




Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

November 18, 2013

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

FROM:  The Rev. Wm Chris Boerger, secretary

SUBJECT: Report of Actions of the Church Council (November 8–10, 2013)

The Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) met at the Lutheran Center, Chicago, Illinois, November 8–10, 2013. Here is a summary of particular actions along with background information.

1. 2014–2016 CHURCHWIDE OPERATIONAL PLAN	PAGE 1
2. SAME-GENDER COUPLES AND THEIR FAMILIES	PAGE 2
3. ELCA CONSULTATIVE PANEL ON LUTHERAN-JEWISH RELATIONS	PAGE 2
4. WORKING GROUP ON ORDINATION FOR A UNIFIED LAY ROSTER	PAGE 3
5. CAMPAIGN FOR THE ELCA	PAGE 3
6. RE-ELECTION OF THE REV. M. WYVETTA BULLOCK, EXECUTIVE FOR ADMINISTRATION	PAGE 4
7. RE-ELECTION OF MR. DANIEL J. LEHMANN, EDITOR OF <i>THE LUTHERAN MAGAZINE</i>	PAGE 5
8. ELECTION OF THE REV. CARLA J. JOHNSEN, THE REV. LOREN D. MELLUM TO THE CHURCH COUNCIL	PAGE 5
9. A SOCIAL MESSAGE ON GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE	PAGE 5
10. AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS OF THE DEACONESS COMMUNITY OF THE ELCA	PAGE 6
11. AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS OF LUTHER SEMINARY	PAGE 6
12. THE LUTHERAN SUICIDE PREVENTION MINISTRY	PAGE 6
13. AMENDMENTS TO THE ARTICLES AND CONTINUING RESOLUTIONS OF THE ELCA	PAGE 7
14. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND CHURCH COUNCIL COMMITTEES	PAGE 7
15. ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF <i>THE LUTHERAN MAGAZINE</i>	PAGE 7
16. COMMITMENT OF SYNOD VISITS BY CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS	PAGE 8
17. OTHER ELECTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS	PAGE 8

1. 2014–2016 CHURCHWIDE OPERATIONAL PLAN

Background:

The churchwide organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) continues to implement the 2011–2013 Operational Plan. The 2014–2016 Operational Plan will guide its work in the next triennium. The plan is being developed through a consultative process involving review of the 2011–2013 Operational Plan, workshops to identify priorities, and broad strategy and detailed work within and across units and offices of the churchwide organization. Representatives of ELCA separately incorporated ministries, the Church Council’s Planning and Evaluation Committee, and the Conference of Bishops provide input and feedback on the plan as it develops.

Part A sets out the strategic intent and directions including who we are as church, shared purpose, vision, strategic goals and cross cutting commitments, guiding principles, strategic focus of relationships, the role of the churchwide organization and factors underpinning its success.

Part B will set out the detailed plan. For each goal, the plan identifies the objectives, major programs and activities, performance indicators, and lead responsibilities. It will include an analysis of the plan’s implications in terms of relationships, risk, budget and human resources.

Church Council Action:

To affirm the strategic intent of Part A of the 2014–2016 Churchwide Operational Plan.

2. SAME-GENDER COUPLES AND THEIR FAMILIES

Background:

The 2013 Churchwide Assembly voted [CA13.03.12]:

To receive with the gratitude the memorials of the Eastern North Dakota, South-Central Synod of Wisconsin, Saint Paul Area, Sierra Pacific, Northwest Washington, Metropolitan Chicago, Minneapolis Area, Metropolitan New York, Northeastern Pennsylvania, Indiana-Kentucky, Southwestern Minnesota, Southwestern Pennsylvania, and Metropolitan Washington, D.C., synods regarding Conversations about Ministering to Same-Gender Couples and Families;

To affirm the commitment made in the social statement Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust for “pastoral responsibility to all children of God,” recognizing “familial relationship as central to nurturing and sustaining trust and security in human relationships and to advocate for public policies that support and protect families” (pp. 19, 24);

To invite and encourage conversations and resource sharing among this church’s congregations, rostered and lay leaders and the Conference of Bishops on changing family configurations and their impact on society and the ministry of this church; and

To request the Church Council, in keeping with the recommendations of the Addressing Social Concerns Review Task Force, to authorize a group to explore this concern and to bring a report and possible recommendations to the fall 2014 meetings of the Conference of Bishops and Church Council regarding appropriate next steps in carrying out these commitments to pastoral care for same-gender couples and their families.

