



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

November 18, 2016

TO: Bishops of synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
 Vice Presidents of synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
 Secretaries of synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
 Members of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
 Administrative Team of the churchwide organization
 Chief executive officers of separately incorporated ministries
 Seminary presidents
 Regional coordinators

FROM: The Rev. Wm Chris Boerger, secretary *WCB*

SUBJECT: Report of Actions of the Church Council (November 10-13, 2016)

The Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) met at the Lutheran Center, Chicago, Ill., Nov. 10-13, 2016. Here is a summary of particular actions along with background information.

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1. ELECTION OF CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Background:

The 2011 Churchwide Assembly elected the Rev. Robert G. Moore [Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod] to a six-year term on the Church Council. Pr. Moore resigned his position on the council to take a position with the churchwide organization as the ELCA Reformation 500 Wittenberg representative in Germany.

The 2016 Churchwide Assembly elected Ms. Halle E. Bledsoe, Cincinnati, Ohio [6F], to a three-year term on the Church Council. She has since resigned from the Church Council.

In accordance with ELCA bylaw 13.41.05. and constitutional provisions 14.15. and 19.03., Secretary Wm Chris Boerger declared two vacancies on the council.

The Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod [4F] nominated the Rev. Karin I. Liebster, Houston, Texas, to replace Pr. Moore for a term ending in 2017.

Ms. Bledsoe was elected by the 2016 Churchwide Assembly on a ticket with the restriction that the position be filled by a youth from Region 6. Ms. Emilee M. Le Blanc, Dearborn, Mich. [6A], was the other nominee presented by the Nominating Committee to the assembly.

Church Council action:

To elect Ms. Emilee M. Le Blanc, Dearborn, Mich. [6A], to the Church Council for a term ending in 2019.

To elect the Rev. Karin I. Liebster, Houston, Texas [4F], to the Church Council for a term ending August 31, 2017.

2. ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Background:

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

Church Council action:

To elect Mr. Allan J. Bieber, Ms. Marjorie B. Ellis and Ms. Maren Hulden to the Executive Committee of the Church Council.

3. CALLED FORWARD TOGETHER IN CHRIST: FUTURE DIRECTIONS STATEMENT

Background:

At its April 2015 meeting, the Church Council affirmed [CC15.04.10] "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."

Presiding Bishop Eaton asked Ms. Lyla Rogan, a consultant on the churchwide organization's operational plan and on a similar process with The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) Council, to work with her to fashion that priority-setting process. Based on that consultation, Presiding Bishop Eaton proposed a process to deliver the following objectives:

- 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 focusing on her four emphases: We are Lutheran; We are church; We are church together; and We are church for the sake of the world;
- ownership of the directions and priorities by church leaders, especially the Conference of Bishops and Church Council;
- motivation and renewed energy across this church to serve God's mission faithfully and more effectively and to work together to build a thriving, connected and sustainable church; and
- a common strategic framework for other levels of planning, including operational planning by the churchwide organization and by synods.

The proposed process was shared with the Conference of Bishops and presented for action to the Church Council at its November 2015 meeting. The council acted [CC15.11.47] to affirm the process, authorized the Executive Committee to appoint members to the Future Directions Table and requested progress reports.

The Future Directions Table met and offered advice to the process, shaped the questions asked across this church, helped synthesize the feedback received and assisted in framing the final statement. The process was titled "Called Forward Together in Christ" and involved three stages in 2016.

The first stage was engaging conversations across this church about the future (January-June).

The second stage took the feedback from the conversations and shaped it into the content Called Forward Together in Christ: A Consultation Paper on Future Directions of the ELCA (July-September). The consultation paper shared the

key messages harvested through conversations across the ELCA. The paper was distributed widely to get feedback on what emerged. There also was opportunity for input at the 2016 Churchwide Assembly and Grace Gathering.

