

**EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
IN AMERICA**

Church Council

MINUTES

November 10-13, 2016

**Prepared by the
Office of the Secretary**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Organization of the meeting	1
Voting members	1
Representatives of the Conference of Bishops	2
Resource people	2
Guests	3
Plenary Session I	4
Call to order and adoption of the agenda	4
Approval of the minutes	4
Report of the presiding bishop	5
Ecumenical greeting	8
Report of the vice president	9
Report of the Executive Committee	9
Elections of Church Council members	9
Ratification of appointments to Church Council committees	10
Process for election of the Executive Committee	11
First ballot for the election of Executive Committee members	11
Synod visits by Church Council members	12
Introduction to Called Forward Together in Christ: Future Directions Conversation	13
Results of the first ballot for the election of Executive Committee members	14
Plenary Session II	16
Executive session	16
Personal reflection on faith	16
Report of the secretary	17
Report of the Theological Education Advisory Committee	17
Panel conversation with ethnic-specific ministry association presidents and representative	19
Update from the Global Mission unit	20
Results of the second ballot for the election of Executive Committee members	20
Process observations	21
Plenary Session III	22
Third ballot for the election of Executive Committee members	22
Ecumenical greeting	22
Report of the treasurer	22
Results of third ballot for the election of Executive Committee members	23
Report of the Budget and Finance Committee	23
Revisions to 2016 and 2017 synod mission support plans	23
2017 revised income estimates and spending authorizations	25
ELCA Post-Retirement Medical Plan and ELCA Supplemental Retirement Plan	26
ELCA Foundation governance and structure	27
Update on <i>Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA</i>	28
Update from the Mission Advancement unit	29
Report of the Planning and Evaluation Committee	29
Report of the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee	29
Revised bylaws of The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg	29
Personal reflection on faith	30

Plenary Session IV	31
<i>Lectio Divina</i>	31
Called Forward Together in Christ: Future Directions Conversation	31
Plenary Session V	32
Called Forward Together in Christ: Future Directions Conversation	32
Process observation	32
Plenary Session VI	33
Report of the Executive Committee (cont.)	33
Called Forward Together in Christ: Future Directions Statement	33
Report of the Program and Services Committee	35
Report of the executive for administration	35
Rostered Ministers Gathering	35
Update from the Domestic Mission unit	35
Plenary Session VII	37
Ecumenical greeting	37
Report of the Conference of Bishops	37
Report of the Executive Committee (cont.)	37
Amendments to committee charters	37
New business	38
Resolution on Standing Rock	38
Executive session	40
Consideration of items removed from <i>en bloc</i>	41
<i>En bloc</i> approval of certain items	41
Report of the Board Development Committee	82
Personal reflection on faith	82
Debrief of the 2016 Churchwide Assembly	82
Process observation	82
Evaluation and debriefing	82
Adjournment	83
List of Actions	85
Topical Index	87

**EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
CHURCH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES
November 10-13, 2016
Chicago, Illinois**

The eighty-eighth 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 on Thursday, Nov. 10, 2016, followed at 1:30 p.m. by worship with Holy Communion in the Chapel of the Lutheran Center. The Rev. William E. Flippin Jr., presided; the Rev. Elizabeth E. Ekdale, preached. Ms. Christine P. Connell served as assisting minister, and Mr. Steven Nishibayashi was lector. Mr. John E. Weit, program director for music, served as musician.

ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING

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

Voting members

Officers:

Pr. Elizabeth A. Eaton, presiding bishop
Mr. William B. Horne II, vice president
Pr. Wm Chris Boerger, secretary
Pr. Linda O. Norman, treasurer

Chair of the Conference of Bishops:

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

Church Council:

Mr. Paul G. Archer	Pr. Karin I. Liebster
Mr. Hans E. Becklin	Mr. John W. Lohrmann
Mr. Allan J. Bieber	Pr. Loren D. Mellum
Ms. Amanda E. Briggs	Ms. Andrea Micovsky
Ms. Cheryl T. Chatman	Mr. Joseph T. Nolte
Mr. Reid A. Christopherson (<i>excused</i>)	Pr. Linda Nou
Ms. Christine P. Connell	Mr. Gary A. Pederson
Pr. Elizabeth E. Ekdale	Mr. John M. Pederson
Ms. Marjorie B. Ellis	Ms. Meri Jo Petrivelli
Pr. William E. Flippin Jr.	Ms. Pamela E. Pritt
Pr. Dena M. Gable	Mr. Clarence M. Smith
Mr. Gary D. Gabrielson	Mr. Ervin F. Sparapani (<i>excused</i>)
Pr. Vicki T. Garber	Pr. Jonathan Splichal Larson
Pr. Joyce M. Graue	Ms. Ingrid S. Stafford
Ms. Cynthia M. Gustavson	Ms. Leslie J. Swenson
Pr. Stephen R. Herr	Pr. Lorie B. Tatum
Pr. Chad M. Huebner	Pr. James H. Utt
Ms. Maren Hulden (<i>excused</i>)	Mr. Vernon K. Veal
Mr. James M. Hushagen	Pr. William O. Voss
Mr. James J.F. Jennings	Ms. Emma K. Wagner (<i>excused</i>)
Ms. Carolyn D. Jewett	Pr. Michael R. Ward
Pr. Peder J. Johanson	Mr. Seth M. Zimmann
Ms. Emilee M. Le Blanc	

Representatives of the Conference of Bishops

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

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

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 Domestic Mission unit
Ms. Victoria E. Flood, director for mission support
Ms. Jocelyn Fuller, director for strategic communications
Pr. Ronald T. Glusenkamp, director for *Always Being Made New: 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
Ms. Evelyn B. Soto, director for operations and programs of the Domestic Mission unit
Pr. Albert Starr Jr., director for ethnic specific and multicultural ministries
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 (*excused*)
Mr. Doug Haugen, executive director, Lutheran Men in Mission
Ms. Beth A. Lewis, president, 1517 Media
Ms. Eva M. Roby, president, Mission Investment Fund (*excused*)
Pr. Jeffrey D. Thiemann, president, Portico Benefit Services

Press:

Ms. Candice Hill Buchbinder, Mission Advancement

Ethnic Association Guests:

Ms. Tracey A. Beasley, representative, African Descent Lutheran Association
Pr. Joan A. Conroy, president, American Indian Alaskan Native Lutheran Association
Pr. Khader S. Khalilia, vice president, Association of Lutherans of Arab and Middle Eastern Heritage
Pr. Martín López Vega, president, Asociación Luterana de Ministerios Latinos
Pr. Russell L. Meyer, president, European Descent Lutheran Association for Racial Justice
Pr. Maria G. Sijera-Grant, president, Asian and Pacific Islander Association

Ecumenical Guests:

Pr. Scott D. Anderson, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Pr. Amy Valdez Barker, United Methodist Church
Pr. Elizabeth D. "Betsy" Miller, Moravian Church in America
Mr. Steven Nishibayashi, The Episcopal Church
Pr. Steven D. Pierce, The Reformed Church in America (*excused*)

Thursday, November 10, 2016
Plenary Session I

CALL TO ORDER AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

(Agenda I.A.)

Background:

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

Church Council action:

Mr. William B. Horne II, vice president of the ELCA and chair of the Church Council, called the meeting to order at 3:29 p.m. and welcomed all participants. He indicated those council members and liaison bishops who were excused from this meeting. He introduced the Rev. Karin I. Liebster and Ms. Emilee M. Le Blanc, who had been nominated to fill vacancies on the Church Council. The chair invited guests to identify themselves and asked council members and liaison bishops present to introduce themselves. He drew attention to the meeting resource materials and the deadlines for proposing new business and for removing items from *en bloc* consideration. He reviewed the proposed agenda.

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

Moved;

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

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

VOTED:

CC16.11.26 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 Horne declared the agenda was adopted.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

(Agenda I.B.)

Background:

The minutes of the April 7-10, 2016, and Aug. 7, 2016, meetings of the Church Council were provided 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 on April 7, May 17, June 7, Aug. 7, Sept. 21, and Oct. 6, all in 2016, were provided electronically to Church 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 William B. Horne II drew the attention of the council to the next item on the agenda.

Secretary Wm Chris Boerger made the following motion.

Moved;

Seconded: To approve the minutes of April 7-10, 2016, and August 7, 2016, meetings of the Church Council; and
To ratify actions of the council's Executive Committee as indicated in the minutes of the April 7, 2016, May 17, 2016, June 7, 2016, August 7, 2016, September 21, 2016, and October 6, 2016, meetings.

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

VOTED:

**CC16.11.27 To approve the minutes of April 7-10, 2016, and August 7, 2016, meetings of the Church Council; and
To ratify actions of the council's Executive Committee as indicated in the minutes of the April 7, 2016, May 17, 2016, June 7, 2016, August 7, 2016, September 21, 2016, and October 6, 2016, meetings.**

Vice President Horne declared the motion was adopted.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDING BISHOP

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

Vice President William B. Horne II asked the Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, presiding bishop of the ELCA, for her report.

Presiding Bishop Eaton said: "Welcome to all our new council members, to visitors, and welcome again to our ecumenical partners. You find it scintillating, I am sure, to sit through some other denomination's executive meetings, but thank you for being here. I am glad that you are.

"This is not going to be a 'state of the church' report. It is just some reflections. The first is that I am on the other side of my first Churchwide Assembly as presiding bishop. Everyone did a great job. I came to realize, even in the lead up — you went to the Office of the Secretary and all the boxes of stuff or you went down to the chapel and everything being packed up — the scope and the scale of preparation that is necessary. What goes on at a churchwide assembly, I thought, would be just like a synod assembly but a little bigger. I was pretty amazed. We had two semi [trailers] loaded with stuff to go to New Orleans. We actually had a blessing of the semi and the drivers. The drivers were so dear. They took it very seriously, and they were very glad to have that prayer before they set off. Your secretary did that. I think it was a great assembly. There was great energy. The Grace Gathering was a hit, judging from the evaluations that we received so far. It was pretty remarkable.

"Before the assembly was over I thought that I would feel really relieved once it was done, but then I ran into what I used to call when I served in the parish the 'wait until after Easter' syndrome. That is where, [in response to] all of the things you have to do during Lent, you say, 'I will get to that after Easter.' Well, it is after Easter now. We are seeing the good work that was generated, but also the amount of work that was generated for your churchwide staff and for synods. Your secretary kept an inventory of the memorials that were passed. Your churchwide staff has been busy making reports on what would need to happen or recommendations on how to implement the memorials and resolutions that we came up with. It became very clear to me that we cannot do all this work. We cannot do it all at once. So, one of the things we will be asking of you is how can we prioritize the work that came from the Churchwide Assembly and what would you see as priorities to help us and our units and offices to get this done. Synod bishops are having the same conversation, because the amount of work that was assigned to the synods is pretty remarkable.

"As an aside, I am wondering, when we hear people saying this church cannot do everything all the time everywhere but we still have 103 resolutions to consider that deal with everything all the time everywhere, I am not sure what that means. Maybe we might get to some point where we do not spend a lot of time on memorials, voting things up and down.

“It is pretty amazing to prepare for the logistics of close to 2,000 people in New Orleans. (You did not know this, but I used to ride around in the back of this huge, mile-long convention center. The World Wrestling Federation was having its convention. Their truck was two halls down from ours. That would have been an interesting synergy we would have.) It is a lot; your staff has worked for years to get an assembly going. And I know that bishops work with their people to have them prepared and that you, as Church Council members, have to do a lot of work in preparation. So, thanks to all of you for the incredible volume of work that was also done with great care and sensitivity. Thanks to the staff; thanks to the synod bishops; thanks to the Church Council; and thanks to our members.

“Here are some more reflections about what we do together. One is a constellation of initiatives that I think sort of form around the Called Forward Together in Christ process. We will be spending some significant time on that now because we are coming to the end of phase two. There will be more phases beyond this, but we had the conversations across this church. We talked about this at the Churchwide Assembly, at synod assemblies and at the Grace Gathering. We have collated those and synthesized those. The Future Directions Table — of which Allan Bieber, Vicki Garber and Stephen Herr are members, representing this body — has done some stellar work. A draft future directions paper has been made available. That has been revised, and we have another draft that we will be taking a look at over this weekend. The hope is — knowing how gifted our consultant Lyla Rogan is — that we will actually have a document by the time we are ready to go. We will tell you more about that process. Lyla will help, along with Stephen, Vicki, Allan and me. Around that, we have already seen that leadership and faith formation seem to be two major priorities that have been identified everywhere across this church. Though we have not said ‘yes,’ as this body, ‘we are going forward with that,’ I think we will.

“We also have at the same time the Theological Education Advisory Council’s (TEAC) work, which has to do with theological education for all people including the seminaries, and now we have a Theological Education Advisory Committee that has been working on how to implement the things that have come out of the TEAC study in the beginning. Those of you who have been on council know and have heard some of those recommendations; those of you who are new, we will be walking through that. The advisory committee is a committee of the Church Council and will bring that. Taking a look at that, they are already working on some of those things that lead to more effective development of leadership, recruitment, support and development of leadership, as well as faith formation. It is not that these things are in competition with each other. The TEAC process started before the Called Forward Together in Christ process, but this shows to me, at least, that the good news is that this church has identified these priorities, and, when we start as a council deciding how we are going to sharpen and focus how we will go forward, we do not need to start from scratch on every single thing. We already are doing that work, it is just that now we are intentional that these are going to be supporting the priorities that we as the ELCA have developed. That is really good news to me that we are really far down the road with some really important things that are coming from the advisory committee of your Church Council.

“Another reflection — last year at this time the council passed a motion directing me to develop a comprehensive racial justice strategy for the ELCA. Also, at the Churchwide Assembly, we had a strategy toward authentic diversity within the ELCA as a resolution that came, in part, from the African Descent Lutheran Association. Our representative from ADLA can maybe tell you a little bit more about that. That was also urging us to work on this. We also have here in our building Judith Roberts who is your director for racial justice in the ELCA, as well as Pastor Albert Starr who is the director for multicultural ministries. What we have here is a bunch of stuff, not in a coordinated gathered up kind of way, about an issue that is extremely important. The Administrative Team took a look at the resolution for a strategy toward authentic diversity within the ELCA, and we are not putting it aside, but what we want to do is really take an assessment of how we are already doing things that are called for in that [resolution] and coordinate this [work]. We have had three webcasts dealing primarily with racial justice or inclusion in our congregations. Judith Roberts and Pastor Starr are part of the PPPG [Public Policy and Procedures Group] which helps me make decisions about what to sign on to or to speak about on behalf of this church. We have this from the African Descent Lutheran Association. Two weekends ago the decolonized Lutheranism people were in town. This is an interesting group of mostly younger Lutherans from all ethnicities who are very enthusiastic about seeing how in fact being Lutheran is not solely identified with a particular ethnic group — in this country mostly with Scandinavians and Germans. What binds us together as Lutherans and what is our Lutheran witness apart from our ethnicity? I like the Old Lutheran stuff that they have, Garrison Kiellor and all

those sorts of things, but how is that an impediment for us to tell the Jesus story in the particular way that Lutherans do in our witness when we are trying to engage a country that is becoming more and more diverse? They are wonderful people; I had a chance to meet with them by conference call. They have all of the enthusiasm and passion of the young. They get a little ‘in your face’ sometimes, but it is good work. That is one component. We are going to be looking at this, and we will have a report in April about the resolutions. We are not putting that to bed or shoving it aside.

“As we are looking at issues of racial injustice or the lack of justice in this country, there has also arisen concern about the Dakota Access Pipeline and the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe. I had a chance to be there, and Pastor [Jonathan] Splichal Larson and Bishop [Kirby] Unti were there. We had several other bishops and clergy folks there to take a look at the situation. The main camp, I would say, in Standing Rock, was an amazing place of prayer and peacefulness. They had established camp, which you have heard already was cleaned out by the National Guard and police closer to where the actual pipeline private property is. Those folks were a little more radical, but we spent our time there praying to the attention of the pipeline surveillance helicopter. It is kind of nice to know that Lutherans at prayer are an actual threat. I also had a chance to talk with the attorney general of North Dakota as well as the man who is Sioux and is the Native American liaison for the governor. We also spoke with law enforcement, when we were there, and had a chance to go to the tribal headquarter offices and speak with the man there who is the protector and curator of the culture. So, it was a really full day. We also had a chance to speak with both Bishop [Mark] Narum and Bishop [Terry] Brandt, bishops of [the] North Dakota [synods], and had some conversation with other bishops. When we are trying to make a statement about the Standing Rock situation, we are not of one mind in this church. It is very clear. It seemed to me when we were there, and I remember praying this, here we have two people trying to share the same land. In some ways it is a lot like the Israeli-Palestinian situation, where you have absolutely different narratives of what is happening. Some of that might also be cultural. When I and all of us had the chance to speak with Native American folks, it seems that it is one people trying to live in two worlds. When we went to their headquarters, they have this one room devoted to all of the veterans who have served past and present in the United States military. They are incredibly proud of that. On the other hand, they are not really seen as being Americans. We took a look at that. I have decided, with advice from colleagues here, that I need to make a statement. I took a look at the memorial we passed on the repudiation of the doctrine of discovery, noting that this is incredibly difficult and all of us got here by using fossil fuel, nevertheless that memorial calls for us to stand with native peoples. A statement will be coming out saying that we need to support them with prayer and with other ways we can. The ‘justice is not just us’ ready bench [of the Conference of Bishops] is also working on that. With this election, we really need to take a breath, step back and see how it will play out. But there is no doubt that race is a huge issue in this country. Things are pretty raw right now. Winter is coming for the folks in Standing Rock, and it is going to get awfully cold. How do we see each other as brothers and sisters, much less as citizens of the same country. What is our role as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in cooperation with our full communion partners and others to walk this line of speaking for the most vulnerable or those who do not always have a voice while at the same time not disregarding the pain this will cause some of our bishops in the Dakotas?

“On a happier note — another reflection — when I grew up, Reformation Sunday was like the greatest day on Earth, except for maybe Christmas or Halloween. On Reformation Sunday we spent time talking about how we were not Roman Catholics. Did you have that experience when you were kids? Even though half of my family is Roman Catholic, they were never allowed to come into our church. Apart from these rather flip comments, half of Central Europe’s population was wiped out during the Thirty Years War, which was economic and political but was also based on the division of the church between the Protestants and the Roman Catholics. Then, two weekends ago, I had a wonderful opportunity along with Christina Jackson-Skelton and Kathryn Johnson. We were in the Lund Cathedral in Lund, Sweden, whose archbishop happens to be a woman, to have this wonderful experience of Lutherans and Roman Catholics coming together and recognizing first of all what unites us rather than what divides us, repenting of the ways we have characterized each other and demonized each other, and then committing ourselves to work together as we move toward the day when we might all in fact become full communion partners. We are not there yet; the pope made no promises that way. We are still working toward it too, but it was an amazing experience. I invite you to talk with Kathryn and Christina about their experiences. It was wonderful. I have always lived with this sort of division between me and the Catholics because we are not like them; all of that disappeared. That was such a wonderful experience. Then after the worship service, we went to Malmö and an arena there in Malmö. There we pledged cooperation with Caritas, which is

the Vatican's version of our LWF Department for World Service, that when we do diaconal work, relief work, we are going to be intentional about working with each other and maybe double or at least increase the capacity that we have to be in service to people who really do not care if it is Lutheran rice or Catholic rice. That was a wonderful celebration. While we were there we had presentations by four people who either were talking about the need to keep working for climate justice or about what it meant to be a refugee. One of the presenters was a young woman who was the flag bearer for the Olympic team from the refugee community. Another woman, years and years ago, had been displaced and ended up in a refugee camp. She was from sub-Saharan Africa. She was there for 10 years, and she decided that what she needed to do in a refugee camp is start a school for the children. So, she started a school and these kids went through this. She can point to her graduates who are doctors and engineers serving in their countries again. Then she finally got to go home, and she was home for not very long and another crisis and violence erupted. She is once again in a refugee camp. She says, 'What do you do? When you are crazy in love with Jesus, you start a school.' So, she started a school again. It is amazing to see that resilience and the work we can do.

"Here is really good news. I have an announcement to make. Related to the Theological Education Advisory Committee's work, to the campaign and to a couple of the priorities from Called Forward Together in Christ, we have been working diligently to see how we can support, at this point particularly, rostered leadership development. Christina Jackson-Skelton, Ron Gluskamp and I met with an anonymous donor and, in total now, he has given us \$3 million to raise up leaders. The point of this is that 60 additional students, apart from the ones who will be receiving Fund for Leaders scholarships — already established scholarships — 60 students will receive full seminary tuition for the next three years. [Applause.] There is more to it than that. This man is a churchman in the best sense, a lay person, active in his congregation, and he is critically concerned about the next generation hearing the good news of Jesus Christ or the one [generation] after that, and raising up leaders. He sees that as important. So, as part of this work, we are starting what is tentatively titled (the donor's idea) Bishop Eaton's Leadership Initiative where we are going to be working through our media outlets with congregations, pastors, synods, colleges and universities, and our networks to find, identify and support people who will go into rostered ministry — pastors or deacons. I want you to be looking for this; it will be showing up on the webpage. The roll out will be at the end of January or beginning of February. It is really a comprehensive program. We are going to develop YouTube spots. We are going to do peer-to-peer [outreach], so people who are already in seminary can say to their friends 'You ought to try this' and work with our colleges and universities, which are proud to say, 'How do we help these folks or identify people?' Mostly we really need to work with — I let the lay roster off the hook because they seem to do better at this — pastors. Why are we not about finding folks that we know in our congregations who would have the wonderful opportunity and honor to serve the Lord this way? A lot of people kind of whine about how horrible the job is. It is hard, but it is also a great honor and joy. So, how do we instill that in our people — the joy of the gospel and serving? We really need our congregations being the ones doing that. We are also very cognizant that many — not a majority, but many — of our seminarians have come later to the faith. So, how are we working in campus ministries and other ways as these people are coming to faith. (Two of your bishops, one was baptized when he was in college. I was that there; that was Guy Erwin. I think Jim Hazelwood also came in college.) We will now have a focused, coordinated, ongoing effort to raise up leaders in this church, and we will need all of you to be on board with that."

In response to questions and comments, the presiding bishop further discussed her experiences regarding the situation at Standing Rock in North Dakota.

Vice President Horne thanked Presiding Bishop Eaton for her report.

ECUMENICAL GREETING

(Agenda I.D.)

Vice President William B. Horne II invited the Rev. Elizabeth D. "Betsy" Miller of the Moravian Church in America to bring a greeting to the Church Council and a report from her church body. Pr. Miller is president of the Provincial Elders' Conference of the Moravian Church Northern Province.

REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

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

Vice President William B. Horne II relinquished the chair to Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton, who called on Mr. Horne for the report of the vice president.

Vice President Horne related some of his experiences since being elected vice president of the ELCA by the 2016 Churchwide Assembly. He read and reflected on Psalm 121. He spoke of his respect for the bishops of this church and noted his report to the Conference of Bishops meeting in October 2016, which Mr. James M. Hushagen and Ms. Meri Jo Petrivelli also attended on behalf of the Church Council. The vice president shared elements of his leadership style and his vision for meetings of the council, as well as his personal goals for the ELCA.