Church Council Action:

To affirm the 2013 Churchwide Assembly action to invite and encourage conversations and resource sharing among this church’s congregations, rostered and lay leaders and the Conference of Bishops on changing family configurations and their impact on society and the ministry of this church;

To authorize a working group to explore this social concern and to bring recommendations regarding appropriate next steps in carrying out these commitments to pastoral care for same-gender couples and their families;

To request a sub-group of the Program and Services Committee of the Church Council, in consultation with the Conference of Bishops and Office of the Presiding Bishop, to identify and recommend individuals to serve on a working group, with voices representing the breadth of viewpoints identified in the Social Statement, Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust, and including, specifically, representation by members of the LGBTQ community;

To authorize the Executive Committee to appoint a working group; and

To request that the working group bring progress reports to Conference of Bishops and Church Council beginning in fall 2014 and for a final report and possible recommendations be brought to the November 2015 Church Council meeting.

3. ELCA CONSULTATIVE PANEL ON LUTHERAN-JEWISH RELATIONS

Background:

The ELCA Consultative Panel on Lutheran-Jewish Relations assists the various expressions of this church to increase cooperation and understanding between Lutheran Christians and the Jewish community, to advance a churchwide and societal conviction that anti-Semitism is “an affront to the Gospel, a violation of our hope and calling,” and to live out the Christian faith “with love and respect for the Jewish people” (“Declaration of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to the Jewish Community,” adopted by the Church Council on April 18, 1994). The panel written a charter to help guide its work.

Church Council Action:

To thank the ELCA Consultative Panel on Lutheran-Jewish Relations for its ongoing work to assist the various expressions of the ELCA to increase cooperation and understanding between Lutheran Christians and the Jewish community;

**To affirm the charter for the ELCA Consultative Panel on Lutheran-Jewish Relations; and
To request the secretary of this church to inform the consultative panel of this action.**

4. WORKING GROUP ON ORDINATION FOR A UNIFIED LAY ROSTER

Background:

In November 2012 the Church Council affirmed “the preliminary conclusion of the Word and Service Task Force that this church should move toward the creation of a single, unified lay roster of Word and Service ministry.” The council authorized [CC12.11.38] the task force to continue its work “in order to facilitate the creation of such a unified roster, to develop a process outlining how the existing lay rosters would be closed, and to provide a process for transition of existing associates in ministry, diaconal ministers, and deaconesses into such a new roster.”

The task force had sent an email to all rostered leaders of this church. The email provided the membership of the task force and presented its history, assignment, and time line, as well as some of its initial recommendations.

The task force prepared a detailed report, including a summary of responses it received to the email. The report indicated general support for the creation of a unified lay roster. The report expressed the task force’s concern that, as it works on creating a unified lay roster, the question of ordination of this new roster was beyond the scope of its expertise and responsibilities. It made the following recommendation:

In light of the discussion surrounding the rite of ordination as well as the history of discussions throughout the past, the Word and Service Task Force recommends to the Church Council that a working group be appointed to deal specifically with the matter of ordination and its implications, bringing recommendations to the 2016 Churchwide Assembly. The task force further recommends that the working group include representation from the Church Council, the Office of the Presiding Bishop, the Conference of Bishops, the Word and Service Task Force, and the Association of Teaching Theologians.

