

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
CHURCH COUNCIL
November 9-12, 2017
Chicago, Illinois

AGENDA

Participants

Voting Members

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Mr. Hans Becklin | Mr. John Lohrmann |
| Mr. Allan Bieber | Ms. Andrea Micovsky (<i>excused</i>) |
| Pr. Wm Chris Boerger, Secretary | Mr. Joseph Nolte |
| Ms. Cheryl Chatman | Pr. Linda Norman, Treasurer |
| Mr. Reid Christopherson | Pr. Linda Nou |
| Bp. Elizabeth Eaton, Presiding Bishop | Mr. Gary Pederson |
| Pr. William Flippin Jr. | Ms. Meri Jo Petrivelli |
| Pr. Dena Gable | Mr. Clarence Smith |
| Bp. William Gafkjen | Mr. Ervin Sparapani |
| Pr. Joyce Graue | Pr. Jonathan Splichal Larson |
| Ms. Cynthia Gustavson | Ms. Ingrid Stafford |
| Mr. William Horne, Vice President | Ms. Leslie Swenson |
| Pr. Chad Huebner | Pr. Lorie "L.B." Tatum |
| Ms. Maren Hulden | Pr. James Utt |
| Mr. James Hushagen | Mr. Vernon Veal |
| Mr. James Jennings | Pr. William Voss |
| Ms. Carolyn Jewett (<i>excused</i>) | Ms. Emma Wagner |
| Pr. Peder Johanson | Pr. Michael Ward |
| Ms. Emilee Le Blanc | Ms. Man-Hei Yip |
| | Mr. Seth Zimmann (<i>excused</i>) |

Liaison Bishops

| | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| Bp. Steven Delzer | Bp. Brian Maas |
| Bp. Suzanne Dillahunt | Bp. John Macholz |
| Bp. Guy Erwin | Bp. Kirby Unti |
| Bp. Mary Froiland | Bp. Herman Yoos |
| Bp. Richard Graham | |

Resource People

Office of the Presiding Bishop

Pr. Wyvetta Bullock, Assistant to the Bishop, Executive for Administration
Mr. Kenneth Inskeep, Executive for Research and Evaluation
Ms. Barb Whalen, Director for Compensation, Benefits and Employee Relations (representing Ms. Rhondean Johnson, Executive for Human Resources (*excused*))
Ms. Kathryn Lohre, Assistant to the Bishop, Executive for Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Relations and Theological Discernment
Pr. Walter May, Assistant to the Bishop, Executive for Synodical Relations
Ms. Kathryn Johnson, Director, Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Relations
Ms. Jodi Slattery, Assistant to the Bishop for Governance
Pr. Kevin Strickland, Assistant to the Bishop, Executive for Worship

Office of the Secretary

Mr. Thomas Cunniff, General Counsel
Mr. Phillip Harris, Of Counsel
Mr. Frank Imhoff, Manager, Official Documentation
Deacon Sue Rothmeyer, Assistant to the Secretary

Unit Staff

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

Separately Incorporated Ministries

Ms. Linda Post Bushkofsky, Executive Director, Women of the ELCA
Ms. Beth Lewis, President, 1517 Media
Ms. Eva Roby, President and CEO, Mission Investment Fund
Pr. Jeffrey Thiemann, President and CEO, Portico Benefit Services

Press

Ms. Candice Hill Buchbinder, Mission Advancement

Ecumenical Guests

Ms. Elona Street Stewart, Presbyterian Church (USA)
Pr. Betsy Miller, Moravian Church in North America (*excused*)
Dr. Steven Nishibayashi, The Episcopal Church
Pr. Kyle Tau, United Methodist Church (*excused*)
Pr. Daniel Meeter, The Reformed Church in America

Ethnic Specific Ministry Association Guests

Ms. Stephanie Baccam, Asian and Pacific Islander Association, representative
Pr. Joan Conroy, American Indian Alaskan Native Lutheran Association, president
Pr. Khader El-Yateem, Association of Lutherans of Arab and Middle Eastern Heritage, president
Pr. Martín López Vega, Asociación Luterana de Ministerios Latinos, president
Pr. Russell Meyer, European Descent Lutheran Association for Racial Justice, president
Pr. Lamont Wells, African Descent Lutheran Association, president

Wednesday, November 8, 2017

3:00 p.m. Audit Committee, Pentecost

Thursday, November 9, 2017

10:00 a.m. Executive Committee, Full Epiphany

12:00 p.m. Lunch for Executive Committee, outside Full Epiphany

1:30 p.m. **WORSHIP SERVICE WITH HOLY COMMUNION**, 1st Floor Chapel
 Presider: Pr. LB Tatum
 Preacher: Pr. Linda Nou
 Assisting Minister: Mr. Jim Jennings
 Lector: Ms. Cheryl Chatman

. Church Council Choir Rehearsal following worship, 1st Floor Chapel

PLENARY SESSION ONE

Council Room
November 9, 2017
3:00 – 6:00 p.m.

