

November 17, 2010

TO: Bishops of synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Vice Presidents of synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Secretaries of synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Members of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Members of the Cabinet of Executives
Regional Coordinators

FROM: Secretary David D. Swartling

SUBJECT: Report of Actions of the Church Council (November 12–14, 2010)

The Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) met at the Lutheran Center, Chicago, Illinois, on November 12–14, 2010. A variety of matters received attention. Here is a summary of particular actions along with background and explanatory information.

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**1. ELCA MESSAGE:
“PEOPLE LIVING WITH DISABILITIES”**

Background:

The 2009 Churchwide Assembly received memorials from eight synods requesting the development of a social statement on human disability. The assembly voted to decline to develop a social statement but requested the Church in Society unit to explore the feasibility of developing a message on human disability.

In response, the message “People Living with Disabilities” was developed following the “Policies and

Procedures of the ELCA for Addressing Social Concerns.”

Church Council Action:

To adopt “People Living with Disabilities” as a message of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America;

To express the gratitude of the Church Council for individuals and ministries throughout the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America who have provided not only vital initiatives and innovative

models, but also prophetic witness and determined leadership toward the spirit and commitments now expressed in the message, “People Living with Disabilities”; and

To request that the 2011 Churchwide Assembly lift up and acknowledge this message and those who made it possible.

2. 2011 CURRENT FUND AND WORLD HUNGER SPENDING AUTHORIZATIONS

Background:

Income estimates have been revised since the 2009 Churchwide Assembly. The revised income estimates also incorporate changes in the churchwide structure, including the operations of the ELCA Foundation, previously not included in the current fund operations. Current income for 2011 is projected to be \$62,614,500, a decrease of \$2,485,500, or 3.8 percent, from the revised 2010 spending authorization and \$14,163,500 less than the budget approved by the 2009 Churchwide Assembly.

The mission support estimate has been revised downward from the current 2010 level of \$51,000,000 to \$48,000,000, a decrease of \$3,000,000, or 5.9 percent. This mission support income estimate is initial and is based on estimates from ELCA synods and recent income trends. It will be revisited in February 2010. In addition to the adjusted mission support estimate, a slight decrease of \$50,000 is anticipated in unit designated giving. Increases are anticipated for Vision for Mission (\$100,000); endowment distributions (\$301,000, primarily a result of the ELCA Foundation income and expenses now being included in the current operating fund); rental income (\$100,000 in anticipated lease of unoccupied space); missionary sponsorship (\$50,000) and other miscellaneous income (\$13,500, including fee income on Foundation receipts).

The World Hunger Appeal estimate is being adjusted downward to \$17,000,000, based on current 2010 receipts. This is a reduction of \$1,700,000 (9.1%) from the current 2010 budget.

Church Council Action:

To approve an initial 2011 fiscal year current fund spending authorization of \$62,614,500; and

To approve an initial World Hunger spending authorization for the 2011 fiscal year of \$17,000,000.

3. REVISIONS TO SYNODICAL MISSION SUPPORT PLANS

Background:

The Church Council has responsibility for reviewing and approving or withholding approval for synodical mission support plans.

Revisions to 2010 Mission Support Plans

Church Council Action:

To affirm with sincere appreciation the increases in the percentage for the sharing of 2010 mission support contributions by congregations for synodical and churchwide ministries of the following synod: North Carolina Synod;

To affirm the revised 2010 mission support dollar estimates for the sharing of mission support contributions by congregations for synodical and churchwide ministries of the following synods: Southwestern Washington; Rocky Mountain; Northwestern Pennsylvania; Allegheny; Southeastern; and Florida-Bahamas synods; and

To acknowledge the percentage change in mission support resulting from revised estimates of congregational mission support for the following synods: Eastern Washington-Idaho; Pacifica; Southeastern Michigan; North/West Lower Michigan; and South Carolina synods.

