

**EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
IN AMERICA**

Church Council

MINUTES

April 4-7, 2019

**Prepared by the
Office of the Secretary**

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**EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
CHURCH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES
April 4-7, 2019
Chicago, Illinois**

The 93rd 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, Illinois.

The Executive Committee of the Church Council met on Thursday, April 4, 2019, followed at 1:30 p.m. by worship with Holy Communion in the Chapel of the Lutheran Center. The Rev. Hans E. Becklin presided, and the Rev. Jonathan Splichal Larson preached. Ms. Cheryl Chatman served as assisting minister, and Deacon Kyle Tau, United Methodist Church ecumenical liaison, was lector. Deacon John E. Weit, program director for music, served as cantor and 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
Ms. Lori S. Fedyk, treasurer

Chair of the Conference of Bishops:

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

Church Council:

Pr. Hans E. Becklin
Mr. Allan J. Bieber
Ms. Lisa Burk
Ms. Cheryl T. Chatman
Mr. Reid A. Christopherson
Pr. William E. Flippin Jr.
Pr. Dena M. Gable
Pr. Joyce M. Graue
Ms. Cynthia M. Gustavson
Pr. Chad M. Huebner
Ms. Maren Hulden
Mr. James M. Hushagen
Mr. James J.F. Jennings
Pr. Peder J. Johanson
Ms. Emilee M. Le Blanc
Mr. John W. Lohrmann
Mr. Joseph T. Nolte

Pr. Linda Nou
Mr. Gary A. Pederson
Ms. Meri Jo Petrivelli
Pr. Ricardo Rivera
Mr. Clarence M. Smith
Pr. Jonathan Splichal Larson
Ms. Ingrid S. Stafford
Ms. Leslie J. Swenson
Pr. James H. Utt
Mr. Vernon K. Veal
Pr. William O. Voss
Ms. Emma K. Wagner
Pr. Michael R. Ward
Mr. Philip Wirtanen
Ms. Sonja Wolfe
Ms. Man-Hei Yip (*excused*)
Mr. Seth M. Zimmann (*excused*)

Representatives of the Conference of Bishops

Bp. H. Jeffrey A. Clements, Region 5
Bp. Steven H. Delzer, Region 3
Bp. Suzanne D. Dillahunt, Region 6
Bp. Richard H. Graham, Region 8

Bp. R. Guy Erwin, Region 2
Bp. Brian D. Maas, Region 4
Bp. John S. Macholz, Region 7
Bp. B. Kirby Unti, Region 1
Bp. Pedro M. Suárez, Region 9

Resource people

Office of the Presiding Bishop:

Pr. M. Wyvetta Bullock, executive for administration
Ms. Deborah Coe, executive for planning, research and evaluation
Ms. Kathryn L. Johnson, director for ecumenical and interreligious relations
Ms. Rhondean Johnson, executive for human resources
Ms. Kathryn M. Lohre, assistant to the presiding bishop for ecumenical and interreligious relations
and assistant to the presiding bishop for theological discernment
Pr. Walter S. May, assistant to the bishop and executive for synodical relations
Ms. Judith Roberts, program director for racial justice ministries
Deacon Mary Ann Schwabe, natural systems coordinator
Ms. Jodi L. Slattey, assistant to the presiding bishop for governance
Ms. Mary J. Streufert, director for justice for women
Pr. Kevin L. Strickland, assistant to the presiding bishop for worship
Pr. Roger A. Willer, director for theological ethics

Office of the Secretary:

Mr. Thomas A. Cunniff, general counsel
Ms. Aja M. Favors, associate general counsel
Ms. Marit E. Johnson, manager for official documentation
Deacon Sue E. Rothmeyer, executive for Office of the Secretary administration

Unit staff:

Ms. Victoria E. Flood, director for mission support
Ms. Jocelyn Fuller, director for strategic communications
Pr. F. Javier Goitfa Padilla, program director for theological formation
Pr. Philip C. Hirsch, executive director of the Domestic Mission unit
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:

Mr. Timothy Blevins, President and CEO, 1517 Media
Ms. Linda Post Bushkofsky, executive director, Women of the ELCA
Ms. Eva M. Roby, president, Mission Investment Fund
Pr. Martin A. Seltz, vice president for publishing and executive director for ELCA relations, 1517 Media
Pr. Jeffrey D. Thiemann, president, Portico Benefit Services

Press:

Ms. Candice Hill Buchbinder, Mission Advancement

Guests:

Ethnic Specific Ministry Association Guests:

Pr. Khader N. El-Yateem, representative, Association of Lutherans of Arab and Middle Eastern Heritage
Pr. Martín J. López Vega Sr., president, Asociación Luterana de Ministerios Latinos
Pr. Russell L. Meyer, president, European Descent Lutheran Association for Racial Justice
Pr. M. Gigie Sijera-Grant, president, Asian and Pacific Islander Association
Pr. Lamont Anthony Wells, president, African Descent Lutheran Association

Ecumenical Guests:

Pr. Daniel Meeter, The Reformed Church in America
Pr. Jeffrey Coppage, Moravian Church in America (*excused*)
Mr. Steven Nishibayashi, The Episcopal Church
Deacon. Kyle Tau, The United Methodist Church

Guests:

Pr. Lenny Duncan
Pr. Amanda Nelson, executive director, Extraordinary Lutheran Ministries
Mr. William Rodriguez, member of the Faith, Sexism, and Justice Task Force
Pr. Clint Schnekloth
Pr. Viviane Thomas-Breitfeld, bishop of the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin and
co-chair of the Faith, Sexism, and Justice Task Force
Ms. Aubrey Thonvold, executive director, ReconcilingWorks

**Thursday, April 4, 2019
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 3:00 p.m. and welcomed participants, visitors, guests and new members Mr. Philip Wirtanen, the Rev. Ricardo Rivera and Ms. Lisa Burk. The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, presiding bishop of the ELCA, led the meeting in prayer.

Vice President Horne drew attention to the meeting resource materials and the deadlines for proposing new business and for removing items from *en bloc* consideration. He reviewed various elements of the proposed agenda.

A motion was made to adopt the agenda.

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

VOTED:

CC19.04.01 To adopt the agenda and to permit the chair to call for consideration of agenda items in the order the chair deems most appropriate.

Vice President Horne declared that the agenda was adopted.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

(Agenda I.B.)

Background:

The minutes of the November 8-11, 2018, meeting 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 November 8, 2018, January 29, February 12, and March 12 in 2019, 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:

A motion was made to approve the minutes and to ratify the actions of the Executive Committee.

There being no discussion, Vice President William B. Horne II called for the vote.

VOTED:

**CC19.04.02 To approve the minutes of the November 8-11, 2018, meeting of the Church Council; and
 To ratify actions of the council's Executive Committee as indicated in the minutes of the November 8, 2018, January 29, 2019, February 12, 2019, and March 12, 2019.**

REPORT FROM THE PRESIDING BISHOP

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

Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton opened her report by thanking those who assisted and led opening worship. She noted that the ELCA will have many transitions over the coming months. Out of 21 bishop elections that will be happening this spring, there will be 11 new bishops due to retirements and term limits. The Rev. Wm Chris Boerger, secretary of the ELCA, will be retiring when his term ends at the end of October. There will also be an election for presiding bishop at the upcoming 2019 Churchwide Assembly. The churchwide organization welcomed the Rev. Philip C. Hirsch as the new executive director for the Domestic Mission Unit. Ms. Christina Jackson-Skelton will be retiring after 30 years of service with the churchwide organization.

Presiding Bishop Eaton recently travelled to Honduras with Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities (AMMPARO). She said AMMPARO and the Lutheran World Federation are doing good work with those fleeing violence and with displaced persons. The Lutheran World Federation partners with the Mennonite Church for this work in Honduras.

At the end of February, the United Methodist Church organized a special General Conference to discuss issues around human sexuality. The conference voted to approve the “Traditional Plan” which retains policies that prohibit gay marriage and ordination of LGBTQ persons. Presiding Bishop Eaton stressed that the ELCA will not be breaking full communion partnership with the United Methodist Church.

The ELCA constitution mandates the need for a policy on standards of leadership for rostered ministers. The current document is *Vision and Expectations*. This document needed to be updated following the creation of the roster of ministers of Word and Service. The original *Vision and Expectations* was used—though not intended—to inhibit LGBTQ persons from joining the ministry. The Conference of Bishops issued an apology statement at their March 2019 meeting.

