked the Church Council members to identify potential donors, share information regarding what the funding will accomplish, donate to the campaign, listen to the interests of other ELCA members and ask others to donate.

In response to questions, Mr. Mason said ELCA World Hunger contributions were considered as part of the campaign. Pastor Glusenkamp described how the churchwide comprehensive campaign was being coordinated with other campaigns across this church.

Pastor Glusenkamp went into detail about campaign resources provided in a “toolkit” of electronic files and other materials.

Participants discussed the availability of ELCA World Hunger grants domestically, especially to address the need for healthy food sources in urban areas.

REPORT OF THE LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL REVIEW COMMITTEE

(Agenda V.B.)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on Mr. John W. Lohrmann to present the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee’s report.

Mr. Lohrmann summarized an update the Rev. Jeffrey D. Thiemann, president of Portico Benefit Services, provided the committee regarding designs for a pilot flexible benefits bundle for non-rostered ELCA employees. Mr. Lohrmann reviewed a number of items the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee had proposed for *en bloc* action by the Church Council, including the Rules of Organization and Procedure for the 2016 Churchwide Assembly, designating churchwide representatives to synod assemblies, a recommendation for the 2016 Churchwide Assembly to amend a bylaw regarding college corporation meetings, and amending continuing resolutions to change the name of the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit to the Domestic Mission unit. He noted that the committee had also discussed plans by the

Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg and the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia to create a future seminary together in Pennsylvania.

In response to questions, Secretary Wm Chris Boerger explained the proposed change regarding college corporation meetings and the order in which constitutional amendments would be introduced at the 2016 Churchwide Assembly.

CONSIDERATION OF ITEMS REMOVED FROM *EN BLOC*

(Agenda V.D.)

Background:

The units of the churchwide organization are identified by name only in continuing resolutions of the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*. The Congregational and Synodical Mission unit requested that its name be changed to the Domestic Mission unit. The name “Congregational and Synodical Mission” appears in ELCA continuing resolutions 16.11.A11., 16.12.A13. and 17.30.A15.

ELCA 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.

Church Council action:

Vice President Carlos E. Peña indicated that no items had been removed from the *en bloc* resolution for separate consideration and no new business had been proposed.

Secretary Wm Chris Boerger noted that amendments proposed for continuing resolutions, which were included in the *en bloc* resolution, would be acted on separately because they required a two-thirds vote. He made the following motion.

Moved;

Two-Thirds Vote

Seconded:

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

16.11.A1116. **Identity of Units**

Units of the churchwide organization, which shall function through cooperation, coordination, and collaboration, are the following:

- a. ~~Congregational and Synodical Domestic Mission unit;~~
- b. Global Mission unit;
- c. Mission Advancement unit.

16.12.A1316. **Congregational and Synodical Domestic Mission Unit**

The Congregational and Synodical Domestic Mission unit shall foster and facilitate the work of synods, congregations, and partners in making congregations vital centers for mission and in creating coalitions and networks to promote justice and peace. Its work includes creating and revitalizing congregations; leadership development; providing worship and liturgical resources; enhancing discipleship; supporting multicultural ministries and the commitment of this church to inclusivity; fostering relationships with educational partners; facilitating the engagement of this church in advocacy; and related activities that serve the evangelical mission of synods and congregations. The Congregational and Synodical Domestic Mission unit shall relate to the Deaconess Community, Lutheran Men in Mission, National Lutheran Campus Ministry, Inc.,

Educational and Institutional Insurance Administrators, Inc., and the Evangelical Lutheran Education Association.