The third stage moved to decision making (October-November). The Future Directions Table, Conference of Bishops, Church Council members and leaders in the churchwide organization contributed to shaping a Future Directions Statement. The goal was to achieve joint ownership of the statement by the ELCA's leadership tables and invite others to join in leading this church forward based on a shared view about what is important.

Church Council action:

To adopt Called Forward Together in Christ: ELCA Strategic Directions 2017-2025;

To affirm that the Conference of Bishops, under the leadership of its chair, will discuss its role and approach for implementing the strategic directions at its March 2017 meeting;

To commit to a first phase of implementing the strategic directions during 2017 with attention to the following critical elements:

- a. **A well planned communication strategy that gives the statement visibility and promotes understanding and engagement in the continuing process of Called Forward Together in Christ**
- b. **Dissemination of ELCA Strategic Directions 2017-2025 across the ELCA with targeted information for different audiences**
- c. **Using the Spring 2017 council retreat to progress thinking on strategy and implementation of the goals and priorities, with a special focus on governance**
- d. **A launch as part of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation observance**
- e. **Developing a process to engage congregations across this church in active conversation about ELCA's identity and helping them understand the directions in their context. This could be introduced through synod assemblies and be supported by resources and tools, with an aim to roll out a process to all congregations simultaneously in October**
- f. **Using the Rostered Ministers Gathering as a strategic opportunity to engage ELCA's leaders in understanding and contributing to implementation of the strategic directions**
- g. **Developing resources that keep the strategic directions rooted in Scripture**
- h. **Alignment of churchwide operational planning to the goals and priority areas for action**
- i. **Beginning work on the metrics and information that will enable ELCA to monitor; and**

To express appreciation for Ms. Lyla Rogan, who served as consultant for this process.

4. SYNOD VISITS BY CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Background:

Since its November 2005 meeting, the Church Council has committed itself to building relationships among the churchwide organization, synods, congregations, and institutions and agencies.

At its November 2007 meeting, the council voted [CC07.11.65]:

To recall that, concerning changes in governance of this church, the 2005 Churchwide Assembly voted [CA05.06.21]: "To encourage greater interaction of members of the Church Council with synodical councils and synodical assemblies in their respective areas;"

To urge members of the Church Council to accept this responsibility and interact with their own synods and their partner synods in various ways, including attending at least one Synod Council meeting per year and participating in Synod Assemblies, especially in years when a synod is considering nominations to the Church Council; and

To note that expenses for attending Synod Council meetings and Synod Assemblies will be reimbursed by the churchwide organization in accordance with the ELCA travel policy.

Church Council action:

To acknowledge the commitment of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to have “greater interaction of members of the Church Council with synodical councils and synodical assemblies in their respective areas”;

To urge members of the Church Council to accept this responsibility and interact with their own synods and their partner synods in various ways, including attending at least one synod council meeting per year and participating in synod assemblies, especially in years when a synod is considering nominations to the Church Council; and

To note that expenses for attending synod council meetings and synod assemblies will be reimbursed by the churchwide organization in accordance with the ELCA travel policy.

5. THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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.”

After consultations with the Conference of Bishops, seminary presidents and board chairs, Baker-Tilley consultants, and other key leaders, the advisory council presented its report and recommendations to the Church Council in November 2015. The council voted [CC15.11.46] to make the report available to synods, congregations, agencies, institutions and ecumenical partners and created a comment period inviting feedback and engagement in conversation on the future theological education enterprise in the life of this church. It also appointed a working group to receive the feedback and craft implementing strategies that would operationalize the recommendations.

At the Church Council’s April 2016 meeting, the working group presented its strategies to implement the recommendations of the advisory council.

Based on those recommendations and implementing strategies, the Church Council established [CC16.04.05] a new advisory committee to the Church Council “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.”

In addition, the Church Council approved [CC16.04.06] the remaining recommendations and referred them to the advisory committee and the Office of the Presiding Bishop for analysis and implementation.

Church Council actions:

To authorize the Theological Education Advisory Committee to require those proposing theological education initiatives to complete a designated assessment tool that defines the initiative and its impact. The assessment results will be used to prioritize financial and other resources.