Church Council Action:

To thank the Word and Service Task Force for its ongoing work to manage the transition from three lay rosters to one unified Word and Service roster;

To receive the request of the task force to appoint a separate working group to consider the question of ordination for this roster;

To request the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit, in consultation with the Conference of Bishops and Office of the Presiding Bishop, to identify possible individuals, including bishops, to serve on a working group and to provide those names to the Executive Committee;

To authorize the Executive Committee to appoint a working group to consider the question of ordination of the unified Word and Service roster; and

To request that the working group bring progress reports to Conference of Bishops and Church Council beginning in fall 2014.

5. CAMPAIGN FOR THE ELCA

Background:

The 2013 Churchwide Assembly voted [CA13.05.18]:

To approve the 25th Anniversary Campaign for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as a major fundraising effort of this church, its synods and congregations, its affiliated and related ministries, and individual members in order to grow the resources of this church to support congregations, leadership, relief and development, and global mission;

To thank the members of this church for their ongoing stewardship and generosity through regular offerings that support the breadth of ministry across the ELCA and beyond;

To invite every congregation, synod, related ministry, and individual member of this church to make a contribution toward the 25th Anniversary Campaign for the ELCA in order to achieve its goal of \$190 million over the next five years (2014–2018);

To instruct the Church Council to add an additional campaign priority of encouraging, recognizing, and forming lay youth and young adult leaders, and to add an additional \$4 million to the campaign goal specifically for the formation, recognition, and encouragement of lay young adult and youth leaders;

To call on the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit to form an advisory team, funded out of the campaign, to seek out and support the networks and efforts of lay young adult and youth leaders, to include among those on that team lay young adult leaders recommended by ELCA congregations, ELCA campus, youth, and outdoor ministers, as well as leaders from ELCA affiliated and/or associated organizations at the discretion of the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit, to charge that same team with searching for new ideas and fresh voices emerging in the church, and to charge that same team with assisting in the acquisition of and advising on the allocation of funds received as part of the additional \$4 million dollars of the campaign goal seeking to re-imagine the ministries of the ELCA through the eyes of lay young adults and youth leaders in the body of Christ;

To add a goal of \$4 million for disability ministries, to advocate for inclusion of persons with disabilities in the life of this church, to train leaders both clergy and lay so that they would be equipped to work with persons with disabilities, to work with synods to create local committees for disability ministries, and to equip persons living with disabilities for lives of leadership and service in this church;

To encourage conversations among members and in congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization regarding ways that the 25th Anniversary Campaign can be implemented to take advantage of synergies among all expressions of this church;

To request that the Church Council monitor and evaluate the implementation of the 25th Anniversary Campaign for the ELCA on an ongoing basis and that reports be submitted annually to the Church Council and to each Churchwide Assembly through the completion of the campaign; and

To thank God for 25 years of interdependent ministry in the ELCA and to step forward boldly in order to seek to reach more communities with the good news of Jesus Christ, train more leaders who will become missionaries, pastors, and lay leaders, and contribute to the alleviation of hunger and poverty.

The Church Council recommendation [CC13.04.14] to the Churchwide Assembly included the “goal of \$190 million over the next five years (2014–2018)” as indicated in the third paragraph of the action. Voting members amended the recommendation and set additional goals of \$4 million for youth and young adult involvement in the ministries of this church and \$4 million for disability ministries. Neither amendment was considered in the development of the proposal, so the development of strategies for implementation of these amendments and integrating them into the campaign remain to be accomplished.

Church Council Action:

To refer to the Congregational and Synodical Mission and Mission Advancement units, in consultation with the Conference of Bishops, ministry partners, and others as they deem appropriate, the actions taken on the floor by the Churchwide Assembly to amend the Campaign for the ELCA to add \$4 million for formation, recognition, and encouragement of lay young adult and youth leaders and \$4 million for disability ministries, for the purpose of evaluating how to implement and integrate these amendments into the campaign (including an assessment of the goal feasibility, budget, staffing, time line, programs to be supported, and other impacts of the amendments); and

To request that a report and possible recommendations relating to these issues and an update on the campaign as a whole be brought to the April 2014 meeting of the Church Council.

