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Revised April 5, 2007; 1:05 p.m.

**EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA**  
**CHURCH COUNCIL**  
**April 13-16, 2007**  
**Chicago, Illinois**

**AGENDA**

**I. ORGANIZATION OF MEETING**

**A. Voting Members**

**Officers**

Bp. Mark S. Hanson, Presiding Bishop  
Mr. Carlos Peña, Vice President  
Pr. Lowell G. Almen, Secretary  
Ms. Christina Jackson-Skelton, Treasurer

**Church Council**

Mr. Grieg L. Anderson	Mr. David M. Nelson
Ms. Faith A. Ashton	Ms. Ann F. Niedringhaus
Ms. Judy Biffle	Pr. J. Paul Rajashekar
Ms. Judith Anne Bunker	Ms. Lynette M. Reitz
Pr. Joseph G. Crippen	Pr. John C. Richter
Mr. Bradley Dokken	Mr. Kenneth M. Rupp
Mr. Mark S. Helmke	Ms. Sandra Schelsinger
Ms. Norma J. Hirsch	Pr. Jeff B. Sorenson
Pr. Keith A. Hunsinger	Pr. Sarah J. Stumme
Pr. David E. Jensen	Mr. Allan E. Thomas
Pr. Jonathan W. Linman	Pr. Jennifer J. Thomas
Mr. William R. Lloyd Jr.	Mr. David Truland
Pr. Steven P. Loy	Ms. Judith Tutt-Starr
Pr. Charles W. Mays	Mr. Richard L. Wahl
Ms. Jessica M. McKee	Ms. Phyllis L. Wallace
	Mr. Gary L. Wiperman

**B. Advisory Members**

**Synod Bishops**

Bp. Leonard H. Bolick	Bp. E. Roy Riley
Bp. Gary L. Hansen	Bp. Peter Rogness
Bp. Marie C. Jerge	Bp. Paul Stumme-Diers, <i>excused</i>
Bp. Kevin S. Kanouse	Bp. Steven Ullestad, <i>substitute</i>
Bp. A. Donald Main	Bp. Martin D. Wells
Bp. Dean W. Nelson	

**Youth**

Ms. Brianna R. Watts	Mr. Samuel F. Schlouch
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**Advisors**

Pr. Virginia Anderson-Larson, chair, Global Mission Program Committee  
Pr. James Brandt, acting chair, Church in Society Program Committee  
Mr. Kent Burgess, Lutheran Social Ministries, *excused*  
Pr. Chi Shih Chen, Asian and Pacific Islander Association  
Ms. Annette Citzler, chair of the Board of Trustees, Augsburg Fortress, Publishers  
Pr. Khader N. El-Yateem, chair, Multicultural Ministries Program Committee  
Mr. Joseph A. Husary, president, Arab and Middle Eastern Association

Ms. Kathryn Johnson, chair, Vocation and Education Program Committee  
Pr. Phillip Krey, ELCA seminaries  
Ms. Kristin Kvam, chair, Justice for Women Consulting Committee  
Pr. O. Dennis Mims, president, African-American Association  
Mr. Richard Torgerson, ELCA colleges and universities, *excused*  
    Mr. Jack Ohle, ELCA colleges and universities, *substitute*  
Ms. Carmen Richards, president, Women of the ELCA, *excused*  
Mr. Francis R. Ramos Scharron, chair, Evangelical Outreach and Congregational  
    Mission Program Committee  
Pr. Francisco L. Sosa, president, Latino Community Association  
Mr. Larry Thiele, president, American Indian and Alaska Native Association

**C. Resource People**

**Office of the Presiding Bishop**

Pr. M. Wyvetta Bullock, Executive for Leadership Development  
Pr. Charles S. Miller, Executive for Administration  
Pr. Kathie Bender Schwich, Executive for Synodical and Constituent Relations  
Ms. Myrna J. Sheie, Executive for Governance and Institutional Relations

**Section Executives and Staff**

Pr. Michael L. Burk, Executive for Worship and Liturgical Resources (Chaplain)  
Mr. Kenneth W. Inskeep, Executive for Research and Evaluation  
Pr. Randall R. Lee, Executive for Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations  
Pr. Darrell D. Morton, Assistant to the Presiding Bishop for Federal Chaplaincy  
    Ministries  
Pr. Craig Settlage, Director for Mission Support  
Ms. Else B. Thompson, Executive for Human Resources