This document is drafted by the Domestic Mission unit, forwarded to the Program and Services Committee of the Church Council for review and then voted on by the full council. This is a Church Council document. This document is also reviewed by the Conference of Bishops before going to the Program and Services Committee. The Conference of Bishops reviewed a draft of *Trustworthy Servants of the People of God* in spring 2018 and sent it back to the Domestic Mission unit for further revisions. After reviewing the document again in October 2018, the Conference of Bishops formed a drafting team to further revise the document. This document is not a social statement, so it did not follow the process for social statements. The Conference of Bishops made an unprecedented decision to open the document up for public comment. Extraordinary Lutheran Ministries and Reconciling Works stated that this document could be better. Presiding Bishop Eaton asked the council, “How are we church together” during moments like this? The Rev. William O. Gafkjen, bishop of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod and chair of the Conference of Bishops, compiled 145 responses. Extraordinary Lutheran Ministries submitted an additional 215 responses. Presiding Bishop Eaton acknowledged there were many good suggestions that could strengthen the document.

Presiding Bishop Eaton ended her oral report by discussing the Leadership Lab initiative. This initiative is inspired by John Kotter’s method and his book *XLR8 (Accelerate)*. The churchwide expression is organized as a hierarchy which most organizations become overtime. Some aspects are valuable when organized as a hierarchy such as scale and speed. One example where hierarchy works well is in the Office of the Treasurer with accounts payable. The drawback of a hierarchy is that it can be difficult to have creativity and change. The Leadership Lab will work alongside the hierarchy in place. It will not create a new unit or hire more individuals; rather it asks for volunteers to make better connections across the organization. Bishop Eaton stated the churchwide organization will work on this initiative for at least three years to see its progress. The churchwide organization is trying to move with the change happening in our society and workload rather than work against it.

ECUMENICAL GREETING

(Agenda I.D.)

The Rev. Susan Johnson, national bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, extended greetings. Their national convention will take place from July 11 to 13, 2019, in Regina, Saskatchewan.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

(Agenda I.E.1; *Reference:* Biographical Information)

The nominating committee nominated Mr. Philip Wirtanen, Bergland, Michigan, to replace Mr. Ervin Sparapani, Northern Great Lakes Synod [5G]; Ms. Lisa Burk, Torrington, Connecticut, to replace Ms. Andrea Micovsky, Slovak Zion Synod [7G]; and Rev. Ricardo Rivera, Caguas, Puerto Rico, to replace the Rev. Lori “L.B.” Tatum, Caribbean Synod [9F].

There being no discussion the council took the following action.

VOTED:

CC19.04.03 To elect Mr. Philip Wirtanen, Bergland, Michigan [5G], Ms. Lisa A. Burk, Torrington, Connecticut [7G], and the Rev. Ricardo E. Rivera, Caguas, Puerto Rico [9F], to the Church Council for a term ending in 2022.

Vice President Horne invited each new member to introduce themselves.

SUSTAINABILITY THOUGHT PAPER

(Agenda I.E.2; *Reference:* “Towards a Faithful and Multidimensional Understanding of Sustainability”)

Background:

The Joint Leadership Table reviewed a thought document, including recommendations, on a shared understanding of sustainability in the context of this church. This document entitled “Towards a Faithful and Multidimensional Understanding of Sustainability” advances the aspiration expressed in goal five of *Future Directions 2025* for “a well-governed, connected and sustainable church.” This is an internal document for use by the Conference of Bishops, Church Council and the churchwide organization.

Discussion:

The Rev. Michael R. Ward stated that he understands this is an internal document, but he disagreed with the use of the word “sustainability.” He felt that sustainability is contrary to asking people to asking individuals to increase their mission support. For him sustainability sounds like the church is “just trying to survive.”

There being no further discussion the council took the following action.

VOTED:

CC19.04.04 To affirm “Towards a Faithful and Multidimensional Understanding of Sustainability” as an agreed understanding of sustainability and a joint commitment to further action around church sustainability; and To approve the accompanying recommendations identified in the sustainability thought paper.

SITE FOR THE 2022 CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY

(Agenda I.E.3)

Background:

The Office of the Secretary is responsible to “arrange for and manage meetings of the Churchwide Assembly...” (ELCA 13.41.02) and presents its recommendation for a Churchwide Assembly site to the Church Council for approval.

Discussion:

A question was raised if locations are always chosen this far in advance. Secretary Boerger stated it is approved at this time so that it can be announced at the upcoming Churchwide Assembly.

VOTED:

CC19.04.05 To designate [Greater Columbus Convention Center] Columbus, Ohio – subject to the satisfactory completion of negotiations in the judgment of the secretary of this

**church – as the site for the Sixteenth Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, August 8-August 13, 2022; and
To authorize the Executive Committee to select another venue, if negotiations are not successful.**

DECLARATION OF THE ELCA TO AFRICAN DESCENT COMMUNITY

(Agenda I.E.4; *Reference*: “Declaration to the African Descent Community”)

Mr. Clarence M. Smith, Ms. Emma K. Wagner and Ms. Sonja Wolfe led the council through the working draft declaration. Mr. Smith noted that more work is still needed. The working group will take feedback from the council both in this session and via email as they work towards the June 2019 deadline. Mr. Smith stated this document is an apology, not a roadmap to reconciliation. There is not a call to action in the document’s current form. Ms. Wagner stated that when the declaration is finished, the council will work on action items. She asked the council what they felt was missing from the document and what could strengthen the document. Suggestions included:

- Acknowledge that the white church community will continue to sin and continue to repent
- Acknowledge sin of willful ignorance and sin of distancing white communities from communities of color such as with white flight
- Apologize for people who do not understand or acknowledge their white privilege
- Address more items that still happen in our present contexts; this is not something that only happened in the past
- Move the apology to an earlier position in the document
- Affirmed line 30
- Asked to rework line 60
- Whom is the working group asking forgiveness from in lines 48 through 64? From God or people of African Descent?

Ms. Wagner noted that other suggestions would work better as implementing resolutions. She asked the council to submit any further feedback to her via email. Mr. Smith noted that historic black congregations will be present at the upcoming Churchwide Assembly in Milwaukee. The declaration will be read in worship. He reminded the council that this document does not need approval by the assembly; this document is owned by the Church Council.

BREAK

The April 2019 meeting of the Church Council recessed at 4:22 p.m. and reconvened at 4:36 p.m.

REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE OF BISHOPS

(Agenda I.F.; *Reference*: Report of the Conference of Bishops)

The Rev. William O. Gafjken, bishop of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod and chair of the Conference of Bishops, opened his report with an overview of the March 2019 Conference of Bishops meeting. There was a sense of experimentation as the conference tried a new schedule with a reorganized agenda. He felt the conference learned a great deal from this experimenting. Bishop Gafjken continues to wonder what the role of the Conference of Bishops is within the ELCA and with the Church Council. The conference is still discerning its role. The ELCA’s constitution describes the conference as an advisory and consulting body in the life of the ELCA. This description is different from how most other traditions describe bishops.

The Conference of Bishops reviews policies, makes recommendations, and consults with and advises the Church Council. Bishop Gafjken asked the council to keep that in mind with all the information related to *Trustworthy Servants of the People of God* document. He felt that many comments on the document were rooted in misunderstanding the Conference of Bishops’ role. Conference of Bishops meetings occur one month before Church Council meetings to aid in the consultation process. The conference works hard to honor and trust the work of the Church Council and the churchwide organization. He hoped these groups could honor and support each other’s work. When describing this process to rostered ministers in his synod, clarification of the process helped to lower anxiety about the *Trustworthy Servants* process. Bishop Gafjken acknowledged that the process did not go as smoothly as the conference had hoped. He stated the conference was working on being as transparent as possible leading up to the April Church Council meeting. The conference’s statement regarding *Trustworthy Servants* has not

changed. The conference affirms the document, and they have no other recommendations.

A question was raised asking if the conference's recommendation on *Trustworthy Servants* reflects the comments and feedback that was received. Bishop Gafkjen responded that the conference's statement was adopted during the conference's March meeting. The conference was aware of criticism and concerns going into the March meeting. Some of those concerns led to changing the title of the document because the previous version, *Vision and Expectations*, had been used against LGBTQ persons pursuing ministry. The comments received after the March meeting were compiled for the Domestic Mission unit to present to the Program and Services committee and the entire council. Some people have misinterpreted that the Conference of Bishops is the primary owner of the document.

Another council member asked about the history of *Vision and Expectations*. Secretary Boerger stated that it is mandated in the constitution for rostered ministers to "live a life worthy of what they have been called." Part of the controversial history of the document is that it was added to the constitution in 1991 after gay seminarians publicly identified that they were in committed relationships and seeking ordination. Many felt that this was targeting LGBTQ persons. This led some individuals to use this as a juridical document, which is not its purpose. The document was revised after the 2009 Churchwide Assembly passed the *Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust* social statement. The document needs further revisions now with the creation of the roster of ministers of Word and Service. The constitutional expectation is that a policy statement be made by the appropriate unit, which in this case is the Domestic Mission unit.