I.A Call to Order and Adoption of the Agenda

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

CC ACTION

Recommended:

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

I.B Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of the [March 31, 2017](#) meeting of the Church Council have been provided to council members electronically on My.ELCA.org. Minutes for meetings held in executive session were added to the protocol file in the Office of the Secretary.

The minutes of the council's Executive Committee meetings on [March 30, 2017](#); [May 22, 2017](#); [June 20, 2017](#); [August 29, 2017](#); and [October 24, 2017](#), have been provided electronically on My.ELCA.org to members. Minutes for meetings held in executive session have been added to the protocol file in the Office of the Secretary.

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

CC ACTION

Recommended:

**To approve the minutes of March 31, 2017 meeting of the Church Council; and
To ratify actions of the council's Executive Committee as indicated in the minutes of the March 30, 2017; May 22, 2017; June 20, 2017; August 29, 2017; and October 24, 2017 meetings.**

I.C Report from the Presiding Bishop

I.D Ecumenical Greeting

I.E [Report from the Vice President](#)

Vice President Bill Horne will be including information in his report about the [Joint Leadership Table meeting](#) and the commitments agreed upon. This combined meeting was convened to discuss the *Called Forward Together in Christ – Future Directions 2025* goals and priorities and the two emphases: Leadership and Congregational Vitality.

I.F Share a Congregational Vitality Learning

Congregational vitality was affirmed as one of two focus areas for Future Directions 2025. At the Joint Leadership Table meeting, one of the commitments was to make

congregational vitality a primary focus in major ELCA gatherings – good practice, stories of success, learnings. This agenda item is one opportunity to fulfill that commitment.

Southwest California Synod is one of the synods participating in the Congregational Vitality Project. Bishop R. Guy Erwin, Southwest California Synod, will share the synod's learning from the project.

I.G Report of the Executive Committee

I.G.1 Church Council Nominations and Elections

The nominating committee has nominated Ms. Man Hei Yip to replace the resignation of Ms. Amanda Briggs (At-Large, person of color or speaks a language other than English, preference for young adult), to a term ending in 2019. Biographical information for the nominee is provided [here](#).

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To elect Ms. Man-Hei Yip to the Church Council for a term ending in 2019.

I.G.2 First Ballot for the Election of At-Large Executive Committee Member

To facilitate its work between regular meetings by ensuring input and perspective from each of its four standing committees, the chairs of those committees are elected to the Executive Committee. This occurred at the March 31, 2017 Church Council meeting. [CC17.03.03]

At its November 2016 meeting, Church Council took the following action for the election of the at-large members: "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." [CC16.11.34]

Ms. Marjorie Ellis's term on Church Council ended on August 31, 2017. Secretary Chris Boerger has declared a vacancy for an at-large female position.

The process for the election of Executive Committee members shall use the following pattern:

- a. The first ballot shall be limited to eligible females for at-large female category.
- b. Anyone wishing to withdraw may do so immediately after the announcement of the first ballot results and before the casting of the second ballot.
- c. The second ballot 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 shall be elected.
- d. Upon completion of the balloting, the Executive Committee shall be deemed constituted.

I.G.3 Election of Nominating Committee member

Secretary Boerger has declared a vacancy on the Nominating Committee. Two nominees are eligible for one position on this committee. The person receiving the highest number of nominations shall be elected. Biographical information for each nominee can be found [here](#).

I.G.4 LWF Gender Justice Policy

At its October 2017 meeting, the Executive Committee heard from Bishop Eaton that the Administrative Team of the churchwide organization affirmed the principles and

methodology sections of the Lutheran World Federation Gender Justice Policy to inform and guide the work of the organization.

The recommendation from the Executive Committee is for the whole church to study and consider using the [Lutheran World Federation Gender Justice Policy](#).

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To commend the Lutheran World Federation Gender Justice Policy to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for study and consideration.