6. RE-ELECTION OF THE REV. M. WYVETTA BULLOCK, EXECUTIVE FOR ADMINISTRATION

Background:

ELCA continuing resolution 15.12.A10. states:

The executive for administration shall be accountable to the presiding bishop and shall serve as chief administrator of the churchwide organization. The executive for administration shall be elected by the Church Council upon nomination of the presiding bishop and shall serve coterminous with the term of the presiding bishop. . . .

Church Council Action:

To elect the Rev. M. Wyvetta Bullock as the executive for administration for a term coterminous with the term of the presiding bishop, as provided in churchwide continuing resolution 15.12.A10.

7. RE-ELECTION OF MR. DANIEL J. LEHMANN, EDITOR OF *THE LUTHERAN MAGAZINE*

Background:

Regarding the church periodical, *The Lutheran*, ELCA continuing resolution 16.12.D11. states:

The Church Council shall elect the editor of the church periodical by a two-thirds vote to a four-year term. The editor shall be eligible for re-election. . . .

Church Council Action:

To re-elect Mr. Daniel J. Lehmann as editor of *The Lutheran* magazine for a four-year term beginning January 1, 2014.

8. ELECTION OF THE REV. CARLA J. JOHNSEN, THE REV. LOREN D. MELLUM TO THE CHURCH COUNCIL

Background:

In April 2011, the Church Council elected [CC11.04.19] the Rev. Yvonne I. Marshall, Council Bluffs, Iowa, of the Western Iowa Synod (5E) to the Church Council for a term ending in 2015, completing the unexpired term of the Rev. Michael J. Schmidt who had announced plans to accept a call to a different synod.

The 2011 Churchwide Assembly elected [CA11.04.15] the Rev. Laurie F. Skow-Anderson, Pelican Rapids, Minn., to a six-year term on the Church Council as a nominee from the clergy roster of the Northwestern Minnesota Synod (3D).

Pr. Marshall and Pr. Skow-Anderson resigned from the council. In accordance with ELCA constitutional provision 14.15., the secretary of this church declared vacancies on the Church Council.

The Western Iowa Synod nominated the Rev. Carla J. Johnsen, Dunlap, Iowa, to complete the term of Pr. Marshall ending in 2015. The Northwestern Minnesota Synod nominated the Rev. Loren D. Mellum, Moorhead, Minn., to complete the term of Pr. Skow-Anderson ending in 2017.

Church Council Action:

To elect the Rev. Loren D. Mellum, Moorhead, Minn., (3D) to the Church Council for a term ending in 2017; and

To elect the Rev. Carla J. Johnsen, Dunlap, Iowa, (5E) to the Church Council for a term ending in 2015.

9. A SOCIAL MESSAGE ON GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Background:

The ELCA Task Force on Women and Justice: One in Christ, in development of a possible social statement on women and justice for the 2019 Churchwide Assembly, has conducted more than a dozen listening events during its existence, and at every event the concerns about the level of gender-based violence in society are dominant. The task force has heard presentations about various aspects of “gender-based violence,” including rape, sexual abuse, physical and sexual assault, domestic and dating violence, and sexual harassment, whether perpetrated by male or female. The statistics are chilling, the social issues significant, and the damage to so many lives horrific.

In the exploration and deliberation by the task force, it has concluded that there is a need for this church to respond to this particular social concern at this time. The task force holds that there are sufficient scriptural, theological, and social teaching touch points to provide the framework for a message or multiple messages. Such texts would be developed in light of existing documents such as the social statement on race, ethnicity and culture, the social message on commercial sexuality exploitation, the social policy resolution on domestic violence, and the sign-on by Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson to the National Declaration by Religious and Spiritual Leaders to Address Violence Against Women. The task force has identified theological themes and conceptual tools that could provide grist for this work.