REPORT OF THE AD HOC GOVERNANCE POLICY COMMITTEE

(Agenda I.H.; *Reference*: Governance Policy Manual, Part 1 and Part 2; Committee PowerPoint)

Ms. Maren Hulden, chair of Ad Hoc Governance Committee, presented Part 2 of the Ad Hoc Governance Policy draft to the council. She asked the council for feedback so that the committee can do further revisions and present the document for adoption at the August council meeting. Ms. Hulden noted that the current way the council structures and delegates work is through committees. This document proposes that the council should assess committees and their structure every triennium and restructure as needed. Ms. Hulden also proposed that the Executive Committee of the Church Council could be assigned the governance function; she did not feel an additional governance committee needed to be created.

A council member asked if there was any discussion to have the governance committee role live under the Board Development committee, as that is where it sits currently. Ms. Hulden stated that she felt the governance role could be assigned to either committee. She stated that for her it made sense to have governance go with the Executive Committee as it is the leadership committee. Another member asked how this work would continue as the class of 2019 will soon be leaving the council. Ms. Hulden stated the document was designed so that it could live on its own without members who helped draft it. She also noted that three members of the class of 2022 will continue on the Ad Hoc Governance Policy Committee. It could also be possible to include non-council members to continue to be a part of the Governance Policy Committee as needed. She encouraged council members to send further feedback via email.

There being no further discussion the council voted on the following item.

VOTED:

CC19.04.06

To request the Executive Committee establish a process to assess the existing committee structure and future needs for Church Council, and for recommendations to be presented by the April 2021 Church Council meeting;

To request the Board Development Committee consider implementing the list of items for further consideration identified by the Ad Hoc Governance Policy Committee; and

To commend the work of the Ad Hoc Governance Policy Committee and to request the ad hoc committee present a final Governance Policy Manual no later than August 2019 Church Council meeting.

PERSONAL REFLECTION ON FAITH

(Agenda I.H.)

The Rev. James H. Utt gave a reflection on his faith.

PRAYER REQUESTS

The Rev. Jonathan Splichal Larson asked specific individuals for ways in which others may pray for them.

HYMN AND PRAYER

(Agenda I.I.)

The Rev. William Voss led the assembly in singing a hymn and in prayer.

Mr. Clarence M. Smith provided musical accompaniment.

RECESS

The April 2019 meeting of the Church Council recessed around 6:00 p.m. for Thursday, April 4, 2019.

Friday, April 5, 2019 Plenary Session II

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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 for a Midday Prayer Service that began at 12:15 p.m. in the Chapel of the Lutheran Center led by the Rev. Peder J. Johanson.

Committee meetings resumed at approximately 1:30 p.m. and adjourned at approximately 3:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

(Agenda II.A.)

The April 2019 meeting of the Church Council went into executive session for a legal briefing. 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 3:58 p.m.

ECUMENICAL GREETING

(Agenda II.B.)

Deacon Kyle Tau, representative of the United Methodist Church, brought greetings from the Council of Bishops and the United Methodist Church.

UPDATE ON THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE ELCA

(Agenda II.C.; *Reference*: Update on the Campaign for the ELCA)

The Rev. Ronald T. Glusenkamp, director for the campaign for the ELCA, stated that the end of the campaign is June 30, 2019. The Campaign for the ELCA has received \$182 million in gifts and commitments and \$48 million in planned gifts. ELCA World Hunger is at 95 percent of its \$115 million goal, and International Women Leaders is at 80 percent of its \$4 million goal.

PRELIMINARY REPORT AND TIMELINE OF THE TASK FORCE TO CONSIDER A FUTURE CAMPAIGN AND INCOME STRATEGIES

(Reference: Preliminary Report and Timeline of the Task Force to Consider a Future Campaign and Income Strategies)

Mr. Joseph T. Nolte, chair of the task force, stated that the task force is still in a process of discernment as to a new campaign. Mr. Nolte feels the task force is building good momentum as they look at how the Mission Advancement unit restructures its resource development. The task force decided that the ELCA must align fundraising efforts with initiatives the task force feels are important. These foci continue fundraising for areas that have had success and have flexibility to align with *Future Directions 2025*.

VOTED:

CC19.04.07

To request the churchwide organization lead broad fundraising efforts throughout the ELCA focused around the strategic priorities as outlined in *Future Directions 2025*, using its major foci to shape efforts;

To approve continuing fundraising for programs that have proven donor interest and where the churchwide organization has an ongoing obligation: ELCA World Hunger, ELCA Fund for Leaders, International Women Leaders, Young Adults in Global Mission, Missionary Sponsorship and Lutheran Disaster Response;

To support the completion of the specific appeals for Disability Ministries, New and Renewing Congregations, Youth and Young Adults, and Global Ministries as specific focus areas after the conclusion of *Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*, not precluding acceptance or distribution of funds offered by donors after the campaign; and

To affirm the continuation of the task force to consider how to grow resources to support the priorities of the churchwide organization, as outlined in *Future Directions 2025*.

REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

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

Vice President William B. Horne II opened his report with prayer. Vice President Horne will be visiting three synod assemblies in the coming months: South Dakota, Central States, and Southeastern Pennsylvania. He will also meet with synod councils.

The Conference of Bishops recommends that the Church Council approve *Trustworthy Servants of the People of God*. He stressed that the conference respects Church Council's role in this process.

He thanked the Ad Hoc Governance Policy Committee for their work. One principle that stood out for him during this process is that governance should be flexible to ensure that the Church Council is doing work efficiently. He also hopes this will help strengthen relationships with the churchwide organization, the Conference of Bishops, and separately incorporated ministries.

Vice President Horne closed his report by asking the council to reflect on upcoming changes and transitions. These changes and transitions will include churchwide officer elections, key churchwide organization staff changes, *2019 and Beyond* and demographic changes within the Conference of Bishops. He stated that this shows him that God is doing a new thing. He then asked the council to consider these changes through the Lutheran question "What does it mean?"

BREAK

The April 2019 meeting of the Church Council recessed at 4:47 p.m. and reconvened at 4:57 p.m.

REFLECTION TIME WITH CLASS OF 2019

(Agenda II.F.)

Members of the class of 2019 provided reflections of their time on Church Council. Members of the Class of 2019 are Pr. Hans E. Becklin, Mr. Allan J. Bieber, Mr. Reid A. Christopherson, Pr. William E. Flippin Jr., Pr. Joyce M. Graue, Ms. Cynthia M. Gustavson, Mr. James M. Hushagen, Ms. Maren Hulden, Ms. Emilee M. Le Blanc, Mr. John W. Lohrmann, Pr. Linda Nou, Ms. Meri Jo Petrivelli, Pr. Jonathan Splichal Larson, Pr. Peder J. Johanson, Mr. Clarence M. Smith, Ms. Ingrid S. Stafford, Ms. Leslie J. Swenson, Pr. James H. Utt, Mr. Vernon K. Veal, Pr. William O. Voss, Pr. Michael R. Ward, Ms. Man Hei Yip and Mr. Seth M. Zimmann.

PROCESS OBSERVATION

(Agenda II.G.)

Mr. Jim J. F. Jennings reminded the council to submit process observation forms by Saturday evening. The Rev. Michael Ward gave a process observation for the day.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Agenda II.H.)

Presiding Bishop Eaton welcomed the Rev. Christopher Otten, assistant to the bishop and director for federal chaplaincies, to the council meeting and to his new position. Secretary Boerger reminded members that the deadline for new business was noon on Saturday.

PRAYER REQUESTS

The Rev. Jonathan Splichal Larson asked specific individuals for ways in which others may pray for them.

HYMN AND PRAYER

(Agenda II.I.)

Ms. Emilee M. Le Blanc led the assembly in singing a hymn and in prayer.

Mr. Clarence M. Smith provided musical accompaniment.

RECESS

The November 2018 meeting of the Church Council recessed at 6:05 p.m. for Friday, April 5, 2019.

Saturday, April 6, 2019
Plenary Session III

CALL TO ORDER

Vice President William B. Horne II called the third plenary session to order at 9:00 a.m. in the Council Room of the Lutheran Center.

BIBLE STUDY

(Agenda III.A.)

The Rev. R. Guy Erwin, bishop of the Southwest California Synod led the Church Council in a Bible study. The study focused on Exodus 12 and a painting by Lucas Cranach.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

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

As the Office of the Secretary prepares for the 2019 Churchwide Assembly, 910 voting members have been identified. Seventeen additional members need to be identified. Synod councils may identify voting members up to 30 days prior to the assembly. The bishop can appoint voting members after that time. Of the 553 lay members who have registered, 294 identify as women, 258 identify as men and one chose not to identify. Of the ministers of Word and Sacrament who have registered, 184 identify as women and 173 identify as men. Because the assembly will be voting on whether to make Church Council members voting members of the assembly, Secretary Boerger asked council members not to agree to be voting members for their synod after May 1. If they do so, this would cause errors with registration systems. To prepare for the assembly, council members will register as advisory members. They can contact Ms. Michala Mahoney, senior meeting planner and registrar for the Churchwide Assembly, at cwaregistrar@elca.org. Secretary Boerger then introduced Mr. Dana Adams who is the new director for meeting management.