I.G.5 Executive Session: Election of the Treasurer

The Church Council will enter an executive session to discuss personnel matters. This is an executive session for Church Council, Administrative Team and Minutes Team. Other guests will be invited back to the meeting after this executive session.

Section 13.50 of the ELCA constitution describes the position, responsibilities, and process for election of the ELCA Treasurer. According to provision 13.52., “The treasurer shall be elected by the Church Council to a six-year term and serve until a successor takes office.” Churchwide bylaw 19.01.01., specifies “The treasurer shall be elected by a two-thirds vote of the Church Council.” The term of the treasurer, elected at the November 2017 meeting of the Church Council, will begin on February 1, 2018.

In accordance with provision 13.51., “The treasurer shall serve under the presiding bishop of this church,” Bishop Eaton will bring a nomination to the Executive Committee, who will forward it to the Church Council for consideration. Additional information related to the interview process and recommendation will be provided in executive session.

CC ACTION

Recommended: *Two-thirds vote required*

To elect [to be provided] to a six-year term as treasurer of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, beginning February 1, 2018.

I.G.6 Report of Actions in Executive Session

I.G.7 Report of the First Ballot for the Election of At-Large Executive Committee Member and Report of the Ballot for the Nominating Committee

I.H Report of the Theological Education Advisory Committee

At its spring 2016 meeting, the Church Council approved the recommendations of the Theological Education Advisory Council and referred them, along with their implementing strategies, to the new Advisory Committee and the Office of the Presiding Bishop for analysis and implementation.

The Church Council at its March 31, 2017 meeting acted on a revision of the ELCA funding formula for seminaries. [CC17.03.09]

Mr. John Lohrmann, chair of the Theological Education Advisory Committee (TEAC), will bring a [report](#) and recommendation from TEAC.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To direct Theological Education Advisory Committee to define a single seminary governance structure; and

To adopt enterprise-wide seminary fiscal metrics and to request that a report on results be brought to the April 2018 meeting of Church Council.

I.I Update on the Campaign for the ELCA

The *Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA* is now more than half way through its 5-year effort to raise \$198 million in support of new and expanded churchwide ministries above and beyond those supported by your regular weekly offerings. We are grateful for the support of generous individuals, congregations and synods. The emphasis for 2017 has been Global Church. Thank you if you have already made a commitment to the campaign as a Church Council member. If you have not already made a commitment to the campaign as a Church Council member, you are invited to do so at this meeting. Pr. Ron Glusenkamp, director for the campaign, will be presenting the update.

I.J Introduction to ELCA Foundation and Governance Task Force Proposal

At its November 2016 meeting, the Church Council established “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.” [CC16.11.40]

The Task Force on the Structure and Governance of the ELCA Foundation has met multiple times both face-to-face and via conference calls throughout the past year to discuss the possibilities. At its March 31, 2017 meeting, the Church Council received a report from the task force outlining the potential structures. This same report was presented to the Endowment Fund Board of Trustees at its March 16-17 meeting. The Church Council affirmed the direction “to move towards a structure in which the deferred giving programs of the ELCA Foundation are transferred to the Endowment Fund of the ELCA” and authorized the task force and staff to lay groundwork for that transition, with the goal of bringing a complete proposal to the November 2017 meeting. [CC17.03.05]

The [summary report and recommendations](#) from the Task Force on the Structure and Governance of the ELCA Foundation is presented for this meeting. After deliberation, the Endowment Fund Board of Trustees at its Oct. 19-20, 2017 meeting, acted on the recommendations contingent upon Church Council action. Ms. Ingrid Stafford, chair of the task force, will provide an overview to the proposal. The Budget and Finance Committee, Legal and Constitutional Review Committee, and Planning and Evaluation Committee will meet separately on Friday, Nov. 10 to discuss the proposed recommendations and final consideration will come to the Church Council on Saturday afternoon, Nov. 11.

I.K Update on Lutheran Disaster Response

Staff assisting with the recent natural disasters will provide an update on the Lutheran Disaster Response ministry.