To encourage synods and direct the churchwide organization to maintain financial support for seminaries for 2017 without a percentage reduction for special incentives.

6. STANDING ROCK SIOUX TRIBE AND THIS CHURCH’S MINISTRY OF RECONCILIATION

Background:

Repudiating the doctrine of discovery, the 2016 Churchwide Assembly voted [CA16.02.04]:

To affirm that this church will eliminate the doctrine of discovery from its contemporary rhetoric and programs, electing to practice accompaniment with native peoples instead of a missionary endeavor to them, allowing these partnerships to mutually enrich indigenous communities and the ministries of the ELCA.

In her report to the Church Council, Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton recalled her recent visit with other ELCA representatives to Standing Rock in North Dakota, where the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe is confronting construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline. The pipeline runs through contested land, which the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe considers its homeland and sacred places, including burial grounds, and the contractors see as a mix of public and private land.

Church Council action:

To stand with and support Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton as she stands with and supports the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe as an expression of this church's ministry of reconciliation.

7. REVISION OF THE CANDIDACY MANUAL

Background:

The 2016 Churchwide Assembly voted to create the roster of Ministers of Word and Service. Implementing that decision, changes were made to the Candidacy Manual. The new roster becomes effective on January 1, 2017.

Church Council action:

**To adopt the revised Candidacy Manual, effective January 1, 2017; and
To authorize the Domestic Mission unit, in consultation with the Office of the Secretary, to make any necessary corrections for clarity and accuracy.**

8. ASSESSING THE NEED FOR AND FEASIBILITY OF INITIATING SOCIAL MESSAGE PROCESSES

Background:

The 2011 Churchwide Assembly voted [CA11.04.17]:

8. To direct the Theological Discernment team of the Office of the Presiding Bishop to assess the feasibility of developing a social message on regenerative medicine, including, but not limited to, a range of stem cell technologies; and to bring to the ELCA Church Council in November 2013 a report and possible recommendations, in accordance with Policies and Procedures of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for Addressing Social Concerns (Chicago: ELCA, 1997, revised 2011).

The 2013 Churchwide Assembly voted [CA13.05.19]:

9. To direct the ELCA's Theological Discernment team in the fall of 2015 to bring to the Church Council an assessment of the feasibility of developing a social message on U.S. national drug policy, in accordance with "Policies and Procedures of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for Addressing Social Concerns" (Chicago: ELCA, 1997, revised 2006, 2011).

The 2014 Virginia Synod Assembly resolved:

that the Virginia Synod Council request the Church Council to bring the [Lutheran Church in America] 1978 statement, "Aging and the Older Adult," out of retirement and revise it as appropriate to make it a living document.

Part of the Church Council's response to that request was [CC14.11.32]:

To invite an assessment and possible recommendation from the Theological Discernment team staff in the Office of the Presiding Bishop regarding the feasibility of developing a social message on aging that includes attention to the 1978 LCA statement, "Aging and the Older Adult."

An extension was granted until Fall 2016 to conduct the required research to determine the need for and feasibility to initiate social message processes. Since that time, it was determined that there was no longer a need for a regenerative medicine social message.

In addition, another new social message on human rights has been identified as taking priority over the U.S. national drug policy and aging. Since it is only feasible to develop one social message at a time, the staff assessment is to put priority on the human rights social message and to delay consideration of U.S. national drug policy and aging until Fall 2017.

Church Council action:

To decline the request for a social message on regenerative medicine as such a message is now dated and of restricted value to a majority of ELCA members or to a public discussion;

To affirm the prioritizing of a social message on human rights with a target date for Church Council consideration by its November 2017 meeting; and

To defer the questions of developing a social message on U.S. National Drug Policy or aging until the November 2017 Church Council meeting when a new assessment of each issue, staff capacity and finances will be made.