It should also be noted that this request is consistent with the recommendations of the Addressing Social Concerns Review Task Force, encouraging task forces to provide multiple documents and study resources. In addition, members of the Theological and Ethical Concerns Committee of the Conference of Bishops were briefed that the task force was discussing this possibility and strongly affirmed the idea as a timely and worthwhile contribution to the church’s wider discussion on women and justice. The staff of Theological Discernment Team in the Office of the Presiding Bishop concurs with these judgments.

The development of an ELCA message requires a budget of approximately \$12,000 in order to hold a small consultation, provide for miscellaneous expenses, and print and mail the document. Message development requires the quarter-time commitment of a Theological Discernment staff member, or its equivalent, for about five months. Staff time and dollars could be available for such work in fiscal 2014, permitting a proposed message to be brought to the

November 2014 meeting of the Church Council. It is anticipated that, should the document adopted, it would be formatted for both Web and print distribution by January 2015.

Church Council Action:

To thank the ELCA Task Force on Women and Justice: One in Christ for directing the attention of this church to the levels of gender-based violence in U.S. society and globally;

To authorize staff of the Theological Discernment Team, in accordance with "Policies and Procedures of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for Addressing Social Concerns (2011)," to initiate an ELCA social message development process on gender-based violence with council action to be taken at the November 2014 Church Council meeting.

10. AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS OF THE DEACONESS COMMUNITY OF THE ELCA

Church Council Action:

To approve the amendments to the bylaws of the Deaconess Community of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as printed in Exhibit H, Part 1.

11. AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS OF LUTHER SEMINARY

Background:

ELCA bylaw 8.31.02. states:

Amendments to the governing documents of each separately incorporated seminary and each seminary cluster shall be submitted, upon recommendation of the appropriate unit of the churchwide organization, to the Church Council for approval.

Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minn., proposed several changes to its Restated Bylaws. The Church Council had unanswered questions regarding amendments to Article IV, "Confessional Basis," and Article V, "Membership of the Board of Directors."

Church Council Action:

To approve the amended bylaws of Luther Seminary, with the exception of amendments to Articles IV and V; and

To recommend that the Church Council authorize the Executive Committee, in consultation with the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee and the appropriate churchwide unit, to approve any changes to the seminary bylaws that are submitted prior to the spring 2014 Church Council meeting.

12. THE LUTHERAN SUICIDE PREVENTION MINISTRY

Background:

ELCA bylaw 14.21.16. states:

The Church Council shall establish the criteria and policies for the relationship between this church and independent, cooperative, and related Lutheran organizations. The policies adopted by the Church Council shall be administered by the appropriate unit of the churchwide organization. The determination of which organization shall relate to a specific unit of the churchwide organization shall be made by the Church Council.

At its April 2006 meeting, the Church Council voted [CC06.04.27] to approve a revised "Policy on Relationships of Churchwide Units with Independent Lutheran Organizations." The revision was made necessary by changes in structure, governance, and the *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*.

In accordance with the revised policy, the Rev. Stephen P. Bouman, executive director of the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit, recommended that the Lutheran Suicide Prevention Ministry be acknowledged as an Independent Lutheran Organization in relationship to the ELCA through the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit.

Church Council Action:

To acknowledge, in accordance with bylaw 14.21.16. of the Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the "Policy on Relationships of Churchwide Units with Independent Lutheran Organizations," the Lutheran Suicide Prevention Ministry as an Independent

Lutheran Organization which will relate to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America through the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit.

13. AMENDMENTS TO THE ARTICLES AND CONTINUING RESOLUTIONS OF THE ELCA

Article VII of the *Restated Articles of Incorporation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* had included:

The Church Council shall consist of thirty-seven (37) persons. . . .

The Church Council may amend the Articles of Incorporation from time to time in the manner prescribed by law (Article XII). The council voted to replace Article VII with the language of ELCA constitutional provision 14.31. as amended by the 2011 Churchwide Assembly.

The voting members of the Church Council shall consist of the four churchwide officers, the chair of the Conference of Bishops, and at least 33 and not more than 45 other persons elected by the Churchwide Assembly.