**Office of the Secretary**

Pr. Ruth E. Hamilton, Executive for Official Documentation and Administration  
Mr. Phillip H. Harris, General Counsel  
Pr. Paul A. Schreck, Executive for Constitutional and Rostering Interpretation  
    and Oversight  
Mr. David A. Ullrich, Associate General Counsel

**Office of the Treasurer**

**Section Executives and Staff**

Ms. Karen Rathbun, Executive for Management Services  
Ms. LaRue R. Unglaube, Executive for Information Technology  
Pr. Jeffrey R. King, Support Specialist, Information Technology

**Program Unit Executives**

Ms. Linda Post Bushkofsky, Executive Director, Women of the ELCA  
Pr. Sherman Hicks, Executive Director, Multicultural Ministries  
Pr. Rebecca S. Larson, Executive Director, Church in Society  
Ms. Beth A. Lewis, President, Augsburg Fortress, Publishers  
Pr. Richard A. Magnus, Executive Director, Evangelical Outreach and  
    Congregational Mission  
Pr. Rafael Malpica-Padilla, Executive Director, Global Mission  
Pr. Stanley N. Olson, Executive Director, Vocation and Education

**Service Unit Executives**

Ms. Kristi Bangert, Executive Director, Communication Services  
Pr. Donald M. Hallberg, President, Foundation of the ELCA and Executive Director  
for Development Services  
Mr. John G. Kapanke, President, Board of Pensions  
Mr. Daniel Lehmann, Editor, *The Lutheran* magazine  
Ms. Eva. M. Roby, Executive Vice President for Administration,  
Mission Investment Fund

**D. Press**

Mr. John R. Brooks, Director, ELCA News Services  
Ms. Elizabeth M. Hunter, *The Lutheran* magazine  
Mr. Frank F. Imhoff, Associate Director, ELCA News Services  
Ms. Melissa Ramirez-Cooper, Associate Director, ELCA News Services

**E. Ecumenical Guests**

Mr. Thomas C. Ferguson, The Episcopal Church  
Canon Victoria L. Garvey, The Episcopal Church  
Ms. Kathy J. Magnus, North American Representative, Lutheran World Federation  
Pr. Mary Ann Neevel, United Church of Christ  
Bp. Raymond Schultz, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada  
Moravian Church [position vacant]  
Presbyterian Church U.S.A. [position vacant]  
Reformed Church [position vacant]

**F. Adoption of Agenda**

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

**CC ACTION**

**Recommended:**

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

**G. Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the November 10-13, 2006, meeting of the Church Council have been distributed to council members.

The minutes of the council's Executive Committee meetings on November 10, 2006, and January 18, 2007 have been distributed. The Executive Committee minutes for the meeting held on March 7, 2007, will be distributed separately.

Please provide in writing for the Executive Assistant for Official Documentation any notations on typographical errors in the distributed text of the minutes. Proper corrections will be entered into the protocol copies of the minutes. Corrections of that nature need not be raised in the plenary session in connection with the approval of the minutes.

**CC ACTION**

**Recommended:**

**To approve the minutes of the November 10-13, 2006, meeting of the Church Council; and**

**To ratify actions of the council's Executive Committee as indicated in the minutes of the January 18, 2007, and March 7, 2007, meetings.**

## **II. WRITTEN REPORTS**

### **A. Reports of the Officers**

1. Presiding Bishop: Exhibit A, Part 1  
    Summary of Section Activities: Exhibit A, Part 1a
2. Vice President: Exhibit A, Part 2
3. Secretary: Exhibit A, Part 3
4. Treasurer: Exhibit A, Part 4  
    Summary of Section Activities: Exhibit A, Part 4a

### **B. Report of the Conference of Bishops: Exhibit A, Part 5**

### **C. Report of the Executive for Administration: Exhibit E, Part 1**

### **D. Reports of the Churchwide Units**

NOTE: Refer to the *Structure of the Agenda* (salmon pages) for specific detail.

1. Reports and Recommendations of Churchwide Program and Service Units:  
    Exhibit J, Part 1  
    Summary of Unit Activities: Exhibit J, Part 1  
    Digest of Board Actions: Exhibit J, Part 1a
2. Items for Action: Agenda, Section III
3. Items for *En Bloc* Action: Agenda, Section IV
4. Items for Information: Agenda, Section V

### **E. Reports of Church Council Committees**

NOTE: See Section III for action items; Section IV for *en bloc* action items; and Section V for information items related to these committees. The working schedule for the meeting, printed on green paper, lists specific page numbers and the location of related exhibits.