17.30.A1516. Operation of the Mission Investment Fund of the ELCA

The Mission Investment Fund of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America shall:

- a. have primary responsibility for the development, administration, promotion, and sale of Mission Investments;*
- b. develop and administer a loan program, including management responsibilities for the underwriting, legal, accounting, reporting, servicing, marketing, and other related functions;*
- c. provide expertise for management of real property and execute all necessary documents for the acquisition and disposition of such property;*
- d. relate to the ~~Congregational and Synodical Domestic~~ Mission unit, which shall request real estate acquisition for new and existing ministries within the limits of the capital funds available and within established criteria;*
- e. confer with the ~~Congregational and Synodical Domestic~~ Mission unit on any loans to developing ministries;*
- f. offer building and architectural consultative services to new congregations entering first-unit construction, to congregations relocating with synodical approval, to other congregations, and to other organizations and institutions that are affiliated with this church;*
- g. offer building and property consultative services to congregations of this church;*
- h. offer financial management and consulting services to synods including, for example, banking and treasury management services, accounting services, payroll management services, audit coordination, financial reporting services, and budgeting services.*

There being no discussion, the chair noted the required two-third vote and called for a show of hands.

VOTED:

CC16.04.15

TWO-THIRDS VOTE

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

16.11.A1116. Identity of Units

Units of the churchwide organization, which shall function through cooperation, coordination, and collaboration, are the following:

- a. ~~Congregational and Synodical Domestic~~ Mission unit;*
- b. Global Mission unit;*
- c. Mission Advancement unit.*

16.12.A1316. ~~Congregational and Synodical Domestic~~ Mission Unit

The ~~Congregational and Synodical Domestic~~ Mission unit shall foster and facilitate the work of synods, congregations, and partners in making congregations vital centers for mission and in creating coalitions and networks to promote justice and peace. Its work includes creating and revitalizing congregations; leadership development; providing worship and liturgical resources; enhancing discipleship; supporting multicultural ministries and the commitment of this church to inclusivity; fostering relationships with

educational partners; facilitating the engagement of this church in advocacy; and related activities that serve the evangelical mission of synods and congregations. The ~~Congregational and Synodical Domestic~~ Mission unit shall relate to the Deaconess Community, Lutheran Men in Mission, National Lutheran Campus Ministry, Inc., Educational and Institutional Insurance Administrators, Inc., and the Evangelical Lutheran Education Association.

17.30.A~~1516~~. Operation of the Mission Investment Fund of the ELCA

- The Mission Investment Fund of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America shall:*
- a. have primary responsibility for the development, administration, promotion, and sale of Mission Investments;*
 - b. develop and administer a loan program, including management responsibilities for the underwriting, legal, accounting, reporting, servicing, marketing, and other related functions;*
 - c. provide expertise for management of real property and execute all necessary documents for the acquisition and disposition of such property;*
 - d. relate to the ~~Congregational and Synodical Domestic~~ Mission unit, which shall request real estate acquisition for new and existing ministries within the limits of the capital funds available and within established criteria;*
 - e. confer with the ~~Congregational and Synodical Domestic~~ Mission unit on any loans to developing ministries;*
 - f. offer building and architectural consultative services to new congregations entering first-unit construction, to congregations relocating with synodical approval, to other congregations, and to other organizations and institutions that are affiliated with this church;*
 - g. offer building and property consultative services to congregations of this church;*
 - h. offer financial management and consulting services to synods including, for example, banking and treasury management services, accounting services, payroll management services, audit coordination, financial reporting services, and budgeting services.*

Vice President Peña declared that the motion had been adopted.

EN BLOC APPROVAL OF CERTAIN ITEMS

(Agenda VI.B.; Reference: *En Bloc* Revised)

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. 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.

Church Council action:

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on Secretary Wm Chris Boerger, who made the following motion.

Moved;

Seconded: To take action *en bloc* on the remaining items listed in *En Bloc* Revised.

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

VOTED:

CC16.04.16 To take action *en bloc* on the following items listed in *En Bloc* Revised.

A. AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT

(Reference: Audit Committee Report)

VOTED:

EN BLOC

CC16.04.16a To approve the report of the ELCA Audit Committee describing the review of the audited financial statements, management letter, and response of management for the Endowment Fund Pooled Trust's year ending December 31, 2015.