Presiding Bishop Eaton thanked the vice president for his report and returned the chair to Vice President Horne.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

(Agenda I.F.)

Vice President William B. Horne II drew the attention of the Church Council to agenda items provided by the Executive Committee.

ELECTIONS OF CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

(Agenda I.F.1.; *Reference:* Biographies)

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.

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 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. Ms. Le Blanc was contacted as to her willingness to serve, and she is available to serve if elected.

Church Council action:

Vice President William B. Horne II introduced the background information regarding vacancies on the Church Council.

Secretary Wm Chris Boerger made the following motion.

Moved;

Seconded: 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.

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

VOTED:

CC16.11.28 **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.

Vice President Horne declared the motion was adopted. He invited Ms. Le Blanc and Pr. Liebster to stand.

RATIFICATION OF APPOINTMENTS TO CHURCH COUNCIL COMMITTEES

(Agenda I.F.2.; Reference: 2016-2019 Church Council Committee List)

Background:

In preparation for the August 2016 meeting of the Church Council, continuing members of the council were invited to indicate their preferences for service on one of the four standing committees — Budget and Finance, Legal and Constitutional Review, Planning and Evaluation, and Program and Services — plus the Board Development Committee. At its August 2016 meeting, the Church Council ratified [CC16.08.25a] the provisional membership for the four standing committees. Following the elections at the Churchwide Assembly, newly elected council members indicated their committee preferences.

At its September 2016 meeting, the Executive Committee discussed the composition of the Church Council's standing committees, the committee preferences of council members elected by the 2016 Churchwide Assembly and the possible appointments of Church Council members to committees.

In October 2016, the Executive Committee completed its review of the requests and voted [EC16.10.29] to recommend that the Church Council ratify the committees assignments and other advisory responsibilities for the 2016-2019 triennium.

During the first plenary session of its November 2016 meeting, the Executive Committee appointed the Rev. James H. Utt and Ms. Emma K. Wagner to a two-year, renewable term and Mr. Paul G. Archer and the Rev. Stephen R. Herr to a one-year term ending August 31, 2017, on the Board Development Committee. The Executive Committee was to make another appointment to a two-year, renewable term during a second plenary session on Sunday, Nov. 13, 2016.

Church Council action:

Vice President William B. Horne II called on Secretary Wm Chris Boerger, who made the following motion.

Moved;

Seconded: **To ratify the appointments to the Church Council committees and other advisory responsibilities for the 2016–2019 triennium as detailed in the “2016-2019 Church Council Committee List.”**

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

VOTED:

CC16.11.29 **To ratify the appointments to the Church Council committees and other advisory responsibilities for the 2016–2019 triennium as detailed in the “2016-2019 Church Council Committee List.”**

Vice President Horne declared the motion was adopted.

PROCESS FOR ELECTION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

(Agenda I.F.3.)

Background:

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

The meeting agenda outlined the process for the election of Executive Committee members as follows:

- a. The remaining three members of the Executive Committee will be selected through the following process.
- b. The first ballot shall be a nominating ballot for each of the following identified categories:
 - 1) Lay Female (two positions). Vote for no more than two eligible nominees.
 - 2) Lay Male (one position). Vote for only one eligible nominee.
- c. Anyone wishing to withdraw may do so immediately after the announcement of the first ballot results and before the casting of the second ballot.
- d. The second ballot for lay females shall be limited to the three people (plus ties) receiving the greatest number of nominations. The two candidates receiving the highest number of votes cast for the lay females shall be elected.
- e. The second ballot for lay male shall be limited to the two people (plus ties) receiving the greatest number of nominations. The one candidate receiving the highest number of votes cast for the lay males shall be elected.
- f. Upon completion of the balloting, the Executive Committee (four officers, chair of Conference of Bishops and seven at-large members) shall be deemed constituted.

Church Council action:

Vice President William B. Horne II asked the Church Council to affirm the recommended process to elect Executive Committee members.

Secretary Wm Chris Boerger made the following motion.

Moved;

Seconded: To affirm the process for the election of the Executive Committee for the 2016-2019 triennium.

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

VOTED:

CC16.11.30 To affirm the process for the election of the Executive Committee for the 2016-2019 triennium.

Vice President Horne declared the motion was adopted.

FIRST BALLOT FOR THE ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Vice President William B. Horne II asked Mr. Thomas A. Cunniff, associate general counsel, and Mr. Phillip H. Harris, general counsel, to serve as tellers in the election of Executive Committee members.

The tellers distributed the first ballot among members of the Church Council, and the chair invited Mr. Paul G. Archer to lead the participants in prayer.

After all the ballots had been completed and collected, Vice President Horne declared that the first ballot was closed.

SYNOD VISITS BY CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

(Agenda I.F.4.; *Reference*: Synod Contacts 2016-2017 *and* Synod Visit Reports)

Background:

Since its November 2005 meeting, the Church Council has committed itself to building relationships between the churchwide organization and 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:

Vice President William B. Horne II asked Church Council members to review the assignments of council members for synod contacts and note any changes. A final assignment list would be distributed later.

Secretary Wm Chris Boerger made the following motion.

Moved;

Seconded:

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 synod councils and synod 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.

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

VOTED:

CC16.11.31

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 synod councils and synod 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.

Vice President Horne declared the motion was adopted.

BREAK

The November 2016 meeting of the Church Council recessed at 5:00 p.m. and reconvened at 5:07 p.m.

INTRODUCTION TO CALLED FORWARD TOGETHER IN CHRIST: FUTURE DIRECTIONS CONVERSATION

(Agenda I.G.; *Reference*: Called Forward Together in Christ Council Actions, Called Forward Together in Christ Final Directions Paper, Called Forward Together in Christ Presentation, Called Forward Together in Christ Strategic Directions Draft 1, Called Forward Together in Christ Strategic Directions Draft 2, Called Forward Together in Christ Strategic Directions Revised *and* Called Forward Together in Christ Summary of Online Responses)

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.

In the Future Directions Statement, the proposed priorities for the ELCA fell into three categories:

1. The church we are becoming;
2. Our most important ministries; and
3. A relational, connected and sustainable church.

Church Council discussion:

Vice President William B. Horne II called on Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton who presented background information on the Called Forward Together in Christ process. She introduced Ms. Lyla Rogan, who served as consultant for the process.

Church Council members Mr. Allan J. Bieber, the Rev. Vicki T. Garber and the Rev. Stephen R. Herr shared experiences, lessons learned and possible outcomes from their participation on the Future Directions Table.

Ms. Rogan outlined the processes planned for the council to develop and approve a strategy during this meeting and to begin considering how to implement the strategy. She secured volunteers to serve in two groups, one to help draft the strategy from the council's feedback and another to research and recommend biblical references for the strategy. She reviewed the purpose and goals of the Called Forward Together in Christ process. She described the draft strategy developed by the Future Directions Table and asked participants to discuss the following three questions in small groups.

- How well does the draft strategy reflect what we understand this church holds to be important?
- Where has the Future Directions Table got it broadly right?
- Flag the issues or questions that would benefit from council discussion on Saturday.

In plenary session, participants said the draft strategy: affirmed things this church was already doing, stressed the need to equip leaders, must do more than "call out discrimination," began to set priorities and captured what was heard in conversations across this church. There was a request for a rationale for the strategy based on current circumstances and a clearer idea of what this church might no longer do.

As issues and questions for further Church Council discussion, participants identified: the audience for the strategy, what needs to change with this church, ecumenical strategies, ministry with children, defining "church" and "Lutheran," and overarching goals that try to do everything.

Ms. Rogan talked about developing and adopting long-term goals and action priorities while responding to immediate variables with flexibility. She summarized plans for further discussion later in the meeting.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Vice President William B. Horne II called on Mr. Paul G. Archer, who asked specific individuals for ways in which others may pray for them.

RESULTS OF THE FIRST BALLOT FOR THE ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

(*Reference:* Election Results for Executive Committee First Ballot)

Vice President William B. Horne II presented the results of the first ballot for the election of Executive Committee members.

<u>Lay Female</u>		<u>Lay Male</u>	
Ms. Maren Hulden	17	Mr. Clarence M. Smith	14
Ms. Marjorie B. Ellis	14	Mr. John W. Lohrmann	7
Ms. Ingrid S. Stafford	10	Mr. Hans E. Becklin	4
Ms. Cynthia M. Gustavson	9	Mr. Allan J. Bieber	4
Ms. Meri Jo Petrivelli	9	Mr. Gary A. Pederson	2
Ms. Amanda E. Briggs	5	Mr. Seth M. Zimmann	2
Ms. Cheryl T. Chatman	4	Mr. Reid A. Christopherson	1
Ms. Emma K. Wagner	4	Mr. Gary D. Gabrielson	1
Ms. Carolyn D. Jewett	3	Mr. James M. Hushagen	1
Ms. Emilee M. Le Blanc	2	Mr. James J.F. Jennings	1
Ms. Pamela E. Pritt	2		
Ms. Andrea Micovsky	1		
Ms. Leslie J. Swenson	1		

Vice President Horne noted that the next day at 3:00 p.m. was the deadline for nominees to withdraw from having their names included on the second ballot.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Vice President William B. Horne II asked Secretary Wm Chris Boerger for any announcements.

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

HYMN AND PRAYER

(Agenda I.H.)

At the invitation of the chair, the Rev. Linda Nou led the meeting participants in prayer and in singing a hymn. Mr. Clarence M. Smith provided musical accompaniment.

RECESS

The November 2016 meeting of the Church Council recessed for Thursday, Nov. 10, 2016, at 6:39 p.m.

**Friday, November 11, 2016
Plenary Session II**

Members of the Church Council gathered in meetings of the council's Budget and Finance, Legal and Constitutional Review, Planning and Evaluation and Program and Services committees beginning at approximately 9:00 a.m. in the Lutheran Center. The meetings recessed at 11:45 a.m. for a Midday Prayer Service that began at 12:00 p.m. in the Chapel of the Lutheran Center led by the Rev. Maria G. Sijera-Grant, president of the Asian and Pacific Islander Association. Committee meetings resumed at approximately 1:30 p.m. and adjourned at approximately 3:15 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Vice President William B. Horne II called the second plenary session to order at 3:45 p.m. in the Council Room of the Lutheran Center.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

(Agenda II.A.)

The November 2016 meeting of the Church Council went immediately into executive session to receive a legal briefing from Mr. Phillip H. Harris, general counsel. Minutes for meetings held in executive session are added to the protocol file in the Office of the Secretary.

The Church Council returned to open session at 4:09 p.m.

SECOND BALLOT FOR THE ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Vice President William B. Horne II asked that the second ballot for the election of Executive Committee members be distributed with the names of all nominees except those who had withdrawn their names from consideration.

Lay Female

Ms. Maren Hulden
Ms. Marjorie B. Ellis
Ms. Ingrid S. Stafford
Ms. Cynthia M. Gustavson
Ms. Cheryl T. Chatman
Ms. Emma K. Wagner
Ms. Carolyn D. Jewett
Ms. Emilee M. Le Blanc
Ms. Andrea Micovsky

Lay Male

Mr. Clarence M. Smith
Mr. Hans E. Becklin
Mr. Allan J. Bieber
Mr. Gary A. Pederson
Mr. Seth M. Zimmann
Mr. Reid A. Christopherson
Mr. James M. Hushagen
Mr. James J.F. Jennings

Once the ballots were distributed, the chair invited Mr. Hans E. Becklin to lead the participants in prayer. After council members voted and ballots were collected, Vice President Horne declared the second ballot closed.

PERSONAL REFLECTION ON FAITH

(Agenda II.B.)

At the invitation of the chair, the Rev. William O. Voss shared a personal faith reflection.

Pr. Voss related an experience as a hospital administrator in Cameroon and a lesson he learned about the importance of the forgiveness of sins.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

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

Vice President William B. Horne II called on Secretary Wm Chris Boerger for a report.

Secretary Boerger told the Church Council about the work of the Office of the Secretary before, during and after the 2016 Churchwide Assembly. He noted that the assembly received 111 memorials from synods and that the actions of the assembly assigned work to synods and the churchwide organization. He asked the council for help prioritizing that work. He described work that had begun to address a request from the Churchwide Assembly that the Church Council study issues of gender identity, specifically how to include transgender people in the “representational principles” of this church. He analyzed the process used to identify individuals in advance of the election of a vice president by the 2016 Churchwide Assembly and asked the council for feedback before a similar process is developed for the election of the secretary by the 2019 Churchwide Assembly. The assembly adopted continuing resolution 5.01.B16. that directed synods to submit annual reports to the Church Council on their goals and strategies to reach out to persons of color or whose primary language is other than English. He asked the council to consider what it will do with those reports.

The secretary noted statistics gathered from parochial reports that, since 1988, this church has lost 31 percent of its baptized membership and that, in the past two years, this church started as many new congregations as had disaffiliated from this church. Congregations reported \$1.8 billion in unrestricted giving in 2015, and the secretary discussed stewardship as well as the polity regarding how this church’s interdependent expressions affects how that money is to be used. He described plans to make presentations about the polity of this church to rostered ministers. He demonstrated the significance of parochial reports in the planning of this church’s participation in God’s mission, and he encouraged all congregations to submit them annually.

Secretary Boerger responded to questions about synod statisticians and how statistics are computed when congregations do not file parochial reports.

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

REPORT OF THE THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

(Agenda II.D.; *Reference:* Report of the Advisory Committee, TEAC Church Council Actions April 2016, TEAC Implementing Strategies for Recommendations, TEAC Report and Recommendations, TEAC Working Group Letter and Theological Education Advisory Committee Motions)

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 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 implementing strategies to operationalize the overarching recommendations presented by 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.

The Executive Committee appointed members to the advisory committee at its May 17, 2016, June 7, 2016, and Aug. 7, 2016, meetings. The advisory committee had met twice.

Church Council action:

Vice President William B. Horne II noted that Church Council members, Ms. Christine P. Connell and Mr. John W. Lohrmann, serve on the Theological Education Advisory Committee of the council. The chair asked Mr. Lohrmann to present the committee's report.

Mr. Lohrmann summarized the ELCA's history regarding theological education and the committee's background information. He outlined the Theological Education Advisory Council recommendations, of which the advisory committee is to oversee implementation. He reported on some of the topics the advisory committee had already addressed and issues still being dealt with. He related reports provided by ELCA seminaries and work groups of the committee.

Mr. Lohrmann made the following motion on behalf of the advisory committee.

Moved;

Seconded: 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.

Mr. Lohrmann described the assessment tool being developed.
There being no further discussion, the chair called for the vote.

VOTED:

CC16.11.32 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.

Vice President Horne declared the motion was adopted.

Mr. Lohrmann cited the Theological Education Advisory Council recommendation "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." To implement that recommendation, the Church Council asked the advisory committee to bring to the fall 2016 meeting of the Church Council "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." He reported, "ELCA seminaries are assessing and adjusting their fiscal situations and seeking to collaborate on joint initiatives that would create a more sustainable overall system."

Mr. Lohrmann made the following motion on behalf of the advisory committee.

Moved;

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

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

VOTED:

CC16.11.33 To encourage synods and direct the churchwide organization to maintain financial support for seminaries for 2017 without a percentage reduction for special incentives.

Vice President Horne declared the motion was adopted.

Mr. Lohrmann added that the seminaries were working toward financial stability and certainty, noting that an early report suggested that solutions would not be found in “business as usual.”

PANEL CONVERSATION WITH ETHNIC-SPECIFIC MINISTRY ASSOCIATION PRESIDENTS AND REPRESENTATIVE (Agenda II.E.)

Background:

The 2016 Churchwide Assembly referred [CA16.05.25] to the Church Council “Motion B: Resolution for a Strategy Toward Authentic Diversity within the ELCA:”

RESOLVED, the Churchwide Assembly direct the ELCA Church Council to form a task force for the purpose of developing a comprehensive set of strategies to equip congregations and synods to work towards becoming a more authentically diverse church. The work of the Task Force shall include but is not limited to:

- consulting with Women of the ELCA, the ethnic specific ministry associations, the multicultural and racial justice team, the Conference of Bishops and ecumenical partners
- collecting existing resources such as those available from Women of the ELCA and the ethnic specific ministry associations and beyond the ELCA
- identifying needs for additional resources
- supporting synods in identifying their specific opportunities for growth
- assessing the effectiveness of diversity strategies across the three expressions church in order to identify strategies that have yielded authentic diversity; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the task force be composed of one person from each of the nine regions and one bishop who will serve as co-chair. The composition of the task force shall conform with the representational principles in section 5.01.f. of the ELCA constitution except that persons of color and/or persons whose primary language is other than English shall comprise 100 percent of the task force, and the task force shall be ethnically diverse. The members of the task force shall be appointed by the Church Council in consultation with the ELCA director of ethnic specific and multicultural ministries; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Church Council designate funds to support the work of the task force as soon as funds become available, no later than April 2017. The work of the task force shall begin no later than August 2017 and conclude at the 2019 Churchwide Assembly; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the task force submit a report and recommendations to the 2019 Churchwide Assembly that includes:

1. a summary of the information gathered by the task force, and
2. a proposal of recommendations for metrics and supports to provide mutual accountability for our commitment to diversity across the three expressions of the church and a proposal for funding these efforts.

Church Council discussion:

Vice President William B. Horne II asked the Rev. Albert Starr Jr., director for ethnic specific, multicultural ministries and racial justice, to facilitate the Church Council’s conversation with guests from this church’s ethnic-specific ministry associations:

- Ms. Tracey A. Beasley, representing the African Descent Lutheran Association

- Pr. Joan A. Conroy, president of the American Indian Alaskan Native Lutheran Association
- Pr. Khader S. Khalilia, vice president of the Association of Lutherans of Arab and Middle Eastern Heritage
- Pr. Martín López Vega, president of the Asociación Luterana de Ministerios Latinos
- Pr. Russell L. Meyer, president of the European Descent Lutheran Association for Racial Justice
- Pr. Maria G. Sijera-Grant, president of the Asian and Pacific Islander Association

Pr. Starr invited each representative to introduce himself or herself and describe the composition and purpose of each association. The Church Council had an opportunity to view a video of a summit on ethnic-specific ministry in the ELCA. He asked each of the association representatives to make opening remarks.

Ms. Beasley cited Motion B that the 2016 Churchwide Assembly referred to the Church Council and stated that the associations were already doing much of what the resolution requested.

Pr. López presented a set of multicultural strategies already developed by the ELCA to help it become a more diverse church.

Participants discussed the urgency to address issues of racial justice, ways the ELCA could act regarding the situation at Standing Rock in North Dakota, and recognition of multiracial families and individuals.

Pr. Starr and association representatives encouraged Church Council members to engage them in conversation beyond the meeting. They spoke about Motion B, especially those elements that the ELCA and the associations were addressing, and their written report to the council.

Discussion with council members dealt with barriers to implementing the ethnic-specific ministry strategies and about the ELCA's actions regarding the situation at Standing Rock.

Vice President Horne thanked everyone for their participation in the conversation.

UPDATE FROM THE GLOBAL MISSION UNIT

(Agenda II.F.; *Reference: AMMPARO Response to Church Council and Global Mission Presentation*)

Vice President William B. Horne II called on the Rev. Rafael Malpica Padilla, executive director of the Global Mission unit, to present a unit update.

Pr. Malpica outlined the work of this church by accompaniment through the Global Mission unit, missionaries, ecumenical partners and companion churches. He focused on efforts to support the Roma community in Serbia. He talked about global migration and work to shelter and assist refugees, asylum seekers and internally displaced people. He provided an update on the ELCA's Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities (AMMPARO) initiative. He related his conversation with theologians during a recent visit to Cuba and their plans to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation in Havana.

RESULTS OF THE SECOND BALLOT FOR THE ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Vice President William B. Horne II presented the results of the second ballot for the election of Executive Committee members. He declared that there had not been an election.

<u>Lay Female</u>		<u>Lay Male</u>	
Ms. Maren Hulden	31	Mr. Clarence M. Smith	18
Ms. Marjorie B. Ellis	21	Mr. Hans E. Becklin	4
Ms. Ingrid S. Stafford	14	Mr. Allan J. Bieber	12
Ms. Cynthia M. Gustavson	12	Mr. Gary A. Pederson	1
Ms. Cheryl T. Chatman	3	Mr. Seth M. Zimmann	3
Ms. Emma K. Wagner	1	Mr. Reid A. Christopherson	2
Ms. Carolyn D. Jewett	0	Mr. James M. Hushagen	2
Ms. Emilee M. Le Blanc	2	Mr. James J.F. Jennings	0
Ms. Andrea Micovsky	3		

The chair announced that the names of Ms. Marjorie B. Ellis, Ms. Maren Hulden and Ms. Ingrid S. Stafford would appear on the third ballot, as would the names of Mr. Allan J. Bieber and Mr. Clarence M. Smith.

CHURCH COUNCIL JOYS AND CONCERNS

At the invitation of the chair, Mr. Paul G. Archer called on specific people for joys and concerns that Church Council members may include in their prayers.

PROCESS OBSERVATIONS

(Agenda II.H.)

Vice President William B. Horne II asked Ms. Marjorie B. Ellis and Mr. Paul G. Archer to present process observations.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Agenda II.I.)

Vice President William B. Horne II called on Secretary Wm Chris Boerger, who made announcements about committee evaluations, scheduled events and the deadlines for introducing new business and for removing items from *en bloc* consideration.

HYMN AND PRAYER

(Agenda II.J.)

At the invitation of the chair, Mr. Hans E. Becklin led the meeting participants in prayer and in singing a hymn. Mr. Clarence M. Smith provided musical accompaniment.

RECESS

The November 2016 meeting of the Church Council recessed at 6:49 p.m. for Friday, November 12, 2016.

**Saturday, November 12, 2016
Plenary Session III**

The Board Development Committee met at 7:00 a.m. in the Advent Conference Room of the Lutheran Center.

CALL TO ORDER

Vice President William B. Horne II called the third plenary session to order at 9:02 a.m. in the Council Room of the Lutheran Center.

THIRD BALLOT FOR THE ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Vice President William B. Horne II asked that the third ballot for the election of Executive Committee members be distributed with the names of Ms. Marjorie B. Ellis, Ms. Maren Hulden and Ms. Ingrid S. Stafford for lay female and Mr. Allan J. Bieber and Mr. Clarence M. Smith for lay male.

Once ballots were distributed, the chair invited the Rev. Vicki T. Garber to lead the participants in prayer.

After council members voted and ballots were collected, Vice President Horne declared the third ballot closed.

ECUMENICAL GREETING

(Agenda III.A.)

Vice President William B. Horne II invited Mr. Steven Nishibayashi to bring a greeting to the Church Council from The Episcopal Church.

Mr. Nishibayashi described the governance structures of The Episcopal Church, comparing them to the ELCA. He also spoke of shared ministries and the common mission of the churches.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

(Agenda III.B.; *Reference*: Report of the Treasurer *and* Report of the Treasurer Presentation)

Vice President William B. Horne II asked the Rev. Linda O. Norman, treasurer of the ELCA, to present her report.