I.L Hymn and Prayer

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

Friday, November 10, 2017

- 6:00 a.m. Breakfast, Marriott Hotel (Buffet opens at 6 am)
- 9:00 a.m. Committees meet
Budget and Finance, Full Epiphany
Legal and Constitutional Review, Advent
Program and Services, Pentecost
Planning and Evaluation, 10th Floor Training Room
- 12:15 p.m. Mid-Day Prayer, 1st Floor Chapel
Led by Bishop Brian Maas, Nebraska Synod
- 12:30 p.m. Lunch, Augsburg Room
- 1:30 p.m. Committees continue to meet
Budget and Finance, Full Epiphany
Legal and Constitutional Review, Advent
Program and Services, Pentecost
Planning and Evaluation, 10th Floor Training Room
- 3:30 p.m. Break

Revised Nov. 8, 2017

PLENARY SESSION TWO

Council Room
November 10, 2017
3:45 – 6:00 p.m.

II.A Executive Session: Legal Briefing

Mr. Thomas Cunniff, General Counsel, will provide a briefing to Church Council on legal matters. This is an executive session for Church Council, liaison bishops, Administrative Team and Minutes Team. Other guests will be invited back to the meeting after this executive session.

II.B Second Ballot for the Election of At-Large Executive Committee Member

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

II.D [Report from the Conference of Bishops](#)

II.E Update on hearing process for Women and Justice Social Statement

The Rev. Roger Willer, director for theological ethics, and Dr. Mary Streufert, director for justice for women, are the staff liaisons working with the Women and Justice: One in Christ Social Statement Task Force. The Church Council liaisons to the task force are Ms. Leslie Swenson and Pr. Jim Utt.

Pr. Willer **and Dr. Streufert** will provide information on the upcoming draft comment period for the social statement and how Church Council can be helpful in that hearing process. The draft social statement will be publicly released on Nov. 15, 2017, for the comment period.

II.F Primer on AMMPARO Strategy

The Board Development Committee makes suggestions on primers that will be informative to the Church Council. This primer is focused on the [AMMPARO Strategy](#) (Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Representation and Opportunities) and will be led by members of the AMMPARO Strategy team.

II.G Ecumenical Greetings

II.H Personal Reflection on Faith, Ms. Maren Hulden

II.I Church Council Joys and Concerns

II.J Announcements

II.K Hymn and Prayer

6:00 p.m. Dinner, Augsburg Room
Wine and beer available

Saturday, November 11, 2017

6:00 a.m. Breakfast, Marriott Hotel (Buffet opens at 6 a.m.)

7:00 a.m. Board Development Committee, Advent (*working breakfast*)

Revised Nov. 8, 2017

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
CHURCH COUNCIL
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PLENARY SESSION THREE

Augsburg Room

November 11, 2017

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

III.A Bible Study, led by Bishop Herman Yoos

III.B Café conversation with Ethnic Specific Ministry Associations

III.C Open Discussion on sustainability and church structures

During this time, Vice President Bill Horne will lead the Church Council in a facilitated discussion on a definition for sustainability.

What does sustainability mean in our changing context? What is the criteria to determine sustainability? How could the Future Directions Table assist council in developing a process or framework for sustainability? In what ways could council emphasize a sustainability framework at every meeting?

In addition, this time will be used for the council to discuss church structures. Ms. Lyla Rogan, the facilitator for the Church Council Retreat in Spring 2017, wrote a "[Retreat Discussion Starter: Governance of the ELCA as One Church](#)." Some of the questions outlined in the document will be used to guide our discussion on this topic.

A status update on the activity that has happened since the retreat can be found [here](#).

III.D Announcements

12:00 p.m. Lunch, Augsburg Room

12:00 p.m. *Deadline for Removal of Items from En Bloc*
Deadline for New Business

PLENARY SESSION FOUR

Council Room
November 11, 2017
1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

IV.A. Executive Session: Ad Hoc Working Group

This is an executive session for Church Council, liaison bishops, Portico Benefit Services, Administrative Team and Minutes Team. Other guests will be invited back to the meeting after this executive session.

The Budget and Finance Committee established an ad hoc working group on post-retirement medical benefits tasked with developing a long-term sustainable funding strategy. The working group is comprised of representatives from Church Council, the churchwide organization and Portico Benefit Services.

IV.B Report from the Treasurer

IV.C Presentation of the Servus Dei Award to Treasurer Linda Norman

IV.D Consideration of ELCA Foundation and Governance Task Force Proposal

Church Council received an introduction to the [recommendations](#) proposed by the Task Force on the Structure and Governance of the ELCA Foundation. In its respective committee meetings on Nov. 10, the Budget and Finance Committee, Legal and Constitutional Review Committee and Planning and Evaluation Committee acted on the recommendations to forward to Church Council for its consideration.