The secretary identification process produced 64 names. Of those 64 names, 14 forms were returned. Ms. Marit E. Johnson, manager for official documentation, is the only person who knows these names. The forms will be made available online on April 15. Because this will still be an ecclesiastical ballot process, individuals must be nominated from the floor of the assembly. The biographical information forms will be removed from the website at the beginning of the assembly in accordance with the "Rules of Organization and Procedure." Individuals may download or print this information in advance.

The ELCA's constitution states in 9.53.07., "Congregations have the right to petition this church. Any petition shall be addressed to the synod to which the congregation relates for response by the synod. By action of the Synod Council or Synod Assembly, petitions may be forwarded to the Church Council or Churchwide Assembly." Secretary Boerger stated the intent is to do so through resolutions and memorials. Hope Lutheran Church in San Mateo, California, has asked the secretary to provide a constitutional interpretation after calling their interim pastor to serve full time. This request may be appealed back to the Church Council in November 2019.

In 20.20 the *ELCA Constitution* states, "The Committee on Appeals shall establish definitions and guidelines, subject to approval by the Church Council, to enable clear and uniform application of the grounds for discipline of officers, rostered ministers, congregations, and members of congregations." Secretary Boerger stressed that *Vision and Expectations* is not a disciplinary document. *Definitions and Guidelines for Discipline* is the disciplinary document. An updated version of *Definitions and Guidelines for Discipline* needs to be drafted. This document must coincide with whatever version of *Vision and Expectations* is the most current. The Committee on Appeals will write the document. Secretary Boerger stated that the organization can no longer wait to update the document.

REPORT OF THE LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL REVIEW COMMITTEE

(Agenda III.C.)

Mr. James M. Hushagen, chair of the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee, presented the committee's report. He stated that items would be voted on in the *en bloc* items section. The committee updated inconsistent language and looked at "Rules of Organization and Procedure" for the 2019 Churchwide Assembly. The committee elected Mr. Gary A. Pederson as the new chair.

REVISION OF ELCA PHILOSOPHY OF BENEFITS

(Agenda III.C.1; *Reference: Philosophy of Benefits and accompanying PowerPoint*)

The Rev. Jeffrey Thiemann, president and CEO of Portico Benefit Services, gave an update on the “ELCA Philosophy of Benefits.” This policy is reviewed every two years. Most changes related to updating terminology such as updating “clergy and lay leaders” to “rostered ministers.”

VOTED:

CC19.04.08 **To approve the revised ELCA Philosophy of Benefits; and
To encourage and invite plan members, congregations, synods, the churchwide organization, other ELCA-related agencies and institutions, and other employers to reflect upon, discuss, and employ the ELCA Philosophy of Benefits when they evaluate and implement benefit programs and engage in employment decisions involving benefits.**

REPORT OF THE PROGRAM AND SERVICES COMMITTEE

(Agenda III.D.)

REPLACEMENT OF *VISION AND EXPECTATIONS*

(Agenda III.D.1; *Reference: Trustworthy servant*)

Ms. Cynthia M. Gustavson opened the report of the Program and Services Committee by referencing the committee’s discussion and discernment on *Trustworthy Servants of the People of God*. The committee decided to recommend declining to review the current *Trustworthy Servants* document and refer it back to the Domestic Mission unit for further work and revision.

Bishops expressed their concern of having to continue using *Vision and Expectations* until a new document is passed. Some bishops recommended adopting *Trustworthy Servants* and also referring it back to the Domestic Mission unit for further work and revision.

A council member asked what other options were considered during the committee meeting. Ms. Gustavson stated the options were to accept the document as is, to accept the document and refer it back to Domestic Mission for further revision, or not accept the document and refer it back for revision.

The Rev. Hans E. Becklin proposed amending the third paragraph of the drafted motion. He asked that instead of “grounded by the Holy Scriptures” that the text state “normed by the Holy Scriptures.” This amendment was not passed.

A question was raised as to why the committee decided to not recommend the document for adoption and to instead refer it back to the Domestic Mission unit for further revision. The committee felt the current draft does not have concrete measurement and implementation markers. The previous question was moved and seconded. The motion failed. Discussion continued.

The Rev. Michael R. Ward proposed adding a timeline to the motion.

VOTED:

CC19.04.09 **To amend the motion regarding *Trustworthy Servants of the People of God* to add
“and a draft for consideration by fall 2020 meeting” to the end of the last sentence.**

Discussion continued on the amended motion. The Rev. Philip C. Hirsch, executive director for the Domestic Mission Unit, stated that adding a timeline to the process is helpful. He stated he needed to put more thought into the budget implications.

The previous question was moved and seconded.

VOTED:

CC19.04.10 **To end debate on *Trustworthy Servants of the People of God*.**

Ms. Ingrid Stafford led prayer before voting on the amended item.

VOTED:

CC19.04.11

To thank the Domestic Mission unit, the Conference of Bishops and all the people who have shared their perspectives regarding the document *Trustworthy Servants of the People of God*,

To decline to consider the document *Trustworthy Servants of the People of God*;

To refer the document *Trustworthy Servants of the People of God* back to the Domestic Mission Unit for further review and redrafting that is governed by this church's social teaching documents (i.e., *Freed in Christ*, *Care for Creation*, *Human Sexuality*, etc.) Such further consideration shall include a roadmap that consists of a process that intentionally includes diverse voices, especially of those who have been most harmed by the misuse of *Vision and Expectations*;

To address, within the review, the current process of development and the faithful and just use of a policy document as a guide for this church;

To affirm the pastoral message regarding *Vision and Expectations* from the Conference of Bishops and support the conference in living into their commitment to apply the church's standards for ministry with equity and compassion, to listen and take seriously the concerns of all our leaders—particularly those who historically have been marginalized—and to treat with dignity all those seeking to lead in our church; and

To request the Domestic Mission unit provide quarterly reports on the process to the Church Council and a draft for consideration by fall 2020 meeting.

ECUMENICAL GREETING

(Agenda III.F.)

Mr. Steven Nishibayashi gave greetings from the Episcopal Church.

PRAYER REQUESTS

The Rev. Jonathan Splichal Larson asked specific individuals for ways in which others may pray for them.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Agenda III.G.)

Secretary Wm Chris Boerger announced that it was the deadline for new business and to remove any items from *en bloc* for separate consideration.

TABLE GRACE

The Rev. Linda Nou led table grace.

RECESS

The April 2019 meeting of the Church Council recessed at 12:06 p.m.

**Saturday, April 6, 2019
Plenary Session IV**

CALL TO ORDER

Vice President William B. Horne II called the fourth plenary session to order at 1:31 p.m. in the Council Room of the Lutheran Center.

ECUMENICAL GREETING

(Agenda IV.A.)

The Rev. Daniel Meeter gave greetings from the Reformed Church in America. Their 2020 General Synod meeting will decide if the denomination will continue as is, restructure polity to allow the denomination to continue with non-geographical synods or have a grace-filled separation.

REPORT FROM THE TREASURER

(Agenda IV.B.; *Reference*: Report from the Treasurer)

Ms. Lori S. Fedyk, treasurer of the ELCA, began her report with financial results through January 31, 2019. Fiscal year 2018 had nearly \$3.9 million in revenue over expenses. 83 percent of investment income was over budget. Treasurer Fedyk noted that investment income is typically budgeted conservatively as markets can be unpredictable. The current fund summary had a \$3.8 million net operating surplus. Units spent within 95 to 98 percent of their target spending.

World Hunger had \$19.5 million in direct giving in fiscal year 2018. Overall World Hunger raised \$23.5 million dollars and had an ending balance of \$3.4 million after expenses. Lutheran Disaster Response had \$11.6 million in income with nearly \$13 million sent out in aid during fiscal year 2018.

REPORT OF THE BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

(Agenda IV.C.; *Reference*: BFC Chair Report to the Church Council)

Mr. Clarence M. Smith stated the Budget and Finance Committee looked at the proposed triennium budget for 2020-2022. He noted that income and expenses were examined for 2020 but only income was projected for 2021 and 2022. The budget aligns with *Future Directions 2025*. The proposed budget estimate decreases in mission support of 1.8 percent for fiscal year 2020 and 1.2 percent for 2021 and 2022. Strategic planning for additional revenue and further fundraising models are being explored. Some of that work is being done by the Task Force to Consider a Future Campaign.

PROPOSED 2020-2022 TRIENNIUM BUDGET

(Agenda IV.C.)