B. REVISIONS TO RESOLUTIONS REGARDING AUTHORITY TO ACT IN FINANCIAL MATTERS

Background:

In November 2015, the Church Council adopted [CC15.11.45] resolutions regarding authority to act in financial matters. Revisions were recommended to replace a signatory who had left the organization and to clarify that gift annuities are not trusts. Other elements of the resolutions were unchanged.

Appointment of Assistant Officers

VOTED:

EN BLOC

CC16.04.16b1 **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: Cecilia Favela, 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

VOTED:

EN BLOC

CC16.04.16b2

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 previously authorized and approved as provided in this resolution, which is required or desirable in connection with the establishment of any gift annuity agreement for which the churchwide organization is guarantor or which is necessary and appropriate for the management of the business and fiscal affairs of any trust for which the churchwide organization is acting as trustee;

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.

C. NORTHERN ILLINOIS SYNOD COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Background:

During its Jan. 30, 2016, meeting, the Northern Illinois Synod Council received a report and recommendations from the synod's Social Ministry Committee regarding a resolution that had been referred to it by the 2015 Northern Illinois Synod Assembly. The Synod Council voted [SC-16-01-03] "to request that the ELCA Church Council hold a conversation on climate change and the environment and include these issues on the agenda of the 2016 Churchwide Assembly."

ELCA bylaw 12.31.04., regarding meetings of the Churchwide Assembly, provides:

The arrangements for agenda, program, and worship shall be under the supervision of the presiding bishop.

The 2016 ELCA Churchwide Assembly will receive memorials on climate change and the environment, which the Memorials Committee will review prior to the assembly.

VOTED:

EN BLOC

CC16.04.16c

To receive the resolution from the Northern Illinois Synod concerning a conversation on climate change and the environment on the agenda of the 2016 ELCA Churchwide Assembly;

To refer the resolution to the Office of the Presiding Bishop; and

To request the secretary of this church notify the synod of this action.

D. DESIGNATION OF CHURCHWIDE ORGANIZATION REPRESENTATIVES AT SYNOD ASSEMBLIES

(Reference: 2016 Synod Assembly Churchwide Representatives)

Background:

Provision S7.23. of the Constitution for Synods states:

The presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and such other official representatives of this church as may be designated from time to time by the Church Council shall have voice but not vote in the meetings of the Synod Assembly. Like privileges shall be accorded to those additional persons whom the Synod Assembly or the Synod Council shall from time to time designate.

Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton provided the names of specific representatives to respective synod assemblies.

VOTED:

EN BLOC

CC16.04.16d To designate the persons identified in the “2016 Synod Assembly Churchwide Representatives” grid with voice but not vote in the meetings of the assigned Synod Assembly, including like privileges accorded to those additional persons whom the Synod Assembly or the Synod Council has designated.

E. 2016 CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY RULES OF ORGANIZATION AND PROCEDURE

(Reference: 2016 Rules of Organization and Procedure)

Background:

One of the first actions of a churchwide assembly is to adopt rules for the specific organization and procedure of that assembly. The Church Council proposed the Rules of Organization and Procedure for the 2016 Churchwide Assembly, based on the experience of predecessor church bodies and on such rules adopted by the previous thirteen ELCA assemblies. A two-thirds vote of the assembly is required for adoption of the rules.

VOTED:

EN BLOC

CC16.04.16e1 To recommend adoption of the following proposed action by the voting members of the 2016 Churchwide Assembly:

To adopt the “Rules of Organization and Procedure” for the 2016 Churchwide Assembly (exclusive of quoted and highlighted constitutional provisions and bylaws that are already in force).