At this time, each chair will now move the appropriate recommendation on behalf of the respective committee.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To accept and affirm the report of the Task Force on the Structure and Governance of the ELCA Foundation; and

To express our appreciation to the members of the Task Force for their diligent and thoughtful work.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To approve the proposed governance structure and organizational structures by functions as outlined in the “Report of the Task Force on the Structure and Governance of the ELCA Foundation.”

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To approve and start the process of transferring the activities of the ELCA Foundation to the Endowment Fund of the ELCA, including authorizing the churchwide organization staff to proceed with the following:

- **transferring trusteeship of the existing charitable remainder trusts from the ELCA to the Endowment Fund of the ELCA;**

- gradually transferring ownership of the existing charitable gift annuities from the ELCA to the Endowment Fund of the ELCA;
- as the ownership of the charitable gift annuities is gradually transferred, gradually transferring the asset pools supporting the charitable gift annuities from the ELCA to the Endowment Fund of the ELCA;
- as the ownership of the charitable gift annuities is gradually transferred, gradually transferring sufficient additional assets from the ELCA to the Endowment Fund of the ELCA, to ensure that the Endowment Fund of the ELCA does not incur any unfunded liabilities (currently estimated at \$2,150,000 for the entire annuity pool);
- transferring assets from the ELCA to the Endowment Fund of the ELCA of an amount, currently estimated to be \$3,200,000, reasonably believed to be sufficient to render the Endowment Fund fully operational on January 1, 2018, after taking into account its expanded functions and responsibilities; and
- entering into the Memorandum of Understanding that sets forth how contingent future liabilities under the charitable gift annuity program are to be shared between the ELCA and the Endowment Fund of the ELCA.

CC ACTION

Recommended: *Two-thirds vote required*

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

15.14.A1017. Responsibilities of the Office of the Treasurer

- a. This office shall be related to the treasurer, who shall be its full-time executive officer.
- b. This office shall have the sole authority and responsibility to establish and maintain banking relationships for the churchwide organization.

...

- j. This office, in consultation with the Endowment Fund Foundation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, shall recommend:
 - 1) approved policy for the valuation process for noncash gifts;
 - 2) the management of assets of its life-income agreements;
 - 3) gift acceptance policies for the establishment and management of memorial funds administered received by the Endowment Fund of the ELCA foundation in cooperation with the Mission Advancement unit; and
 - 4) the distribution of earned-income payments to remainder beneficiaries as regulated by the life-income, trust, and other fiduciary donor agreements held by the churchwide organization.

15.15.A17 The Endowment Fund of the ELCA shall:

- a. offer, promote, administer, and oversee endowment, deferred giving, life income, and similar planned giving programs for individual donors, congregations, synods, the churchwide organization and related institutions and agencies in support of ELCA ministries;
- b. offer pooled investment services for endowment funds of this church and its congregations, synods, churchwide organization and related institutions and agencies;
- c. manage assets of endowment, deferred giving, life-income agreements, donor advised funds, and funds held for external participants;

- d. oversee the administration of earned-income payments to donors and to remainder beneficiaries as regulated by life-income, trust, and other fiduciary donor agreements;
- e. determine annual endowment fund distribution rate;
- f. set fees associated with endowment and deferred giving programs;
- g. hire and oversee such managers, service providers, consultants, advisors, and sub-advisors as it deems appropriate;
- h. develop and approve an annual budget that will be financed through revenue from its gift planning and investment activities and programs; and
- i. coordinate programs and ministries with the priorities of the ELCA and other stewardship and financial-resource development activities of this church.
- j. Constitutional provision 16.12, and bylaws 11.34.01., 14.21.02., 14.21.03., 14.21.06, and 14.21.07. shall apply to the operation of the Endowment Fund of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

16.12.C1517. Mission Advancement Unit

~~The Mission Advancement unit shall be responsible for planning, coordinating and carrying out this church's communications through publications and other tools. It shall also be responsible for mission support interpretation and consultations, the management of constituent data and shall lead its fundraising and development efforts including current, major and planned gifts.~~

The Mission Advancement unit shall be responsible for planning, coordinating and executing this church's strategic communications activities and for its fundraising and development efforts, in coordination with the Endowment Fund of the ELCA.