Revisions to 2011 Mission Support Plans

Church Council Action:

To affirm with sincere appreciation the increases in the percentage for the sharing of 2011 mission support contributions by congregations for synodical and churchwide ministries of the following synods: Southwestern Washington; Oregon; Western North Dakota; Western Iowa; Southern Ohio; Upstate New York; Virginia; and Caribbean synods;

To affirm the revised 2011 mission support dollar estimates for the sharing of mission support contributions by congregations for synodical and churchwide ministries of the following synods: Alaska; Northwest Washington; Montana; Sierra-Pacific; Southwest California; Pacifica; Northwestern Minnesota; Minneapolis Area; Saint Paul Area; Nebraska; Southwestern Texas; Metropolitan Chicago; Northern Illinois; Northern

Great Lakes; Northwest Synod of Wisconsin; Greater Milwaukee; Indiana-Kentucky; Southeastern Pennsylvania; Slovak Zion; Northwestern Pennsylvania; Allegheny; Delaware-Maryland; and West Virginia-Western Maryland synods; and

To acknowledge the percentage change in mission support resulting from revised estimates of congregational mission support for the following synods: Northeastern Iowa; Upper Susquehanna; Metropolitan Washington, D.C.; North Carolina; South Carolina; and Florida-Bahamas synods.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE *AD HOC* COMMITTEE ON BOARD OF PENSIONS MATTERS

Background:

The ELCA Board of Pensions is a separately incorporated ministry of this church and has as one of its responsibilities management of a 403(b)(9) defined contribution retirement plan. One part of this plan is the Participating Annuity and Bridge Fund.

As a result of this country's economic downturn, the Participating Annuity Bridge Fund and other retirement accounts lost substantial value. The board of trustees of the ELCA Board of Pensions acted to preserve the assets of the fund by reducing annuity payments to annuitants and by reducing the value of the bridge fund accounts of members.

In response, twelve synods passed resolutions addressed to the Church Council. To address the synods' concerns, at its August 4, 2010, meeting, the council voted to establish an *ad hoc* committee to bring a report and recommendations to its November meeting.

The committee concluded that:

1. The Board of Pensions acted reasonably and promptly, consistent with its obligations, in the series of actions taken with respect to the Participating Annuity and Bridge Fund beginning in late 2008; and
2. The Special Needs Retirement Fund, established by the 1993 Churchwide Assembly, represents the most reasonable and appropriate mechanism and the only realistic source of funds available within the ELCA to assist those profoundly impacted by annuity reductions.

The committee also made a number of recommendations to the Church Council and the Board of Pensions.

Church Council Action:

To receive with gratitude the report and recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee in

response to the resolutions of the Minneapolis Area, Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast, Southwestern Minnesota, South Dakota, Upstate New York, La Crosse Area, Greater Milwaukee, New Jersey, and Northern Illinois synods related to the ELCA Board of Pensions annuity funding;

To authorize one-time payments from the Special Needs Retirement Fund (SNRF) as soon as realistically possible in 2011 to those most adversely affected by the reduction in annuity payments, drawing both from Church Council funds already designated for SNRF and undesignated funds received by the BOP and allocated to SNRF;

To request that, in order to make these payments, the BOP, in consultation with the Managing Committee of SNRF, develop criteria based on need and a process for distribution of available funds to those most adversely affected by the reduction of annuity payments;

To provide for the expansion of the criteria for eligibility to SNRF and make provision for the possibility of more frequent reviews of eligibility, including periodic comprehensive reviews, to address the needs of plan members in light of economic realities;

To authorize that the membership of the SNRF Managing Committee be increased to include one representative from the Conference of Bishops and one from the Church Council;

To authorize periodic offerings and appeals designated for SNRF;

To anticipate the development of a process for regular review of SNRF by the Church Council;

To authorize the Ad Hoc Committee to continue its work, to monitor the implementation of these recommendations and to bring a report and possible recommendations to the April 2011 Church Council meeting;

To request that the Board of Pensions:

1. Enhance communications to and the education of annuitants and prospective annuitants regarding the ELCA Participating Annuity and Bridge Fund (PABF) and any new annuity products. In so doing:
 - a. Consider and develop additional ways to be proactive in such communication and education efforts; and
 - b. Continue and increase emphasis on assisting members in understanding the aspects of a defined contribution retirement plan, including members' responsibilities and role in decision-making;

2. Consider developing a fund, within SNRF or separate from it, to make available payments to plan members in situations of extraordinary economic distress and develop a process to authorize payments in such cases and to make recommendations, as appropriate, to the Church Council;
3. Enhance communications to and the education of members and sponsors regarding SNRF; work to ensure that synodical bishops and staff are knowledgeable about SNRF and make recommendations, as appropriate, to the Church Council;
4. Explore possibilities for voluntary regular contributions by sponsors and members to SNRF, in addition to special gifts from members and sponsors; make recommendations, as appropriate, to the Church Council;
5. Explore other options for providing funds to SNRF and make recommendations, as appropriate, to the Church Council;
6. Consider amending the name of the BOP to reflect that it is providing retirement income through annuity payments and investment fund(s) distributions, not providing pension payments, and to reflect more accurately the other services it provides; make recommendations, as appropriate, to the Church Council.; and
To request the secretary of this church to inform the synods of the report of the Ad Hoc Committee and this action.

5. ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS OF CHURCHWIDE UNITS

According to bylaw 14.21.21. of the *ELCA Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions*: “Unless otherwise specified in this constitution and bylaws, the Church Council shall elect the executive director for each churchwide program unit to a four-year term in consultation with and with the approval of the presiding bishop of this church. Nomination of a candidate for election shall be made by the presiding bishop. . . .”

The Church Council met in executive session to receive nominations from Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson for the executive directors for the Global Mission unit and the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit. It is anticipated that the election of the executive director for the Mission Advancement unit will be scheduled for the April 2011 meeting of the Church Council.

Church Council Action:

To elect the Rev. Rafael Malpica-Padilla to a four-year term as executive director of the Global Mission unit beginning February 1, 2011.

Church Council Action:

To elect the Rev. Stephen P. Bouman to a four-year term as executive director of the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit beginning February 1, 2011.

6. TIMELINE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF FUTURE SOCIAL STATEMENTS AND MESSAGES

Background:

At its March 2010 meeting, the Conference of Bishops raised questions related to the capacity of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to deal with the list of pending social documents currently under development. Similar concerns were voiced by members of the ELCA Church Council.

At its April 2010 meeting, the ELCA Church Council voted [CC10.04.15]:

To affirm the current time line for the development of a social statement on genetics for consideration by the 2011 Churchwide Assembly; and

To request the Church in Society program unit to convene conversations related to the development of future social statement and to bring a report and possible recommendations to the November 2010 meeting of the Church Council.

As the Church in Society program unit considered the question of capacity, it identified three statements that provide a summary of concerns that have been raised:

1. This church is committed to the practice of moral deliberation and, while not universal, there is increasing appreciation for social documents.
2. Some in this church have described feeling burdened by the rapid succession, overlapping time lines, and controversial aspects of developing documents.
3. Despite a reduction in the number of staff within the churchwide organization responsible for studies, the time line approved prior to the reduction has been maintained.

The Church in Society program unit has indicated that there are many guiding concerns to be considered in the development of social policy documents, including social statements:

1. Maintaining the integrity of the established five-year process for the development of social statements with

commitments to:

- a. A task force-driven process that does not pre-conceive an outcome;
 - b. Broad churchwide participation in a way that continues reasonable quantity and quality of involvement of all stakeholders;
 - c. The following processes, with adjustment as appropriate:
 - 1) Multiple opportunities for input and response;
 - 2) Task forces composed of a diverse range of competencies;
 - 3) A study;
 - 4) A draft;
 - 5) Hearings on the draft;
 - 6) A proposed document; and
 - 7) Formal involvement by elected churchwide leadership, including the unit program committee and the appropriate committees of the Conference of Bishops and Church Council.
2. Scheduling development of social documents so there is only one major document at any one time involving formal input from the elected churchwide leadership. It is critical to distinguish the capacity of the formal churchwide leadership from the capacity of stakeholders, congregations, and other ministry sites, noting that the stakeholders and interest groups vary for each process and often do not overlap.
3. Related assumptions:
- a. The pending decision of the 2011 Churchwide Assembly related to a proposed triennial Churchwide Assembly cycle would require further adjustment in the schedule.
 - b. Additional staffing reductions would require further adjustment in the schedule.

The following social policy statements currently are in process: message on disabilities (Church Council, November 2010); social statement on genetics (2011 Churchwide Assembly); message on mental health (Church Council, April 2011); social statement on criminal justice (2013 Churchwide Assembly); social statement on justice for women (2015 Churchwide Assembly).