Treasurer Norman provided financial highlights of the churchwide organization for the first eight months of the fiscal year that began Feb. 1, 2016. She said that mission support was less than prior years but as expected for the current fiscal year, and she spoke of several Church Council initiatives to study mission support. *Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA* reached 49 percent of its five-year goal of \$198 million. ELCA World Hunger, the campaign's 2016 emphasis, received more than budgeted.

The treasurer explained the various elements of the financial reports available to Church Council members. For the eight-month period, total revenue for the churchwide organization was \$41.2 million and total operating revenue and support was \$43.8 million, which was \$1.8 million higher than expenses of \$42 million and \$5.5 million more than budgeted. Mission support was \$28 million and accounted for 64 percent of the current fund revenue and support. Other revenue sources — such as endowments, investments, bequests and trusts, global mission sponsorships, and Mission Investment Fund grants — provided more than \$13 million. She explained that \$2.6 million of designated restricted funds had been released.

Treasurer Norman presented the current fund spending by churchwide unit and office, which was \$3.3 million or 7.3 percent less than authorized. Expenses by the end of the fiscal year were expected to be about \$2 million less than authorized.

The treasurer noted that the ELCA World Hunger fund began the year with a balance of more than \$4.7 million. For the eight months, it received \$10.9 million in total revenue and distributed \$10.6 million for an ending balance of almost \$5.1 million. Revenue was more than budgeted and nearly \$1 million more than received in the same period of the previous year. Lutheran Disaster Response received \$2.8 million primarily in support of the response to U.S. floods and

severe spring storms, as well as the Middle East-Europe refugee crisis and for general undesignated programs. *Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA* raised \$96.3 million in revenue and commitments to date in efforts to end on Jan. 31, 2019.

Treasurer Norman described this church's cash management policy and compared it to the actual flow and balance of funds. She demonstrated growth in the Endowment Fund Pooled Trust to \$633 million by Sept. 30, 2016. She also noted declines in recent years in charitable remainder trusts and pooled income funds as well as charitable gift annuities.

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

RESULTS OF THIRD BALLOT FOR THE ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Vice President William B. Horne II announced the elections of Ms. Marjorie B. Ellis, Ms. Maren Hulden and Mr. Allan J. Bieber on the third ballot for Executive Committee members.

VOTED:

CC16.11.34 To elect Ms. Marjorie B. Ellis, Ms. Maren Hulden and Mr. Allan J. Bieber to a term ending in 2019 on the Executive Committee of the Church Council.

Vice President Horne declared the individuals elected and thanked Mr. Clarence M. Smith for his service on the Executive Committee.

REPORT OF THE BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

(Agenda III.C.; *Reference:* Budget and Finance Committee Presentation *and En Bloc* Items)

Vice President William B. Horne II called on the Rev. Vicki T. Garber, chair of the Budget and Finance Committee, who presented the committee's report.

Pr. Garber highlighted several topics addressed during Budget and Finance Committee meetings.

REVISIONS TO 2016 AND 2017 SYNOD MISSION SUPPORT PLANS

(Agenda III.C.3.; *Reference:* 2016-2017 Synod Mission Support Plans)

Background:

ELCA provision 10.71. provides:

Each synod shall remit to the churchwide organization a percentage or amount of all donor-unrestricted receipts contributed to it by the congregations of the synod. The actual percentage or amount shall be determined through individual consultations with each synod. Consultations may recognize and include receipts other than unrestricted receipts in establishing and reporting the synod's remittance to the churchwide organization.

Church Council action:

The Rev. Vicki T. Garber, chair of the Budget and Finance Committee, reported that, since the August 2016 meeting of the Church Council, one synod submitted a revision to its 2016 mission support plan and seven synods submitted revisions to their 2017 mission support plans. She made the following motion on behalf of the Budget and Finance Committee.

Moved;

Seconded: To acknowledge with appreciation the action of the Northwestern Pennsylvania Synod to maintain the percentage of sharing of 2016 mission support contributions by congregations for synod and churchwide ministries but estimating an adjustment in the projected amount to be shared; and

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, the chair called for the vote.

VOTED:

CC16.11.37

As a grateful church that affirms the partnership of congregation, synod and churchwide expressions, we affirm the percentage of sharing of 2017 mission support by congregations for synod and churchwide ministries:

Lower Susquehanna and Nebraska 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.

Vice President Horne declared the motion was adopted.

2017 REVISED INCOME ESTIMATES AND SPENDING AUTHORIZATIONS

(Agenda III.C.1.; *Reference:* 2017 Revised Income Estimates *and* 2017 Revised Spending Authorization Proposal)

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.

Church Council action:

The Rev. Vicki T. Garber, chair of the Budget and Finance Committee, presented a revised income estimate for the 2017 churchwide current fund budget that included a \$250,000 increase in mission support projections, a \$170,000 decrease in investment income estimates, an increase of \$125,000 in anticipated bequests and trusts, a \$30,000 decrease in expected income from rent because of tenant changes at the Lutheran Center, and a decrease of about \$245,000 in "other" income to reflect projected operational costs recovery from tenants, separately incorporated ministries and self-supporting ministries. Another \$2 million of designated funds would be released in 2017 from projected underspending in 2016. ELCA World Hunger fund estimates would remain the same as previously budgeted.

Under the revised spending authorization, personnel would receive a 2 percent salary increase with appropriate benefit cost increases, new overtime laws would be observed, and staffing plans would be adjusted. The general treasury would budget another \$650,000 for depreciation expenses, the Office of the Treasurer would be budgeted another

\$225,000 for data security, and the Domestic Mission unit would reduce its budget by \$70,000 to reflect the mission pilot project. The proposed budget revisions increased a total of more than \$1.9 million.

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

Moved;

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

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

VOTED:

CC16.11.38 To approve a revised 2017 fiscal year current fund spending authorization of \$67,210,025.

Vice President Horne declared the motion was adopted.

ELCA POST-RETIREMENT MEDICAL PLAN AND ELCA SUPPLEMENTAL RETIREMENT PLAN

(Agenda III.C.2.)

Background:

Historically the ELCA Supplemental Retirement Plan has been over funded and the Post-Retirement Medical Plan has been underfunded. Staff of the churchwide organization, considering strategies to address both plans and ensure a sustainable funding model, recommended closing the ELCA Supplemental Retirement Trust, making provisions for lump sum payments to existing beneficiaries, establishing a sustainable funding source for the ELCA Federal Chaplain benefit, and investing the remaining funds into the underfunded Post-Retirement Medical Plan.

Church Council action:

The Rev. Vicki T. Garber, chair of the Budget and Finance Committee, asked Treasurer Linda O. Norman to present administrative changes being considered for the ELCA Supplemental Retirement Plan, the Post-Retirement Medical Plan and the related federal chaplain benefit.

Treasurer Norman said Portico Benefit Services administers these plans on behalf of this church. She reviewed the purposes and current obligations of the plans. The Budget and Finance Committee established an *ad hoc* working group on post-retirement medical benefits to develop a long-term sustainable funding strategy for the Post-Retirement Medical Plan. The proposal is to terminate the “pension plan,” satisfy its obligations, and use excess funds to meet future obligations of the chaplains plan and medical plan.

The Rev. Jeffrey D. Thiemann, president of Portico Benefit Services, responded to council members’ questions about tax implications for retirees receiving lump sum payments and plans to communicate these changes to the affected plan members.

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

Moved;

Seconded: To terminate the ELCA Supplemental Retirement Benefits Trust (“Trust”) and the ELCA Continuation of the ALC and LCA Minimum and Non-Contributory Pension Plan (“Pension Plan”), including satisfaction of the Pension Plan’s liabilities, and to establish a general account to reserve potential liabilities associated with the ELCA Supplemental Retirement Plan for Government Chaplains (“Chaplains Plan”); and

To transfer the excess amounts (“Residual”) remaining after full satisfaction of the Pension Plan’s liabilities and reservation of potential liabilities associated with the Chaplains Plan to help satisfy the 2016 ELCA Retiree Medical Obligation.

Church Council members discussed the residual from terminating the trust and pension plan, the projected completion date to implement the proposal and meeting the 2016 obligation.

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

VOTED:

CC16.11.39 To terminate the ELCA Supplemental Retirement Benefits Trust (“Trust”) and the ELCA Continuation of the ALC and LCA Minimum and Non-Contributory Pension Plan (“Pension Plan”), including satisfaction of the Pension Plan’s liabilities, and to establish a general account to reserve potential liabilities associated with the ELCA Supplemental Retirement Plan for Government Chaplains (“Chaplains Plan”); and To transfer the excess amounts (“Residual”) remaining after full satisfaction of the Pension Plan’s liabilities and reservation of potential liabilities associated with the Chaplains Plan to help satisfy the 2016 ELCA Retiree Medical Obligation.

Vice President Horne declared the motion was adopted.

ELCA FOUNDATION GOVERNANCE AND STRUCTURE

(Agenda III.C.4.; *Reference:* ELCA Foundation Presentation)

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.

External firms that provide legal counsel, fundraising consulting and investment consulting provided advice.

Church Council action:

The Rev. Vicki T. Garber, chair of the Budget and Finance Committee, called on Ms. Christina Jackson-Skelton, executive director of the Mission Advancement unit, for a presentation on the governance and structure of the ELCA Foundation.

Ms. Jackson-Skelton outlined the history of the ELCA Foundation and its work in coordination with the Mission Advancement unit and the Office of the Treasurer. Investments are managed by Portico Benefit Services and State Street Global Advisers. She described the current governance and staffing structure of the ELCA Foundation and how it makes decisions and protects its assets. Staff turned to three consultant firms for advice on strengthening the foundation’s oversight of investments and asset management. She shared highlights from the firm’s reports. The firms recommended making the ELCA Foundation a separate corporation for fundraising and investments, establishing a “stand alone” entity with a board and subcommittees while remaining within the oversight of the ELCA churchwide organization, and incorporating but maintaining a close integration of the ELCA Foundation with Mission Advancement unit staff and its functions. A proposal was developed for the Church Council to direct a process to consider the recommendations.

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

Moved;

Seconded:

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 Golberg, 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.

In response to a question, Pr. Garber said the task force would report to the council at its November 2017 meeting. There being no further discussion, Vice President William B. Horne II invited the Rev. Joyce M. Graue to lead the council in prayer before calling for the vote.

VOTED:

CC16.11.40

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 Golberg, 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.

Vice President Horne declared the motion was adopted.

Pr. Garber concluded the report of the Budget and Finance Committee by acknowledging committee members and resource members.

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

(Agenda III.D.; *Reference:* Campaign Presentation)

Vice President William B. Horne II called on the Rev. Ronald T. Glusenkamp, director for *Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA*, to provide the Church Council with an update on the campaign.

Pr. Glusenkamp recalled that the 2013 Churchwide Assembly approved the campaign, which was launched on Feb. 1, 2014. To date the campaign has received \$91.5 million in cash and \$4.8 million in commitments — \$96.3 million or

48.6 percent of the five-year \$198 million goal — plus \$22 million in planned gifts. He provided details on progress in each of the campaign categories. He talked about campaign events and work of the campaign's steering committee. The campaign's emphasis for 2016 was ELCA World Hunger, and global church sponsorship will be the emphasis in 2017. He highlighted related campaign events for the coming year, which will commemorate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation.

BREAK

The November 2016 meeting of the Church Council recessed at 10:34 a.m. and reconvened at 10:41 a.m.

UPDATE FROM THE MISSION ADVANCEMENT UNIT

(Agenda III.E.; *Reference*: Mission Advancement Presentation)

Vice President William B. Horne II invited Ms. Christina Jackson-Skelton, executive director of the Mission Advancement unit, to provide a unit update.

Ms. Jackson-Skelton described the work of five teams — *Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA*, the ELCA Foundation, mission funding, strategic communication and constituent support — in the Mission Advancement unit. She talked about how strategic communication assisted the work of the other teams.

Ms. Jocelyn Fuller, director for strategic communication, reported on the participation of ELCA congregations in service projects for “God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday on Sept. 11, 2016. She also gave information about other resources developed and maintained for this church’s strategic communication.

REPORT OF THE PLANNING AND EVALUATION COMMITTEE

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

Vice President William B. Horne II called on Ms. Christine P. Connell, chair of the Planning and Evaluation Committee, who presented the committee’s report.

Ms. Connell commented on topics addressed by the committee at its recent meeting, especially the draft future directions statement of the Called Forward Together in Christ process.

Mr. Kenneth W. Inskeep, executive for research and evaluation, presented data received from a five-year study of the faith practices of several church bodies.

REPORT OF THE LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL REVIEW COMMITTEE

(Agenda III.G.; *Reference*: *En Bloc* Items)

Vice President William B. Horne II called on the Rev. Stephen R. Herr, chair of the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee, who presented the committee’s report.

Pr. Herr described several topics the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee dealt with, including actions the committee had proposed the Church Council take in its *en bloc* resolution.

REVISED BYLAWS OF THE LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY AT GETTYSBURG

(Agenda III.G.1.; *Reference*: United Lutheran Seminary Proposed Bylaws)

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.

According to ELCA bylaw 8.21.02., the Church Council must approve changes to seminary bylaws.

Church Council action:

The Rev. Stephen R. Herr, chair of the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee, noted that the committee's recommended action regarding the revised bylaws of The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg had been removed from the Church Council's *en bloc* resolution. He made the following motion on behalf of the committee.

Moved;

Seconded: 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.

Pr. Herr described the committee's discussions regarding each chapter of the propose bylaw revisions and the rationale for asking the seminary to review its dissolution clause.

Church Council members discussed the governance structures of the existing seminaries and their relationships with the council.

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

VOTED:

**CC16.11.41 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.**

Vice President Horne declared the motion was adopted.

Pr. Herr concluded the report of the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee.

PERSONAL REFLECTION ON FAITH

(Agenda III.H.)

At the invitation of the chair, the Rev. Elizabeth E. Ekdale shared a personal faith reflection.

Pr. Ekdale recalled the words of her spiritual director and her confirmation verse to illustrate the ways she was passing on the Christian faith to her teenage daughter.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Agenda III.J.)

Vice President William B. Horne II called on Church Council members who provided information about donations to assist those at Standing Rock in North Dakota.

The chair asked Secretary Wm Chris Boerger for any other announcements.

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

RECESS

The November 2016 meeting of the Church Council recessed at 11:28 a.m. A Midday Prayer Service began approximately at noon in the Chapel of the Lutheran Center led by the Rev. B. Kirby Unti, bishop of the Northwest Washington Synod.

Saturday, November 12, 2016
Plenary Session IV

CALL TO ORDER

Vice President William B. Horne II called the fourth plenary session to order at approximately 1:15 p.m. in the Augsburg Conference Room of the Lutheran Center.

LECTIO DIVINA

(Agenda IV.A.)

Vice President William B. Horne II invited Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton to lead the Church Council in a *Lectio Divina*.

CALLED FORWARD TOGETHER IN CHRIST: FUTURE DIRECTIONS CONVERSATION

(Agenda IV.B.)

Church Council members reviewed the content of the draft statement of the Called Forward Together in Christ process. Small-group and plenary discussions focused on three areas:

- Who we are
- Purpose, vision and values
- Goals and priority areas for action

RECESS

The November 2016 meeting of the Church Council recessed at approximately 3:00 p.m.

Saturday, November 12, 2016
Plenary Session V

CALL TO ORDER

Vice President William B. Horne II called the fifth plenary session to order at approximately 3:30 p.m. in the Augsburg Conference Room of the Lutheran Center.

CALLED FORWARD TOGETHER IN CHRIST: FUTURE DIRECTIONS CONVERSATION (CONTINUED)
(Agenda V.A.)

Church Council members continued to discuss the draft statement of the Called Forward Together in Christ process with emphases on ways to implement the strategy.

PROCESS OBSERVATION

(Agenda V.B.)

Vice President William B. Horne II asked Ms. Marjorie B. Ellis to present process observations.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Agenda V.C.)

Vice President William B. Horne II called on Secretary Wm Chris Boerger for announcements.

HYMN AND PRAYER

(Agenda V.D.)

At the invitation of the chair, the Rev. Linda Nou led the meeting participants in prayer and in singing a hymn. Mr. Clarence M. Smith provided musical accompaniment.

RECESS

The November 2016 meeting of the Church Council recessed at approximately 5:15 p.m. for Saturday, November 12, 2016.

**Sunday, November 13, 2016
Plenary Session VI**

Church Council members gathered at 8:45 a.m. in the Chapel of the Lutheran Center for a service of Holy Communion. Treasurer Linda O. Norman presided; the Rev. Richard H. Graham, bishop of the Metropolitan Washington, D.C., Synod, preached; and Ms. Amanda E. Briggs served as assisting minister. Mr. Allan J. Bieber was lector. An offering of \$2,778 was received for ELCA World Hunger. Newly elected Church Council members were installed.

CALL TO ORDER

Vice President William B. Horne II called the sixth plenary session to order at 10:03 a.m. in the Council Room of the Lutheran Center.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (CONT.)

(Agenda VI.A.)

Vice President William B. Horne II drew the attention of the Church Council to agenda items provided by the Executive Committee.

CALLED FORWARD TOGETHER IN CHRIST: FUTURE DIRECTIONS STATEMENT

(Agenda VI.A.1.; *Reference:* ELCA Strategic Directions for November 2016 Revised)

Vice President William B. Horne II called on Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton, who presented changes made by writing teams to the draft document, Called Forward Together in Christ — ELCA Strategic Directions 2017-2025.

The presiding bishop led the Church Council in a discussion of the contents of the document, making and suggesting certain changes.

Presiding Bishop Eaton made the following motion.

Moved;

Seconded:

- To adopt Called Forward Together in Christ — ELCA Strategic Directions 2017-2025;
To affirm 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. Developing 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. Disseminating ELCA Strategic Directions 2017-2025 across this church 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. Coordinating its launch with this church's observance of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation
 - e. Developing a process to engage congregations across this church in active conversation about the 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 ministers in understanding and contributing to implementation of the strategic directions

- g. Developing resources that keep the strategic directions rooted in Scripture
 - h. Aligning the churchwide operational planning to the goals and priority areas for action
 - i. Beginning work on the metrics and information that will enable the ELCA to monitor; and
- To express appreciation for Ms. Lyla Rogan, who served as consultant for this process.

Participants discussed elements of the document, the motion, dissolution of the Future Directions Table and specifics about its possible implementation through the Executive Committee.

There being no further discussion, the chair invited participants to pray in small groups.

Vice President Horne called for the vote.

VOTED:

CC16.11.42 To adopt Called Forward Together in Christ — ELCA Strategic Directions 2017-2025;

To affirm 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. **Developing 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. **Disseminating ELCA Strategic Directions 2017-2025 across this church 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. **Coordinating its launch with this church's observance of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation**
- e. **Developing a process to engage congregations across this church in active conversation about the 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 ministers in understanding and contributing to implementation of the strategic directions**
- g. **Developing resources that keep the strategic directions rooted in Scripture**
- h. **Aligning the churchwide operational planning to the goals and priority areas for action**
- i. **Beginning work on the metrics and information that will enable the ELCA to monitor; and**

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

Vice President Horne declared the motion was adopted.

Presiding Bishop Eaton thanked the writing teams. The gathering expressed its appreciation for Ms. Rogan with a standing ovation.

REPORT OF THE PROGRAM AND SERVICES COMMITTEE

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

Vice President William B. Horne II called on Mr. Paul G. Archer, chair of the Program and Services Committee, who presented the committee's report.

Mr. Archer outlined items the committee had placed in the *En Bloc* Items document for Church Council action later in the meeting. He talked about topics addressed by the committee at its recent meeting, such as changes to the ELCA Candidacy Manual that incorporated the language of the roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament and the roster of Ministers of Word and Service. He provided an update on the development of the "Women and Justice: One in Christ" social statement for consideration by the 2019 Churchwide Assembly. He commented on an action of the 2016 Churchwide Assembly regarding corporate social responsibility investment screens and the committee's recommendation that a social message on human rights be developed as an initial response to the assembly action.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE FOR ADMINISTRATION

(Agenda VI.C.; *Reference: Report of the Executive for Administration*)

Vice President William B. Horne II asked the Rev. M. Wyvetta Bullock, executive for administration, for her report to the Church Council.

Pr. Bullock referred to her written report and invited questions from Church Council members.

ROSTERED MINISTERS GATHERING

The Rev. Kevin L. Strickland, assistant to the presiding bishop for worship, provided an update on planning for the Rostered Ministers Gathering, Aug. 7-10, 2017, at the Sheraton Atlanta Downtown in Atlanta, Ga. Federal chaplains and young ministers will meet in advance of the gathering. Other groups were also invited to meet separately before, during or after the gathering. Bible study leaders confirmed their participation. Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton and the Rev. James A. Forbes Jr. will be keynote speakers. The theme, "On the Way ... Together," is couched in the biblical Emmaus Road story (Luke 24:13-35). Pr. Strickland gave details on the gathering's schedule, workshops, topics and leaders.

UPDATE FROM THE DOMESTIC MISSION UNIT

(Agenda II.G.; *Reference: AMMPARO Response to Church Council and Domestic Mission Presentation*)

The Rev. M. Wyvetta Bullock, executive for administration, asked the Rev. Stephen P. Bouman, executive director of the Domestic Mission unit, to present a unit update.

Pr. Bouman highlighted renewal ministries, ministries supported by the *Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA*, new ministry starts, congregations under development, the Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities (AMMPARO) initiative, domestic hunger initiative projects, ethnic-specific ministry strategies, advocacy, the ELCA Youth Gathering, seminaries and lay schools, Lutheran Disaster Response, directors for evangelical mission and a comprehensive mission support strategy.

Church Council members discussed with Pr. Bouman the procedures used to realign regional ministries and staff with a new candidacy process and certain churchwide ministries.

CHURCH COUNCIL JOYS AND CONCERNS

At the invitation of the chair, Mr. Paul G. Archer called on specific people for joys and concerns that Church Council members may include in their prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Agenda VI.D.)

Vice President William B. Horne II asked Secretary Wm Chris Boerger for announcements.

The secretary said that the Executive Committee would meeting during the lunch break.

HYMN AND PRAYER

(Agenda VI.E.)

At the invitation of the chair, Ms. Pamela E. Pritt led the meeting participants in prayer and in singing a hymn. Mr. Clarence M. Smith provided musical accompaniment.

RECESS

The November 2016 meeting of the Church Council recessed at 11:52 a.m. The Executive Committee met in the Epiphany Conference Room of the Lutheran Center.

**Sunday, November 13, 2016
Plenary Session VII**

CALL TO ORDER

Vice President William B. Horne II called the seventh plenary session to order at 1:01 p.m. in the Council Room of the Lutheran Center.

ECUMENICAL GREETING

(Agenda VII.A.)

Vice President William B. Horne II invited the Rev. Scott D. Anderson to bring a greeting to the Church Council from the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

Pr. Anderson talked about recent changes in leadership of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and new initiatives in that church. He also described the governance structures of that church.

REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE OF BISHOPS

(Agenda VII.B.; *Reference:* Report of the Conference of Bishops)

Vice President William B. Horne II called on the Rev. William O. Gafkjen, bishop of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod and chair of the Conference of Bishops, for the report of the conference.