1. Budget and Finance Committee
2. Executive Committee
3. Legal and Constitutional Review
4. Planning and Evaluation Committee
5. Program and Services Committee



### III. ITEMS FOR ACTION

#### A. Nominations, Appointments, and Elections

Between meetings of the Churchwide Assembly, the Church Council has the responsibility of electing people to fill unexpired terms on churchwide boards, steering committees of churchwide commissions, and certain advisory committees. Biographical information is provided in Exhibit C, Part 2.

#### **CHURCH COUNCIL**

Clergy [Term 2011] - *to replace vacancy of Pr. Elizabeth A. Eaton, Cuyahoga Falls, OH 6E*

1. a. Pr. David P. Anderson, Strongsville, OH 6E
- b. Pr. Robert R. Henderson, Aurora, OH 6E

#### **PROGRAM COMMITTEE MULTICULTURAL MINISTRIES**

Clergy [Term 2009] - *to replace vacancy of Pr. Ramona S. Rank, Portland, OR 1E*

1. a. Pr. Jesse D. Hill, Charlotte, NC 9B
- b. Pr. Jackie E. Russell, Oaks, OK 4C

#### **ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR THE LUTHERAN**

Clergy [Term 2013]

1. a. Pr. Robert L. Driver-Bishop, McLean, VA 8G
- b. Pr. Harold W. Eppley, Milwaukee, WI 5J

Lay Male [Term 2011] - *to replace resignation of Ben McDonald-Coltvet, Waukesha, WI 5J*

1. a. Mr. Jerry Strom, Walnut Creek, CA 2A
- b. Mr. Rick White, Leck Kill, PA 8E

Lay Male (PC/L) [Term 2013]

1. a. Mr. Keith Gatling, Liverpool, NJ 7D
- b. Mr. Frank Ramos, Guaynabo, PR 9F

#### **CHURCHWIDE COMMITTEE ON APPEALS**

Clergy [Term 2007] - *to replace vacancy of Pr. Edmond Yee, Berkeley, CA 2B*

1. a. Pr. A. Donald Main, Sunbury, PA 8E
- b. Pr. Paul J. Blom, Houston, TX 4F

#### **CHURCHWIDE NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

Clergy [Term 2013]

1. a. Pr. Linwood H. Chamberlain, Jr., Lorain, OH 6E
- b. Pr. Jonathan L. Eilert, Loveland, OH 6F
2. a. Pr. Simon G. Fensom, Spicer, MN 3F
- b. Pr. Loren D. Mai, Hutchinson, KS 4B

Lay Female [Term 2013]

1. a. Ms. Gwen E. Arneson, Cottonwood, MN 3F
- b. Ms. Merle E. Freije, Mayville, ND 3B
2. a. Ms. Linda N. Lovell, Ellicott City, MD 8F
- b. Ms. Sara 'Sally' C. Williams, Hollidaysburg, PA 8C

Lay Male [Term 2013]

1. a. Mr. James M. Hushagen, Edgewood, WA 1C
- b. Mr. Ronald L. Pittman, McMinnville, OR 1E

Lay Male (PC/L) [Term 2013]

1. a. Mr. Wesley L. Crenshaw, Savannah, GA 9D
- b. Mr. Jeremy D. Posadas, New York, NY 7C

## **B. Budget and Finance**

Action items related to meetings of the Budget and Finance Committee, including its April 13, 2007, meeting, are detailed below. Additional items or revised actions will be distributed following the committee's meeting.

### **1. Blue Ribbon Committee on Mission Funding Recommendations**

[See Exhibit F, Part 5]

#### **CC ACTION**

##### **Recommended:**

**To receive with gratitude the report of the Blue Ribbon Committee on Mission Funding and to commend the members of the committee for their creative and diligent efforts on behalf of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; and**

**To request that the presiding bishop inaugurate implementation in the 2008 proposed expenditure authorization of the funding and staffing implications contained in the report and recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Committee on Mission Funding; and**

**To delegate oversight and coordination for the implementation of the blue ribbon committee's report on mission funding to the Office of the Presiding Bishop—with special responsibility assigned to the Synodical Relations section and the Mission Funding and Interpretation Team—with an implementation plan, including specific measurements and evaluation cycles, to be presented to the November 2007 meeting of the Church Council and subsequently through regular progress reports to the Church Council commencing in April 2008; and**