Church Council Action:

To request that future social documents be scheduled with sensitivity to the time demands involving elected churchwide leadership, including bishops, Church Council members and synodical leaders;

To acknowledge the preference that only one major document be in process at any one time;

**To adopt the schedule provided [below]. . . ; and
To request that the Program and Services Committee, at its November 2011 meeting and considering the actions of the 2011 Churchwide Assembly, reassess the revised time line and question of capacity.**

The schedule adopted is as follows:

Social Statement on Genetics

Fall 2010: Hearings
Winter 2011: Proposed Statement
Spring 2011: Church Council consideration
Summer 2011: Churchwide Assembly consideration
Fall 2011: Publication, if adopted

Social Statement on Criminal Justice

Winter 2011: Study
Spring 2011: Study
Summer 2011: Study
Fall 2011: Study
Spring 2012: Hearings on draft statement
Summer 2012: Hearings on draft statement
Fall 2012: Hearings on draft statement
Winter 2013: Proposed statement
Spring 2013: Church Council consideration
Summer 2013: Churchwide Assembly consideration
Fall 2013: Publication, if adopted

Social Statement on Justice for Women

Fall 2012: Formation of Task Force
Fall 2014: Study
Winter 2015: Study
Spring 2015: Study
Summer 2017: Churchwide Assembly Consideration

Message on Persons Living with Disabilities

Fall 2010: Proposed Message
Church Council Consideration
Winter 2011: Publication

Message on Mental Health Issues

Fall 2011: Consultation
Winter 2012: Proposed Message
Spring 2012: Church Council Consideration
Publication, if adopted

7. UPDATE ON THE LIFT TASK FORCE AND PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS RELATED TO THE LIFT TASK FORCE

Background:

The purpose of the “Living into the Future Together: Renewing the Ecology of the ELCA” (LIFT) task force is to “recognize the evolving societal and economic changes of the twenty years since the formation of this church and to evaluate the organization, governance and interrelationships among this church’s expressions in light of those changes.” The work of the task force has been guided by two questions: 1) What is God calling this church to be and to do in the future? and 2) What changes are in order to accomplish these tasks more faithfully?

To do its work, the task force has focused on seven critical areas, each addressed by a working group: identity, opportunities, interrelationships, congregations, partnerships, financial resources, and structure and governance.

The November Church Council received a progress report. The final report and recommendations of the LIFT task force will be brought to the April 2011 meeting of the Church Council.

The council also recommended to the 2011 Churchwide Assembly constitutional amendments related to the LIFT structure and governance recommendations in the following areas:

Churchwide Assembly

- adopt a triennial cycle after 2013
- reduce number of advisory members

Church Council and Conference of Bishops

- expand size of Church Council to provide a range of membership and “at large” positions
- provide voice and vote for the chair of the Conference of Bishops
- reduce number of advisory members

Program Committees

- eliminate unit program committees

Inter-relationships

- Authorize networks to facilitate collaboration within and between synods

Church Council Action:

To receive the preliminary report from the Living into the Future Together: Renewing the Ecology of the ELCA Task Force;

To thank the task force for its work to date;

To anticipate that the task force will continue its

engagement with this church as we live in changing contexts;

To encourage the task force to explore bold and creative ways that are grounded in the central Lutheran affirmations;

To call this church to participate in God's mission, and to bring a report to the April 2011 Church Council meeting.

Church Council Action:

To recommend the following for adoption by the 2011 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:

To adopt the amendments to the Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America [related to the LIFT recommendations]; and

To authorize the secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in American to make editorial revisions as necessary and report them back to the Church Council at its April 2011 meeting.

8. ADOPTED AND PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS RELATED TO THE REDESIGN OF THE CHURCHWIDE ORGANIZATION

Background:

In June 2010 the Office of the Presiding Bishop appointed a Design Team for the churchwide organization. Its objectives, desired outcomes, guidelines, criteria, and goals are outlined below.

Stated Objectives

1. Align priorities and general operations with available resources.
2. Position the organization for the future, especially the next three to five years.
3. Create a lean, nimble, focused churchwide organization.
4. Identify areas for strategic reduction and disengagement.

Desired Outcomes

1. A reorganized structure based on core functions and priorities that would serve the churchwide organization for three to five years.
2. Cost/expense impact analysis.
3. Revised job descriptions.
4. Presentation materials that present a clear case for decisions.
5. Convincing case for partners that includes a strategy for their engagement.

6. Articulated understandings of implications for partners.
7. A clear sense of the efficiencies of how the churchwide organization does its work.

Guidelines and Criteria

The following guidelines and criteria were used in the reorganization of the churchwide office. Changes should:

1. Maximize positive impact on the two strategic priorities of the churchwide organization.
2. Better position the churchwide organization for the future.
3. Take into account the impact on significant churchwide partners.
4. Not turn the churchwide organization in on itself to be only self-serving.
5. Be most appropriate in areas where there is a clear alternative in providing a service or ministry.
6. Seek the right proportionality among strategic functions of the churchwide organization's infrastructure (including technology, communication and development services) and its program and other services.
7. Maintain a commitment to being an inclusive churchwide organization.