Bishop Gafkjen read and reflected on Psalm 62, saying that the Conference of Bishops continues to discern its role and voice in this church. He described ways the conference meets and addresses various issues. He thanked Church Council members Vice President Horne, Mr. James M. Hushagen and Ms. Meri Jo Petrivelli for attending the Fall 2016 meeting of the Conference of Bishops.

There being no comments or questions, Vice President Horne thanked Bishop Gafkjen for his report.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (CONT.)

(Agenda VII.C.)

Vice President William B. Horne II drew the attention of the Church Council to an agenda item provided by the Executive Committee.

AMENDMENTS TO COMMITTEE CHARTERS

(Agenda VII.C.1.)

Background:

At the first meeting of the Church Council after each Churchwide Assembly, the council's committees review their charters. The Executive Committee reviews any amended charter and makes recommendations to the Church Council regarding committee charters.

Church Council action:

Vice President William B. Horne II presented the background information regarding the charters of the Church Council's committees.

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

Moved;

Seconded: To approve the revised committee charters.

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

VOTED:

CC16.11.43 To approve the revised committee charters.

Vice President Horne declared the motion was adopted.

NEW BUSINESS

(Agenda VII.D.)

Vice President William B. Horne II called on Secretary Wm Chris Boerger, who presented two items of new business for the Church Council's consideration.

RESOLUTION ON STANDING ROCK

(Reference: New Business Standing Rock)

Secretary Wm Chris Boerger invited Church Council members to read a resolution provided electronically.

Mr. Hans E. Becklin made the following motion.

Moved;

Seconded:

To adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, this church confesses the power of prayer in the Large Catechism III.30 "that all our safety and protection consists in prayer alone";

WHEREAS, this church confesses in the Large Catechism II.14 that God "makes all creation help provide the benefits and necessities of life — sun, moon, and stars in the heavens; day and night; air, fire, water, the earth and all that it yields and brings forth; birds, fish, animals, grain, and all sorts of produce"; and

WHEREAS, this church has repudiated the doctrine of discovery in assembly, recognizing the injustices that have been perpetrated in the name of the Church and the right of native peoples to have sovereignty over their sacred ancestral lands; and

WHEREAS, this church in assembly has asked "the Church Council...to provide resources to congregations and individual members to encourage and support conservation and prayerful stewardship of water resources"; and

WHEREAS, this Church Council has heard from its siblings in the American Indian Alaskan Native Lutheran Association, asking for support on this issue, specifically addressing prayer, recognition of native sovereignty, and care for creation; and

WHEREAS, our sisters and brothers on the Executive Council of The Episcopal Church issued a statement on October 22, 2016, in support of the Standing Rock Tribe and calling for respect of its ancestral lands; and

WHEREAS, students from each seminary of this church have publicly called on this church's leaders to stand with those who have gathered for prayer at Standing Rock in opposition to the Dakota Access Pipeline; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Church Council calls on this church to pray for a peaceful resolution at Standing Rock and to attend to its complexities with Christian love; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Church Council, trusting in the power of prayer, calls on the governments of the United States and the state of North Dakota to immediately de-escalate military and police provocation along sites of peaceful protest at Standing Rock; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Church Council encourages all the baptized to hear the cries of our native brothers and sisters, therefore advocating for an end to pipeline construction on the sacred lands of the Sioux; and be it further

RESOLVED, that our presiding bishop, in her capacity as shepherd of this church, continue to exercise the ministry of reconciliation (2 Cor. 5:18) among those at Standing Rock and in the state of North Dakota with our support, allocating financial and human resources as necessary to this ministry.

Mr. Becklin explained how adopting this resolution would address calls for action in addition to the presiding bishop's ministry.

Church Council members discussed the designation of "Sioux," how the resolution would affect a statement the presiding bishop was preparing, and possible budget implications.

Mr. Becklin noted that he provided the resolution before a deadline to present new business and before learning of a statement Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton was preparing on this topic.

Presiding Bishop Eaton explained the timing for the statement she had prepared, and she questioned the authority of the Church Council to take the actions identified in the resolution as it was currently worded. She mentioned a series of steps she intended to take in issuing the statement.

Council members discussed whether the motion would support the presiding bishop's ministry.

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

Moved;

Seconded:

To substitute the following for the motion:

To support Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton in her ministry and work with the Standing Rock Sioux.

Church Council members discussed the means to call for a de-escalation of militarized force, the ministry of reconciliation, and the substitute motion's emphasis on the Standing Rock Sioux.

Mr. Becklin made the following motion to amend the substitute motion.

Moved;

Seconded:

To amend the substitute motion by addition:

To support Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton in her ministry and work with the Standing Rock Sioux; and

To affirm that "all our safety and protection consists in prayer alone" and repudiates all militarization against peaceful assemblies.

Council members talked about the statement prepared by the presiding bishop and whether the amendment would support that statement, as well as the need for this church to call for a de-escalation of militarized force.

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

Moved;

Seconded;

Defeated:

To amend the substitute motion by addition:

To support Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton in her ministry and work with the Standing Rock Sioux; and

To affirm that "all our safety and protection consists in prayer alone" and repudiates all militarization against peaceful assemblies.

Vice President Horne declared that the motion to amend was defeated.

Bishop William O. Gafkjen made the following motion to amend the substitute motion.

Moved;

Seconded:

To amend the substitute motion by addition:

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

Council members discussed the wording of the proposed amendment.

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

Moved;

Seconded;

Carried:

To amend the substitute motion by addition:

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

Vice President Horne declared that the motion to amend was adopted.

Church Council members discussed elements of the original resolution that were not included in the proposed substitute motion.

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

Moved;

Seconded;

Carried:

To substitute the following, as amended, for the motion:

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.

Vice President Horne declared that the motion to substitute was adopted as amended. The substitute motion was the main motion.

Church Council members discussed the proposed action and the presiding bishop's prepared statement.

There being no further discussion, the chair invited Pr. Herr to lead the council in prayer.

Vice President Horne called for the vote.

VOTED:

CC16.11.44

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.

The chair declared that the substitute motion was adopted as amended.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Secretary Wm Chris Boerger noted that the second item of new business was a request from the Rev. Peder J. Johanson to discuss a letter received from the Rev. Clint A. Schnekloth.

Pr. Johanson asked the Church Council to discuss the questions Pr. Schnekloth raised in the letter.

Council members discussed the proper channels for communicating within this church.

Mr. Hans E. Becklin made the following motion.

Moved;

Seconded: To enter into executive session for 15 minutes to discuss a personnel matter.

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

Moved;

Seconded;

Yes-22; No-14

Carried:

To enter into executive session for 15 minutes to discuss a personnel matter.

Vice President Horne declared that the motion was adopted.

The November 2016 meeting of the Church Council recessed at 2:07 p.m., entered into executive session at 2:08 p.m. and returned to open session at 2:27 p.m.

CONSIDERATION OF ITEMS REMOVED FROM *EN BLOC*

(Agenda VII.D.)

Vice President William B. Horne II stated that no additional items were removed from *en bloc* consideration or offered as new business.

***EN BLOC* APPROVAL OF CERTAIN ITEMS**

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

Background:

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

ELCA constitutional provision 22.31. 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.

Church Council action:

Vice President William B. Horne II made the following motion.

Moved;

Two-Thirds Vote

Seconded:

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

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

VOTED:

TWO-THIRDS VOTE

CC16.11.45

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

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.

16.12.A16. Domestic Mission Unit

The 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 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.

17.40.A11.A16. 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 to plan the publication of M~~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.*

Vice President Horne declared the motion was adopted.

He made the following motion.

Moved;

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

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

VOTED:

CC16.11.46 To take *en bloc* action on the remaining items listed in *En Bloc* Items, Responses to Churchwide Assembly Actions and Responses to Synodical Resolutions.

A. Audit Committee membership

Background:

ELCA continuing resolution 14.41.E15. states:

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

VOTED:

CC16.11.46a 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. *EN BLOC*

B. Audit Committee report

(Reference: Report of the Audit Committee)

VOTED:

CC16.11.46b To approve the report of the ELCA Audit Committee describing their review of the audited financial statements, management letter, and response of management for the churchwide organization’s fiscal year ending January 31, 2016. *EN BLOC*

C. Revisions to resolutions regarding authority to act in financial matters

Background:

At its November 2015 meeting, the Church Council adopted CC15.11.45, regarding authority to engage in commercial transactions. Minor revisions and corrections to CC15.11.45 will provide for another person to have the

authority in the absence of the treasurer. A revision is also being proposed for CC16.04.16.b1, which is the Appointment of Assistant Officers. Except as revised, CC15.11.45 remains unchanged.

1. Appointment of Assistant Officers

VOTED: *EN BLOC*
CC16.11.46c1 To amend the resolution regarding Appointment of Assistant Officers [CC16.04.16.b1] as follows.

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.

2. Authorization to Engage in Commercial Transactions

VOTED: *EN BLOC*
CC16.11.46c2 To amend the resolution regarding Authorization to Engage in Commercial Transactions [CC15.11.45] as follows.

RESOLVED, that the Treasurer, or in the absence or unavailability of the Treasurer two assistant treasurers, and any one of the Presiding Bishop (President), Secretary, or Executive for Administration are appointed as a committee having the authority of the Church Council in the management of the business affairs of this corporation to *authorize, approve, and execute* on behalf of this corporation, transactions with a value of \$250,000 or greater, not involving real property or the borrowing of funds, to which the corporation is a party, including, but not limited to,

conveyances, assignments, contracts, notes, bills of sale, purchases and sales of securities, and financing statements;

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

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

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

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

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

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

D. Skaalen Retirement Services, Inc.

(Reference: Skaalen Retirement Services)

Background:

Skaalen Retirement Services, Inc. is a social ministry organization in Stoughton, Wis., affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and Lutheran Services in America (LSA). It is the corporate parent of Skaalen Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, Inc., formerly known as Skaalen Sunset Home. Skaalen Retirement Services, Inc. wants to enter into a financing package which would require certain assets of Skaalen Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, Inc. to be used as collateral.

The Articles of Incorporation of Skaalen Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, Inc. provide that it may not mortgage or encumber its assets without the prior consent of the board of trustees of the American Lutheran Church (ALC) or its successor. In addition, the Articles of Incorporation of Skaalen Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, Inc. provide that, upon dissolution, its assets shall revert to the ALC or its successor. The ELCA is the successor by merger of the ALC, and the Church Council of the ELCA is the board of trustees of the ELCA.

In addition, some of the property of Skaalen Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, Inc. at issue was deeded to it by the ALC, with the following provision:

It is a condition of this conveyance that should the grantee corporation cease to operate for the purposes for which it is now incorporated, title to the within property shall revert to the grantor, The American Lutheran Church.

In order to go forward with the financing, the bank is requiring that this right of reverter be subordinated to the mortgage, and suspended for the duration of the mortgage. Counsel has drafted a proposed agreement with counsel for the bank and Skaalen Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, Inc., which would suspend the right of reverter and subordinate it to the mortgage, but provide for the right of reverter to continue to exist once the mortgage is paid in full. In addition, if the property were sold while the mortgage was in place, the ELCA would get any proceeds remaining after payment of the mortgage.

Skaalen Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, Inc., accordingly seeks the consent of the Church Council for the proposed transaction and its assent to the proposed agreement to suspend the right of reverter.

VOTED:

EN BLOC

CC16.11.46d

To give consent to the proposed financing transaction of Skaalen Retirement Services, Inc. and Skaalen Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, Inc., provided that nothing in the proposed transaction mortgages, pledges, restrains or otherwise encumbers any assets of the ELCA except as provided in the attached agreement regarding the Skaalen Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, Inc. right of reverter; and

To approve the agreement regarding the Skaalen Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, Inc. right of reverter.

E. Flexible Benefits Bundle from Portico Benefit Services

(Reference: Portico Flex Pilot Presentation)

Background:

The ELCA Board of Pensions — 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. In response to congregations looking for alternative health care coverage for their non-rostered employees, Portico Benefit Services produced a more 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.

Portico Benefit Services Flexible Benefits Bundle Summary

Portico's new offering provides the ability for sponsoring employers to choose which benefits they want to offer their non-rostered employees. The benefits are designed to strengthen employee financial, emotional and physical health. Congregations would have the ability to offer retirement, health — including dental, life and/or long term disability — with flexibility to choose which of these benefits are part of their bundled offering to employees. On the retirement side, sponsoring employers can choose between a variety of contribution and vesting options.

By utilizing Portico's size, congregations can:

- Avoid extra fees built into fully-insured health and disability plans, saving about 10 percent;
- Benefit from Portico's ability to negotiate best-in-class administrative fees with vendors; and
- Mitigate the risk of unpredictable changes in health plan costs for small employers.

Congregations have the ability to put Portico expertise to work:

- Negotiating contract renewals;
- Monitoring vendor performance and price;
- Guiding congregations through regulatory changes like the Affordable Care Act;
- Enabling easy decision-making online;
- Investing options that include social purpose investments aligned with the ELCA's social criteria;
- Communicating directly with employees; and
- Utilizing Portico's nationally-recognized customer care center, which is a recognized Certified Center of Excellence in 2015 and one of the Top 100 Call Center in America in 2016.

VOTED:

EN BLOC

CC16.11.46e

**To approve the Flexible 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.**

F. Lutheran Services in America bylaw changes

(Reference: LSA Case for Change and LSA Proposed Bylaw Amendments)

Background:

Over the past two decades, Lutheran social ministry organizations have faced dramatic challenges, such as increasingly complex regulations as well as major changes in funding and service delivery. These challenges have led the leadership of Lutheran Services in America (LSA) to re-examine its governance structure to see if that structure should be amended to address current realities and to ensure a sustainable network of Lutheran social ministry organizations. This process resulted in the preparation of a "Case for Change," which describes those changed realities and recommends significant amendments to the LSA bylaws with respect to the structure of its governing board, as well as other modifications intended to improve the organization's governance process.

Ms. Charlotte Haberaecker, president of LSA, worked with the LSA board of directors and with representatives of the ELCA and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to formulate the concepts underlying the Case for Change. With the encouragement of the church bodies and the board, the proposed bylaw amendments responsive to the Case for Change were drafted by former LSA board member, Mr. Robert W. Tuttle, professor of law and religion, The George Washington University Law School, Washington, D.C., and by current LSA board member, Mr. David D. Swartling, counsel to Mills Meyers Swartling, Seattle, Wash.

On October 19, 2016, the LSA board adopted the following motion: "That the Board of Directors endorse the Case for Change and recommend that the Members approve the proposed bylaw amendments that address Board composition and related governance issues."

LSA sought approval of the ELCA Church Council, as well as The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, so that the proposed bylaw amendments may be submitted for approval to the annual meeting of LSA member organizations in May 2017.

VOTED: *EN BLOC*

CC16.11.46f **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.

G. 1517 Media Restated Articles of Incorporation and bylaw changes

(Reference: 1517 Media Proposed Amendments)

Background:

In accordance with ELCA bylaw 17.40.02., the Publishing House of the ELCA sought the Church Council's approval of proposed amendments to its Articles of Incorporation and bylaws. The articles and bylaws were updated to reflect the ministry's "doing business as" 1517 Media, the office location as 510 Marquette Avenue in Minneapolis, and the corporation's use of the Sparkhouse Family name. The publishing house's board of trustees approved the proposed amendments at its Nov. 4, 2016 meeting.

VOTED: *EN BLOC*

CC16.11.46g **To approve the amendments to the Publishing House of the ELCA Articles of Incorporation and bylaws as proposed by its board of trustees.**

H. Mission Investment Fund bylaw changes

(Reference: Mission Investment Fund Proposed Amendments)

Background:

In accordance with ELCA bylaw 17.30.03., the Mission Investment Fund sought Church Council approval of proposed amendments to its bylaws. The board of trustees approved the amendments at its fall 2016 meeting.

VOTED: *EN BLOC*

CC16.11.46h **To approve the amendments to the Mission Investment Fund bylaws as proposed by the Mission Investment Fund board of trustees.**

I. 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.

VOTED:

EN BLOC

CC16.11.46i 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.

J. Synod constitution amendments

Background:

Provision †S18.13. of the *Constitution for Synods* describes the processes for synods to amend non-required provisions in their constitutions. It stipulates, "All such amendments shall become effective upon ratification by the Churchwide Assembly or by the Church Council."

VOTED:

EN BLOC

CC16.11.46j1 To ratify the following amendments to the constitution of the Sierra Pacific Synod:

S9.04. The bishop shall be elected by the Synod Assembly by ecclesiastical ballot. Three-fourths of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election on the first ballot. All persons receiving legal votes shall be reported in written form after the first ballot, together with the number of legal votes each received. The second ballot shall list all persons who received legal votes on the first ballot, except those who have asked that their names not be considered, but members may still vote for any eligible person even if that person did not receive legal votes on the first ballot. On the second ballot, three-quarters of the legal votes cast shall be required for election, and the results shall be reported in written form. Beginning with the third ballot, only those who have received 5% of the legal votes on the previous ballot shall be listed; but through the fifth ballot members may cast a write-in vote for any eligible person, even if not listed on the ballot. All persons receiving legal votes shall be reported in written form to the Assembly, together with the number of legal votes each received. On the third ballot, 2/3 of the legal votes cast shall be required for election. On the fourth ballot, 60% of the legal votes cast shall be required for election. On the fifth and subsequent ballots, a majority of the legal votes cast shall be required for election. If no one is elected through five ballots, the sixth ballot shall be limited to the three persons (plus ties) who received the greatest number of legal votes on the fifth ballot and no votes for other persons shall be considered

legal; the seventh and subsequent ballots, if necessary, shall be limited to the two persons (plus ties) who received the greatest number of legal votes on the immediately preceding ballot and no votes for other persons shall be considered legal.

If no one is elected, the first ballot shall be considered the nominating ballot. The second ballot shall list all persons who received legal votes on the first ballot, except for those who have asked that their names not be included for further consideration in the election process by notifying the Chair of the Elections Committee within two hours of the announcement of the results of the first ballot. Three-fourths of the legal votes cast on the second ballot shall be necessary for election. The third ballot shall be limited to the seven persons (plus ties) who received the greatest number of legal votes on the second ballot, and two-thirds of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election. The fourth ballot shall be limited to the three persons (plus ties) who receive the greatest number of legal votes on the third ballot, and 60 percent of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election. On subsequent ballots a majority of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election. These ballots shall be limited to the two persons (plus ties) who receive the greatest number of legal votes on the previous ballot.

VOTED:
CC16.11.46j2

EN BLOC

To ratify the following amendments to the constitution of the Eastern North Dakota Synod:

- S9.04.** The bishop shall be elected by the Synod Assembly. Three-fourths of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election on the first ballot. If no one is elected, the first ballot shall be considered the nominating ballot. Three-fourths of the legal votes cast on the second ballot shall be necessary for election. The third ballot shall be limited to the seven persons (plus ties) who received the greatest number of legal votes on the second ballot, and two-thirds of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election. The fourth ballot shall be limited to the three persons (plus ties) who receive the greatest number of legal votes on the third ballot, and 60 percent of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election. On subsequent ballots a majority of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election. These ballots shall be limited to the two persons (plus ties) who receive the greatest number of legal votes on the previous ballot.
- a. A sitting bishop must submit written notification to the synod nominating committee at least 120 days prior to the Synod Assembly as to his/her intentions for seeking another term.
 - b. In preparation for a regular or special Synod Assembly at which the election of the bishop is to occur, congregations of the synod, 100 days in advance of such an assembly, may submit the names of up to three ordained ministers of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to the secretary of the conference of which the congregation is a part.
 - bc. The secretary of the conference, with the other officers of the conference, shall tabulate the names submitted by congregations and report the results to the

synodical Nominating Committee no less than 90 days in advance of the regular or special Synod Assembly. **Basic biographical information will be made available at the conference assemblies for each of the candidates being brought forward. At the conference assembly, there will be a write in option. Any voting member at the conference assembly may submit the name of any minister of Word and Sacrament in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as a nominee for consideration for the position of synodical bishop.**

ed. Sixty-five days in advance of the regular or special Synod Assembly at which the bishop is to be elected, conference assemblies shall be held to vote on a maximum of seven names per conference from a list as tabulated from conference reports to the synodical Nominating Committee.

...
[Update lettering of subsequent paragraphs in provision S9.04.]

K. Revision of the Candidacy Manual

Background:

The 2016 Churchwide Assembly voted [CA16.05.11] to unify the three existing Official Rosters of Laypersons into a roster of Ministers of Word and Service effective Jan. 1, 2017. To implement the creation of the new roster, the Candidacy Manual required certain revisions.

VOTED:

EN BLOC

**CC16.11.46k 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.**

L. 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.

VOTED: *EN BLOC*

CC16.11.46l 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.

M. Advisory member appointments to "Women and Justice: One in Christ" social statement task force

Background:

At its April 2012 meeting, the Church Council appointed [CC12.04.16] the Rev. Robert G. Moore and Ms. Pamela E. Pritt to serve as the council's advisory members to the "Women and Justice: One in Christ" social statement task force. Pr. Moore has since resigned from Church Council. The council's Program and Services Committee recommended the appointment of Ms. Leslie J. Swenson and the Rev. James H. Utt to serve.

VOTED: *EN BLOC*

CC16.11.46m To appoint Ms. Leslie J. Swenson and the Rev. James H. Utt as advisory members on the "Women and Justice: One in Christ" social statement task force.

N. 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.

VOTED: *EN BLOC*

CC16.11.46n 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.

O. Church Council elections, nominations and designations

(Reference: Biographies)

Background:

The bylaws of certain organizations authorize the Church Council to elect, nominate or designate members of their governing boards. ELCA bylaws 8.21.03. and 8.21.04. outline the parameters for the election or nomination of members to the boards of ELCA seminaries.

VOTED:

EN BLOC

CC16.11.4601 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.

VOTED:

EN BLOC

CC16.11.4602 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.

VOTED:

EN BLOC

CC16.11.4603 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].

VOTED:

EN BLOC

CC16.11.4604 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.

VOTED: *EN BLOC*
CC16.11.4605 **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.

VOTED: *EN BLOC*
CC16.11.4606 **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.**

RESPONSES TO CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY ACTIONS

P. Deepening of relationships with Historic Black Churches

Churchwide Assembly action [CA16.03.05]

To receive with gratitude the memorial of the Southwestern Texas Synod calling for the Deepening of Relationships with the Historic Black Churches;

To refer the memorial to the presiding bishop and appropriate churchwide staff to develop a churchwide strategy for deepening relationships with Historic Black Churches in consultation with the African Descent Lutheran Association, Conference of Bishops, Church Council and ecumenical partners;

To encourage synod leaders to initiate and/or continue local efforts to strengthen and expand partnerships with Historic Black Churches in consultation with synod bishops, synod leaders of the African Descent Lutheran Association and synod members of the Lutheran Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Representatives Network; and

To encourage congregations to initiate and/or continue their efforts to strengthen and expand partnerships with Historic Black Churches.

Response from the Office of the Presiding Bishop (November 2016)

Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Relations in the Office of the Presiding Bishop has carried out follow-up work with AME Zion Church partners following the Churchwide Assembly with the senior bishop, with the episcopal district bishops, and with the general officers who were present in New Orleans. This work has included sharing our gratitude for our partnership and the presence of these leaders, and affirming our desire for next steps. Further relationship-building between our bishops, building upon the 2010 Statement of Mission, will be important work.