VOTED:

CC19.04.12 *To recommend the following for adoption by the 2019 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:*

2020 Budget Proposal

To approve a 2020 current fund spending authorization of \$68,378,325;

To approve a 2020 ELCA World Hunger spending authorization of \$21,500,000;

and

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

2021 Budget Proposal

To approve a 2021 current fund income proposal of \$68,442,034;

To approve a 2021 ELCA World Hunger income proposal of \$21,500,000; and

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

2022 Budget Proposal

- To approve a 2022 current fund income proposal of \$68,507,018;**
- To approve a 2022 ELCA World Hunger income proposal of \$21,500,000; and**
- To authorize the Church Council to establish a spending authorization after periodic review of revised income estimates.**

UPDATE ON MISSION SUPPORT EXPERIMENTS

(Agenda IV.C.)

Mr. Clarence M. Smith stated that three years ago the council did not identify metrics to measure the Mission Support Experiment synods. By extending the project for another two years, parameters have been put in place.

Items that will be observed include:

- Financial changes with new mission starts, congregations in renewal, and metrics from parochial reports
- Impact of change at the churchwide organization
- Impact on directors of evangelical mission
- Additional work created for synods and bishops
- Impact on non-experiment synods

The first interim report will be presented at the November 2019 council meeting. Updates will then be provided at each Church Council and Conference of Bishops meeting through April 2021. The Church Council will then make its final decision at its November 2021 meeting.

VOTED:

CC19.04.13

To accept the following process to measure and communicate the results of the Mission Support Experiment which ends January 31, 2021 in the following synods (Lower Susquehanna, Metropolitan Washington, D.C., Nebraska, New England, Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast):

- 1) To approve the measurements and process presented at the April 2019 Church Council meeting;**
- 2) To permit the chair of Budget and Finance Committee to formally communicate the measurements and process to the bishops of the Mission Support Experiment Synods as soon as practical after Church Council approval;**
- 3) To request the Mission Support Experiment synod leaders and appropriate churchwide staff present an initial report at the November 2019 Church Council meeting covering the actions approved at the November 2018 meeting;**
- 4) To provide updates at each Church Council and Conference of Bishops meeting between April 2019 and November 2021;**
- 5) To ask the Mission Support Experiment synods that as part of ongoing Mission Support intent reporting to provide to the churchwide organization the dollar amounts withheld for the experiment for FY 2020 and FY 2021 for planning purposes;**
- 6) To request final data/report from Mission Support Experiment Synods to be presented at the April 2021 Church Council meeting;**
- 7) To request Mission Support Experiment synods to prepare two scenarios for their FY 2022 budget (Continue or End); and**
- 8) To request a final report and decision from the Budget and Finance Committee to be presented for action at the November 2021 Church Council meeting.**

REPORT OF THE PLANNING AND EVALUATION COMMITTEE

(Agenda IV.D.)

Mr. Reid A. Christopherson stated that the full report could be found online. Ethnic ministry reports and updates are in the *en bloc* items. He then introduced the Rev. Albert Starr to discuss the Strategy Toward Authentic Diversity.

STRATEGY TOWARD AUTHENTIC DIVERSITY TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS

(Agenda IV.D.1)

The Rev. Albert Starr, director for ethnic specific and multicultural ministries and co-chair of the Diversity Task Force, gave an overview of the task force work. He stated that the work has been deliberate, relational, personal and painful. Discussions led into areas of what the ELCA has done and left undone in naming and identifying underlying causes for the lack of diversity in the ELCA.

Some ways the task force suggests addressing diversity in the ELCA include:

- Theological education to address the sin of racism
- Strategy around structural accountability which looks at governance and policies
- Strategy around acknowledging partnerships

Rev. Starr stated the task force was very mindful of existing work and historical initiatives while seeing how the task force's ideas could work with *Future Directions 2025*. A council member suggested an amendment to the end of the motion.

VOTED:

CC19.04.14 **To amend the motion regarding the Strategic Authentic Diversity Task Force to add “and report regularly to the Church Council” to the last sentence of the motion.**

VOTED:

CC19.04.15 *To recommend the following for adoption by the 2019 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:*

To thank the Task Force for Strategic Authentic Diversity and all who contributed to its work to develop a report and recommendations on how this church exhibits authentic diversity and formulates its own goals and expectations for racial diversity and inclusion;

To call this church in all its expressions into a time of confession, reflection, and healing as its members renew an honest relational engagement in the body of Christ;

To urge the church in all its expressions and related agencies, organizations, and institutions to intentionally engage more deeply in the recommendations named in the report and to provide funds in support of these recommendations; and

To call upon the Office of the Presiding Bishop, in collaboration with appropriate units in the churchwide organization, to establish and oversee processes for consideration, assignment, implementation of, and accountability for these recommendations identified to the churchwide organization and to report regularly to the Church Council.

CHURCHWIDE ORGANIZATION 2018 OPERATIONAL PLAN

(Agenda IV.D.2)

Mr. Christopherson presented the churchwide organization 2018 Operational Plan on behalf of the Planning and Evaluation Committee. He referred the council to the report.

VOTED:

CC19.04.16 **To receive the ELCA Churchwide Organization Operational Plan Report for 2018; and
To thank the staff of the churchwide organization for their ongoing work, with particular thanks to those staff members who actively participated in the review of the report.**

Mr. Christopherson ended his report by stating that the Rev. Chad M. Huebner was elected as the new chair of the committee.

PERSONAL REFLECTION ON FAITH

(Agenda IV.E)

Ms. Ingrid S. Stafford gave a personal reflection on faith.

BREAK

The April 2019 meeting of the Church Council recessed at 2:57 p.m. and reconvened at 3:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 6, 2019 Plenary Session V

CALL TO ORDER

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

REPORT OF THE PROGRAM AND SERVICES COMMITTEE (CONTINUED)

(Agenda V.A.)

SOCIAL STATEMENT ON WOMEN AND JUSTICE AND IMPLEMENTING RESOLUTIONS

(Agenda V.A.1; *Reference: Faith Sexism, and Justice: A Lutheran Call to Action*)

Ms. Cynthia M. Gustavson introduced the social statement *Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Lutheran Call to Action* and task force members, Mr. William Rodriguez and the Rev. Viviane Thomas-Breitfeld, bishop of the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin and co-chair of the task force. Bishop Thomas-Breitfeld stated the task force embodied diversity in age, race, region and sexual orientation. While the social statement was originally given three years for completion, the task force asked the Church Council to extend this timeline. This social statement has been in process for six years. Ms. Leslie J. Swenson and Rev. James H. Utt served as Church Council representatives.

Ms. Swenson stated this process included “listening sessions” in which representatives across the United States talked with congregations who are uniquely aware of questions that the church should be asking about women and justice. Rev. Utt thought this document is helpful for pastors in parish setting to speak in public spaces on tough issues. He felt this document is timely, biblical and confessional. He added that this statement gives an alternate protestant voice to what other Christian groups might offer on topics of women’s issues. Mr. Gary A. Pederson thanked the task force for the work done between the first draft and the current draft. A question was raised on how to use the short and full statements of the social statement. Bishop Thomas-Breitfeld stated that the entire document is the social statement; she offered that it is helpful to think of the document as a small and large catechism. The short version is helpful as talking points and the larger version allows people to dig deeper into the document.

There being no further discussion the council voted on the following items.

VOTED:

CC19.04.17 *To recommend the following social statement for adoption by the 2019 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:*

To adopt the proposed social statement *Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Lutheran Call to Action* as a social statement of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in Accordance with the “Policies and Procedures of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for Addressing Social Concerns” (2018).

VOTED:

CC19.04.18 *To recommend the following implementing resolutions for adoption by the 2019 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:*

- 1. To urge members, congregations, synods, churchwide ministries, social ministry organizations, church-related institutions, ecumenical partners, and all people of good will to be guided by this statement’s convictions and commitments to resist and dismantle patriarchy and sexism, and to transform life in the church and in society;**

2. To call upon members of this church to pray, work, and advocate for justice for all those affected by sexism and patriarchy and to draw upon this statement in forming their judgments and actions in daily life;
3. To encourage members to be guided by the ELCA social message on “Gender-based Violence” (2015) in taking action, such as urging their congregations to implement policies and to become intentional sites of advocacy and support for local efforts that serve those affected by such violence;
4. To call upon all members of this church to reflect on how mass media (films, video games, etc.) and social media distort sex, gender, and sexuality and to address this problem in their own actions (especially their care for children);
5. To call upon congregational leaders, rostered and lay, to encourage women and girls to pursue leadership roles within congregations and in discernment toward rostered ministry;
6. To encourage ELCA congregations to present positive gender roles in their educational activities, preschools, and day care, and to urge youth-related ministries within this church to adopt positive modeling of gender equity in all leadership, programs, and educational events;
7. To urge congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization (CWO) to address inequities (in pay, senior leadership, availability of second and third calls, etc.) for rostered and lay women of various backgrounds, identities, and personal experiences;
8. To call upon the Conference of Bishops, synods, and the churchwide organization to use gender-inclusive and expansive language for God, and to direct the ELCA worship team
 - a) to use such language whenever it commissions, curates, or develops new liturgical and related educational resources and
 - b) to supplement existing resources toward that end;
9. To direct the Mission Advancement unit of the CWO to collaborate with the Office of the Presiding Bishop in creating a single page at ELCA.org where readers can access the existing resources of the ELCA and the Lutheran World Federation related to the concerns of this statement and to work to make those resources available in languages other than English;
10. To call upon this church’s advocacy and related ministries, such as ELCA Advocacy and ELCA World Hunger, to support and advocate for measures, policies, and laws consistent with this social statement and to give sustained attention to its convictions and commitments in the creation of programs and projects;
11. To recognize past and present CWO efforts to address institutional sexism and foster gender justice in this church, and to urge sustained devotion of resources, such as support for the CWO’s Justice for Women program;