The Goals of the Design Team

The design team embraced the following goals:

1. To design a churchwide organization that effectively and efficiently works with its ministry partners to respond nimbly with and on behalf of this church to the needs of the world in both its local and global context.
2. To design a churchwide organization that effectively and efficiently works with its ministry partners to build the capacity of this church for local and global mission.
3. To maximize the stewardship of this church's resources by creating for the churchwide organization the most efficient operational infrastructure possible.
4. To create new financial resources by better communicating and interpreting the effectiveness and efficiency of this church's response to the needs of the world.
5. To strengthen the response of this church to the needs of the world by increasing the collaboration and accountability within the churchwide organization and between the churchwide organization and its mission partners.
6. To reflect our core values as presented in the ELCA Constitution and the "Commitments for Implementation" of the ELCA Plan for Mission.

The design team consulted with the Cabinet of Executives, the Church Council Executive Committee, the Conference of Bishops' Executive Committee and liaison bishops, and the Living Into the Future Together task force planning team. The process was reviewed and updated with the full Church Council at its August 4, 2010 meeting. The Church Council Planning and Evaluation Committee also was consulted in this process. The Church Council approved the redesign plan at a meeting on October 4, 2010, and adopted initial continuing resolutions to begin the implementation process.

At the November meeting, the Church Council adopted additional continuing resolutions to implement further the redesign of the churchwide organization. (The continuing resolutions adopted by the Church Council in October and November will be incorporated into a updated edition of the ELCA Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions and posted to the Office of the Secretary Web pages by November 22.

The Church Council also took the following action. (The proposed amendments will be provided to synods and voting members and posted to the Office of the Secretary Web pages before February 15, 2011.)

Church Council Action:

To recommend the following action to the 2011 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:

To adopt the amendments to the Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. . . [related to the redesign of the churchwide organization]; and

To authorize the secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in American to make editorial revisions as necessary and report them back to the Church Council at its April 2011 meeting.

9. PROPOSED GENERAL AMENDMENTS TO THE ELCA CONSTITUTIONS, BYLAWS, AND CONTINUING RESOLUTIONS

Background:

The Church Council has the responsibility for submitting recommendations for action by the 2011 Churchwide Assembly. For constitutional amendments, a six-month notice to the synods is required for adoption of such amendments in one Churchwide Assembly (churchwide constitutional provision 22.11.a.). Notice of proposed bylaws is provided to the synods as information. The proposed amendments also are distributed to the voting members in the *Pre-Assembly Report* and will be posted to the 2011 Churchwide Assembly Web pages.

Church Council Action:

To recommend the following action to the 2011 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:

To adopt, with the exception of those amendments that may be considered separately, the amendments to the Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. . . ; and

To authorize the secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in American to make editorial revisions as necessary and report them back to the Church Council at its April 2011 meeting.

10. REVISIONS TO THE ELCA PENSION AND OTHER BENEFITS PROGRAM

Background:

The Board of Trustees of the Board of Pensions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America met on August 5–7, 2010, and November 5–7, 2010, in Minneapolis, Minn. Amendments, which were approved by the Board of Trustees at that time and recommended for adoption by the Church Council at its meeting on November 12–14, 2010, allowed additional organizations, such as the North American Lutheran Church (NALC), to sponsor their members in the ELCA Pension and Other Benefits Program.

Church Council Action:

To adopt the eligibility amendment to Section 2.19 of Article II of the ELCA Retirement Plan; Section 2.01 of Article II of the ELCA Medical and Dental Benefits Plan; Section 2.01 of Article II of the ELCA Survivor Benefits Plan and Section 2.01 of Article II of the ELCA Disability Benefits Plan.

Background:

At its November 2010 meeting, the Board of Trustees of the ELCA Board of Pensions approved amendments to the ELCA Retirement Plan that authorize the reopening of the redesigned ELCA Participating Annuity Fund without the bridge fund component. Information regarding the reopening of the fund will be provided by the Board of Pensions.

Church Council Action:

To approve the amendments to the ELCA Retirement Plan [to make available a redesigned fund on a date in 2011 yet to be determined].