**To urge that the Office of the Presiding Bishop develop, with the support of the Church Council, ways to foster throughout the ELCA's congregations, synods, churchwide ministries, and related institutions and agencies a deeper and broader understanding of this church's ecclesiology, polity, and philosophy of mission funding.**

#### **CC ACTION**

**Recommended:** *To transmit the report of the Blue Ribbon Committee on Mission Funding to the 2007 Churchwide Assembly and to recommend adoption by the 2007 Churchwide Assembly of the following resolution:*

- 1. To give thanks for the manifold ways in which God has blessed richly the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America with faithful members and abundant resources; and**
- 2. To acknowledge God's summons to be good stewards in commitment to the mission entrusted to the Church and in the responsible management of the resources entrusted to members; and**
- 3. To receive with gratitude the report of the Blue Ribbon Committee on Mission Funding in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America;**
- 4. To commend the content of the report for study and reflection throughout this church; and**
- 5. To foster renewed commitment to vigorous mission-support efforts throughout the congregations, synods, and churchwide ministries of the**

**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in a wide variety of ways, including:**

- a. examination of "best practices" for mission funding, alternative methods of generating mission-support income, and an improved consultation process for synods and the churchwide organization;**
- b. commitment by the churchwide organization to convene stewardship leaders-including synodical stewardship committees, Lutheran professional advisers, and others-to encourage greater widespread ownership of stewardship endeavors throughout this church and to provide training, motivation, and inspiration;**
- c. evaluation of stewardship education programs as well as the development and implementation of a strategy for stewardship leadership and staffing;**
- d. development of educational opportunities for all those preparing for rostered leadership in this church through seminaries, programs of theological education for emerging ministries, and lay schools of theology;**
- e. establishment of a requirement, by autumn 2009, for continuing education (6-10 hours) in financial stewardship for first-call rostered leaders to help them build upon competencies learned and practiced during their seminary education;**
- f. engagement of new models for the role of the churchwide organization in financial leadership; and**
- g. dissemination by the churchwide organization and synods to an increasing number of member households of regular, clear, and concise communication that is focused on mission interpretation.**

**2. Response to Churchwide Assembly Memorial**

*Background*

The 2005 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America considered a memorial from the Grand Canyon Synod "to authorize a three-year professionally guided fund appeal to be used for the establishing of new congregations." The 2005 Churchwide Assembly directed the memorial to certain churchwide units and the Conference of Bishops and requested that a report related to funding for new and renewing congregations be brought to the April 2007 meeting of the Church Council for transmission to the 2007 Churchwide Assembly.

Subsequently, following the constituting of the Blue Ribbon Committee on Mission Funding, the Church Council referred the 2005 memorial and the request for a report to the Blue Ribbon Committee for consideration.

The Blue Ribbon Committee consulted with the Conference of Bishops at its March 2007 meeting. The committee reported to the conference its conviction that the role of the synodical bishop is pivotal to a successful appeal. This implies a significant time commitment and personal gift to the fund appeal. There is also the expectation that synods would not be conducting their own formal appeals to their congregations during the period of a joint churchwide and synodical campaign. Consultation with the conference concluded with a "straw poll" indicating 80 percent support among the bishops to proceed with a feasibility study for the appeal.

Based on its own assessment of the memorial of the Grand Canyon Synod and its

discussion with the Conference of Bishops, the committee affirms a feasibility study on a churchwide fund appeal to benefit both synodical and churchwide ministries.

The committee believes that fund appeals work best when several ministry areas are supported and therefore initially commends the ministry areas of new congregations, theological education, and global mission as the ministry areas to benefit from the appeal. The feasibility study not only will assist in ascertaining if these are the appropriate areas around which to organize a funding campaign, but will also provide a projection of an appropriate campaign goal.

The 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ELCA in 2012 is an opportunity to strengthen relationships in this church, tell the story of God's mission through this church, and raise capital for the mission to which God calls this church. This date coincides well with the time required for a feasibility study in 2008, consideration of the appeal by the 2009 Churchwide Assembly, and, if approved by the assembly, organization of the campaign.

If this church proceeds with a fund appeal of this nature, the committee believes that a joint committee of synodical and churchwide representatives must be constituted immediately after the 2007 Churchwide Assembly to oversee the feasibility study and develop the formulae needed for distribution of the appeal receipts.