12. To commend the ongoing ministries of Women of the ELCA and Lutheran Men in Mission, and to encourage participation in their work, especially as they address the issues identified in this social statement;
13. To call upon those engaged in publishing activities throughout the ELCA to continue and extend their support for gender equity in ELCA resources and communications through such dimensions as language, images, stories, themes, and representation of contributors;
14. To urge faculty, staff, and administrators of ELCA-related colleges, universities, and seminaries to renew their efforts to develop syllabi and best practices that affirm and promote the gifts of women from varied identities and backgrounds;
15. To call upon rostered and lay congregational leaders, synod and CWO staff, social ministry organizations, and faculty and staff at ELCA colleges, seminaries, and universities to renew their efforts to welcome, care for, and support the lives and gifts of LGBTQIA persons and to oppose discrimination against these persons so that they may live into the promise of gender justice envisioned in this social statement;
16. To call for the church in all its expressions and related agencies, organizations, and institutions to embed and incorporate anti-sexism training and protocols in their ongoing work; and
17. To call upon the Office of the Presiding Bishop, in collaboration with appropriate units in the CWO, to establish and oversee processes for implementation of and accountability for these resolutions and to report to the fall meeting of ELCA Church Council in 2021.

Ms. Gustavson noted that other items the committee reviewed were located in the *en bloc* items. Those items include the “Corporate Social Responsibility Screening” and social statement and social policy measures to be archived. The committee elected Ms. Emma K. Wagner as their new chairperson.

NEW BUSINESS

(Agenda V.B.)

Ms. Maren Hulden asked the council if it would be appropriate for the council to release a statement or create a communications strategy for *Trustworthy Servants of the People of God*. After discussion, the council asked Presiding Bishop Eaton, along with Bishop Gafjken and Vice President Horne, to write a pastoral message that all three would sign. The churchwide organization will provide a website that will update the public on progress made on the new document.

PERSONAL REFLECTION ON FAITH

(Agenda V.C.)

Mr. John Lohrmann gave a personal reflection on his faith.

PRAYER REQUESTS

The Rev. Linda Nou asked specific individuals for ways in which others may pray for them.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Agenda V.D.)

Secretary Boerger announced that the offering taken during worship on Sunday morning will be designated for the International Women Leaders category of *Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA*. He also announced that the newly elected council members will be installed during the service.

PROCESS OBSERVATION

(Agenda V.D.)

Mr. James J.F. Jennings presented questions about guest participation. He also wondered if it would be beneficial for the vice president to have someone assisting him to help with identifying speakers and actions. That could also provide clarity to motions and amendments to motions.

HYMN AND PRAYER

(Agenda V.E.)

Mr. Vernon K. Veal led the assembly in singing a hymn and in prayer.

Mr. Clarence M. Smith provided musical accompaniment.

RECESS

The April 2019 meeting of the Church Council recessed at 5:10 p.m. for Saturday, April 6, 2019.

**Sunday, November 11, 2018
Plenary Session VI**

Church Council members gathered at 9:00 a.m. in the Chapel of the Lutheran Center for a service of Holy Communion. The Rev. Linda Nou presided; the Rev. Michael R. Ward preached; Ms. Emilee M. Le Blanc served as assisting minister; and Vice President Horne was lector. Certain participants of the meeting sang as a choir; Deacon John E. Weit, program director for music, served as musician. An offering of \$3,436.00 was received for the International Women Leaders category of *Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA*.

CALL TO ORDER

Vice President William B. Horne II called the sixth plenary session to order at 10:15 a.m. in the Council Room of the Lutheran Center.

REPORT OF THE BOARD DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

(Agenda VI.A.)

The Rev. James H. Utt described different initiatives the council had accomplished including governance policy work, new procedures for process observations, and a series of webinars to prepare the Church Council for the Churchwide Assembly. He noted that some members of the class of 2019 may be able to assist in mentoring the new Church Council class as there are not enough continuing members to mentor all new members. The committee is also contacting Bible study leaders for upcoming meetings. He reminded the council of the Church Council and Conference of Bishops joint meeting which will take place March 5 to 8, 2020. The new chair of the Board Development Committee is Ms. Cheryl T. Chatman.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

(Agenda VII.B)

Presiding Bishop Eaton presented her Leadership Lab initiative to the council. She believes this is a way to be creative with what God is calling into being in a world that is changing rapidly. This model is a slightly modified “Kotter Model” as presented by John Kotter in his book *XLR8*. This model encourages cross unit work by having individuals volunteer to be a part of “guiding coalition” that will work alongside the hierarchical structure. Presiding Bishop Eaton has received replies from 14 staff members who are interested in taking part. This coalition will have the authority of the Office of the Presiding Bishop. Presiding Bishop Eaton hopes to eventually extend this Leadership Lab to include organizations such as seminaries and separately incorporated ministries outside of the churchwide organization. One council member noted that creativity does not always match the timeline of fiscal years. He suggested finding a possible donor to fund this work. Treasurer Fedyk noted that the Mission Development Fund could possibly fund some of this work as it has a section that is used for innovation and new projects.

A council member asked what metric was being measured in this project—new leaders or disciples? Presiding Bishop Eaton stated that she liked Rev. Hirsch’s metric of measuring congregational vitality; he views this as how much younger and more diverse the ELCA becomes. Some of this is not new efforts, but better coordination of efforts.

CONSIDERATION OF ITEMS REMOVED FROM *EN BLOC*

(Agenda VII.C.;

Secretary Boerger stated that no items were removed from *en bloc*.

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

(Agenda VI.E.)

Background:

An *en bloc* resolution 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.

Church Council action:

A motion was made to take *en bloc* action on the remaining recommendations on the consent calendars.

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

VOTED:

CC19.04.19 **To approve the archival of a social message as listed in *En Bloc* Items.**

VOTED:

CC19.04.20 **To take action *En Bloc* on the remaining items listed in *En Bloc* Items, Responses to Churchwide Assembly Actions and Responses to Synod Resolutions.**

A. Audit Committee Membership

Background:

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

VOTED:

CC19.04.20a **To approve the appointment of Mr. Gary Hecht as an at-large member to the ELCA Audit Committee for a two-year, renewable term beginning May 2019; and To approve the appointment of Ms. Ingrid Stafford as an at-large member to the ELCA Audit Committee for a two-year, renewable term beginning September 2019.** *EN BLOC*

B. 2019 Mission Support Plan Revisions

Background:

The Church Council has responsibility for reviewing and acting on synod mission support plans as an interdependent partner with congregations and synods in implementing and strengthening the financial support for the work of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (*ELCA Constitution*, 8.15 and 10.71).

Since the November 2018 Church Council meeting, the churchwide organization has received revisions for 2019 Mission Support plans from thirteen synods. Eleven synods have requested to decrease the projected amount to be shared, two also requested a decrease in their percentage to be shared and two requested an increase in the projected dollar share.

VOTED:

CC19.04.20b1 **To acknowledge with appreciation the action of the following synods to maintain the percentage of sharing of 2019 Mission Support contributions by congregations for synod and churchwide ministries but estimating an adjustment in the projected amount to be shared: Alaska, Eastern North Dakota, Lower Susquehanna, Metropolitan Chicago, New England, Northern Illinois, Northwestern Ohio, Saint Paul Area, Sierra Pacific, Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast synods; To further affirm that we will steward these gifts to maximize their impact in mission for the sake of “God’s Work. Our Hands.” in the world.** *EN BLOC*

VOTED:

EN BLOC

CC19.04.20b2

As a grateful church that affirms the partnership of congregation, synod and churchwide expressions, we affirm the percentage of sharing of 2019 Mission Support by congregations for synod and churchwide ministries:

Eastern Washington/Idaho, Rocky Mountain, Southwestern Texas, Virginia, Western Iowa synods;

As a Church Council, we thank the bishops and synod leaders of every synod as they strive to be faithful to shared commitments within the ELCA and to direct synod and churchwide staff, including the directors for evangelical mission, to deepen their partnership in efforts to strengthen financial support for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; and

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

C. 2020 Mission Support Plans

To date the churchwide organization has received 57 mission support plans for 2020. Compared to the prior year, eight synods are showing increased percentages, two decreased percentages and forty-five synods are maintaining current levels of percentage sharing. Two synods have chosen to report their synod intent based on dollar share and did not provide a percentage.