11. ELECTION OF 2011 CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY MEMORIALS COMMITTEE AND REFERENCE AND COUNSEL COMMITTEE

Churchwide bylaw 12.51.21., in regard to the Churchwide Assembly, provides for the appointment of a Memorials Committee to review memorials from synodical assemblies and make recommendations for assembly action. The 15-member committee includes four members of the Church Council, voting members of the assembly and two representatives of the Conference of Bishops. The Church Council appoints the committee at its November meeting prior to the Churchwide Assembly to allow for adequate notice to members for their participation in the meeting of the Memorials Committee subsequent to the completion of the 2011 synodical assemblies.

Church Council Action:

To appoint the members of the Memorials Committee for the 2011 ELCA Churchwide Assembly:

- 1. Bp. Elizabeth Eaton (6E)**
- 2. Mr. James Ellefsen (5D)**
- 3. Pr. Khader Khalilia (2A)**
- 4. Pr. Steve Loy (2E) – co-chair**
- 5. Pr. Heather Lubold (8B) – co-chair**
- 6. Mr. Evan Moilan, Jr. (4F)**
- 7. Ms. Gail Olson (3H)**
- 8. Bp. Duane Pederson (5H)**
- 9. Ms. Lynette Reitz (8E)**
- 10. Mr. Anthony Rhodes (1B)**
- 11. Ms. Trudi Schmidt (1F)**
- 12. Pr. Jeff Sorenson (3C)**
- 13. Ms. Amanda Tompkins (7E)**
- 14. Ms. Doris Underwood (9D)**
- 15. Mr. Christopher Wertman (9A)**

Church Council Action:

To appoint the members of the Committee of Reference and Counsel for the 2011 ELCA Churchwide Assembly:

- 1. Bp. Leonard Bolick (9B)**
- 2. Mr. Larry Ehrlich (4B)**
- 3. Mr. John Emery (5I) – co-chair**
- 4. Ms. Louise Hemstead (5L) – co-chair**
- 5. Mr. Christian Hicks (7F)**
- 6. Pr. Abigail Hoffman (7D)**
- 7. Mr. William Horne (9E)**
- 8. Pr. Keith Hunsinger (6D)**
- 9. Mr. James Hushhagen (1C)**
- 10. Ms. Christine Mummert (8D)**
- 11. Pr. Gretchen Ritola (4A)**
- 12. Ms. Paula Sturgeon (2D)**

- 13. Ms. Yolanda Tanner (8F)
- 14. Pr. Jonathan Vehar (3C)
- 15. Bp. Martin Wells (1D)

12. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PUBLIC MINISTRY CONSULTATIONS PLANNING TEAM

Background:

In January 2007, a consultation on the ministries of deaconesses, diaconal ministers and associates in ministry was convened by the Vocation and Education unit with funding from the ELCA Deaconess Community. From that very successful gathering grew an *ad hoc* Public Ministry Consultations Planning Team that worked for three years, fostered similar gatherings in eight regions of the ELCA and developed a DVD resource. The team submitted a report early in 2010 to the executive director for Vocation and Education, the secretary of the ELCA, the regional coordinators and the leadership teams of the diaconal ministry community and the Deaconess Community. The report includes nine recommendations.

Church Council Action:

To express the appreciation for the work of the Public Ministry Consultations planning team, acknowledging that their work has assisted the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to deepen its understanding both of the diaconal work shared by all members and of the public ministries of word and service;

To call upon this church to name these word and service ministries, to affirm their vital roles, to recruit individuals to explore these callings and to assist people in preparing for and being called to specific ministries in the ELCA and in the world we serve;

To request that the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit, with the appropriate committee of the Conference of Bishops, constitute a small task force on ministries of service (*diakonia*), including at least one teaching theologian, one bishop and one member from each of the four rosters, with this mandate:

- 1. **To suggest ways that the leaders and expressions of the ELCA can continue to undergird the ministries of members of the three Word and service rosters and their communities and to facilitate the use of their gifts and called service in ELCA congregations and other ministries, including non-profit, government and public entities;**
- 2. **To articulate for the ELCA a fuller theology of word and service ministry that builds upon:**
 - a. **This church’s diaconal tradition and its complementarity to the theology of word and**

sacrament ministry, grounding both in the baptismal call to all God's people to serve within the institutional church and in the world;

- b. **The ELCA’s “Together for Ministry” report (1993), the Lutheran World Federation report “Diakonia in Context” (2009), the report and recommendations of Public Ministry Consultations planning team (2010) and other Lutheran and ecumenical studies;**
- 3. **To consider whether this word and service ministry would be better expressed and the present ELCA mission and ecumenical mission better served by the formation of one new ELCA word and service roster that incorporates the members and heritage of the three present rosters into a diversified whole with a common entrance rite; and**

To request that a report and possible recommendations be brought to the April 2012 meeting of the Church Council.