The committee believes that this appeal will give this church a burst of focused energy and thus is worth the expenses related to organizing and implementing the appeal. The appeal will be a tangible reminder that this is one church and that the responsibility to assist key areas of our ministry in taking on new life is shared.

### **CC ACTION**

#### **Recommended:**

**To approve implementation of a feasibility study related to an ELCA fund appeal benefitting synodical and churchwide ministries; and**

**To request the Office of the Presiding Bishop, Office of the Treasurer, Development Services, Communication Services, and Conference of Bishops to proceed with the steps required for a professionally-conducted feasibility study; and**

**To request a report to the April 2009 meeting of the Church Council on the results of the feasibility study and recommendations pursuant to an ELCA fund appeal benefitting synodical and churchwide ministries.**

### **3. 2008 - 2009 Biennium Income Budget Proposal**

Exhibit F, Part 2a shows the income proposal for the 2008-2009 biennium. Mission support is anticipated to increase from revised 2007 levels by \$300,000 in 2008 and an additional \$200,000 in 2009. Vision for Mission is anticipated to increase \$50,000 annually. Investment income is expected to decline by \$250,000 in 2008 as a result of the continued draw downs on disaster balances. Rent estimates have been increased as additional space in the Lutheran Center has been made available for lease. All of the temporarily restricted income sources are projected to remain level with revised 2007 amounts.

The World Hunger Appeal has realized several years of increased growth in dollars and number of donors. This increased donor base and the growing commitment to alleviating world hunger allows for an increase in budgeted World Hunger income of \$500,000 to \$19,250,000 in 2008. The next Youth Gathering is in 2009. Anticipating their continued support of the World Hunger program, the 2009 income estimate has been increased by \$750,000 to \$20,000,000.

In Exhibit F, Part 2b, salary and benefit increases have been estimated at the 3% level for 2008. This requires an allocation of \$1,400,000. Financial support for recommendations coming from the Blue Ribbon Committee on Mission Funding has also been included in the 2008 proposal. Other significant allocations new in 2008 include \$166,000 for the Book of Faith project in Vocation and Education and \$177,000 in the Office of the Presiding Bishop for a new executive assistant plus a half-time support staff position. Additional adjustments in the Office of the Presiding Bishop were made to cover more adequately the travel of the Presiding Bishop (\$10,000) and to provide for conducting and implementing diversity audits within the churchwide organization (\$15,000). **An anticipated reduction of \$300,000 in required contributions to the Board of Pensions for the retiree minimum health obligation was added to the strategic initiative fund line.**

Offsetting the increased income of \$248,000 with the increases identified above, an additional \$1,857,000 in reductions was required. Specific reductions were made in the amount of \$122,000 in various sections of the Office of the Presiding Bishop, \$20,000 in the Office of the Secretary as an adjustment to the anticipated costs of Church Council that had been included in the 2007 budget, and \$100,000 in Communication Services related to staffing adjustments. The remaining reductions were applied proportionately to each of the program units with the exception of Multicultural Ministries. These program units will use established criteria for identifying programmatic priorities in determining which areas of their work cannot be affected by the reductions.

#### **CC ACTION**

**Recommended:** *To recommend to the 2007 Churchwide Assembly the following:*

##### **2008 Budget Proposal**

**To approve a 2008 current fund income proposal of \$81,670,000; and  
To approve a 2008 World Hunger income proposal of \$19,250,000.**

##### **2009 Budget Proposal**

**To approve a 2009 current fund income proposal of \$81,920,000; and  
To approve a 2009 World Hunger income proposal of \$20,000,000; and  
To authorize the Church Council to establish a spending authorization after periodic review of revised income estimates.**

**4. 2007 Revised Income Estimate and Expenditure Authorization**

Exhibit F, Part 1a reflects income estimates for 2007 that have been revised since the November 2006 meeting. These estimates reflect an increase in total estimated current fund income of \$695,000 for a total of \$81,422,000.

The primary increase is in mission support income, increasing it to \$65,800,000. In 2006, synods remitted at 98.9 percent of their mission support plans as revised by April 2006. The revised 2007 mission support estimate amounts to 97.6 percent of current revised synod mission support plans. Trends in bequest and trust income indicate an increase of \$100,000 each, in unrestricted and temporarily restricted bequests and trust income, is appropriate. Investment income is expected to be \$135,000 higher than the earlier estimate. Vision for Mission is anticipated to increase \$50,000 to \$1,250,000.