VOTED:

EN BLOC

**CC16.04.16e2 To authorize the presiding bishop and secretary of this church to prepare further editing and scheduling revisions that may be found necessary for the Rules prior to their publication in the Pre-Assembly Report; and
To report any changes to the Church Council at its August 2016 meeting.**

F. PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO A BYLAW OF THE ELCA

Background:

Since the ELCA was formed in 1988, several colleges have related to this church through its Churchwide Assembly. Through college corporation meetings held while the assembly is in recess, governance decisions of the colleges are approved or ratified. With the transition from biennial to triennial assemblies and the need for greater flexibility in governance, at least one of the colleges had requested that it relate to the ELCA through its Church Council instead of

through the Churchwide Assembly. Such a change would require the assembly to amend ELCA bylaw 8.32.02. to include that option.

VOTED:

EN BLOC

CC16.04.16f

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

- 8.32.02.** Colleges and universities of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America may relate to this church in various ways, including relationship with the Churchwide Assembly, the Church Council, a synodical assembly, or a corporation whose voting members are, or have been elected by, synodical assemblies, other organizational units (conferences, clusters, etc.), or congregations. Subject to approval by the appropriate synods, a college or university may be owned by a not-for-profit corporation (1) that has voting members, at least 90 percent a majority of whom shall consist of members of the Churchwide Assembly or the Church Council, and (2) that shall hold the meeting of such a corporation in conjunction with the Churchwide Assembly for the purpose of electing or ratifying members of the governing board and approving amendments to the articles of incorporation, and approving amendments to other governing documents which affect the relationship between the college or university and this church. At least 60 percent majority of the members of the governing boards of the a corporations that meets in conjunction with the Churchwide Assembly or Church Council shall be members of this church or of a church body with which this church is in a relationship of full communion, but under no circumstances shall fewer than forty (40) percent of the members of such board be members of this church.

G. POLICY AND PROCEDURES FOR REVIEW OF LITURGICAL MATERIAL

(Reference: Liturgical Review Draft)

Background:

ELCA bylaw 14.21.02. states:

The Church Council shall review the procedures and programs of the churchwide units to assure that churchwide purposes, policies, and objectives are being fulfilled.

The Rev. Kevin L. Strickland, assistant to the presiding bishop for worship, convened a team to update the "Policy and Procedures for Review of Liturgical Material."

The purpose of the policy is stated in its introduction:

For the well-being of this church's members, and for responsible development and administration of material prepared by this church for public worship, the following statement of policy and procedures of the Office of the Presiding Bishop was developed. It guides the process for review of liturgical material prepared within and on behalf of churchwide units and related organizations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

VOTED:

EN BLOC

CC16.04.16g **To approve the amended Policy and Procedures for Review of Liturgical Material.**

H. CHURCH COUNCIL NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

(Reference: Biographies)

Background:

The Church Council has governance relationships with the seminaries and ministries of this church. As stated in ELCA bylaw 20.21.13., it elects members of the churchwide Committee of Hearing Officers.

VOTED:

EN BLOC

CC16.04.16h1 **To elect to the board of directors of Luther Seminary for a term coterminous with her service as president of Luther Seminary: The Rev. Robin J. Steinke;**
To re-elect to the board of directors of Luther Seminary for a four-year term expiring in 2020: Ms. Bonnie Raquet;
To re-elect to the board of directors of The Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago for a three-year term expiring in 2019: Mr. Clarence J. Atwood Jr. and the Rev. Gordon A. Braatz;
To nominate to the advisory council of Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary as part of Lenoir-Rhyne University for a three-year term expiring in 2019: Ms. Miriam L. David and the Rev. Kathryn A. Tiede;
To elect to the advisory board of Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary for a six-year term expiring in 2022: The Rev. Richard W. Rouse;
To re-elect to the board of directors of Trinity Lutheran Seminary for a three-year term expiring in 2019: Mr. Aaron Schmalzle; and
To elect to the board of directors of Trinity Lutheran Seminary for a three-year term expiring in 2019: Mr. James A. McCoy.

VOTED:

EN BLOC

CC16.04.16h2 **To elect to the board of trustees of the Endowment Fund of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for a six-year term expiring in November 2021: Ms. Liza Canino and Mr. Eric Golberg.**

VOTED:

EN BLOC

CC16.04.16h3 **To elect as members of the Committee of Hearing Officers to one six-year term expiring in 2022: Ms. Stephanie Ertel, Mr. F. Thomas Kull Jr., and the Rev. Raymond A. Miller.**

Vice President Peña declared the motion was adopted.