13. ELECTION OF PROGRAM COMMITTEES

At its October 2010 meeting, the Church Council approved the following continuing resolution related to unit program committees:

19.04.A10. Implementation Process

To implement the transition in the number of program committees, the Church Council shall take the following actions during its November 2010 meeting:

- a. invite the duly elected members of the program committee related, as of October 2010 to the Global Mission unit to serve the remainder of their terms;
- b. elect from the members of the program committees related, as of October 2010 to the Evangelical Outreach and Congregational Mission unit, the Vocation and Education unit, the Church in Society unit, and the Multicultural Ministries unit, fifteen (15) people to serve the remainder of their terms as the program committee of the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit;
- c. appoint, in accordance with bylaw 16.12.12., one member of the Church Council to serve as a liaison member of the Congregational and Synodical Mission program committee. . . .

At its November 2010 meeting, the Church Council by a two-thirds vote amended this continuing resolution to allow the program committees to have 16 members, rather than 15.

The 16 members of the program committee for the new Congregational and Synodical Mission unit were nominated from members of the program committees

from the program committees of four former units: Evangelical Outreach and Congregational Mission (EOCM), Vocation and Education, Church in Society, and Multicultural Ministries. Each of these program committees nominated four people from their existing membership. The existing members of the program committee for Global Mission have been nominated for the new unit's program committee.

Church Council Action:

To elect the following people to serve as the program committee for the Global Mission unit:

1. Terry Cole, Albuquerque, NM (2E)
2. Pr. Douglas S. Cox, Excelsior, MN (3G)
3. Pr. Sarah J. Geddada, Floral Park, NY (7C)
4. John A. Henderson, Baltimore, MD (8F)
5. George T. ("G.T.") Johnson, Xenia, OH (6F)
6. Sharon Magelssen, Mason City, IA (5F)
7. Pr. Dennis M. Maurer, Pandora, OH (6D)
8. R. Timothy Muth, Delafield, WI (5J)
9. Martha R. Norat, Dorado, PR (9F)
10. Pr. Michelle L. Olson, Wausa, NE (4A)
11. Pr. Brooke N. Petersen, Chicago, IL (6B)
12. Pr. Arthur C. Repp, Carbondale, IL (5C)
13. Pr. Lisa A Smith, Anchorage, AK (1A)
14. Pr. Paula M. Stecker, York, PA (8D)
15. Henry T. Tkachuk, Moorhead, MN (3D)
16. Amanda F. Tomkins, Henryville, PA (7E)

Church Council Action:

To elect the following people to serve as the program committee for the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit:

1. Pr. Rani R. Abdulmasih, Wyandotte, MI (6A)
2. Julia H. Accola, Rochester, MN (3I)
3. Pr. Megan J. Jones, Chicago, IL (5A)
4. Paul H. Lewellen, Bettendorf, IA (5D)
5. Fumei Liang, Huntington Beach, CA (2C)
6. Kari A. Lipke, Sommerville, MA (7B)
7. Pr. Kevin R. Maly, Denver, CO (2E)
8. Daniel Namarra, Brooklyn Park, MN (3G)
9. Pr. Paul D. Ostrem, Iowa City, IA (5D)
10. Alfred Sagar, Brandon, MS (9D)
11. Pr. Rose Mary Sanchez-Guzman, El Paso, TX (2E)
12. Robert S. Schroeder, Shawnee, KS (4B)
13. Pr. Lori Ann Strang, Toledo, OH (6D)
14. Pr. William O. Voss, Scottsbluff, NE (4A)
15. Pr. Lamont A. Wells, Philadelphia, PA (7F)
16. Deborah Covin Wilson, Ellenwood, GA (9D)

14. OTHER ELECTIONS

Social Ministry Organizations

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America serves as a corporate member of certain inter-Lutheran organizations and affiliated social ministry organizations. The role of corporate members includes the responsibility to elect ELCA representatives to the organization's board of directors as prescribed in the organization's governing documents. The relationship of the ELCA to certain inter-Lutheran organizations and affiliated social ministry organizations currently is expressed through the Church in Society unit.