The increased expenditure authorization was distributed primarily to the program units in a proportionate manner. Due to the opportunity for Evangelical Outreach and Congregational Mission to provide advance grant payments in 2006 for funding of new ministry starts, the unit did not receive an increased allocation in 2007. Communication Services received an additional \$195,000 to support its inauguration of a comprehensive churchwide communication strategy.

The 2006 general World Hunger Appeal results exceeded projections by \$1,650,000, reaching \$19,100,000. Of this, \$500,000 was from the offering at the ELCA Youth Gathering. As a result of these strong results, the World Hunger income estimates have been raised to \$18,750,000 from the original estimate of \$17,500,000.

Revised unit allocations for 2007 are provided in Exhibit F, Part 1b.

**CC ACTION**

**Recommended:**

**To approve a revised current fund spending authorization for the 2007 fiscal year of \$81,422,000; and**

**To approve a revised 2007 World Hunger spending authorization for the 2007 fiscal year of \$18,750,000.**

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### **C. Executive Committee**

Action items related to meetings of the Executive Committee, including its April 13, 2007 meeting, are detailed below. Additional items or revised actions will be distributed following the committee's meeting.

#### **1. Report on Anti-Racism Education for the Church Council**

The anti-racism planning team was organized by the Church Council and its members appointed by the vice president at the meeting of the council in November 2006. Its general purpose, as directed by the council, is to work with the churchwide coordinator for anti-racism education and training and the director for racial justice ministries, especially as these positions seek to educate and train the ELCA Church Council. The four council members are: Judith Bunker, Lynette Reitz, Judy Tutt-Starr, and Allan Thomas.

The group has met three times since November: first as an initial and brief "getting-to-know-you" session in November after Church Council; second by conference call to "discover" together the work of the group; and third for a one-day planning session on February 17, 2007, to develop recommendations for education and training for the Church Council.

The following short-term recommended actions were developed during the planning session on February 17 and will be considered by the Executive Committee, which will bring a specific recommendation for Church Council approval at the April 2007 meeting. The planning team's short-term recommendations are:

1. To provide the Church Council with some pre-meeting materials, including working definitions for the April 2007 meeting and short pieces for further discussion during the meeting. [Note: these are printed as Exhibit B, Parts 3-3c.]
2. To request the use of racial justice monitors at all council meetings as a mechanism for accountability.
3. To have the council name the duration and definition of the anti-racism team as an ongoing committee, not necessarily ad hoc, to demonstrate the importance of this work for this church.
4. To request workshop time at the ELCA Churchwide Assembly in August 2007. [Note: this request has been granted.]

Long-term recommendations for the council included items to be more thoroughly researched by the coordinator, director, and the anti-racism planning team. These included:

1. Ensuring continuous process of institutionalizing racially just policies and mechanisms. (Draw up a schedule for ongoing anti-racism education.)
2. Ask for regular reporting on racial justice to include anti-racism and institutional racial oppression. (Specifically for the Planning and Evaluation Committee of Church Council in its role of evaluating programs of the churchwide organization.)
3. Assist Church Council members to recognize racism and how racist attitudes move the church.
4. Develop a specific action of repentance including a liturgical expression for the council and the whole church.



**CC ACTION**

**Recommended:**

**To affirm the possibility of engagement of a racial justice monitor or monitors at future meetings of the Church Council to provide observations on the process of deliberations of the council;**

**To assign to the Board Development Committee responsibility for continuing anti-racism training in relation to the Church Council; and**

**To acknowledge that the Board Development Committee may appoint a subcommittee for assistance in addressing issues of anti-racism training.**

## **2. Anti-sexism Strategy: Education and Training**

At its November 2006 meeting, the ELCA Church Council voted,

To request that the Office of the Presiding Bishop, working in consultation with the Church in Society program unit, bring forth a plan to the Church Council for its continuous education, reflection, and training on the issue of sexism, just as the Church Council has committed itself to continuous education, reflection, and training on the issue of racism.[CC06.11.50].

In response, the Executive Committee, at the request of the Office of the Presiding Bishop and in consultation with the Church in Society unit, recommends the following action.