VOTED:

EN BLOC

CC19.04.20c

As a grateful church that affirms the partnership of congregation, synod and churchwide expressions, we affirm the percentage of sharing or dollar amount of sharing of 2020 Mission Support by congregations for synod and churchwide ministries:

Alaska, Allegheny, Arkansas-Oklahoma, Central/Southern Illinois, Central States, Delaware-Maryland, Eastern North Dakota, Eastern Washington-Idaho, East-Central Synod of Wisconsin, Florida-Bahamas, Grand Canyon, Greater Milwaukee, Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast, La Crosse Area, Lower Susquehanna, Metropolitan Washington D.C., Metropolitan New York, Minneapolis Area, Montana, Northern Great Lakes, Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana, Northwest Washington, Northeastern Iowa, Northeastern Ohio, Northeastern Pennsylvania, Northeastern Minnesota, Nebraska, New England, New Jersey, North Carolina, Northern Illinois, Northwestern Ohio, Northwestern Pennsylvania, Northwestern Minnesota, Northwest Synod of Wisconsin, Oregon, Pacifica, Rocky Mountain, Southern Ohio, Southwestern Washington, Southwestern Texas, Southeastern Iowa, Southeastern Pennsylvania, Southeast Michigan, Southeastern Minnesota, Sierra Pacific, Slovak Zion, South Carolina, South Dakota, Southeastern, Saint Paul Area, Southwest California, Southwestern Pennsylvania, Southwestern Minnesota, Upper Susquehanna, Upstate New York, Virginia, Western North Dakota, West Virginia-Western Maryland, Western Iowa synods;

As a Church Council, we thank the bishops and synod leaders of every synod as they strive to be faithful to shared commitments within the ELCA and to direct synod and churchwide staff, including the directors for evangelical mission, to deepen their partnership in efforts to strengthen financial support for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; and

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

D. Revisions to Resolutions Regarding Authority to Act in Financial Matters

In April 2018, the Church Council adopted CC18.04.12e, regarding the appointment of assistant officers. A revision is being proposed to update the appointments. The proposed revisions are as follows:

1. Appointment of Assistant Officers

VOTED:

EN BLOC

CC19.04.20d 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, Kathryn M. Lohre, 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, Santiago Padilla, 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: Thomas A. Cunniff, Sue E. Rothmeyer, and Aja M. Favors 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.

E. FY2018 Designation of Revenues Over Expenses

VOTED:

EN BLOC

CC19.04.20e To approve a Church Council Designated Fund in the amount of \$1,554,686 representing the remaining excess revenue over expenses from fiscal year 2018 to be released to fund a portion of the projected budget shortfall in FY2020.

F. FY2019 Revised Spending Authorization

VOTED:

EN BLOC

CC19.04.20f To revise the 2019 fiscal year current fund spending authorization from \$67,164,676 to \$68,164,676.

G. Church Council Committee Chair Elections

Background:

The chairs of the Church Council's Budget and Finance, Legal and Constitutional Review, Planning and Evaluation and Program and Services committees serve on the council's Executive Committee. The Church Council terms of Mr. Clarence M. Smith, Mr. James M. Hushagen, Mr. Reid A. Christopherson and Ms. Cynthia M. Gustavson, end at the conclusion of the 2019 Churchwide Assembly.

At their Spring 2019 meetings, the council's committees will elect new chairs to begin their terms on August 10, 2019. The newly elected chairs will be invited to participate with voice, but not vote in the Executive Committee meetings from the time of their election to the Churchwide Assembly. This overlap will allow for a smoother transition of this committee and carry out the functions of the Executive Committee between the Churchwide Assembly in August 2019 and the first regular meeting of the newly constituted Church Council in

November 2019. At large members to the Executive Committee will be elected at the November 2019 Church Council meeting.

VOTED: *EN BLOC*
CC19.04.20g **To declare that the newly elected chairs of the Budget and Finance Committee, the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee, the Planning and Evaluation Committee, and the Program and Services Committee shall be members of the Executive Committee of the Church Council beginning at the close of the Churchwide Assembly on August 10, 2019.**

H. Designation of Churchwide Organization Representatives at Synod Assemblies

Background:

In accordance with S7.23, the Church Council is to designate official representatives of this church who will have voice but not vote in the meetings of synod assemblies. Presiding Bishop Eaton has named the official representatives for the synod assemblies.

VOTED: *EN BLOC*
CC19.04.20h **To designate the persons identified in the “Synod Assembly Info BY SYNOD” 2019 grid with voice but not vote in the meetings of the assigned Synod Assembly, including like privileges accorded to those additional persons whom the Synod Assembly or the Synod Council has designated.**

I. 2019 Churchwide Assembly Rules of Organization and Procedure

Background:

In each triennium, the Church Council submits a recommendation to the Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America on proposed rules of organization and procedure. Voting members of the assembly act on the rules in the first plenary session. A two-thirds vote of the assembly is required for adoption of the rules.

These rules have been developed and refined as a result of the experiences of the previous churchwide assemblies as well as the experience of predecessor church bodies.

VOTED: *EN BLOC*
CC19.04.20i1 *To recommend adoption of the following proposed action by the voting members of the 2019 Churchwide Assembly:*
To adopt the “Rules of Organization and Procedure” for the 2019 Churchwide Assembly (exclusive of quoted and highlighted constitutional provisions and bylaws that are already in force).

VOTED: *EN BLOC*
CC19.04.20i2 **To authorize the presiding bishop and secretary of this church to prepare further editing and scheduling revisions that may be found necessary for the “Rules of Organization and Procedure” prior to their publication in the *Pre-Assembly Report*; and
To report any changes to the Church Council at its August 2019 meeting.**

J. Proposed amendments to the *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

Background:

Since the November 2018 Church Council meeting, additional amendments to certain bylaws and continuing resolutions have been identified for consideration at the Churchwide Assembly. The process for adopting bylaw amendments and continuing resolutions at a Churchwide Assembly is specified in Chapter 22 of the *ELCA Constitution*.

VOTED:
CC19.04.20j1

EN BLOC

To recommend the following for adoption by the 2019 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:

To adopt, *en bloc*, the following amendments to the Constitutions, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

5.01.G19. *To implement 5.01.g., those deacons elected as layperson prior to the adoption of this provision may complete the term to which they were elected as a layperson. They would not be eligible for reelection as a layperson if such reelection were otherwise possible.*

8.31.03. d. completed at least one year of residency in a seminary of this church or of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, except when waived by the appropriate committee in consultation with the faculty of a seminary of this church or of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada;

e. been recommended for approval by the faculty of a seminary of this church or of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada **or have received the waiver described in 7.31.03.d.:**

10.01.01. Names and Boundaries. The names and boundaries of the synods shall be:

...

Synod 5.D—Southeastern Iowa. The counties of Appanoose, Benton, Boone, Cedar, Clarke, Clinton, Dallas (east), Davis, Decatur, Des Moines, Henry, Iowa, Jackson (south), Jasper, Jefferson, Johnson, Jones, Keokuk, Lee, Linn, Louisa, Lucas, Madison, Mahaska, Marion, Marshall, Monroe, Muscatine, Polk, Poweshiek, Scott, Story (south), Tama (south), Van Buren, Wapello, Warren, Washington, Wayne in the state of IOWA; **the congregation St. John Lutheran Church, Schuyler County, in the state of MISSOURI.**

VOTED:
CC19.04.20j2

EN BLOC

To remove the previously adopted amendment to †S8.11. from the proposed amendments to the Constitution for Synods.

†S8.11. The bishop shall be elected by the Synod Assembly. The bishop shall be a minister of Word and Sacrament of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. **The bishop shall be a full-time, salaried officer.**

K. Synod Constitution Amendments

Background:

Provision 10.12 of the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* stipulates: “Each synod shall have a constitution, which shall become effective upon ratification by the Church Council. Amendments thereto shall be subject to like ratification....”

VOTED:
CC19.04.20k1

EN BLOC

To ratify the following amendments to the constitution of the North/West Lower Michigan Synod:

57.33.01A19 **Resolutions presented to the Reference and Resolution Committee for referral to the Synod Assembly for action shall be supported by at least 25 confirmed members of the North/West Lower Michigan Synod whose signatures appear on the resolutions as submitted.**

VOTED: *EN BLOC*
CC19.04.20k2 To ratify the following amendments to the constitution of the Upper Susquehanna Synod:

S7.21.e.A0718. The number of **lay** voting members to Synod Assembly from each congregation shall be based upon **average worship attendance baptized membership** as reported on the previous year's parochial report. Congregations with an **average worship attendance baptized membership** of **1 through 150 up to 500** shall **have be allowed** 2 voting members; congregations with **and average worship attendance baptized membership** of **151-501** through **300-900** shall **have be allowed** 3 voting members and congregations with an **average worship attendance baptized membership** of **301-901** and above shall **have be allowed** 4 voting members.