The ELCA serves as a corporate member of Lutheran Medical Center, Brooklyn, New York; the Evangelical Lutheran Good Samaritan Society, Sioux Falls, S.D.; Lutheran Services in America, Baltimore, Md.; Mosaic, Inc., Omaha, Neb.; and Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, Baltimore, Md. In the case of Lutheran Medical Center, Brooklyn, New York, the ELCA's annual election of board members complies with their constitutional requirement that this action constitute an annual meeting of the corporate member. The Church in Society program unit has forwarded to the Church Council the following nomination for a position on the board of Mosaic, Inc.

Church Council Action:

To elect as a member of the board of directors of Mosaic, Omaha, Neb., to a three-year term expiring in 2013: Mr. James Zils.

Boards of ELCA Seminaries

Bylaw 8.31.02. outlines basic parameters for the election of members to the boards of ELCA seminaries. Subsection 8.31.02.a. provides for churchwide representation: "At least one-fifth nominated, in consultation with the seminaries, by the appropriate churchwide unit and elected by the Church Council." The following are submitted for election based on a protocol between the seminary and the Vocation and Education program unit.

Church Council Action:

To elect as a member of the board of directors of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, to a four-year term expiring in 2014: Mr. David Russell.

ELCA Risk Management

ELCA Risk Management (ELCARM) is a corporation related to the Vocation and Education unit that provides insurance services to ELCA colleges, universities and seminaries. ELCARM is governed by a nine-member board of directors. Under the bylaws of the corporation, four directors are elected by colleges, universities and seminaries that are members of the corporation. Five directors are appointed by the ELCA Church Council, with two nominated by Vocation and Education, one by the Office of the Secretary, one by the Council of College and University Presidents and one by the Council of Seminary Presidents. David Hardy, who currently serves as a director nominated by the Vocation and Education unit, will resign effective at the end of the February 2011 winter meeting of the ELCARM Board of Directors.

After consultation with the presiding bishop and others, the Vocation and Education unit nominates Mr. Bruce Nicholson to fill the vacancy on the ELCARM board. Nicholson retired in 2010 as chairman, president, and chief executive officer of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. He is an active member of an ELCA congregation in the Twin Cities.

Church Council Action:

To appoint Mr. Bruce Nicholson to the ELCA Risk Management Board of Directors effective at the end of the February 2011 winter meeting of the ELCARM Board.

Board of National Lutheran Campus Ministry, Inc.

At the request of The Rev. Stanley N. Olson, executive director of the Vocation and Education unit, the Church Council elects members of the board of National Lutheran Campus Ministry, Inc., as described in ELCA bylaw 14.21.22.: “The Church Council shall arrange the process for all elections . . . to assure conformity with established criteria.”

The Vocation and Education unit is responsible for relating to and assisting “ministries, organizations, programs and movements that support members of this church in discerning and practicing their callings under the Gospel; and thereby . . . foster, in coordination with synods, campus ministries at public and non-ELCA colleges and universities, in accordance with the established campus ministry policies and procedures. . . .” Nominations to the board are made by the board of National Lutheran Campus Ministry, Inc., in coordination with unit staff.

Church Council Action:

To elect to the Board of Directors of National Lutheran Campus Ministry, Inc., in accordance with Article III, Section 3.2 of NLCM’s amended bylaws, “The directors shall be nominated by a nominating committee (consisting of the ELCA Director for Campus Ministry or his or her designee, and two members of the Board of Directors) and elected by the ELCA Church Council. . . .”: Mr. Chuck Frederiksen to a four-year term ending in 2015.

Board of Augsburg Fortress Publishers

Between meetings of the Churchwide Assembly, the Church Council has the responsibility of electing people to fill terms on churchwide boards, steering committees of churchwide commissions, and certain advisory committees. The trustees of Augsburg Fortress, Publishers, submitted the following person to be elected.

Church Council Action:

To elect Mr. Robert T. Flynn to the board of trustees of Augsburg Fortress Publishers to fill a three-year term expiring in 2013.

15. CHURCH COUNCIL RESOLUTION

At the end of its meeting, the Church Council passed the following resolution in light of the actions it had taken during the meeting and the conversations that had transpired.

Church Council Action:

Resolved that:

In the actions it took at its November 12–14, 2010, meeting, the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America reaffirms the commitment of this church to the representational principles expressed in the ELCA’s constitutions. It expresses confidence that this commitment will be continued as the redesign plan for the churchwide organization and the anticipated recommendations of the Living into the Future Together: Renewing the Ecology of the ELCA (LIFT) task force are implemented.