16.12.D1117. 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. The ELCA Foundation shall also:

- ~~a. conduct on behalf of this church, its congregations, synods, churchwide units, and related institutions a program of major gifts and deferred giving.~~
- ~~b. provide educational materials and resources in the area of deferred giving.~~
- ~~c. provide advice to the Office of the Treasurer in the recommendation and establishment within that office of policies and procedures for processes governing valuation of noncash gifts, the management of assets of life income agreements and endowment funds, and the distribution of earned income payments to donors and to remainder beneficiaries as regulated by life-income, trust, and other fiduciary donor agreements.~~
- ~~d. engage in cooperation with congregations, synods, agencies, and institutions of this church in efforts to:~~
 - ~~1) identify and cultivate prospective major and deferred gift donors;~~
 - ~~2) seek gifts, bequests, and investments for the Mission Investment Fund of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America;~~
 - ~~3) seek gifts, bequests, and investments for endowment funds that support ministries of this church; and~~

Mission Advancement unit shall:

- a. guide churchwide strategic communications through publications, digital media, social media, direct mail, and other communication tools;
- b. oversee brand, messaging and content development and management;
- c. provide for Mission Support interpretation and consultations;

- d. develop and execute programs to seek current, major, and deferred gifts, bequests, and endowment funds to support ministries of this church;*
- e. engage members, congregations, synods, agencies, and institutions of this church in efforts to raise financial support for the ministries of the ELCA;*
- f. provide advice to the Office of the Treasurer in the recommendation and establishment within that office of policies and procedures for gift acceptance and management;*
- g. manage ELCA constituent data; and*
- h. coordinate its programs with other stewardship and financial-resource development activities of this church and in alignment with its mission objectives.*

~~*4) coordinate its programs and ministries with the objectives and programs of other stewardship and financial-resource development activities of this church.*~~

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To approve the amended [bylaws](#) of the Endowment Fund of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

IV.E Report of the Budget and Finance Committee

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

IV.E.1 2018 Revised Income Estimates and Spending Authorizations

As part of its ongoing fiduciary responsibility, the Budget and Finance Committee reviews the income estimates and the spending authorizations to be approved for current fund and World Hunger. At the 2016 Churchwide Assembly, the 2018 income estimates and spending authorizations were approved as part of the triennium budget. The Office of the Treasurer and Office of the Presiding Bishop reviewed current financial results and will present a recommendation for revisions to income estimates and spending authorizations.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To approve a 2018 fiscal year current fund spending authorization of \$67,140,670.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To approve a 2018 ELCA World Hunger spending authorization of \$23,750,000.

PLENARY SESSION FIVE

Augsburg Room
November 11, 2017
3:00 – 6:00 p.m.

V.A Open discussion on Joint Leadership Table commitments

Vice President Bill Horne shared a summary of the commitments made by the Joint Leadership Table when it met to discuss the priorities of congregational vitality and leadership as part of the *Called Forward Together in Christ - Future Directions 2025*. More detailed information about that meeting is included in the “[Sept Leadership Table Minutes](#)” and the “[Sept Leadership Table Executive Summary](#)” (see pg. 4 for a matrix of commitments).

Here is an excerpt from the executive summary that relates directly to Church Council:

ELCA Church Council

- ***Overall commitments***
 - Begin development of a framework for a strategy for sustainability of this church in all three of its expressions
 - Emphasize sustainability conversation at each of its subsequent meetings
- ***Congregational vitality***
 - Receive and develop a sense of ownership of the report from Conference of Bishops in Nov. 2017 on definition of congregational vitality
 - Use this definition to ask churchwide organization for existing and adapted assessment tools to provide regular updates on congregational vitality, based on a longitudinal study with results shared in the form of a dashboard
- ***Leadership***
 - Support a one-seminary proposal from Theological Education Advisory Committee at its Nov. 2017 meeting, or request such a proposal

V.B Process Observation

V.C Announcements

6:00 p.m. Dinner (on your own)

Sunday, November 12, 2017

6:00 a.m. Breakfast, Marriott Hotel (Buffet opens at 6 am)

9:00 a.m. **WORSHIP SERVICE WITH HOLY COMMUNION**, 1st Floor Chapel

Offering: Renewing Congregations Priority, Campaign for the ELCA

Presider: Bp. Suzanne Dillahunt

Preacher: Dr. Steven Nishibayashi, The Episcopal Church ecumenical liaison

Assisting Minister: Ms. Emma Wagner

Lector: Mr. Hans Becklin

PLENARY SESSION SIX

Council Room
November 12, 2017
10:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

VI.A Report of the Program and Services Committee

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

VI.A.1. Proposed Social Message on Human Rights

The Proposed Social Message on Human Rights was written, in part, as a response to the 2016 Churchwide Assembly adoption of a social policy resolution calling for an investment screen related to human rights. [CA16.06.31] This social message would support and inform such a social criteria investment screen.