### **CC ACTION**

#### **Recommended:**

**To engage in education, reflection, and training in the 2007-2008 biennium related to the issue of sexism through:**

- 1. Receiving annual reports, both written and verbal, by the director for justice for women in accordance with this church's governing documents;**
- 2. Participating in Bible studies, planned and led by the director for justice for women, at the November 2007 meeting of the Church Council;**
- 3. Requesting that the Board Development Committee, in consultation with the director for justice for women, coordinate planning for the July 2008 Church Council retreat on the topic of "scandalous realities"; and**
- 4. Directing that the Board Development Committee, in conjunction with the director for justice for women, evaluate the Church Council's education, reflection, and training related to the issue of sexism in the 2007-2008 biennium and plan for ongoing education, reflection, and training related to the issue of sexism.**

### **3. Role of Church Council and Advisors**

At its November 2006 meeting, the Church Council and its advisors participated in small group discussions about the “role of the Church Council and advisors.” The discussion focused around the following questions:

- In what activities of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America does this council have a stake?
- How do we keep the Plan for Mission before the council?
- How might the leadership of the council make a difference in the life and work of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America?
- in building relationships with members, congregations, synods, pastors, and institutions and agencies;
- in interpreting the Plan for Mission;
- in monitoring commitments;
- in providing adequate mission support;
- in leadership development.
- How does the work of the committees and the way committee reports are given in plenary shape the work of the Church Council?
- How can the relationship between the Church Council and its advisors be strengthened?

The Church Council referred the suggestions for implementation generated by the small groups to the Executive Committee for response. The suggestions for implementation are attached as Exhibit D, Part 2.

#### **CC ACTION**

##### **Recommended:**

**To express gratitude for the contributions of the members of the Church Council and advisors in the small-group discussions at the November 2006 meeting;**

**To refer the information in Exhibit D, Part 2, to the Office of the Presiding Bishop, Executive Committee, and Board Development Committee for use in planning the orientation of newly elected and incumbent members of the Church Council at the November 2007 meeting;**

**To envision that such an orientation will include both (1) a study of the governing documents related to the role of the Church Council and advisory members and (2) attention to building relationships, strengthening communication, focusing on the Plan for Mission, and increasing leadership skills for council effectiveness.**

#### **D. Legal and Constitutional Review Committee**

Action items related to the April 13, 2007, meeting of the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee are detailed below. Additional items or revised actions will be distributed following the committee's meeting.

##### **1. Proposed amendment related to recommendation of Blue Ribbon Committee**

The Blue Ribbon Committee on Mission Funding suggested that greater involvement of the Conference of Bishops be sought in the evaluation of exceptions to the norm for the sharing of unrestricted income provided by congregations for synodical and churchwide mission support.

Provision 10.71. specifies the pattern for the sharing of mission-support income. That provision also allows for the granting of certain exceptions to the normative pattern as established by the Churchwide Assembly: "Each synod shall remit to the churchwide organization a percentage of all donor-unrestricted receipts contributed to it by the congregations of the synod, such percentage to be determined by the Churchwide Assembly. Individual exceptions may be made by the Church Council upon request of a synod."

To implement the blue ribbon committee's recommendation, the following bylaw is proposed.

##### **CC ACTION**

**Recommended:** *To recommend to the 2007 Churchwide Assembly adoption of the following bylaw to allow implementation of the recommendation the blue ribbon committee on mission funding concerning consultation:*

**10.71.01. The mission-support plans of all synods shall be reviewed by the Conference of Bishops. Prior to any decision of the Church Council on a requested exception by a synod on the percentage for sharing donor-unrestricted receipts from congregations, consultation shall occur with, and a recommendation shall be received from, the Conference of Bishops on the request.**

##### **2. Proposed amendments on length of term of youth advisory members**

The Church Council in November 2006—through the Vocation and Education unit—received a resolution that was adopted at the 2006 triennial convention of the Lutheran Youth Organization. The resolution urged a shift from two-year to three-year terms for the youth advisory members of the Church Council to enable such individuals to become better acquainted with the work of the council and issues that are considered by it. The change of the length of term would require a bylaw amendment by the Churchwide Assembly.

##### **CC ACTION**

**Recommended:** *To recommend to the 2007 Churchwide Assembly amendment of the following bylaw related to the length of the term for youth advisory members of the Church Council:*

**14.32.02. The Church Council shall have two youth advisory members, each elected by the board of the youth organization of this church to a ~~two~~ three-year term beginning at the first meeting of the Church Council following each regular meeting of the Churchwide Assembly.**

**3. Proposed amendments related to approval process on candidates**

The Vocation and Education unit, in consultation with the Liaison Committee of the Conference of Bishops, has requested amendment of a bylaw that would include seminaries of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada in the approval process of candidates for ordination, where appropriate.