L. Ethnic-Specific Ministry Strategic Plans

Background:

In November 2018, the Planning and Evaluation Committee received a schedule of the original date of adoption by the Churchwide Assembly and the updated status for each plan. The Asian and Pacific Islander and Latino Ministry Strategies were both updated in 2016. The African Descent and Arab and Middle Eastern Ministry Strategies were finalized this spring. The American Indian and Alaska Native Strategic Plan remains relevant.

These strategic plans align with Goal 3 in *Future Directions 2025* to be an inviting and welcoming church that reflects and embraces the diversity of our communities and the gifts and opportunities that diversity brings.

VOTED: *EN BLOC*
CC19.04.20l To affirm the following ethnic-specific ministry strategic plans: Asian and Pacific Islander Ministry Strategy of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Latino Ministry Strategy of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, African Descent Ministry Strategy of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and Arab and Middle Eastern Ministry Strategy of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

M. Corporate Social Responsibility Roles and Responsibilities Chart

Background:

Church Council is responsible for reviewing this church's ongoing work in corporate social responsibility.

VOTED: *EN BLOC*
CC19.04.20m To approve the amended Corporate Social Responsibility Roles and Responsibilities Chart.

N. Archival of a Social Message and Certain Social Policy Resolutions

Background:

In accordance with "Policies and Procedures of the ELCA for Addressing Social Concerns" (2018), the proposed archival of "A Changing Europe: Peace and the Churches" social message, along with the reasons for the proposed action, was reviewed by the Conference of Bishops and comes before the Church Council for action. A two-thirds vote of the Church Council is required to archive a social message.

Social policy resolutions serve as this church's policy directives until a) replaced by subsequent resolutions, b) rendered mute by subsequent social teaching documents, or c) sent to archive by a Churchwide Assembly. A review for relevance shall be initiated 25 years after adoption. Social policy resolutions are adopted in a particular social context, and this planned review of their continued relevance enables subsequent generations of church leaders to consider whether a resolution should continue to represent the policy of this church.

The director for theological ethics has compiled all resolutions that are now 25 years or older and recommended to be archived in the category of historical documents. For the past three months, a compilation has been shared with

a variety of groups for review. The Conference of Bishops reviewed the list at its spring 2019 meeting, and it came before the April 2019 Church Council meeting.

VOTED: *EN BLOC*
CC19.04.20n1 **To archive “A Changing Europe: Peace and the Churches” social message (1990) to the category of historical documents, in accordance with the “Policies and Procedures of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for Addressing Social Concerns” (2018).**

VOTED: *EN BLOC*
CC19.04.20n2 *To recommend adoption of the following proposed en bloc action by the voting members of the 2019 Churchwide Assembly:*
To archive the social policy resolutions identified in the “2019 Archival of Certain Social Policy Resolutions” document, in accordance with the “Policies and Procedures of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for Addressing Social Concerns” (2018).

O. Church Council Nominations and Elections

Background:

The Church Council has the responsibility of electing people to fill terms on boards of Separately Incorporated Ministries (SIM), social ministry organizations, and seminaries. Bylaw 8.31.03. outlines basic parameters for the election of members to the boards of ELCA seminaries. Pursuant to 14.15. of the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*, the Church Council is also to elect nominees to a vacancy on a board or committee of the churchwide organization.

VOTED: *EN BLOC*
CC19.04.20o **To elect to the board of trustees of the Publishing House of the ELCA — 1517 Media — to fill a vacancy with a term ending in August 2019: Ms. Linda J. Brown.**
To re-elect to the board of directors of The Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago for a three-year term expiring in 2022: The Rev. Gordon A. Braatz.
To elect to the board of directors of Luther Seminary for a four-year term expiring in 2023: Mr. Bradbury A. Anderson, Ms. Tracey Gibson, Mr. Dean Gruner, and Ms. Christina Lien.
To elect to the board of directors of Wartburg Theological Seminary for a two-year term expiring in 2021: The Rev. Amsalu T. Geleta.
To elect to the board of trustees of United Lutheran Seminary for a three-year term expiring in 2022: The Rev. L. Michael Rhyne.

P. Churchwide Nominating Committee Recommendation

Background:

The Church Council nominates individuals for possible election to the Nominating Committee by the Churchwide Assembly, in accordance with 12.51.03 and 19.21.01 of *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*. The committee has a range of 12 to 18 members. At least one but no more than three members must be from any of the nine regions of this church. Members serve one six-year term (or until a successor is elected) and are not eligible for re-election.

VOTED: *EN BLOC*
CC19.04.20p **To receive the written report of the Office of the Secretary on nominees for the Churchwide Nominating Committee;**
To note that bylaw 19.21.01 states in regard to the Nominating Committee: “The Church Council shall place in nomination the names of two persons for each position. The committee shall consist of at least one member but no more than three members from any region. Nominations from the floor shall also be permitted, but each floor nomination shall be presented as an alternative to a specific category named by the Church Council and shall therefore meet the same criteria as the persons against whom the nominee is nominated. In

the materials provided in advance to each member of the assembly, the Church Council shall set forth the criteria applicable to each category that must be met by persons nominated from the floor”;

To request, therefore, that the Church Council restrict the tickets to the following: lay female (Region 1); lay male (Region 8; Y/YA); lay female (Region 4); lay female (Region 9); rostered minister of Word and Sacrament (Region 5; PC/L); rostered minister of Word and Sacrament; lay male; lay female; female (Region 7; PC/L); and lay female (Y/YA); and

To request that the Church Council transmit the following slate of nominees to the 2019 Churchwide Assembly:

Churchwide Nominating Committee

Group 1: Lay Female (Region 1)

- A. Deacon Debra H. Mantey, Salem, Ore. (1E)
- B. Ms. Jessica Potts, Camas, Wash. (1C)

Group 2: Lay Male (Region 8; Y/YA)

- A. Mr. Adam Fairchild, Hampstead, Md. (8F)
- B. Mr. N. Uzoma Ariguzo, Bowie, Md. (8G)

Group 3: Lay Female (Region 4)

- A. Ms. Gwendolynn Edwards, Bellevue, Neb. (4A)
- B. Ms. Ann Hafften, Weatherford, Texas (4D)

Group 4: Lay Female (Region 9)

- A. Ms. Sandra Cline, Belmont, N.C. (9B)
- B. Ms. Doris Underwood, Montgomery, Ala. (9D)

Group 5: Rostered Minister of Word and Sacrament (Region 5; PC/L)

- A. Rev. Lawrence J. Clark, Chicago, Ill. (5A)
- B. Rev. Gus Barnes, Delevan, Wis. (5K)

Group 6: Rostered Minister of Word and Sacrament

- A. Rev. Andrew Tucker, Pickerington, Ohio (6F)
- B. Rev. Jared Witt, Orlando, Fla. (9E)

Group 7: Lay Male

- A. Deacon Jason Fisher, Champaign, Ill. (5C)
- B. Mr. Hierald Osorto, Ithica, N.Y. (7D)

Group 8: Lay Female

- A. Ms. Desta Goehner, Thousand Oaks, Calif. (2B)
- B. Ms. Marcia Riggers, Mercer, Wash. (1B)

Group 9: Female (Region 7; PC/L)

- A. Ms. Annette Sample, Philadelphia, Pa. (7F)
- B. Rev. Sarah C. Anderson, Drexel Hill, Pa. (7F)

Group 10: Lay Female (Y/YA)

- A. Ms. Hannah Barnard, Columbus, Ohio (2D)
- B. Ms. Caroline Parrot, Salisbury, N.C. (9B)

PROCESS OBSERVATION

(Agenda VI.F.)

Ms. Sonja Wolfe presented a process observation. Mr. James J. F. Jennings noted that only ten feedback forms were received. A council member noted that it could be helpful to have 10 minutes at the end of Saturday to fill out evaluation forms.

REFLECTIONS

(Agenda VI.G.)

Presiding Bishop Eaton noted that after thought and consultation, it would be better to make a list of talking points rather than a pastoral letter for *Trustworthy Servants of the People of God*. A council member suggested that the 2020 Rostered Ministers Gathering could be a good space to review the next draft of *Trustworthy Servants*.

EVALUATION AND DEBRIEFING

(Agenda VI.G.)

Vice President Horne asked members to complete the evaluations on MyELCA.org.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Secretary Boerger reminded council members to complete evaluations and submit expense forms by May 7.

HYMN AND PRAYER

(Agenda II.I.)

The Rev. Joyce M. Graue led the assembly in singing a hymn and in prayer.

Pr. Peder Johanson provided musical accompaniment.

ADJOURNMENT

The April 2019 meeting of the Church Council adjourned at 11:50 p.m on Sunday, April 7, 2019.

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