Our office has also met with the new President of the AME Council of Bishops, Bishops John White, at his office in Chicago to explore next steps in re-engaging our bilateral partnership. Information about the discourse from the 1990s and early 2000s is being prepared and will be shared with the president, and the new Ecumenical Bishop Frank Reid III. Bishop Eaton has invited both Bishop White and Bishop Reid to participate in a joint AME-ELCA Epiphany service with the Conference of Bishops' Academy in Charleston, in January 2017.

Our office has also confirmed our commitment to participate in the second annual cross-racial dialogue to be hosted by the Conference of National Black Churches in December 2016.

We have continued to deepen our relationships with the Historic Black Churches at several ecumenical tables, especially those where we partner on racial justice and reconciliation namely: Churches Uniting in Christ (recognition

of ministries/racial justice), the National Council of Churches USA (mass incarceration), the World Council of Churches (living letters delegation on racism), and Christian Churches Together in the USA (racial justice and poverty).

These various streams of our ELCA strategy are a continuation of ongoing work.

In response to recent racial tensions and protests in Charlotte following the shooting death of Keith Scott, churchwide staff for racial justice and ethnic specific ministries partnered with the North Carolina Synod and its bishop and local ELCA and ecumenical leadership, including the synod's African Descent Strategy Team and AME Zion partners in North Carolina to host a day of conversation, presence in the community, and prayer in early October.

Before the spring 2017 Church Council meeting, Kathryn Lohre will convene a conversation with these colleagues in order to strengthen our work and partnerships:

- Program Director, Racial Justice
- Director, Ethnic Specific & Multicultural Ministries
- President, African Descent Lutheran Association
- Chair, Conference of Bishops' Ecumenical & Inter-Religious Liaison Committee
- Church Council liaison

This initial meeting should include consideration for the history and current state of existing bilateral relations and coalition work. It should focus new energy on strengthening partnerships between ecumenical and inter-religious relations and the African Descent Lutheran Association leadership. It should give attention to identifying or developing resources that might be shared with synod bishops in order to encourage the actions related to synod leaders and congregations.

VOTED:

EN BLOC

CC16.11.46p To receive with gratitude the response from the Office of the Presiding Bishop regarding the relationship-building already underway to deepen relationships with Historic Black Churches; and To request a report to the April 2018 Church Council meeting on the development of a strategy to further this goal.

Q. Toward a responsible energy future

Churchwide Assembly action [CA16.06.30]

To receive with gratitude the memorials of the Saint Paul Area, Metropolitan New York, Northeastern Pennsylvania, Upper Susquehanna and Northwestern Pennsylvania synods related to climate change and fossil fuels;

To urge all ELCA members, congregations and synods to inform and educate themselves about the effects of climate change through the lens of the "Caring for Creation: Vision, Hope and Justice" social statement, and to advocate for policies that reduce energy use and our dependence on fossil fuels and encourage development of renewable energy sources as an expression of our commitment to address climate change and caring for God's creation;

To affirm the action of the 2013 Churchwide Assembly and subsequent action of the Church Council in 2014 related to the development of revised or additional investment screens on fossil fuels, and to support and commend ELCA members, congregations, synods, the churchwide organization, and related institutions and agencies such as ELCA Endowment Fund and Portico Benefit Services for their leadership efforts to invest in companies that are taking steps toward a sustainable environment;

To affirm Portico's balanced approach to supporting this church's principles and directives as stated in the social statements — including the commitment to help transition to an economy less dependent on fossil fuels. That approach has included:

1. shareholder advocacy (filing and supporting resolutions on environmental issues, including 150 resolutions in 2015),
2. focused investment screening, which has identified 113 companies screened for environmental reasons, and
3. ramping up positive social investments, such as investments in companies that develop solar, wind and water power generation systems, repurposing waste products and reducing toxic emissions; and now

To call upon Portico to evaluate the viability of an optional fossil -free fund for retirement plan participants;

To call upon the ELCA to heed the call of the Lutheran World Federation Council in 2015 to member churches “not to invest in fossil fuels and to support energy efficiency and renewable energy companies, and to encourage their institutions and individual members to do likewise”;

As part of this church’s response to the Lutheran World Federation’s call, to request that the ELCA churchwide organization review the ELCA’s applicable social teachings and Corporate Social Responsibility policies and procedures, with the goal of not investing in, and removing the largest fossil fuel companies as identified by Carbon Tracker, and investing in corporations which are taking positive steps toward a sustainable environment;

To support the ELCA network of affiliated social ministry organizations with programs to address unemployment caused by changing patterns of fossil fuel use, to advocate for retraining workers — especially for renewable energy jobs, to advocate for programs that will support those in transition, and to encourage congregations and ministries to address the resulting unemployment and poverty; and

To urge ELCA members, congregations and synods to set measurable goals to reduce their consumption of fossil fuels and improve their stewardship of energy resources, transition to renewable energy sources and promote care for God’s creation.

Response from the Corporate Social Responsibility review team (November 2016)

At the request of the 2013 Churchwide Assembly, the Corporate Social Responsibility review team during the years of 2014 and 2015 explored the ELCA social criteria environmental screen and the issue papers on the environment and climate change. All of the documents were updated and the environmental screen added the language “certain fossil fuel companies” in the definition of the problem which was approved by Church Council in November 2014. The issue papers were revised in November 2015. Since that time the Lutheran World Federation’s call has been issued.

It is proposed that the Corporate Social Responsibility review team will do the following:

1. Review the relevant social teachings of the ELCA with assistance from the Theological Discernment Team.
2. Seek input from Lutheran World Federation as to the steps that organization has taken, plans to take and feedback received since adoption of the resolution.
3. Review the Corporate Social Responsibility policies and procedures to examine the best steps forward.
4. Review the status of ‘Carbon Tracker’ as an appropriate tool for identifying the largest fossil fuel companies, aided by Portico.
5. Take into consideration the Social Impact First investment program of Portico in light of the request for positive investments.
6. Seek input from partners such as Ceres and other research groups for additional information on assessing corporation’s positive steps toward a sustainable environment which might be named as positive investments.
7. Seek input from the Endowment Fund, Mission Investment Fund and Portico to discern the feasibility of this goal and the impact on their work.

The Corporate Social Responsibility review team will meet regularly during 2017 to review the information discovered in the steps above and prepare an interim report for Church Council in November 2017. When this is completed, the Corporate Social Responsibility review team will meet to analyze and synthesize what has been discovered with the intention of presenting a brief report and recommendation to Church Council by April of 2018 with final work expected to be completed by November 2018.

VOTED:

EN BLOC

**CC16.11.46q To receive the response from the Corporate Social Responsibility review team on the timeline; and
To anticipate interim reports in November 2017 and April 2018 with a final report by the November 2018 Church Council meeting.**

R. Increased funding for suicide prevention research

Churchwide Assembly action [CA16.02.03h]

To receive with gratitude the memorial of the Southeastern Synod regarding Increased Funding for Suicide Prevention Research;

To affirm the commitment of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in its social message on “Suicide Prevention” to call upon this church to advocate for efforts to prevent suicide;

To request that the presiding bishop communicate to the U.S. President and members of Congress the support of the ELCA for doubling, over five years, the federal funding to the National Institutes of Health for suicide prevention research; and

To encourage ELCA synods, congregations, members and the ELCA Advocacy Office in Washington, D.C., to add their voices in support of such action.

Response from the Domestic Mission unit (November 2016)

ELCA Advocacy has taken the lead for the Domestic Mission unit by consulting with the authors of the memorial to discuss the scope of work and opportunities for engagement. Advocacy staff are reaching out to the National Foundation for Suicide Prevention in Washington, D.C., to examine coalition engagement and funding priorities in the 115th Congress that begins January 2017. Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton will be communicating the intent of the memorial to the Administration and members of Congress in consultation with the advocacy staff for the most effective timing. The authors of the memorial, in collaboration with ELCA Advocacy, are currently compiling a list of existing ELCA suicide prevention stakeholders to update for their website to support advocacy efforts of congregations and members. A final report will be made in November 2017 following activity in the 115th Congress and engagement with the relevant congressional committees and leaders.

VOTED:

EN BLOC

CC16.11.46r To receive the response from the Domestic Mission unit on the timeline and to request a report be received by the November 2017 Church Council meeting.

S. Welcoming refugees

Churchwide Assembly action [CA16.05.18]

To receive with gratitude the memorials of the Eastern Washington-Idaho, Metropolitan New York, Northwestern Pennsylvania and Southeastern synods regarding refugee resettlement;

To reaffirm the work of ELCA leaders and Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service in working to welcome refugees from across the globe;

To support bishops, pastors and other Lutheran leaders as they continue to call on members of Congress and state legislators to open their hearts to the suffering of refugees around the world and support legislative actions to welcome these newcomers to new communities;

To request that the presiding bishop communicate this church’s commitment for the resettlement of refugees in the United States and encourage steadfast support for this program to the U.S. President and members of Congress;

To encourage and support all Lutherans in welcoming refugees by building awareness, volunteering, hosting refugees, speaking out against hate, advocating for a more generous U.S. response and observing Refugee Sunday, and to open up congregations, seminaries and all able Lutheran organizations to help house refugees; and

To request that units of the churchwide organization, in cooperation with Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, provide easy access to resource materials for congregations to learn about and take part in ministries with refugees.

Response from Domestic Mission, Global Mission and Mission Advancement units (November 2016)

Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton issued a statement, accompanied by a press release, on November 19, 2015 restating this church’s commitment to supporting the resettlement of refugees in the United States. The statement specifically encourages members of our church to call upon elected officials to welcome refugees and provides a link

to a relevant action alert by Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS). To bring light to the plight of refugees internationally, Bishop Eaton visited Syrian refugees at the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) Peace Oasis in the Zaatari refugee camp, Jordan. This visit was highlighted in *Living Lutheran* on January 25, 2016. All relevant units within the churchwide organization, working together with partners such as LIRS and LWF, continue to be committed to finding spaces where the Presiding Bishop's voice is crucial to bring attention to and support of refugees and their resettlement in the United States.

The Domestic Mission, Global Mission and Mission Advancement units, together with LIRS, are discerning the best way to provide easy access to resource materials for congregations to support refugees and their resettlement. Today, information about how the ELCA accompanies refugees abroad can be found in the Lutheran Disaster Response "Our Impact" page. More information can also be found in the ELCA Advocacy and AMMPARO pages. Information about refugee resettlement can be found through LIRS. Congregations can find information about what they can do by going to www.LIRS.org/act.

VOTED:

EN BLOC

CC16.11.46s

- To receive the response from the Domestic Mission unit;**
- To encourage the Domestic Mission, Global Mission and Mission Advancement units to seek ways to promote easy access to refugee resettlement resources;**
- To commend the presiding bishop for speaking out on this church's commitment to resettling refugees; and**
- To encourage others to join the presiding bishop in continuing to express this church's commitment to this task.**

T. Gun violence prevention

Churchwide Assembly action [CA16.02.03]

To receive with gratitude the memorials of the Saint Paul Area and the Upper Susquehanna synods concerning legislation on background checks and gun violence;

To reaffirm this church's commitment to addressing the broad issues of violence in society through worship, education, service, advocacy and ongoing moral deliberation as called for in the 1994 social message on "Community Violence" and the 2013 Conference of Bishops' Pastoral Letter on Violence;

To reaffirm that ELCA social policy does not reject gun ownership or the recreational activities associated with guns as morally wrong;

To encourage bishops, pastors and Lutheran leaders to communicate with members of Congress and state legislators this church's long-standing support for managing gun purchases, such as background checks for all gun sales including private sales;

To urge bishops, pastors and Lutheran leaders to communicate to members of Congress and state legislators this church's sense of urgency for the renewal or replacement of the Federal Assault Weapons Ban (expired in 2004), including a definition of assault weapons comparable to that in the renewal attempt of the Assault Weapons Ban bill of 2013; and

To refer to the Church Council, in consultation with staff of the churchwide organization, consideration of the request for establishing an ELCA task force to organize actions consistent with ELCA policy that addresses gun violence prevention.

Response from the Domestic Mission unit (November 2016)

The Domestic Mission unit addresses gun violence in a manner consistent with ELCA Social Policy through the education and advocacy work of ELCA Advocacy in the Washington, D.C., office and state advocacy ministries. For example, on July 8, 2016, ELCA Advocacy invited its network to take action through an alert on Gun Violence urging Congress to take action on gun safety. This action was in response to a call from Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton to ELCA ministries and members to be present in their communities in the wake of violence.

Presiding Bishop Eaton will be working with the Public Policy Procedures Group (PPPG), which includes ELCA Advocacy staff and other colleagues, to determine the most effective timeline for communicating with members of Congress regarding “this church’s sense of urgency for the renewal or replacement of the Federal Assault Weapons Ban, including a definition of assault weapons comparable to that in the renewal attempt of the Assault Weapons Ban bill of 2013.” This letter will also state “this church’s long-standing support for managing gun purchases, such as background checks for all gun sales including private sales.” Often when such a letter is sent, it is followed up with an ELCA Advocacy alert to its network to encourage others to write their own letters to members of Congress and state legislators.

The hope is that this work can be completed before the end of the 2016-2017 legislative session. This letter may also be timed with the work of state advocacy ministries, such as Faith Action Network, the ELCA advocacy ministry in Washington state, in their work to pass gun safety legislation (Extreme Risk Protection Order and Safe Gun Storage). The churchwide organization does not at this time have financial resources to devote to the work of a national task force “to organize actions consistent with ELCA policy that addresses gun violence prevention.”

VOTED:

EN BLOC

**CC16.11.46t To receive the response from the Domestic Mission unit;
To decline to establish an ELCA task force addressing gun violence prevention;
To commend the ongoing efforts of ELCA Advocacy in addressing gun violence in a manner congruent with this church’s social teaching documents; and
To request a follow-up report be provided to the April 2018 Church Council meeting.**

U. Peace with justice in the Holy Land

Churchwide Assembly action [CA16.05.15]

To receive with gratitude the memorials of the Northwest Washington, Sierra Pacific, Southwest California, Rocky Mountain, Minneapolis Area, Southwestern Texas, Southeastern Iowa, South-Central Wisconsin, Southeast Michigan, Indiana-Kentucky, Metropolitan New York, Northeastern Pennsylvania, Upper Susquehanna and West Virginia-Western Maryland synods related to Israel and Palestine;

To reaffirm the commitment of this church to:

1. Continue its awareness-building, accompaniment, and advocacy on behalf of a peaceful resolution of the conflict between Israel and Palestine;
2. Take steps to assist the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL) and other Christians in sustaining their endangered presence in the Holy Land;
3. Promote the economic empowerment of Palestinians, including investment in Palestinian projects and businesses;
4. Promote the protection of the human rights of Palestinians and Israelis and oppose all violence and actions which discriminate against or deny any people their basic freedom, dignity or human rights;
5. Embrace the principles of restorative justice as part of the ELCA’s advocacy and engagement for the just resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and actively seek ways to support Palestinians and Israelis engaging in restorative justice dialogue and other projects; and
6. Continue to pray for the ELCJHL and the work of The Lutheran World Federation Jerusalem program;

To encourage this church’s members, congregations, synods and agencies as well as the presiding bishop to call on the U.S. President, in coordination with the United Nations Security Council, to offer a new, comprehensive and time-bound agreement to the governments of Israel and Palestine, resulting in a negotiated final status agreement between Israel and Palestine leading to two viable and secure states with a shared Jerusalem;

To urge this church’s members, congregations, synods, agencies and presiding bishop to call on their U.S. Representatives, Senators and the Administration to take action requiring that, to continue receiving U.S. financial and military aid, Israel must comply with internationally recognized human rights standards as specified in existing U.S.

law, stop settlement building and the expansion of existing settlements in East Jerusalem and the West Bank, end its occupation of Palestinian territory and enable an independent Palestinian state; and

To encourage this church's members, congregations, synods and agencies to call on the U.S. President to recognize the State of Palestine and not prevent the application of the State of Palestine for full membership in the United Nations.

Response from the Office of the Presiding Bishop (November 2016)

The churchwide organization's communication with this church's members and congregations regarding Israel and Palestine matters is handled through our Peace Not Walls network. Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Relations in the Office of the Presiding Bishop has provided communication and interpretation of the 2016 Churchwide Assembly's actions with inter-religious partners as foundational work in support of communications within and beyond this church. Concerning the three requests for communications to the President and Congress, we intend to monitor political developments closely in order to discern the most propitious time for such communications, but we will wait at least until after the election season is completed. We expect to provide a response to the Churchwide Assembly action by the November 2017 Church Council meeting.

VOTED:

EN BLOC

CC16.11.46u To receive the response from the Office of the Presiding Bishop and to request a report be provided by the November 2017 Church Council meeting.

V. Justice for the Holy Land through responsible investment

Churchwide Assembly action [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.

Response from the Corporate Social Responsibility review team (November 2016)

In order to meet the call of this memorial, an initial survey of the social teachings of this church indicates that it would be useful to write a social message on human rights to underpin the development of a general human rights screen as requested. It is expected this message could be prepared and sent to Church Council by November 2017. At that point the Corporate Social Responsibility review team will follow the protocol for developing a new screen as outlined in the Policies and Procedure for the Development of Social Criteria Investment Screens.

The initial screen development process is projected for the fall and winter of 2017. Some specific work that will be needed includes:

1. Review the relevant social teachings of the ELCA with assistance from the Theological Discernment Team.
2. Additional input along the way from the Peace Not Walls team as well as the Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Relations team.
3. Review of the scope and prioritization of human rights issues/violations which might be covered in such a screen.
4. Receive input from the Endowment Fund, Mission Investment Fund and Portico regarding any concerns and impact on their work.

This screen development process will be followed by a first draft for review by Church Council in April 2018. Revisions and additional input will be incorporated, and the screen is projected to come for final action to the Church Council in the fall of 2018. The extended time frame for development allows for multiple consultations due to the sensitive nature of the subject.

Due to the urgency of this matter, we acknowledge that prioritizing this work will require that other work assigned to the Corporate Social Responsibility review team and the Theological Discernment team will need to be re-prioritized.

VOTED:

EN BLOC

CC16.11.46v 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.

W. Urging stewardship of the gift of water (Motion C)

Churchwide Assembly action [CA16.05.26]

To adopt Motion C: Resolution Urging Stewardship of the Gift of Water.

RESOLVED, that the ELCA, in assembly, asks the Church Council to direct the appropriate churchwide unit to provide every active rostered minister with resources to locate each congregation within its watershed district, so that waters may be named and known in worship and intercessory prayers, and that theological and biblical themes may build awareness, care and thanksgiving for the gift of these waters; and let it be further

RESOLVED, that the ELCA, in assembly, asks the Church Council to direct the appropriate churchwide unit to provide resources to congregations and individual members to encourage and support conservation and prayerful stewardship of water resources; and let it be further

RESOLVED, that the ELCA, in assembly, asks the Church Council to direct the appropriate churchwide unit to continue to develop strategies and provide resources to support areas struggling with natural or human-caused disasters that impact access to clean water, such as water contamination, drought and floods, with an awareness that the impact of our environmental actions have disproportionate implication for communities of color with lower incomes; and let it be further

RESOLVED, that the ELCA, in assembly, encourages congregations to plan events outside their doors and within their watersheds, utilizing the many biblical themes of renewal and liberation that water affords.

Response from Domestic Mission unit (November 2016)

ELCA Advocacy has developed and will disseminate a watershed identification resource that one can use to locate a watershed by using a zip code, so that the waters may be named and known in worship and intercessory prayer. ELCA Advocacy will address the need for congregational resources by making available World Council of Churches resources such as the Water of Life brochure, which concentrates on the important role of community-based initiatives and the right to water; Creation Justice Ministries' The Water Stewardship: A Toolkit for Congregational Care of Local Watersheds; the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Watersense Partnership Program that promotes the value of water efficiency and provides consumers with easy ways to save water, and addresses also how the average person can actively conserve water and promotes water conservation among children at USEPA WaterSense for Kids.

Through Lutheran Disaster Response, the ELCA addresses immediate and long-term needs in the wake of natural and human-caused disasters, including flood relief. Lutheran Disaster Response-International sent emergency funds to respond to drought in Malawi, Madagascar and Ethiopia in 2016. Lutheran Disaster Response will contribute to build up community resilience through distribution of “smart seeds” better adapted to climate change, income generating schemes (cash program), and climate smart agriculture. Lutheran Disaster Response also plans to promote and support water self-supply — a family or a small group typically relies on low-cost technologies to collect shallow groundwater or rainwater to build appropriate water sources and community response plans for future emergency situations. Lutheran Disaster Response can provide special funds for a construction of new boreholes and rainwater harvesting systems to alleviate the scarcity of water in the long term. Lutheran Disaster Response also plans to provide a special training on water treatment, purification and maintenance of the boreholes.

ELCA World Hunger continues to coordinate a response to lead-tainted water in Flint, Michigan, by providing immediate relief through emergency food and water and long-term accompaniment through support for local ministries building resilience during the recovery period. This includes attention to the role of environmental racism and vulnerability of communities of color in environmental disasters. ELCA World Hunger offers tools for learning and acting on water issues, including Walk for Water and a water brochure.

ELCA Advocacy will monitor legislation and offer advocacy opportunities to shape policy that addresses water safety in Flint and nationally. ELCA Advocacy will lift up World Water Day on March 22 as an opportunity for education and action, utilizing resources such as the Creation Justice Ministries Toolkit for Events on World Water Day. The toolkit includes sermon starters, study resources for youth and adults, and a call to action for people of faith to respond to the global water crisis. Lutherans will be invited to attend the Trinity Institute for a Water Justice Conference March 22-24, 2017, to focus on developing a deeper appreciation for water as a sacred gift, exploring the relationship between water issues and climate change, and address how churches can be agents of change.

VOTED:

EN BLOC

CC16.11.46w

**To receive the report from the Domestic Mission unit; and
To affirm the work of ELCA Advocacy to:**

- **provide watershed identification resources in order that congregations can use them to locate a watershed by using a zip code, so that the waters may be named and known in worship and intercessory prayer;**
- **provide resources to congregations and individual members to encourage and support conservation and prayerful stewardship of water resources;**
- **continue to develop strategies and provide resources to support areas struggling with natural or human-caused disasters that impact access to clean water, such as water contamination, drought and floods, with an awareness that the impact of our environmental actions have disproportionate implication for communities of color with lower incomes.**

X. Gender identity

Churchwide Assembly action [CA16.02.03q]

To receive with gratitude the memorial of the Sierra Pacific Synod regarding Gender Identity;

To refer this memorial to the Church Council for study of gender identity;

To ask the Church Council, the Office of the Presiding Bishop and the Office of the Secretary to review existing definitions and policies in light of the council’s study; and

To report to the 2019 Churchwide Assembly of the ELCA actions and proposals for additional actions as may be required.

Response from the Office of the Secretary (November 2016)

The Office of the Secretary will be working with Theological Discernment in the Office of the Presiding Bishop to recommend how the council might engage this study process. The hope is that this will start by Spring 2017.