9. DEVELOPMENT OF A SOCIAL MESSAGE ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Background:

The 2016 Churchwide Assembly voted [CA16.06.31]:

To receive with gratitude the memorials from the Sierra Pacific, Southwest California, Metropolitan New York and Delaware-Maryland synods regarding Justice for the Holy Land through Responsible Investment;

To reaffirm the actions of the 2005, 2007, 2011 and 2013 Churchwide Assemblies regarding responsible investment in Israel-Palestine;

To direct the ELCA's Corporate Social Responsibility review team to develop a human rights social criteria investment screen based on the social teachings of this church and, in the case of Israel and Palestine, specifically based on the concerns raised in the ELCA Middle East Strategy;

To encourage ELCA members, congregations, synods, agencies and institutions to increase positive investment in Palestine and other under-resourced areas where human rights abuses materially impact the well-being of all people; and

To encourage ELCA members, congregations, synods, agencies and institutions to engage in shareholder advocacy in support of human rights, exercising the right of a shareholder to submit resolutions at a corporation's annual meeting.

The Corporate Social Responsibility review team advised the Church Council that, after an initial survey of the social teachings of this church, a social message on human rights was needed to underpin the development of a general human rights screen as requested. The team provided time frames for a message and an investment screen.

Church Council action:

To receive the response from the Corporate Social Responsibility review team on the timeline;

To request the development of a social message on human rights, noting that this takes priority over work of developing other social messages;

To acknowledge the development of a general human rights social criteria investment screen will be postponed until the approval of the human rights social message;

To acknowledge that this ongoing work may delay other work assigned to the Corporate Social Responsibility review team and Theological Discernment team; and

To request periodic reports on the progress of implementing the intentions of the Churchwide Assembly action.

10. FLEXIBLE BENEFITS BUNDLE FROM PORTICO BENEFIT SERVICES

Background:

The Board of Pensions of the ELCA — Portico Benefit Services — developed a plan and trust documents that provide changes in benefits to the disability plan and potential expansion in benefits for the health and survivor plans related to a Flexible Benefits Bundle. The Rev. Jeffrey D. Thiemann, president of Portico Benefit Services, shared details of the plan with the Conference of Bishops at its Spring and Fall 2016 meetings and with the Church Council's Legal and Constitutional Review Committee.

In response to congregations looking for alternative health care coverage for their non-rostered employees, Portico Benefit Services produced a flexible premium and coverage structure to test in pilot congregations beginning Jan. 1, 2017, and to possibly phase in more broadly for all non-rostered employees of congregations. Portico's board approved the plan amendments and the new ELCA Retirement Savings Plan and Trust at its August 2016 meeting.

Church Council action:

To approve the Flexible Benefits Bundle for Non-Rostered Members first as a pilot program and, if successful, across the ELCA; and

To direct Portico Benefit Services to take actions required to create the ELCA Retirement Savings Plan and Trust, and to amend the ELCA Medical and Dental Plan, ELCA Disability Benefits Plan and ELCA Survivor Benefits Plan, to accommodate the Flexible Bundle for Non-Rostered Members.

11. ELCA FOUNDATION GOVERNANCE AND STRUCTURE

Background:

Staff of the churchwide organization have initiated conversation regarding the possibility of separately incorporating the ELCA Foundation, which currently relates to the churchwide organization through the Mission Advancement unit. Continuing resolution 16.12.D11. states:

The ELCA Foundation shall provide major gift and deferred giving programs, including educational and support services, for individual donors, congregations, synods, agencies, and related institutions, and shall promote pooled investment services for endowment funds of this church, its congregations, synods, agencies, and affiliated institutions.

Several external firms were consulted for advice.