ELCA constitutional provision 22.31. states:

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

Following restructuring of the churchwide organization and implementation of recommendations from the Living into the Future Together: Renewing the Ecology of the ELCA (LIFT) Task Force, the 2011 and 2013 Churchwide Assembly adopted a series of amendments to the *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*. A few “housekeeping” amendments to continuing resolutions remained.

By the required two-thirds vote, the Church Council adopted amendments that removed the reference to the obsolete position of “section executive” from the list of sources of call for the lay rosters. It also adapted its Board Development Committee to be represented by a larger Church Council. And it restored a paragraph to the description of the Global Mission unit dealing with the development of personnel policies for missionaries.

14. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND CHURCH COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Background:

To facilitate the work of the Church Council between the Churchwide Assembly and its first meeting, the officers of this church, the chair of the Conference of Bishops, and the chairs of the council’s four standing committees serve as the Executive Committee of the Church Council. At its first meeting, the Church Council elects three at-large members of the Executive Committee in keeping with the ELCA representational principles. The council determined that it would elect three lay persons to the Executive Committee—one female, one male, and one either female or male.

Staff of the Office of the Presiding Bishop began working with continuing members of the Church Council early in 2013 to indicate their preference for service on one of the four standing committees of the Church Council—Budget and Finance, Legal and Constitutional Review, Planning and Evaluation, and Program and Services Committees. Council members elected by the Churchwide Assembly were contacted for their preferences, and the Executive Committee reviewed all preferences and recommended committee assignments for the 2013–2016 triennium.

Church Council Action:

The Church Council elected Mr. Paul G. Archer, Ms. Marjorie B. Ellis, and Ms. Maren Hulden to its Executive Committee, and it ratified the appointments to the Church Council committees and other advisory responsibilities of its members for the 2013–2016 triennium.

15. ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF *THE LUTHERAN MAGAZINE*

ELCA continuing resolution 16.12.D11. states:

The advisory committee of the church periodical shall be composed of nine members elected by the Church Council.

- 1) The members of the advisory committee of the church periodical, who shall be nominated through the Church Council’s nomination process, shall include persons chosen for their understanding of periodical publishing.

- 2) Each member of the advisory committee for The Lutheran shall be elected for one six-year term, with no consecutive re-election and with one-third of the members elected every two years. . . .

Church Council Action:

The Church Council elected the following individuals to the Advisory Committee of *The Lutheran* magazine for terms ending in 2019.

Region 1, Clergy Female

The Rev. Barbara R. Rossing, Leavenworth, Wash. (1D)

Region 2, Lay Female

Ms. Lynn M. Bullock, Agoura Hills, Calif. (2B)

Region 7, Lay Male

Mr. Andrew Merritt, Needham, Mass. (7B)

16. COMMITMENT OF SYNOD VISITS BY CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Background:

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

At its November 2007 meeting, the Church Council voted (CC07.11.65):

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

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

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

Members of the Church Council now make the commitment, as available, to be in contact with specific synods during the triennium. A summary of reports of these contacts and a notebook including the full texts of the reports are available to the council. During the November 2013 meeting, members made commitments to remain in contact with specific synods of this church.

Church Council Action:

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

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

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

17. OTHER ELECTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

The Church Council also elected these individuals to the boards or committees for the terms indicated.

ELCA Audit Committee [2015]: Ms. Marjorie B. Ellis, Ms. Louise A. Hemstead, Ms. Debra R. Hopkins, Mr. Clarence M. Smith, and Ms. Ingrid S. Stafford.

Board of Trustees of the Endowment Fund of the ELCA [2019]: The Rev. Kenneth J. Feinour Jr., Ms. Anna L. Geleske, The Rev. Ruth Ann Loughry, and Ms. Lauren M. Williams.

Committee of Hearing Officers [2019]: The Rev. Lowell G. Almen, Ms. Jewelie A. Grape, and Mr. Mark S. Helmke.