VOTED: *EN BLOC*
CC16.11.46x **To receive the response from the Office of the Secretary and to anticipate a progress report by the November 2017 Church Council meeting.**

Y. Gender identity (Motion D)

Churchwide Assembly action [CA16.05.27]

To refer Motion D: Resolution on Gender Identity to the Church Council and that the Church Council use the resolution to help inform the study of gender identity and the review of existing ELCA definitions and policies regarding gender identity as referenced in the above approved memorial, and urge all three expressions of our church, whenever possible, and when not otherwise guided by current constitution and/or policy, consider using event registration and other forms that:

- 1) Include additional options for gender, for transgender, non-binary and/or gender non-conforming people; and
- 2) When asking for a person's personal information, include asking for the person's pronouns; and
- 3) When asking for a person's honorific or title, include a gender neutral option.

Response from the Office of the Secretary (November 2016)

The Office of the Secretary recommends weaving in the intentions of this resolution to help inform the study of gender identity that will be underway with Theological Discernment in the Office of the Presiding Bishop.

VOTED: *EN BLOC*
CC16.11.46y **To incorporate the intentions of Motion D into the gender identity study process;**
and
To acknowledge that the action of the Church Council regarding the Gender Identity memorial of the Sierra Pacific Synod will be the response to this resolution.

Z. Compensation for the ELCA vice president (Motion E)

Churchwide Assembly action [CA16.06.34]

To adopt Motion E: Resolution on Compensation for the Council Vice President.

RESOLVED, that the Churchwide Assembly requests the Church Council study the removal of constitutional bylaw 13.32.02., which prohibits compensation for the vice president except for reimbursements; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Churchwide Assembly requests the Church Council study compensation or reimbursement for child or elder care and salary or stipend for service related to the duties of the vice president; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Church Council bring a report and recommendation to the 2019 Churchwide Assembly.

Response from the Office of the Secretary (November 2016)

The Office of the Secretary will be working with Research and Evaluation in the Office of the Presiding Bishop to recommend how the council might engage this study process. The hope is that this will start in Spring 2017.

VOTED: *EN BLOC*
CC16.11.46z **To receive the response from the Office of the Secretary and to anticipate a progress report by the November 2017 Church Council meeting.**

AA. Time of prayer and worship resources on human trafficking

Churchwide Assembly action [CA16.02.03k]

To receive with gratitude the memorials of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin, East-Central Synod of Wisconsin and La Crosse Area Synod calling for a dedicated time of prayer to end human trafficking and to create resources to support congregations in this endeavor;

To encourage congregations to incorporate attention to the issue of human trafficking in their communication and resource development plan and to foster ecumenical and inter-religious cooperation, including dedicated times of prayer each year, such as January 11, Human Trafficking Awareness Day; and

To refer to the worship team within the Office of the Presiding Bishop for its deliberation and discretion the creation of worship resources surrounding the issue of human trafficking and the creation of prayers and litanies for the dedicated time of prayer.

Response from the Office of the Presiding Bishop (November 2016)

In early November, the Worship Team in the Office of the Presiding Bishop will be meeting with colleagues in Global Mission, Domestic Mission, Theological Discernment and Women of the ELCA to discuss the creation of worship resources regarding human trafficking. We intend to provide a report on the activities by the end of 2017.

VOTED:

EN BLOC

CC16.11.46aa To receive the response from the Office of the Presiding Bishop and to anticipate a report by the November 2017 Church Council meeting.

BB. Examining the opportunities and implications of Campaign Zero, a policy platform in affirmation of Black Lives Matter

Churchwide Assembly action [CA16.02.03d]

To receive with gratitude the memorials of the Greater Milwaukee and Northwest Washington synods in affirmation of Black Lives Matter; and

To refer to the Domestic Mission unit through the African Descent Ministries Desk, in partnership with the African Descent Lutheran Association, consideration of the request to examine the opportunities and implications of Campaign Zero's initiatives and actions and request a report and possible recommendations be provided to the Church Council.

Response from the Domestic Mission unit (November 2016)

Over the next six months, the African Descent Ministries, program director for racial justice, director for advocacy, program director for domestic policy and the African Descent Lutheran Association will consider the opportunities for engagement, education and encouragement of advocacy in alignment with the 10-point policy solutions outlined in Campaign Zero. A full report will be prepared for the April 2017 Church Council meeting.

VOTED:

EN BLOC

CC16.11.46bb To receive the response from the Domestic Mission unit and to anticipate a report by the April 2017 Church Council meeting.

CC. Supporting military personnel, veterans and their families

Churchwide Assembly action [CA16.06.33]

To receive with gratitude, the memorials of Eastern Washington-Idaho, Pacifica, Southeastern Minnesota, Southwestern Texas, East-Central Wisconsin, Southern Ohio, Northwestern Pennsylvania, Allegheny, Metropolitan Washington, D.C., West Virginia-Western Maryland and Southeastern synods regarding their interest and vision for ministry affirming those called to military service, veterans, their families and this church's support for chaplaincy ministries;

To recognize with gratitude ELCA members, congregations, agencies and institutions which have initiated creative ministry and mission engaging members of the military, veterans, ELCA chaplains and their families;

To encourage congregations, agencies, families and individuals to assist those considering military service and those continuing in service through moral discernment and vocational guidance concerning the life-changing decisions they must make involving justice, service and the ethical application of force;

To direct the Office of the Presiding Bishop to establish a Sunday of prayer and action near Veterans Day each year to unite this church in prayer and encourage assistance for military members, veterans, ELCA chaplains and families;

To encourage ELCA members, congregations and synods to offer care and support for returning veterans;

To encourage congregations to seek out incarcerated veterans to thank them for their service and to help them access veterans' benefits so that they might have a more successful transition upon release;

To affirm the publication of the Prayer Book for the Armed Services and to encourage congregations to present gift copies to veterans, military personnel and chaplains;

To encourage synod bishops, candidacy committees, congregations and seminaries to make known the need for ordained pastors to serve as chaplains in the military, Veterans Affairs hospitals, federal corrections and other chaplaincies;

To urge ELCA members and congregations to contribute to the ELCA Federal Chaplaincy Ministries Fund for Leaders Scholarship to attract the next generation of chaplains; and

To encourage ELCA seminaries, colleges and universities to integrate practicing chaplains to teach about specialized ministries, preach in chapel, and foster awareness and consideration of a call to chaplaincy ministry.

Response from the Office of the Presiding Bishop (November 2016)

The assembly action grew out of 14 synods passing memorials addressing this topic. This action was adopted at the 2016 Churchwide Assembly as a unanimous vote of the assembly. The follow-up is assigned to Office of the Presiding Bishop with the assistant to the presiding bishop for federal chaplaincy taking the lead.

ELCA Federal Chaplaincy Ministries launched and is sustaining a voluntary network of individuals implementing initiatives to support military personnel, veterans and their families called "Centurion Connections," based on biblical accounts of Jesus and other New Testament encounters with soldiers by Jesus and the apostles (see Mark 15:39, Matthew 8:8, Acts 10:1-8).

Below are updates and recommended next steps.

Church Council members may pray for and celebrate initiatives of the "Centurion Connections" volunteers. As a starting point, 23 synods have an identified contacts for "Centurion Connections." Four other synods expressed interest. These initiatives proceed only with the awareness and support of the synod bishops. Expand "Centurion Connections" to every synod.

In keeping with directions from the assembly action, staff work has been completed to support the presiding bishop designating the Sunday closest to Veterans Day as an opportunity to unite the ELCA in prayer and action in support of military personnel, veterans and their families.

The Fall 2016 issue of "Seeds for the Parish" (page 6) provides information and ideas to aid rostered ministers and congregations planning worship and activities.

The volunteer network "Centurion Connections" has developed and actively maintains a single website as a help to congregations and synods, providing prayer forms, children's sermon and program ideas: <http://ELCAchaps.com>.

Three pilot synods (Southern Ohio, South Carolina and West Virginia-Western Maryland) have a formal, collaborative initiative with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Community Clergy Training Program (CCTP). CCTP fosters interfaith, ecumenical support of veteran ministries.

The Federal Chaplaincy Ministries (FCM) advisory committee, appointed by the presiding bishop, inaugurated a new ELCA Fund for Leaders Chaplaincy Scholarship Endowment. Through the "quiet" phase of the campaign, over \$87,000 has been given by the chaplain community and select individual and congregational supporters. In December 2017, the Rev. Murray D. Finck, former bishop of the Pacifica Synod, will lead a development team to maximize the expansion of the chaplaincy scholarship to support seminary students open to serving in federal chaplaincy ministries.

Through a sustained, structured and nearly completely voluntary network focused on congregations and synods, the Office of the Presiding Bishop, Bureau for Federal Chaplaincy Ministries will implement all eight recommendations of the assembly action.

VOTED:

EN BLOC

- CC16.11.46cc** **To receive with gratitude the response of the Office of the Presiding Bishop in supporting military personnel, veterans and their families;**
To pray for and celebrate initiatives of the “Centurion Connections” volunteers;
To thank the ELCA Federal Chaplaincy staff and the presiding bishop for their work in designating a Sunday near Veterans Day for prayer and action and to commend this time as an opportunity to unite the ELCA in support of military personnel, veterans and their families; and
To commend the churchwide staff, synods, congregations and volunteers for their continued efforts to implement the assembly action.

DD. Call to discernment on U.S. foreign and military policy

Churchwide Assembly action [CA16.06.32]

To receive with gratitude the memorial of the Minneapolis Area Synod regarding its call for the ELCA to study, reflect, search and act in light of ongoing and widening war efforts;

To recognize with gratitude the efforts of the current and previous presiding bishops, the Church Council, synod bishops, clergy and the laity to engage as responsible citizens living out the baptismal calling;

To issue a call for congregations to engage in prayer, Scripture-study and communal reading of the teaching resources of this church, particularly “Church in Society: A Lutheran Perspective,” “For Peace in God’s World” and “Talking Together as Christians about Tough Social Issues”;

To invite this church to a particular time of prayer and communal discernment over the next three years to promote robust examination of the consequences of expanded U.S. war efforts since 1990. To refer to the Church Council to formulate the next steps, including any budgetary implications. To encourage the Office of the Presiding Bishop to consider dialogue with Called Forward Together in Christ, Declaration on the Way and other ecumenical partners in planning this initiative, including inviting, scholars whose work focuses in these areas, activists, seminaries, colleges/universities, synods, VA and other federal chaplains. We especially hope to include those whose lives are most impacted by these developments in the United States and world.

Topics of inquiry could include:

The impact on well-being of all military personnel and veterans: active, reserve, retired, and national guard, contractors, affiliates, and their families:

- Chronic disabilities and loss (including chemical dependencies and brain injury),
- Collateral involvement with criminal justice system,
- Diminished lives and early deaths of veterans and their families from toxins, PTSD symptoms, and violence,
- Moral injury,
- Character and skill development, and

Broader societal impacts, such as:

- Climate change and global pollution load,
- Changes in policing practices,
- Engagement with and prejudice against neighbor Muslims,
- Policy decisions due to commercial motivations for the proliferation of arms,
- Social needs met and unmet due to prioritizing public spending on expanding war efforts;

with Church Council to recommend next steps by April 2017; and

To direct the presiding bishop to communicate this church's time of prayer and discernment to the U.S. President and members of Congress and to encourage ELCA members in this election season of 2016 to communicate the same to candidates for federal office.

Response from the Office of the Presiding Bishop (November 2016)

The Office of the Presiding Bishop, with the assistant to the presiding bishop for federal chaplaincy, is taking the lead. The Office of the Presiding Bishop will continue its work in consultation with Domestic Mission, Office of the Treasurer and other colleagues in the Office of the Presiding Bishop.

ELCA Advocacy issued an Advocacy Alert calling the ELCA to prayer and action regarding broadening war efforts. Below are the recommended next steps:

- Church Council identifies two members of the council to serve as advisors on behalf of the Church Council to Federal Chaplaincy in developing recommended next steps before the April 2017 meeting.
- Federal Chaplaincy requests input for possible ELCA colleagues, ecumenical partners and interfaith representatives, synod leaders, scholars, academics, government service providers and non-government social service representatives who may be interested in participating in a day-long convening to address selected issues from the memorial.
- Budget Planning develop costs for a temporary staff position for one day per week administrative support from January through June 2018 to initiate contact with potential participants, arrange details at the Lutheran Center for a one-day "round table" with up to 40 participants (including facilitating lodging, local transportation, meals and support services).
- Federal Chaplaincy, along with two members of the Church Council, plan and present recommended next steps at the April 2017 meeting of the Church Council.

Proposed Outcome: ELCA serves as a convener for faith communities, academics, government and faith-based social service agencies to advance reflection on war and its consequences. ELCA Federal Chaplaincy synchronizes a one-day "round table" with interested participants to be held at the Lutheran Center in conjunction with the 2018 ELCA Federal Chaplains Education and Training event (likely June 18 or July 16 or 23, 2018). The result and outcome will be a "Report on a Day of Discernment." The purpose of the report is to provide a concrete outcome to be read and shared with others as well as a potential guide for underpinning further action.

NOTE: Participants will be invited to attend and join in the "round table" at their own expense. In addition to the estimated 40 participants for the "round table," the program will be open to ELCA federal chaplains (military, VA and Bureau of Prisons) attending the annual Chaplains Education and Training event.

VOTED:

EN BLOC

**CC16.11.46dd To receive the response from the Office of the Presiding Bishop on a proposed timeline and outcome for the initiative;
To authorize the Executive Committee to identify two people from the Church Council to serve as advisors with Federal Chaplaincy on developing next steps; and
To anticipate a progress report with possible recommendations by the April 2017 Church Council meeting.**

EE. Examining the implications of becoming a sanctuary denomination

Churchwide Assembly action [CA16.02.03j]

To receive with gratitude the memorial of the Oregon Synod regarding the sanctuary movement;

To reaffirm the ELCA's partnership with Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service in calling for fair and compassionate immigration policies and practices that keep families together;

To encourage ELCA synods, congregations and members to advocate for legislation that welcomes the stranger to this country and to their communities;

To refer the request to the Domestic Mission unit to examine the opportunities and implications of endorsing the practice of congregations offering sanctuary and of the ELCA declaring itself a sanctuary denomination and request a report and recommendations be provided to the Church Council.

Response from the Domestic Mission unit and Office of the Secretary (November 2016)

The Domestic Mission unit, the general counsel of the ELCA, and Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS) discussed next steps for the Domestic Mission unit to examine the endorsement of congregations offering sanctuary and to consider the ramifications of the ELCA declaring itself a sanctuary denomination. The group intends to pursue additional conversations with leaders from the Oregon Synod to further understand the purpose and to define terms in the memorial. This conversation may lead to consultation with other denominations and will be followed by research and analysis. The unit expects to bring a report and possible recommendations to the November 2017 meeting of the Council.

VOTED:

EN BLOC

**CC16.11.46ee To receive the response from the Office of the Secretary and the Domestic Mission unit; and
To anticipate a report with possible recommendations by the November 2017 Church Council meeting.**

FF. Resolution on call process (Motion F)

Churchwide Assembly action [CA16.06.35]

To adopt Motion F: Resolution on Call Process.

RESOLVED, that the assembly asks the ELCA Church Council, in consultation with the Conference of Bishops, to initiate a conversation including synod leadership regarding rostered minister vacancies throughout this church; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the assembly encourages the Conference of Bishops to continue their work of facilitating and always reforming the call process for congregations and institutions in our changing contexts; and be it further

RESOLVED, that regions, institutions, synods, and congregations be encouraged to raise up leaders in this church for rostered leadership with the encouragement and oversight of the Theological Education Advisory Committee of the Church Council; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Conference of Bishops communicate with the ELCA Church Council and mutually review the status of this work every year and a half for three years.

Response from the Conference of Bishops (November 2016)

The Executive Committee of the Conference of Bishops has not yet had a chance to consider a response to "Resolution on Call Process" (Motion F) [CA16.06.35], which was passed at the 2016 Churchwide Assembly and for which the Conference of Bishops has been designated to take the lead. In consultation with the Office of the Presiding Bishop, Domestic Mission and the Church Council, we will establish a working group at the Spring 2017 meeting of the Conference of Bishops with the expectation of an initial report, including a plan for addressing the resolution, at the Fall 2017 Conference of Bishops meeting to be presented, in turn, to the November 2017 Church Council meeting.

VOTED:

EN BLOC

CC16.11.46ff To receive the response from the Conference of Bishops and to anticipate a report with possible recommendations by the November 2017 Church Council meeting.

GG. African Descent Lutherans

Churchwide Assembly action [CA16.05.17]

To receive with gratitude the memorials of the Arkansas-Oklahoma, Metropolitan Chicago, Southeast Michigan, New Jersey, Metropolitan New York, Northeastern Pennsylvania, Southeastern Pennsylvania, Metropolitan Washington, D.C., North Carolina and Southeastern synods regarding African Descent Lutheran Lives Matter;

To direct the Office of the Presiding Bishop, the Domestic Mission unit and the Global Mission unit to assist in connecting, supporting and involving ELCA representation (particularly though not exclusively) of the people of African descent with the observance of the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation and the initiatives of the U.N. International Decade for People of African Descent; to be intentional in the inclusion of the contributions of African descent Lutherans as part of these observances;

To confess and repent of the Lutheran church's complicity in 400 years of enslavement, oppression and marginalization of African descent people and other marginalized populations;

To acknowledge with regret that the ELCA as an institution has and continues to contribute to racial harassment and discrimination against people of African descent through corporate action, policy and practices and to request the Office of the Secretary, in consultation with appropriate churchwide organization units, to review and report on current governing documents in light of these concerns;

To encourage synods and ELCA related institutions to do the same in its review and report of current governing documents related to setting policy and procedures on workplace harassment and discrimination, including racial harassment and discrimination;

To request the Domestic Mission unit through its African Descent Ministries desk, in consultation with the African Descent Lutheran Association, to create a "Declaration of the ELCA to the African Descent Community" and to bring this declaration with recommendations of how to include the declaration in this church's governing documents by the April 2018 meeting of the Church Council;

To urge the seminaries, colleges, universities and other academic institutions of this church to work with the Conference of International Black Lutherans (CIBL) to recognize and dismantle white hegemony by lifting up, encouraging and incorporating the academic exploration of Black Liberation Theology and Womanist Theologians;

To urge the seminaries, colleges, universities and other academic institutions of this church to develop anti-racism resources;

To reaffirm the Church Council action to call upon the seminaries, in collaboration with churchwide organization units and partners, to develop networked theological education programs, resources and opportunities for ethnic-specific communities;

To reaffirm the commitment of this church to create, sustain and reinvest in African descent communities, congregations and ministries including an update of the African Descent Ministry Strategy;

To request the Domestic Mission unit, in partnership with the African Descent Lutheran Association, to find ways to increase the number of African descent leaders, congregations and communities served by at least 10 percent; and

To recommit this church to growing its ethnic and racial diversity.

Response from the Domestic Mission unit (November 2016)

There are numerous resolves within this assembly action. The initial response from the Domestic Mission unit is to address the ones that directly impact the churchwide organization.

Part of the action of the assembly represents two separate though intersecting initiatives: the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation and the United Nations International Decade for People of African Descent 2015-2024. Other parts are related to: review of governing documents, creation of a 'Declaration of the ELCA to the African Descent Community,' and an increase in the number of African Descent leaders, congregations and communities served.

Regarding the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation

The 500th Anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation will be observed by gatherings and conversations of a global Lutheran community. Lutheran churches from across the African continent will take part and be fully represented members of this worldwide Lutheran family. Unless we are particularly attentive as the ELCA to the shaping of our

delegations and teams representing our church, African American, African Caribbean and other ELCA members of African ancestry will not be afforded equitable access and involvement in this historic chapter of the continuing reformation of the church.

The director of ethnic specific, multicultural and racial justice ministries, in consultation with the Executive Director of the Domestic Mission unit, the African Descent Strategy Team, the African National Steering Committee, the African Descent Ministries desk, Global Mission unit, the African Descent Lutheran Association and the director for racial justice ministries, will formulate a plan and approach for implementing the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation and report to Church Council at its April 2017 meeting.

Within the next three months, the director of ethnic specific, multicultural and racial justice ministries will discuss the incorporation of the presence and participation of the African Descent diaspora and other people of color in the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation with the Office of the Presiding Bishop (to include specifically the executive for theological discernment and executive for ecumenical and inter-religious relations) and report to Church Council at its April 2017 meeting.

Regarding the U.N. International Decade for People of African Descent

The U.N. General Assembly proclaimed 2015-2024 as the International Decade for People of African Descent (resolution 68/237) citing the need to strengthen national, regional and international cooperation in relation to the full enjoyment of economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights by people of African Descent, and their full and equal participation in all aspects of society.

The Domestic Mission unit will convene a consultation inclusive of African Descent Lutheran Association representatives, African Descent Ministries staff, Global Mission and Domestic Mission executive directors, executive for theological discernment, director for Lutheran Office for World Community and additional advisors as needed. This team will formulate a plan for intentional representative engagement of ELCA persons of African Descent in the U.N. initiative to be presented to Church Council at its April 2017 meeting.

Regarding a “Declaration of the ELCA to the African Descent Community”

The African Descent Ministries desk and the director for racial justice ministries will consult with the African Descent Lutheran Association regarding the work to create a “Declaration of the ELCA to the African Descent Community.” (The resolution originated at the 2015 biennial assembly for the African Descent Lutheran Association.) A progress report on the development of the declaration will be presented to the Church Council at its November 2017 meeting.

Regarding a review and report on current governing documents

The assembly action requested that this church’s governing documents be reviewed regarding its contribution to racial harassment and discrimination against people of African descent. Within the next six months, the director for ethnic specific, multicultural and racial justice ministries will schedule a conversation with a representative from the Church Council, the Office of the Secretary, the Office of the Presiding Bishop, the African Descent Lutheran Association, the director for racial justice ministries and the African Descent Ministries desk. A report will come to Church Council at its November 2017 meeting.

Regarding ways to increase the number of African descent leaders, congregations and communities served

In consultation with the Conference of Bishops, Domestic Mission unit leadership team, the African Descent Lutheran Association, executive for administration, director for leadership and candidacy and Mission Advancement unit, the Domestic Mission unit will create a plan to assess current and proposed work as first steps toward implementation. A report will come to Church Council by its November 2017 meeting.

VOTED:

EN BLOC

CC16.11.46gg To receive the response from the Domestic Mission unit on a proposed timeline to address the implementation of the African Descent Lutherans assembly action;

To anticipate a report on actions related to the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation and the U.N. International Decade for People of African Descent by the April 2017 Church Council meeting; and

To anticipate a report on actions related to the “Declaration of the ELCA to the African Descent Community,” review on current governing documents and ways to increase the number of African Descent leaders, congregations and communities served at the November 2017 Church Council meeting.

HH. Strategy toward authentic diversity within the ELCA (Motion B)

Churchwide Assembly action [CA16.05.25]

To refer Motion B to the Church Council.