Church Council action:

To establish a task force to consider whether the ELCA Foundation should be separately incorporated from the churchwide organization or otherwise reorganized, and to make recommendations on governance and structure;

To appoint the following members to the task force: Ms. Ingrid S. Stafford, Evanston, Ill., as chair; Secretary Wm Chris Boerger; Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton; Ms. Marjorie B. Ellis, Worthington, Ohio; Mr. Eric Goldberg, Hudson, N.Y.; Ms. Christina Jackson-Skelton, executive director of the Mission Advancement unit; Treasurer Linda O. Norman; the Rev. Thomas A. Skrenes, bishop of the Northern Great Lakes Synod;

To appoint the following ELCA churchwide staff as resource people to the task force: the Rev. M. Wyvetta Bullock, executive for administration; Mr. Thomas A. Cunniff, associate general counsel; Ms. Annette C. Shoemaker, director for the ELCA Foundation; and

To authorize the Executive Committee of the Church Council to appoint additional members to the task force as needed.

12. 2017 REVISED INCOME ESTIMATES AND SPENDING AUTHORIZATIONS

Background:

The 2016 Churchwide Assembly received a total income estimate of \$90,096,005 for the churchwide organization in 2017 and voted [CA16.03.10]:

To approve a 2017 current fund spending authorization of \$65,296,005; and

To approve a 2017 ELCA World Hunger spending authorization of \$24,800,000;

To authorize the Church Council to revise the spending authorization after periodic review of revised income estimates.

The council's Budget and Finance Committee, in consultation with the Office of the Treasurer and Office of the Presiding Bishop, recommended increasing the spending authorization.

Church Council action:

To approve a revised 2017 fiscal year current fund spending authorization of \$67,210,025.

13. AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT

Background:

ELCA continuing resolution 14.41.E15. provides that the Church Council’s Audit Committee “shall assist the Budget and Finance Committee and the Church Council in fulfilling oversight of the churchwide organization’s accounting and financial reporting, internal control systems, and audit functions, consistent with its responsibilities as specified in the charter recommended by the Audit Committee, reviewed by the Budget and Finance Committee, and approved by the Church Council. In consultation with the executive for administration, the Audit Committee approves the appointment and dismissal of the director for internal auditing.”

Church Council action:

To approve the report of the ELCA Audit Committee describing its review of the audited financial statements, management letter, and response of management for the churchwide organization’s fiscal year ending January 31, 2016.

14. INDEPENDENT LUTHERAN ORGANIZATIONS

Background:

ELCA constitutional provision 8.41. states:

This church may establish relationships with Lutheran organizations, institutions, or agencies whose purposes are compatible with its mission and ministry. Policies and procedures to create and implement these relationships shall be adopted by the Church Council.

The listing of Inter-Lutheran Organizations has appeared in the ELCA Yearbook since the formation of this church but there is no policy for designation as or definition of an Inter-Lutheran Organization. The churchwide organization did, at one time, have the responsibility of selecting members of governing boards of these organizations. Most of the organizations have now moved to a process of self-sustaining boards.

Secretary Wm Chris Boerger removed the classification of Inter-Lutheran Organization from the yearbook. The most appropriate existing category for certain of the organizations is as Independent Lutheran Organizations. The policy for these organizations is that they apply for such recognition, relate to a unit or office of this church and be approved by the Church Council as an Independent Lutheran Organization.

Organizations previously listed as Inter-Lutheran Organizations were invited to apply for classification as Independent Lutheran Organizations. Lutheran Film Associates did not make application. The Church Council approved related changes to the governing documents of Lutheran Services in America.

The council’s Legal and Constitutional Review Committee received and reviewed applications for Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, Lutheran World Relief and Lutheran Educational Conference of North America to be recognized as Independent Lutheran Organizations.

Church Council action:

To approve the applications of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, Lutheran World Relief and Lutheran Educational Conference of North America to be Independent Lutheran Organizations according to the policies of this church.

15. REVISED BYLAWS OF THE LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY AT GETTYSBURG

Background:

The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg and The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia will become The United Lutheran Seminary on July 1, 2017, while retaining both campuses. The seminary at Gettysburg is to continue as the educational corporation, adopting revised bylaws that create a new board of directors. Academic

degrees and accreditation will continue without interruption. A presidential search for United Lutheran Seminary has begun.