In addition, this social message would articulate in one place themes and commitments from the disparate sources in which the ELCA has affirmed or mentioned human rights. The need for renewed attention to addressing human rights as a church is clear. ELCA leadership continually receives requests for advocacy that will benefit from judicious criteria.

Program and Services Committee will be reviewing the [Proposed Social Message on Human Rights](#) (*revised link*) in its committee meeting on Nov. 10. Program and Services made an amendment to the proposed social message (see line 137).

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To adopt the **revised** social message on “Human Rights” of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

VI.B Report of the Administrative Team

VI.C Report of the Planning and Evaluation Committee

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

VI.C.1. [Draft of ELCA Churchwide Organization Operational Plan 2018-2019](#)

VI.C.2. [Strategy for Authentic Diversity in the ELCA – Motion B](#)

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To receive the progress report from the Domestic Mission unit regarding the implementation of the Strategy Toward Authentic Diversity within the ELCA (Motion B);

To appoint Abraham Allende, Rani Abdulmasih, Abel Arroyo, Priscilla Austin, Joseph Castaneda, Cheryl Chatman, Grace El-Yateem, Moses Penumaka, Jennifer

Kirby, Maribel Lorenzana, Vickie Murph, Surekha Nelavala, Joann Conroy, Larry Thiele, Kevin Vandiver and Lamont Wells to the task force tasked with providing benchmarks, accountability and support for attaining diversity goals in all expressions of this church towards becoming an authentic diverse church; and

To request a progress report be submitted to the Church Council at its April 2018 meeting.

VI.D Report of the Executive Committee (as needed)

VI.E New Business

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To request that the Called Forward Together in Christ priorities be the lens by which "where needed most" Campaign for the ELCA funds, including the \$750,000 allocated to ELCA World Hunger effort in 2018, be allocated; and

To request that reports be made to the Budget and Finance Committee reflecting that this is how these decisions are made.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To request that Church Council undertake consideration of changing the makeup of Church Council to include:

- o Liaison Bishops**
- o Representatives of the Ethnic Associations**

as voting members on the Church Council.

VI.F Announcements

12:00 p.m. Lunch

PLENARY SESSION SEVEN

Council Room
November 12, 2017
1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

VII.A Report of the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee

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

VII.B Report of the Board Development Committee

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

CC ACTION

Recommended: *Two-thirds vote required*

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

14.14.F1317. Board Development Committee

A Board Development Committee—composed of six to eight members, at least one of whom shall be a member of the Executive Committee, and of which at least two shall be from each elected class of the Church Council—shall be appointed by the Executive Committee of the Church Council for ~~two~~ three-year, renewable terms to assist the presiding bishop and the Church Council in developing and implementing efforts to help members of the Church Council to demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of the council's role and fiduciary responsibility as the board of directors of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The executive for administration shall relate to this committee, with staff services provided by the Office of the Presiding Bishop. Members appointed to the Board Development Committee shall be eligible for service on other committees of the Church Council.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To approve the revised Board Development Committee charter.

VII.C Sharing of congregational vitality learning

Congregational vitality was affirmed as one of two focus areas for Future Directions 2025. At the Joint Leadership Tables meeting, one of the commitments was to make congregational vitality a primary focus in major ELCA gatherings – good practice, stories of success, learnings. This agenda item is one opportunity to fulfill that commitment.

Alaska Synod is one of the synods participating in the Congregational Vitality Project. Ms. Leslie Swenson will share the synod's learning from the project.

VII.D Consideration of items removed from *En Bloc*

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To receive the response from the Office of the Secretary regarding “Compensation for the Vice President.”

VII.E *En Bloc* approval of certain items

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

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

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

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To take action *En Bloc* on the remaining items listed in [En Bloc Items](#), [Responses to Churchwide Assembly Actions](#) and [Responses to Synod Resolutions](#).

VII.F Personal Reflection of Faith, Pr. William Flippin

VII.G Joys and Concerns

VII.H Process Observation

VII.I Evaluation and Debriefing

VII.J Hymn and Prayer

VII.K Adjournment