Motion B: Resolution for a Strategy Toward Authentic Diversity within the ELCA

RESOLVED, the Churchwide Assembly direct the ELCA Church Council to form a task force for the purpose of developing a comprehensive set of strategies to equip congregations and synods to work towards becoming a more authentically diverse church. The work of the task force shall include but is not limited to:

- consulting with Women of the ELCA, the ethnic specific ministry associations, the multicultural and racial justice team, the Conference of Bishops and ecumenical partners
- collecting existing resources such as those available from Women of the ELCA and the ethnic specific ministry associations and beyond the ELCA
- identifying needs for additional resources
- supporting synods in identifying their specific opportunities for growth
- assessing the effectiveness of diversity strategies across the three expressions church in order to identify strategies that have yielded authentic diversity; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the task force be composed of one person from each of the nine regions and one bishop who will serve as co-chair. The composition of the task force shall conform with the representational principles in section 5.01.f. of the ELCA constitution except that persons of color and/or persons whose primary language is other than English shall comprise 100 percent of the task force, and the task force shall be ethnically diverse. The members of the task force shall be appointed by the Church Council in consultation with the ELCA director of ethnic specific and multicultural ministries; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Church Council designate funds to support the work of the task force as soon as funds become available, no later than April 2017. The work of the task force shall begin no later than August 2017 and conclude at the 2019 Churchwide Assembly; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the task force submit a report and recommendations to the 2019 Churchwide Assembly that includes:

1. a summary of the information gathered by the task force and
2. a proposal of recommendations for metrics and supports to provide mutual accountability for our commitment to diversity across the three expressions of the church and a proposal for funding these efforts.

Response from the Domestic Mission unit (November 2016)

Work toward becoming a more authentically diverse church is currently being carried out through the Ethnic Specific Ministry Associations and the Ethnic Specific, Multicultural Ministries and Racial Justice team. In addition, Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton was asked [CC15.11.55] by the Church Council at its November 2015 meeting “to include the current efforts in a broader, comprehensive strategy toward becoming a racially and ethnically diverse church committed to dismantling racism.” It is worth noting that the Called Forward Together in Christ process identified a goal that this church becomes “an inviting, inclusive church that reflects the diversity of our communities and embraces the gifts and opportunities that diversity brings.” While the Domestic Mission unit has continued the work, it requests more time for consultations and further reflection before advising the council on a proposed task force and the scope of work prescribed. A full report will be prepared for the April 2017 Church Council meeting.

VOTED: *EN BLOC*
CC16.11.46hh To receive the response from the Domestic Mission unit and to anticipate a report by the April 2017 Church Council meeting.

II. Repudiation of the doctrine of discovery

Churchwide Assembly action [CA16.02.04]

To receive with gratitude memorials from the Alaska, Northwest Washington, Montana, Southwest California, Rocky Mountain, Eastern North Dakota, South Dakota, Minneapolis Area, Saint Paul Area, Arkansas-Oklahoma, Northwest Wisconsin, East-Central Wisconsin, Indiana-Kentucky, Upstate New York, Northwestern Pennsylvania, Metropolitan Washington, D.C., North Carolina and Southeastern synods regarding the Repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery;

To repudiate explicitly and clearly the European-derived doctrine of discovery as an example of the “improper mixing of the power of the church and the power of the sword” (Augsburg Confession Article XXVIII, Latin text), and to acknowledge and repent from this church’s complicity in the evils of colonialism in the Americas, which continue to harm tribal governments and individual tribal members;

To offer a statement of repentance and reconciliation to native nations in this country for damage done in the name of Christianity;

To encourage the Office of the Presiding Bishop to plan an appropriate national ceremony of repentance and reconciliation with tribal leaders, providing appropriate worship resources for similar synodical and congregational observances with local tribal leaders, at such times and places as are appropriate;

To direct the Domestic Mission unit, together with the American Indian and Alaska Native community and ecumenical partners, to develop resources to educate members of the ELCA and the wider community about the doctrine of discovery and its consequences for native peoples;

To direct the Domestic Mission unit to develop a strategy with the American Indian and Alaska Native community during the next triennium to be referred to the Church Council for action, including a mechanism to grow the Native American Ministry Fund of the ELCA; and

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.

Response from the Domestic Mission unit (November 2016)

As was described in the 2016 Churchwide Assembly Memorials Committee report, the “doctrine of discovery” is a theological justification of colonization that later became nationalistic justification. Initiated when European monarchies invasively arrived in the Western Hemisphere in the 15th, 16th and later centuries, during the so-called “Age of Discovery,” they claimed the lands, territories and resources of the indigenous peoples, asserting that the monarchies had a right to appropriate on behalf of Christendom.

The doctrine of discovery is a key premise for non-indigenous government claims to legitimacy on and sovereignty over indigenous lands and territories. It is used in particular by former British colonies, specifically Canada, Australia, New Zealand and the United States of America.

For additional information on what is found in the doctrine of discovery and what its effect has had on indigenous peoples, we recommend reading the entire background information included in the “Report of the Memorials Committee.”

The repudiation of the doctrine of discovery by the 2016 Churchwide Assembly provides an invaluable teaching moment for our congregations to understand systemic and continuous impact of racism on the daily lives of indigenous peoples in the U.S. The assembly voted to eliminate the doctrine within the church’s contemporary politics, programs, outreach, structures and engagement with native communities. Through the assembly action, we have acknowledged there is a profound brokenness of our relationship with indigenous people that is deeply embedded in our identity as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America that calls us to a path for healing and reconciliation.

The doctrine of discovery, and the legal ramifications of it to this day, have profound effects on the issues of migration, racial and economic justice for indigenous people. This church is to promote efforts with indigenous communities within which our congregations and synods reside. In order to assist this church in its work to eliminate the doctrine of discovery from its contemporary rhetoric and programs, we recommend the development of synod native accompaniment teams with American Indian Alaska Native Ministries to help strengthen community leadership as well as provide structural support and relationship building with the directors for evangelical mission and synods, and reduce isolation of ministry leadership.

In the assembly action, this church is “to offer a statement of repentance and reconciliation to native nations in this country for damage done in the name of Christianity.” We will be working with the Office of the Presiding Bishop and the Native Ministry team to draft this statement. In consultation with the Native Ministry team, we recommend that this statement acknowledge the benefit of past apologies and bring attention to communities and issues of American Indian Alaska Native Tribes in the United States. The statement should also include the acknowledgment of the impact that the Lutheran church has had in American Indian, Alaska Native communities and bring attention to communities and issues of American Indian Alaska Native Tribes in the United States. The statement should also include the acknowledgment of the impact that the Lutheran church has had in American Indian, Alaska Native communities.

The Office of the Presiding Bishop will work with the program director for American Indian Alaska Native Ministry, worship staff and the American Indian community to plan and implement a national ceremony of repentance and reconciliation. In consultation with the program director and the American Indian Alaska Native Community leaders, we recommend the national ceremony and the reading of the statement of repentance and reconciliation will be done at the site of Pe’ Sla, in the lands held sacred by the Dakota Tribes in the Black Hills region of South Dakota. Doing the public announcement of the statement in this place not only commemorates sacred lands being reclaimed by Indigenous People, the action speaks to seeking a more meaningful relationship with American Indian Alaska Native People. The intended time frame for this ceremony is for it to take place during Spring 2017 or 2018 in partnership with the local tribes and tribal colleges when they allow visitors to the land.

The program director for American Indian Alaska Native Ministries and the community will work with synod bishops, synod leaders and congregations to assist them in planning observances with local tribal leaders. These actions acknowledge the statement of repentance and reconciliation on behalf of the church, and bring attention to the communities and issues of American Indian Alaska Native Tribes in the United States.

Through the 2016 Churchwide Assembly action, the visibility of the doctrine of discovery has been raised, and is itself a means of educating people about that doctrine and its continuing effects on indigenous nations and peoples. An immediate implementation plan on the repudiation of the doctrine of discovery will include educational resources about the doctrine. We will develop educational resources in partnership with the denominations that have currently repudiated the doctrine of discovery and Lutheran theological leaders, and foremost Native nation, indigenous leaders. The Program Director for American Indian Alaska Native Ministries will work with synod bishops, synod leaders and congregations to organize educational opportunities to better understand the realities and impact of the doctrine of discovery. A series of informational resources, infographics, web videos and other resources will be developed in collaboration with our ecumenical partners and leaders within our American Indian, Alaska Native ELCA leaders. We intend to establish and/or utilize current Native Ministry team members and association to develop an implementation plan and timeline for the development of these resources in accordance with the next triennium.

The assembly action also requested the development of a strategy with the American Indian Alaska Native community. There is a strategic plan for the American Indian and Alaska Native ministry that was adopted by the 1997 Churchwide Assembly. Updating the strategy will include the work of developing strategic implementation for the repudiation of the doctrine of discovery. During the next triennium, we will use this time for discernment and conversations with communities as well as ecumenical partners to develop an overall strategy. In addition to updating the strategy, the Program Director for American Indian Alaska Native Ministries will establish a process with the community to review the Native American Ministry Endowment Fund, including its guidelines, priorities and philanthropy structure for growth and implementation. A draft strategy will be prepared for the Church Council’s consideration at its April 2019 meeting to be forwarded to the 2019 Churchwide Assembly.

We will provide a progress report on the work of this memorial at the November 2018 meeting of the Church Council.

VOTED: *EN BLOC*
CC16.11.46ii **To receive with appreciation the response from the Domestic Mission unit regarding the work underway to implement the repudiation of the doctrine of discovery;**
 To commend the American Indian Alaska Native Ministries in its work with synods and congregations to educate people about the doctrine of discovery and its continuing effects on indigenous nations and peoples;
 To anticipate a progress report on the work at the November 2018 Church Council meeting; and
 To request a revised American Indian and Alaska Native Strategic Plan be presented at the April 2019 Church Council meeting.

RESPONSES TO SYNOD RESOLUTIONS

JJ. Campus ministry

(Reference: Campus Ministry Report 2016)

Southeastern Iowa Synod (5D) [2016]

RESOLVED, that the Southeastern Iowa Synod in assembly encourages its congregations to pray frequently for ELCA Lutheran Campus Ministries in Iowa; and be it further

RESOLVED, that congregations of the Southeastern Iowa Synod are encouraged to invite the students and staff of ELCA Lutheran Campus Ministries to worship with them and to tell them about the impact of their ministries on campus; and be it further

RESOLVED, that congregational leaders, members and staff in the Southeastern Iowa Synod are encouraged to visit ELCA Lutheran Campus Ministry sites to express support to and also become familiar with its staff, students and ministries; and be it further

RESOLVED, that congregations of the Southeastern Iowa Synod be encouraged to include ELCA Campus Ministries in Iowa in their annual budgets as an outreach above and beyond mission support to synod and churchwide ministries, and/or provide opportunities for members to make annual special gifts and offerings to ELCA campus ministries; and be it further

RESOLVED, that congregations are asked to notify ELCA campus ministries of the names of their member students who are attending their respective universities; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Southeastern Iowa Synod Assembly directs the Southeastern Iowa Synod Council to request the Church Council to lift up the importance of campus ministries throughout the ELCA, and explore ways to reverse the trend of decreasing financial support toward the important work they do in partnership with, and on behalf of, Christ and His Church.

Executive Committee action [EC16.06.19a]

To receive the resolution from the Southeastern Iowa Synod concerning the importance of campus ministry;

To refer the resolution to the Domestic Mission unit for a report or for a timeline on when this resolution will receive further attention; and

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

Response from the Domestic Mission unit (November 2016)

The Domestic Mission unit is working in close partnership with the board of the newly created Lutheran Campus Ministry Network (LuMin) to lift up the importance and the visibility of campus ministries across the church. The Domestic Mission unit supports the work of LuMin with an annual partnership grant. The program director for campus ministry also serves on the LuMin board.

A comprehensive review and revision of ELCA Campus Ministry Policies and Procedures, last revised by the Church Council in 2006, is currently underway. The goal is to replace this document with an updated resource that describes the current context for campus ministry and defines the interdependent nature of this ministry within the life of the ELCA, including congregations, synods and the churchwide organization. The Domestic Mission unit anticipates completion of this resource during 2017, with a report back to the Church Council in November 2017.

The Domestic Mission unit also notes that churchwide financial support and staffing for the campus ministry program has remained steady for the past six years. Over the past several years, many campus ministry agencies have been reporting declining financial support from synod budgets. The Southeastern Iowa Synod resolution provides a good model for synods and their congregations to reconnect with the campus ministries in their area. Significant efforts have been made over the past several years to equip campus ministry boards and staff with new knowledge and tools to help them expand their levels of financial support among alumnae, friends and supporting congregations.

VOTED:

EN BLOC

CC16.11.46jj

**To receive with gratitude the response from the Domestic Mission unit;
To anticipate a revised ELCA Campus Ministry Policies and Procedures at the
November 2017 Church Council meeting; and
To request that the secretary of this church inform the synod of this action.**

KK. Immigration

(Reference: AMMPARO Response to Church Council)

New Jersey Synod (7A) [2016]

RESOLVED, that the congregations of the New Jersey Synod become aware of the needs of unaccompanied migrant children and strengthen this church's ministry among, with and for the most vulnerable of newcomers, and to continue to advocate for immigration, refugee and asylum laws that are fair and generous; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the New Jersey Synod congregations advocate for appropriate legal representation for children and families fleeing violence and war by communicating with our elected officials; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the New Jersey Synod encourage the ELCA in assembly to encourage all congregations to advocate for laws and policies that protect children and people fleeing persecution and address the situation of migrants in transit.

The New Jersey Synod reported the resolution as "Resolution referred through the Synod Council to the Church Council."

Executive Committee action [EC16.06.19b]

To receive the resolution from the New Jersey Synod concerning immigration;

To refer the resolution to the Domestic Mission unit for a report or for a timeline on when this resolution will receive further attention; and

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

Response from the Domestic Mission unit (November 2016)

The adoption of the AMMPARO (Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities) strategy at the 2016 Churchwide Assembly increases the capacity of AMMPARO staff to connect with ELCA synods to create greater awareness of the needs of unaccompanied children and how congregations can strengthen

their ministries with them. Staff has been in contact with the New Jersey Synod and will have further conversation in order to develop a plan to work with congregations on accompaniment, advocacy and awareness-building. New materials will be created in the first quarter of 2017 for congregations and synods, in addition to the materials that are already available. For more information about unaccompanied children from Central America, please visit the AMMPARO page (www.ELCA.org/ammparo).

As part of this capacity-building effort, the ELCA Advocacy office (www.ELCA.org/advocacy) and Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (www.LIRS.org) will continue to connect congregations to advocate for immigration, refugee resettlement and asylum laws that are fair and generous. Faith leaders can go to LIRS's Action Center and the ELCA Advocacy Office's web pages and take action to advocate for laws and policies that protect children, their families and others fleeing persecution.

VOTED:

EN BLOC

**CC16.11.46kk To receive with gratitude the response from the Domestic Mission unit;
To encourage congregations to advocate for laws and policies that protect children and other people fleeing persecution;
To commend the ministry that is being done through the AMMPARO strategy to address the situation of migrants in transit; and
To request that the secretary of this church inform the synod of this action.**

LL. Supporting a proposed U.S. constitutional amendment stating that corporations are not people and money is not speech

Florida-Bahamas Synod (9E) [2015]

RESOLVED, that the Florida-Bahamas Synod welcome the action of the Interfaith Caucus of Move to Amend and its partners and affiliates in seeking to educate congregations and ministries across the synod so that our members may more fully engage in civic responsibilities; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Florida-Bahamas Synod in Assembly direct the Synod Council to request the Church Council of the ELCA to give focus to this issue.

Executive Committee action [EC16.06.19c]

To receive the resolution from the Florida-Bahamas Synod concerning action of the Interfaith Caucus of Move to Amend;

To refer the resolution to the Domestic Mission unit, in consultation with legal counsel in the Office of the Secretary, for a report or for a timeline on when this resolution will receive further attention; and

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

Response from the Domestic Mission unit and Office of the Secretary (November 2016)

The Domestic Mission unit, in consultation with the ELCA general counsel, recommends against endorsing the goal of the "Move to Amend" Interfaith Caucus to support a constitutional amendment that states "Only human beings, not corporations, are endowed with constitutional rights." In our view, seeking to amend the Constitution of the United States is not the appropriate or necessary means to address the concerns raised in the resolution. In addition, such an amendment could impinge upon the freedom of the ELCA, its congregations and related agencies to advocate or speak publicly on issues of importance. The Domestic Mission unit addresses the issue of money in politics through the advocacy ministry of the ELCA Washington Office and state advocacy offices, in an ongoing response to the Social Policy Resolution U.S. Election Campaign Finance Reform [CA95.07.67]. The ELCA Washington Office continues to provide leadership in the "Faithful Democracy" coalition, which focuses on campaign finance reform, evaluates policy riders that would further exacerbate the role of money in politics and evaluates legislative packages.

VOTED:

EN BLOC

- CC16.11.46ll** **To receive the response from the Domestic Mission unit, in consultation with legal counsel in the Office of the Secretary;**
To decline to endorse the goal of the “Move to Amend” Interfaith Caucus to support a constitutional amendment that states “only human beings, not corporations, are endowed with constitutional rights”;
To commend the ELCA Washington Office and state advocacy offices in their continued efforts to address the issue of money in politics; and
To request that the secretary of this church inform the synod of this action.

MM. Thrivent choice neutrality policy

Southeast Michigan Synod (6A) [2016]

RESOLVED, that the Southeast Michigan Synod meeting in assembly ask Bishop Donald P. Kreiss to contact Thrivent Financial for Lutherans on the behalf of this synod and urge Thrivent to allow for individual freedom and choice in supporting charitable giving without restriction; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this assembly ask the bishop and its Synod Council to communicate with the ELCA Church Council and presiding bishop, expressing the disappointment of this synod with Thrivent’s current practice regarding Choice Dollars and requesting that the ELCA Church Council and presiding bishop advocate to have the current practice regarding Choice Dollars discontinued and allow for individual freedom and choice.

Executive Committee action [EC16.06.19d]

To receive the resolution from the Southeast Michigan Synod concerning Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Choice Dollars;

To refer the resolution to the Office of the Presiding Bishop for a report or for a timeline on when this resolution will receive further attention; and

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

Response from the Office of the Presiding Bishop (November 2016)

Thrivent is an independent corporation with its own governing board and has all but dropped its church body relationships. It has changed the former Church Relations Church and Community Engagement unit, including a new name and adding a new director. The Office of the Presiding Bishop Synodical Relations team is trying to establish communication with the new director and new unit. We will report results in Spring 2017.

VOTED:

EN BLOC

- CC16.11.46mm** **To receive the response from the Office of the Presiding Bishop and to request a report be received by the April 2017 Church Council meeting; and**
To request that the secretary of this church inform the synod of this action.

NN. Photovoltaics (PV) for Phebe Hospital in Liberia

Northwest Minnesota Synod (3D) [2016]

RESOLVED, that the Northwestern Minnesota Synod in assembly recommit to the resolution passed in 2015 in support of the PV for Phebe project; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Northwestern Minnesota Synod in assembly encourage the intentional effort of each congregation throughout the synod to raise awareness and funding for this project in the month of August in the years 2016 and 2017; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Northwestern Minnesota Synod in assembly direct the Northwestern Minnesota Synod Council to forward this resolution to the ELCA Church Council, encouraging it to find ways to support PV for Phebe or other similar projects by urging synods and congregations to support such projects with their companion synods.

Executive Committee action [EC16.06.19e]

To receive the resolution from the Northwestern Minnesota Synod concerning Photovoltaics for Phebe Hospital in Liberia;

To refer the resolution to the Global Mission unit for a report or for a timeline on when this resolution will receive further attention; and

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

Response from the Global Mission unit (November 2016)

The Global Mission unit continues to work with the Women of the ELCA to coordinate the fundraising effort to bring solar power to Phebe Hospital in Liberia. To date, approximately \$300,000 has been raised. A Global Mission staff member in Liberia, who has an engineering background, is liaising with the Rural Renewal Energy Alliance for the planning and implementation phases of this project which will begin once the required funds (\$350,000 to meet the matching grant conditions) have been received.

VOTED:

EN BLOC

**CC16.11.46nn To receive the response from the Global Mission unit;
To affirm the response of the 2016 Churchwide Assembly [CA16.02.03i] related to
“Supporting Mission Phebe Hospital through Photovoltaics”;
To request that the secretary of this church inform the synod of this action.**

OO. “Find a Congregation” feature on the ELCA website

Lower Susquehanna Synod (8D) [2016]

RESOLVED, that [the Lower Susquehanna Synod Assembly direct] the Synod Council [to] request the Church Council’s Executive Committee to:

- Eliminate access to parochial reports through the “Find a Congregation” feature. Make this information accessible in a research area, as opposed to an area trafficked by likely visitors to a congregation; and

Create a different template for the snapshot profile that would include information essential for a prospective visitor, such as contact information, address, website, worship times, accessibility, language and average weekly worship attendance. This template should also include qualitative data, such as a congregation’s mission statement, self-identified strengths of the congregation and a photo. This information could be gathered through a revised parochial report.

Executive Committee action [EC16.08.22e]

To receive the resolution from the Lower Susquehanna Synod concerning the “Find a Congregation” feature on the ELCA website;

To refer the resolution to the Mission Advancement unit, in consultation with appropriate churchwide organization units, for a report or for a timeline on when this resolution will receive further attention; and

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

Response from the Mission Advancement unit (November 2016)

In the coming year, the Strategic Communications team in the Mission Advancement unit expects to consider the requests identified in this resolution along with other digital media matters. Mission Advancement will continue to consult with other churchwide organization units and offices. We expect to bring a report to the Church Council at the end of 2017 or early 2018.

VOTED:

EN BLOC

**CC16.11.4600 To receive the response from the Mission Advancement unit and to anticipate a report no later than the April 2018 Church Council meeting; and
To request that the secretary of this church inform the synod of this action.**

PP. United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

Metropolitan Washington, D.C., Synod (8G) [2016]

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan Washington, D.C., Synod Assembly encourage the congregations of the synod to engage in thoughtful and prayerful study of the United Nation's "Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" goals and consider activities in the light of that study and to inform the synod bishop annually on their progress in study and responses for the next five years; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan Washington, D.C., Synod Assembly direct the bishop of the synod to forward this resolution to other synod bishops in the ELCA and encourage them to promote and engage in similar processes; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan Washington, D.C., Synod Assembly direct the Metropolitan Washington, D.C., Synod Council to forward this resolution to the Church Council for consideration and possible action.

Executive Committee action [EC16.08.22f]

To receive the resolution from the Metropolitan Washington, D.C., Synod concerning United Nations Sustainable Development Goals;

To refer the resolution to the Domestic Mission unit, in consultation with appropriate churchwide organization units, for a report or for a timeline on when this resolution will receive further attention; and

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

Response from the Domestic Mission unit (November 2016)

National governments are the primary implementers of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with the assistance of civil society (including faith-based organizations) and the private sector as well as national parliaments, regional and local authorities, academia and volunteer groups. Governments will submit voluntary national reviews that will assess progress toward each goal, based on globally-agreed indicators and identify challenges that will inform recommendations for follow-up at various levels of government.