The Church Council must approve changes to seminary bylaws. The council adopted the recommendation of its Legal and Constitutional Review Committee.

Church Council action:

To approve Chapters 1-12 of the proposed bylaws of The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, to be subsequently known as United Lutheran Seminary;

To request that the seminary review Chapter 13 (Dissolution Clause); and

To authorize the Executive Committee to approve Chapter 13.

16. CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY DOCUMENTS

Background:

The Church Council usually reviews three issue papers and one social criteria investment screen each year. This year revisions were made to several documents for this church's ongoing work in Corporate Social Responsibility. The council's Program and Services Committee reviewed the documents, and the Church Council adopted the committee's recommendation.

Church Council action:

To approve the amendments to the following corporate social responsibility documents to serve as the basis for ongoing corporate social responsibility work in this church:

- **Social Criteria Investment Screen Policies and Procedure Development;**
- **Gambling Social Criteria Investment Screen;**
- **Issue Paper Policies and Procedure;**
- **Genetics Issue Paper;**
- **International Access to Healthcare Issue Paper;**
- **Sustainability Issue Paper; and**

To request that the original issue papers be archived for historical and research purposes.

17. CHANGES TO CERTAIN GOVERNING DOCUMENTS

A. ELCA continuing resolutions

ELCA constitutional provision 22.31. provides:

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

The Church Council adopted an amendment to continuing resolution 16.12.A16., removing "providing worship and liturgical resources" from the responsibilities of the Domestic Mission unit. It adopted continuing resolution 15.12.H16., placing those responsibilities in the Office of the Presiding Bishop. The council also voted to amend continuing resolution 17.40.A11. to reflect current operations of the Publishing House of the ELCA and to change its name to 1517 Media.

15.12.H16. *Responsibility for Worship*

Responsibility for leadership of the worship life of this church shall be exercised by the Office of the Presiding Bishop. In doing so, efforts shall be undertaken to support the worship ministry of the church, oversee the development and review of worship resources intended for use

throughout this church, and recommend, through the presiding bishop, policies related to worship and sacramental practices to the Church Council and the Churchwide Assembly.

- a. To fulfill these responsibilities, the executive for worship, appointed by the presiding bishop, shall:
 - 1) assist the presiding bishop of this church in carrying out the role of presiding over the ministry of Word and Sacrament;
 - 2) introduce and interpret worship resources developed for use throughout this church;
 - 3) direct this church's process for liturgical review in accord with policy adopted by the Church Council;
 - 4) study and advise this church in matters of sacramental practice;
 - 5) assist the synods, congregations and churchwide units of this church in carrying out the ministry of worship, maintaining a network of partners in order to be responsive to the diversity of worship practices of this church;
 - 6) develop and implement worship for churchwide assemblies and other churchwide events;
 - 7) represent the presiding bishop and the churchwide organization to other church bodies on matters related to worship; and
 - 8) be responsible for the Lutheran Center Chapel and for providing worship opportunities for the churchwide organization.
- b. The executive for worship shall provide, through the Publishing House of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, worship resources and shall support the development of a variety of congregational resources that are consistent with the proclamation, prayer, worship, and sacramental practices of this church.

17.40.A116. Responsibilities of the Publishing House of the ELCA

The Publishing House of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America— also known as Augsburg Fortress, Publishers 1517 Media—shall:

- a. be responsible for the publishing, production, and distribution of publications to be sold to accomplish the mission of this church.
- b. work in close cooperation with congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization to provide a diversity of published resources.
- c. ~~relate to other work with churchwide units through resource planning groups. Materials published to plan the publication of materials to assist congregations in fulfilling their life in mission shall be developed in coordination with other appropriate churchwide units. Development costs will be paid by the unit developing the publication.~~
- d. develop, produce, and distribute materials required to carry out its functions.
- e. be financed from the sale and distribution of materials, not from the budget of this church.
- f. create, develop, and publish a diversity of resources in various media; make available other publications, materials, and church supplies; produce the official documents and publications of this church; and produce materials in a manner that assures their ready availability.
- g. establish a distribution center, as well as utilize other means provide for the wide distribution of resources within and beyond this church.
- h. manage its finances and other resources in a manner that assures the continuity and extension of its activities. This publishing house shall maintain its own accounting, data processing, personnel, pension, information technology, human resources, employee benefits, and other functions essential to a cohesive, efficient, and effective operation.