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 was planned for Sept. 23, 2016, for council members to be elected by the 2016 Churchwide Assembly and planning had begun for a council retreat in March 30-April 2, 2017, in Itasca, Ill.

GREETING FROM AN ETHNIC-SPECIFIC MINISTRY ASSOCIATION

(Agenda V.F.)

At the invitation of the chair, the Rev. Joann A. Conroy, Saint Paul, Minn., brought greetings from the American Indian and Alaskan Native Lutheran Association.

Vice President Carlos E. Peña thanked all representatives of ELCA ethnic-specific ministry associations for their presence and their greetings.

GREETING FROM AN ECUMENICAL LIAISON

(Agenda V.G.)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on Mr. Steven W. Nishibayashi, the Church Council's ecumenical liaison from The Episcopal Church.

Mr. Nishibayashi brought greetings from the Executive Council of The Episcopal Church and described the governance and structures of that church.

Vice President Peña thanked all of the council's ecumenical liaisons for their greetings and attendance.

PRIMER: ROLE OF THE CHURCH COUNCIL AT THE CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY

(Agenda VI.D.)

At the request of Vice President Carlos E. Peña and the Board Development Committee of the Church Council, Ms. Jodi L. Slattery, assistant to the presiding bishop for governance and chair of the Churchwide Assembly planning committee, presented a primer on the role of council members at the 2016 Churchwide Assembly. She described the registration, travel and accommodations of Church Council members for the Churchwide Assembly, as well as their schedule, meals and participation in Grace Gathering. She talked about the content of the Churchwide Assembly website, actions the council recommended that the Churchwide Assembly take, specific assignments and the role of Church Council members in the election of the vice president, the Memorials Committee, the Reference and Counsel Committee and any *ad hoc* committee.

In response to questions from council members, Ms. Slattery also led discussions about the availability of electronic tablets at the assembly for accessing documents, the role of advisory members with voice and without vote at a churchwide assembly, the role of Church Council members at hearings, seating in the assembly hall and name badges.

PERSONAL REFLECTION ON FAITH

(Agenda VI.A.)

At the invitation of the chair, Mr. Oliver W. Thul shared a personal faith reflection.

Mr. Thul recommended that Church Council members listen to eight popular songs and other music that have meaning for his faith life.

CHURCH COUNCIL JOYS AND CONCERNS

(Agenda VI.E.)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on Ms. Maren Hulden, who asked specific people how the council may pray for them.

At the invitation of the chair, the Rev. Vicki T. Garber led the gathering in prayer.

PROCESS OBSERVATION

(Agenda VI.F.)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña requested that Ms. Maren Hulden share some observations of the meeting's processes.

EVALUATION AND DEBRIEFING

(Agenda VI.G.)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña reminded Church Council members to complete and submit evaluation forms that were available online.

Ms. Jodi L. Slattery, assistant to the presiding bishop for governance, explained where to find the forms online and asked for comments in addition to those prompted on the evaluation forms.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Vice President Carlos E. Peña welcomed announcements and questions from Church Council members.

Secretary Boerger asked that expense reports be submitted promptly.

Vice President Peña expressed his gratitude for the council members and for staff of the churchwide organization.

HYMN AND PRAYER

(Agenda VI.H.)

The Rev. Jonathan Splichal Larson led the Church Council in singing "Earthen Vessel," written by Mr. Ben Splichal Larson. He also led the gathering in prayer and table grace.

ADJOURNMENT

(Agenda VI.I.)

The eighty-sixth meeting of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America adjourned Sunday, April 10, 2016, at 12:32 p.m. Members of the Church Council's Executive Committee conducted performance reviews of the salaried churchwide officers over lunch.

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EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
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