The Domestic Mission unit consulted with the Global Mission unit concerning this resolution. Global Mission will address the resolution by focusing on efforts to promote the SDGs at various workshops and companion project visits. Global Mission is reviewing the proposals and concept notes that we receive with SDGs lens and encourage them to engage with other stakeholders during planning and implementation. For now, the priority is for our companions to be aware of SDGs and find ways to align their resources to meet those that they prioritize through their work. Depending on their capacity, some companions have already started to plan indicating what goals they intend to address through their programs. The Lutheran Office on World Community staff, part of the Global Mission unit, attend the annual U.N. meeting where the reviews are presented as well as share findings from the Secretary-General's reports.

VOTED:

EN BLOC

**CC16.11.46pp To receive with gratitude the response from the Domestic Mission and Global Mission units;
To encourage the Global Mission unit to promote the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals at workshops and companion project visits; and
To request that the secretary of this church inform the synod of this action.**

**QQ. Current American political discourse
Metropolitan Washington, D.C., Synod (8G) [2016]**

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan Washington, D.C., Synod in assembly rejects the public expressions of hatred, fear and bigotry being made during current political campaigns and encourages national and local leaders to boldly, unequivocally and responsibly embrace the values of compassion, honor, respect, cooperation and compromise that are the heart and soul of America; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan Washington, D.C., Synod Assembly direct the Metropolitan Washington, D.C., Synod Council to forward this resolution to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) Church Council and to relevant local and national political organizations for consideration and possible action.

Executive Committee action [EC16.08.22g]

To receive the resolution from the Metropolitan Washington, D.C., Synod concerning the current American political discourse;

To refer the resolution to the Domestic Mission unit, in consultation with appropriate churchwide organization units, for a report or for a timeline on when this resolution will receive further attention; and

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

Response from the Domestic Mission unit (November 2016)

The ELCA values public discourse that is conducted with civility and fairness. The ELCA social statement “The Church in Society: A Lutheran Perspective” (1991) reads: “Christians need to be concerned for the methods and the content of public deliberation.”

In September 2016, the ELCA addressed the substance of this resolution by endorsing standards of conduct for the U.S. presidential debates. The standards proposed by the National Institute for Civil Discourse expect candidates to demonstrate respect of others in speech and behavior and make ideas and feelings known without intentionally disrespecting others. Standards for the audience include, when faced with incivility, speaking against it by reminding candidates it is not acceptable. Moderators are expected to hold candidates accountable by challenging each candidate to speak the truth and act with integrity.

The support for debate standards was shared in a press release that included quotes from Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton, who addressed civic discourse in her May 2016 column for *Living Lutheran* magazine. She emphasized that “political speech that doesn’t ensure that the ‘other’ is treated with the same respect and care that we would wish for our own brother or sister or father or mother is not what God intends for God’s beloved community.”

Following the 2016 election, ELCA Advocacy will continue the ELCAvotes campaign with a focus on civil discourse and healing after a contentious election season.

VOTED:

EN BLOC

**CC16.11.46qq To receive the response from the Domestic Mission unit;
To acknowledge the communication already made by ELCA Advocacy regarding appropriate political discourse;
To affirm the continued focus of the ELCAvotes campaign on civil discourse and healing after the 2016 election season;
To request that the secretary of this church inform the synod of this action.**

Vice President Horne declared the motion was adopted.

REPORT OF THE BOARD DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

(Agenda VII.F.)

Vice President William B. Horne II called on the Rev. James H. Utt, who presented the report of Board Development Committee on behalf of Ms. Pamela E. Pritt, co-chair.

Pr. Utt outlined a number of topics the committee addressed, as well as plans for a Church Council meeting and retreat in Spring 2017 at Eaglewood Resort in Itasca, Ill.

PERSONAL REFLECTION ON FAITH

(Agenda VII.G.)

At the invitation of the chair, the Rev. Stephen R. Herr shared a personal faith reflection.

Pr. Herr spoke of his family genealogy and traditions and how they informed his faith.

DEBRIEF OF THE 2016 CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY

(Agenda VII.H.; *Reference*: 2016 Churchwide Assembly Evaluation)

Vice President William B. Horne II asked members of the Church Council who attended the 2016 Churchwide Assembly to share their perspectives on the assembly, especially how they may assist planning for the 2019 Churchwide Assembly.

Council members discussed how the assembly was spiritually and emotionally uplifting, the well-planned worship, the speakers and preachers, service projects, the prevailing sense of humor, framing business in the context of mission, the emphasis on diversity and inclusion of local native peoples. They expressed appreciation for the farewell for Mr. Carlos E. Peña, former vice president of this church, and for the welcoming of new Church Council members. They also discussed the role of Church Council members at the assembly and when a council member might address the Churchwide Assembly without being asked.

CHURCH COUNCIL JOYS AND CONCERNS

(Agenda VII.I.)

At the invitation of the chair, Mr. Paul G. Archer asked specific people for how the Church Council may include them in their prayers.

PROCESS OBSERVATION

(Agenda VII.J.)

Vice President William B. Horne II asked the Rev. Elizabeth E. Ekdale, Mr. Gary D. Gabrielson and Mr. Clarence M. Smith to present process observations. Other Church Council members offered their observations.

EVALUATION AND DEBRIEFING

(Agenda VII.K.)

Vice President William B. Horne II explained where evaluation forms for this meeting and for the committee meetings were located. He asked Church Council members to complete their evaluation and expense forms and submit them the end of November.

HYMN AND PRAYER

(Agenda VII.L.)

At the invitation of the chair, the Rev. William O. Voss led the meeting participants in prayer and in singing a hymn. Mr. Clarence M. Smith provided musical accompaniment.

ADJOURNMENT

The eighty-eighth meeting of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America adjourned Sunday, Nov. 13, 2016, at 3:13 p.m.

LIST OF ACTIONS

CC16.11.26	Adoption of the agenda	4
CC16.11.27	Approval of Church Council minutes and ratification of Executive Committee actions	5
CC16.11.28	Election of Ms. Emilee M. Le Blanc and the Rev. Karin I. Liebster to the Church Council	10
CC16.11.29	Ratification of appointments to the Church Council committees	10
CC16.11.30	Affirmation of the process for the election of the Executive Committee	11
CC16.11.31	Acknowledgment of Church Council interactions with synods	12
CC16.11.32	Authorization of the Theological Education Advisory Committee’s assessment tool	18
CC16.11.33	Encouragement to maintain financial support for seminaries for 2017	19
CC16.11.34	Election of Ms. Marjorie B. Ellis, Ms. Maren Hulden and Mr. Allan J. Bieber to the Executive Committee	23
CC16.11.35	Acknowledgment of amount change in a 2016 mission support plan	24
CC16.11.36	Acknowledgment of amount change in certain 2017 mission support plans	24
CC16.11.37	Acknowledgment of percentage of sharing in certain 2017 mission support plans	25
CC16.11.38	Approval of a revised 2017 fiscal year current fund spending authorization of \$67,210,025	26
CC16.11.39	Termination of certain retirement plans and the transfer of remaining funds	27
CC16.11.40	Establishment of a task force to review the governance and structure of the ELCA Foundation	28
CC16.11.41	Approval of certain chapters of proposed seminary bylaw amendments and authorization of the Executive Committee to approve the remaining chapter	30
CC16.11.42	Adoption of Called Forward Together in Christ: ELCA Strategic Directions 2017-2025	34
CC16.11.43	Approval of the revised committee charters	38
CC16.11.44	Support for presiding bishop’s ministry with the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe	40
CC16.11.45	<i>En bloc</i> adoption of continuing resolutions amendments	42
CC16.11.46	<i>En bloc</i> adoption of <i>En Bloc</i> Items, Responses to Synodical Resolutions and Responses to Churchwide Assembly Actions	44
CC16.11.46a	Approval of appointments to the ELCA Audit Committee	44
CC16.11.46b	Approval of the report of the ELCA Audit Committee	44
CC16.11.46c1	Amendment of the resolution regarding Appointment of Assistant Officers	45
CC16.11.46c2	Amendment of the resolution regarding Authorization to Engage in Commercial Transactions	45
CC16.11.46d	Consent and approval regarding Skaalen Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, Inc.	47
CC16.11.46e	Approval of the Flexible Bundle for Non-rostered Members pilot program	48
CC16.11.46f	Approval of amendments to the Lutheran Services in America bylaws	49
CC16.11.46g	Approval of amendments to the Publishing House of the ELCA articles and bylaws	49
CC16.11.46h	Approval of amendments to the Mission Investment Fund bylaws	49
CC16.11.46i	Approval of applications to be Independent Lutheran Organizations	50
CC16.11.46j1	Ratification of amendments to the constitution of the Sierra Pacific Synod	50
CC16.11.46j2	Ratification of amendments to the constitution of the Eastern North Dakota Synod	51
CC16.11.46k	Adoption of the revised Candidacy Manual	52
CC16.11.46l	Affirmation of a social message on human rights while denying or deferring other requests for social messages	53

CC16.11.46m	Appointment of advisory members to the “Women and Justice: One in Christ” social statement task force	53
CC16.11.46n	Approval of amendments to certain corporate social responsibility documents	53
CC16.11.46o1	Elections to the board of directors of National Lutheran Campus Ministry, Inc.	54
CC16.11.46o2	Elections to the board of trustees of the Endowment Fund of the ELCA	54
CC16.11.46o3	Designation of representatives on the board of directors of The Evangelical Lutheran Good Samaritan Society	54
CC16.11.46o4	Election to the board of directors of The Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago	54
CC16.11.46o5	Elections to the board of directors of Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg	55
CC16.11.46o6	Nominations to the advisory council of Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary	55
CC16.11.46p	Reception of a timeline regarding deepening relationships with Historic Black Churches	56
CC16.11.46q	Reception of a timeline from the Corporate Social Responsibility review team	57
CC16.11.46r	Reception of a timeline regarding suicide prevention research	58
CC16.11.46s	Reception of a timeline regarding welcoming refugees	59
CC16.11.46t	Denial of establishing a task force on gun violence prevention	60
CC16.11.46u	Reception of a timeline regarding peace with justice in the Holy Land	61
CC16.11.46v	Request for development of a social message on human rights	62
CC16.11.46w	Affirmation of advocacy regarding the stewardship of water	63
CC16.11.46x	Reception of a timeline regarding gender identity	64
CC16.11.46y	Acknowledgment of the previous action to address Motion D	64
CC16.11.46z	Reception of a timeline regarding compensation for the vice president	64
CC16.11.46aa	Reception of a timeline addressing human trafficking	65
CC16.11.46bb	Reception of a timeline regarding Campaign Zero	65
CC16.11.46cc	Reception of a report on supporting military personnel, veterans and their families	67
CC16.11.46dd	Reception of a timeline regarding a call to discernment on U.S. foreign and military policy . . .	68
CC16.11.46ee	Reception of a timeline regarding designation as a sanctuary denomination	69
CC16.11.46ff	Reception of a timeline regarding the call process	69
CC16.11.46gg	Reception of a timeline addressing the African Descent Lutherans assembly action	71
CC16.11.46hh	Reception of a timeline regarding a strategy toward authentic diversity	73
CC16.11.46ii	Reception of a timeline addressing repudiation of the doctrine of discovery	75
CC16.11.46jj	Reception of a timeline regarding revised ELCA Campus Ministry Policies and Procedures . . .	76
CC16.11.46kk	Affirmation of the Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities strategy	77
CC16.11.46ll	Denial of endorsing a constitutional amendment that states “only human beings, not corporations, are endowed with constitutional rights”	78
CC16.11.46mm	Reception of a timeline regarding the Thrivent choice neutrality policy	78
CC16.11.46nn	Affirmation of support for photovoltaics for Phebe Hospital in Liberia	79
CC16.11.46oo	Reception of a timeline regarding “Find a Congregation” on the website	80
CC16.11.46pp	Encouragement to promote the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals	80
CC16.11.46qq	Affirmation of this church’s work to address appropriate political discourse	81

TOPICAL INDEX

1517 Media Restated Articles of Incorporation and bylaw changes	49
2016 Churchwide Assembly, Debrief of the	82
2017 income estimates and spending authorizations	25
2017 mission support plans, Revisions to	23
A	
African Descent Lutherans	70
Agenda, Adoption of the	4
Alaska Synod (1A) Repudiation of the doctrine of discovery	73
Allegheny Synod (8C) Supporting military personnel, veterans and their families	65
<i>Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA</i> , Update on	28
Amendments to committee charters	37
Appointment of Assistant Officers	45
Appointments to Church Council committees	10
Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod (4C) African Descent Lutherans	70
Repudiation of the doctrine of discovery	73
Assistant Officers, Appointment of	45
Audit Committee Elections	44
Report of the	44
Authorization to Engage in Commercial Transactions	45
B	
Bishops, Representatives of the Conference of	2
Black Lives Matter	65
Board Development Committee, Report of the	82
Budget and Finance Committee, Report of the	23
C	
Call process, Resolution on	69
Called Forward Together in Christ Future Directions Conversation	31, 32
Future Directions Statement	33
Introduction to Future Directions Conversation	13
Campaign Zero, Examining the opportunities and implications of	65
Campus ministry	75
Candidacy Manual, Revision of the	52
Church Council committees, Ratification of appointments to	10
Church Council members, Synod visits by	12
Churchwide Assembly actions, Responses to	55
Commercial Transactions, Authorization to Engage in	45
Committee charters, Amendments to	37
Conference of Bishops Report from the	37
Representatives of the	2
Corporate Social Responsibility documents	53

D

Delaware-Maryland Synod (8F)
 Justice for the Holy Land through responsible investment 61
Diversity within the ELCA, Strategy toward authentic 72
Doctrine of discovery, Repudiation of the 73
Domestic Mission unit, Update from the 35

E

East-Central Synod of Wisconsin (5I)
 Repudiation of the doctrine of discovery 73
 Supporting military personnel, veterans and their families 65
 Time of prayer and worship resources on human trafficking 65
Eastern North Dakota Synod (3B)
 Ratification of constitutional amendment 51
 Repudiation of the doctrine of discovery 73
Eastern Washington-Idaho Synod (1D)
 Supporting military personnel, veterans and their families 65
 Welcoming refugees 58
Ecumenical greetings 8, 22, 37
Ecumenical guests 3
ELCA Foundation governance and structure 27
Elections
 Audit Committee 44
 Church Council members 9
 First ballot for the election of Executive Committee members 11, 14
 Process for election of the Executive Committee 11
 Second ballot for the election of Executive Committee members 16, 20
 Third ballot for the election of Executive Committee members 22, 23
Elections, nominations and designations 54
En bloc, Consideration of items removed from 41
En bloc approval of certain items 41
Energy future, Toward a responsible 56
Ethnic-specific ministry association representatives 3
 Panel conversation with 19
Evaluation and debriefing 82
Executive Committee
 Process for election of the 11
 Report of the 9, 33, 37
Executive Committee members
 First ballot for the election of 11, 14
 Second ballot for the election of 16, 20
 Third ballot for the election of 22, 23
Executive for administration, Report of the 35
Executive session 16, 40

F

“Find a Congregation” feature on the ELCA website 79
Flexible Benefits Bundle from Portico Benefit Services 47
Florida-Bahamas Synod (9E)
 Move to Amend 77

Foundation governance and structure, ELCA	27
Future Directions Conversation, Introduction to the	13
Future Directions Statement, Called Forward Together in Christ	33
G	
Gender identity	63, 64
Global Mission unit	
Update from the	20
Greater Milwaukee Synod (5J)	
Examining the opportunities and implications of Campaign Zero	65
Gun violence prevention	59
H	
Historic Black Churches, Deepening of relationships with	55
Holy Land	
Justice through responsible investment	61
Peace with justice in the	60
Human trafficking, Time of prayer and worship resources on	65
I	
Immigration	76
Income estimates, 2017 revised	25
Independent Lutheran Organizations	49
Indiana-Kentucky Synod (6C)	
Peace with justice in the Holy Land	60
Repudiation of the doctrine of discovery	73
Items removed from <i>en bloc</i>	41
L	
La Crosse Area Synod (5L)	
Time of prayer and worship resources on human trafficking	65
<i>Lectio Divina</i>	31
Legal and Constitutional Review Committee, Report of the	29
Lower Susquehanna Synod (8D)	
“Find a Congregation” feature on the ELCA website	79
Lutheran Educational Conference of North America	
Independent Lutheran Organization	49
Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service	
Independent Lutheran Organization	49
Lutheran Services in America bylaw changes	48
Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, Revised bylaws of The	29
Lutheran World Relief	
Independent Lutheran Organization	49
M	
Medical Plan, ELCA Post-Retirement	26
Metropolitan Chicago Synod (5A)	
African Descent Lutherans	70
Metropolitan New York Synod (7C)	
African Descent Lutherans	70
Justice for the Holy Land through responsible investment	61

Topical Index, Page 90

Peace with justice in the Holy Land	60
Toward a responsible energy future	56
Welcoming refugees	58
Metropolitan Washington, D.C., Synod (8G)	
African Descent Lutherans	70
Current American political discourse	81
Repudiation of the doctrine of discovery	73
Supporting military personnel, veterans and their families	65
United Nations Sustainable Development Goals	80
Military personnel, veterans and their families	65
Minneapolis Area Synod (3G)	
Call to discernment on U.S. foreign and military policy	67
Peace with justice in the Holy Land	60
Repudiation of the doctrine of discovery	73
Minutes, Approval of the	4
Mission Advancement unit, Update from the	29
Mission Investment Fund bylaw changes	49
Montana Synod (1F)	
Repudiation of the doctrine of discovery	73
Motion B: Strategy toward authentic diversity within the ELCA	72
Motion C: Urging stewardship of the gift of water	62
Motion D: Gender identity	64
Motion E: Compensation for the ELCA vice president	64
Motion F: Resolution on call process	69
Move to Amend	77
N	
New business	38
New Jersey Synod (7A)	
African Descent Lutherans	70
Immigration	76
North Carolina Synod (9B)	
African Descent Lutherans	70
Repudiation of the doctrine of discovery	73
Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod (7E)	
African Descent Lutherans	70
Peace with justice in the Holy Land	60
Toward a responsible energy future	56
Northwest Minnesota Synod (3D)	
Photovoltaics (PV) for Phebe Hospital in Liberia	78
Northwest Synod of Wisconsin (5H)	
Repudiation of the doctrine of discovery	73
Time of prayer and worship resources on human trafficking	65
Northwest Washington Synod (1B)	
Examining the opportunities and implications of Campaign Zero	65
Peace with justice in the Holy Land	60
Repudiation of the doctrine of discovery	73
Northwestern Pennsylvania Synod (8A)	
Repudiation of the doctrine of discovery	73
Supporting military personnel, veterans and their families	65

Toward a responsible energy future	56
Welcoming refugees	58
O	
Oregon Synod (1E)	
Examining the implications of becoming a sanctuary denomination	68
P	
Pacifica Synod (2C)	
Supporting military personnel, veterans and their families	65
Panel conversation with ethnic-specific ministry associations	19
Photovoltaics (PV) for Phebe Hospital in Liberia	78
Planning and Evaluation Committee, Report of the	29
Political discourse, Current American	81
Portico Benefit Services	26, 47
Flexible Benefits Bundle	47
Presiding Bishop, Report of the	5
Process observations	21, 32, 82
Program and Services Committee, Report of the	35
R	
Reflections on faith	
The Rev. Elizabeth E. Ekdale	30
The Rev. Stephen R. Herr	82
The Rev. William O. Voss	16
Refugees, Welcoming	58
Reports	
Audit Committee	44
Board Development Committee	82
Budget and Finance Committee	23
Conference of Bishops	37
Executive Committee	9, 33, 37
Executive for Administration	35
Legal and Constitutional Review Committee	29
Planning and Evaluation Committee	29
Presiding Bishop	5
Program and Services Committee	35
Secretary	17
Theological Education Advisory Committee	17
Treasurer	22
Vice President	9
Resolution on Standing Rock	38
Resolutions regarding authority to act in financial matters	44
Resource people	2
Responses to Churchwide Assembly actions	55
Responses to synod resolutions	75
Retirement Plan, ELCA Supplemental	26
Revisions to 2017 mission support plans	23
Rocky Mountain Synod (2E)	
Peace with justice in the Holy Land	60
Repudiation of the doctrine of discovery	73

Rostered Ministers Gathering	35
S	
Saint Paul Area Synod (3H)	
Gun violence prevention	59
Repudiation of the doctrine of discovery	73
Toward a responsible energy future	56
Sanctuary denomination, Examining the implications of becoming a	68
Secretary, Report of the	17
Seminary at Gettysburg, Revised bylaws of The Lutheran Theological	29
Sierra Pacific Synod (2A)	
Gender identity	63
Justice for the Holy Land through responsible investment	61
Peace with justice in the Holy Land	60
Ratification of constitutional amendment	50
Skaalen Retirement Services, Inc.	47
Social message processes, Assessing the need for and feasibility of initiating	52
South Dakota Synod (3C)	
Repudiation of the doctrine of discovery	73
South-Central Synod of Wisconsin (5K)	
Peace with justice in the Holy Land	60
Southeast Michigan Synod (6A)	
African Descent Lutherans	70
Peace with justice in the Holy Land	60
Thrivent choice neutrality policy	78
Southeastern Iowa Synod (5D)	
Campus ministry	75
Peace with justice in the Holy Land	60
Southeastern Minnesota Synod (3I)	
Supporting military personnel, veterans and their families	65
Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod (7F)	
African Descent Lutherans	70
Southeastern Synod (9D)	
African Descent Lutherans	70
Increased funding for suicide prevention research	58
Repudiation of the doctrine of discovery	73
Supporting military personnel, veterans and their families	65
Welcoming refugees	58
Southern Ohio Synod (6F)	
Supporting military personnel, veterans and their families	65
Southwest California Synod (2B)	
Justice for the Holy Land through responsible investment	61
Peace with justice in the Holy Land	60
Repudiation of the doctrine of discovery	73
Southwestern Texas Synod (4E)	
Deepening of relationships with Historic Black Churches	55
Peace with justice in the Holy Land	60
Supporting military personnel, veterans and their families	65
Spending authorizations, 2017 revised	25
Standing Rock, Resolution on	38

Suicide prevention research, Increased funding for	58
Supplemental Retirement Plan	26
Synod resolutions, Responses to	75
Synod visits by Church Council members	12
T	
Theological Education Advisory Committee, Report of the	17
Thrivent choice neutrality policy	78
Treasurer, Report of the	22
U	
U.S. foreign and military policy, Call to discernment on	67
United Lutheran Seminary proposed bylaws	29
United Nations Sustainable Development Goals	80
Updates	
Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA	28
Domestic Mission unit	35
Global Mission unit	20
Mission Advancement unit	29
Upper Susquehanna Synod (8E)	
Gun violence prevention	59
Peace with justice in the Holy Land	60
Toward a responsible energy future	56
Upstate New York Synod (7D)	
Repudiation of the doctrine of discovery	73
V	
Vice president	
Compensation for the	64
Report of the	9
Voting Members	1
W	
Water, Urging stewardship of the gift of	62
West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod (8H)	
Peace with justice in the Holy Land	60
Supporting military personnel, veterans and their families	65
“Women and Justice: One in Christ” social statement task force	
Advisory member appointments to	53