- i. *identify and nurture talented authors, composers, artists, and others involved in creating various media.*
- j. ***produce and** distribute the church periodical in accord with provisions of this church's constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions.*
- k. *determine its necessary financial reserves, appropriations, and publishing subsidies.*
- l. *make available resources to meet unique language and cultural needs, **as feasible.***

B. Certain synod constitutions

As provided in provision †S18.13. of the *Constitution for Synods*, amendments to certain provisions in synod constitutions must be ratified by the Church Council. The council ratified amendments to the constitutions of the Sierra Pacific and Eastern North Dakota synods regarding provision S9.04. and the processes by which these synods elect their bishops.

C. Governing documents of other entities

The Church Council also approved changes to the governing documents of Lutheran Services in America, the Publishing House of the ELCA and the Mission Investment Fund of the ELCA.

Church Council actions:

To endorse the Case for Change adopted by the board of directors of Lutheran Services in America, approve the proposed bylaw amendments that address board composition and related governance issues, and recommend to the member organizations that the proposed bylaw amendments be approved at the 2017 annual meeting; and

To recognize, affirm and give thanks for the ministry of Lutheran Services in America and for the leadership of its staff and board of directors.

To approve the amendments to the Publishing House of the ELCA Articles of Incorporation and bylaws as proposed by its board of trustees.

To approve the amendments to the Mission Investment Fund bylaws as proposed by the Mission Investment Fund board of trustees.

18. ELECTIONS, DESIGNATIONS, NOMINATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

To elect to the board of directors of National Lutheran Campus Ministry, Inc. for a four-year term expiring in 2021: The Rev. William E. Bentzinger II, Mr. Thomas T. Chase Jr. and the Rev. Joan A. Conroy.

To re-elect to the board of directors of National Lutheran Campus Ministry, Inc. for a second four-year term expiring in 2021: Ms. Karen Sumner and the Rev. Robert G. Wollenburg.

To elect to the board of trustees of the Endowment Fund of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for a one-year, renewable term expiring in November 2017: The Rev. Glenn D. Miller.

To elect to the board of trustees of the Endowment Fund of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for a five-year term expiring in November 2021: Mr. Eric Brudos.

To approve the designation of the following members of the board of directors of The Evangelical Lutheran Good Samaritan Society as representatives to the ELCA: Mr. David J. Horazdovsky

[president], Mr. H. Theodore Grindal [term ending in 2018], Dr. Gwen Wagstrom Halaas [term ending in 2019] and Mr. Dale M. Thompson [term ending in 2018].

To elect to the board of directors of The Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago to a three-year term expiring in 2020: Ms. Karen M. McClain.

To elect to the board of directors of Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg to a two-year term expiring in 2018: The Rev. J. Elise Brown and Mr. David A. Russell.

To elect to the board of directors of Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg to a three-year term expiring in 2019: The Rev. Charles S. Miller and Ms. Nancy Z. Mock.

To elect to the board of directors of Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg to a four-year term expiring in 2020: Ms. Kris Hansen-Kieffer and the Rev. Audrey E. Moody.

To nominate to the advisory council of Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary as part of Lenoir-Rhyne University to a three-year term expiring in 2020: The Rev. Lowell G. Almen and the Rev. Howard D. Stendahl.

To approve the appointment of the following to the ELCA Audit Committee for a two-year term expiring in November 2018: Mr. Richard D. Wehrheim III and Mr. James P. Zils.