**CC ACTION**

**Recommended:** *To recommend to the 2007 Churchwide Assembly amendment of the following bylaw:*

**7.31.13. Preparation and Approval. Except as provided below, a candidate for ordination as a pastor shall have:**

...

- 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; (*with the remainder unchanged*).**

**4. Proposed amendments related to formation of European-American Association**

The decision of the Church Council in November 2006 to authorize the formation of a European-American Association in the ELCA prompts the need for two proposed amendments of the bylaws.

**CC ACTION**

**Recommended:** *To recommend to the 2007 Churchwide Assembly amendment of the following bylaws to accomplish the formation of a European-American Association in the ELCA in connection with the Multicultural Ministries unit:*

**14.32.03. The Church Council shall have as advisory members each president, or the designated representative of the president, of the African American Lutheran Association in the ELCA, the Association of Lutherans of Arab and Middle Eastern Heritage, the Association of Asians and Pacific Islanders in the ELCA, the Association of Latino Ministries in the ELCA, and the American Indian and Alaska Native Association in the ELCA, and the European-American Association in the ELCA.**

**19.51.02. The program committee for the Multicultural Ministries unit shall consist of 15 persons, 14 of whom shall be elected to six-year terms by the Churchwide Assembly. The committee shall include two persons from each of the following communities: African American or Black; Arab and Middle Eastern; Asian and Pacific Islander; Latino; American Indian and Alaska Native, European-American, and; ~~multiracial or biracial; and Caucasian.~~ One person shall be elected to a three-year term on the committee by the Multicultural Advisory Committee of the Lutheran Youth Organization.**

**5. Revised continuing resolution related to European-American Association**

The action of the Church Council in November 2006 to authorize the creation of a European-American Association in the ELCA related to the Multicultural Ministries unit prompts the need to amend the continuing resolution related to that unit.

**CC ACTION** *Two-thirds vote required*

**Recommended:**

To amend continuing resolution 16.12.E06. as 16.12.E07. to incorporate references to the newly forming European-American Association in the ELCA: **16.12.E06: 07. Multicultural Ministries Unit**

*The Multicultural Ministries unit shall guide the churchwide organization in the multicultural dimensions of its work. To fulfill these responsibilities, this program unit shall:*

- ...
- m. assist this church in developing and implementing cooperative efforts ~~with~~ among the African American, Black, Arab and Middle Eastern, Asian and Pacific Islander, Latino, American Indian, ~~and~~ Alaska Native, and European-America communities in society, in other Christian communions, and in other religious traditions.*

**6. Amendment of continuing resolution related to ecclesiastical ballot**

Upon line-by-line review of the election procedures related to the use of the ecclesiastical ballot, a lack of clarity was noted. Therefore, an amendment is proposed for continuing resolution 19.61.H98.

**CC ACTION** *Two-thirds vote required*

**Recommended:**

To amend continuing resolution 19.61.H98.c. as 19.61.H07.c., and revise as follows:

**19.61.H98 07. Election Procedures Utilizing the Ecclesiastical Ballot**

- c. On the first two ballots for each office being selected by ecclesiastical or nominating ballot, both the first and last names of a nominee should be used. Members should endeavor to use correct spelling and should provide, on the first ballot, any additional accurate information identifying the nominee, such as title, synod, or residence, etc.*

**7. New continuing resolution on board development**

As a result of discussion at the July 2006 retreat of the Church Council and in view of ongoing efforts to enhance the effectiveness of the council, a new continuing resolution was presented to the November 2006 meeting. Following extensive discussion, the proposed resolution was referred to the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee for further study, including consideration of biennial charters for council committees. If adopted, the following proposed continuing resolution would establish in an ongoing way the *ad hoc* board development committee of the current and past biennia.

Judy Biffle, who has chaired the process for board development since its inception, will bring an update to the Church Council on Sunday afternoon, April 15.

**CC ACTION** *Two-thirds vote required*

**Recommended:**

To adopt the following continuing resolution for the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:*

**14.41.F07. Board Development Committee**

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

**8. Charters for Church Council Committees**

Charters for each committee of the Church Council, revised on a biennial basis after initial development, would enable a committee to outline its specific tasks for the biennium and also indicate a time line for fulfillment of such duties.

**CC ACTION**

**Recommended:**

To request that the Office of the Presiding Bishop—in collaboration with the respective committees—revise the orientation and operation manual for the Church Council to include development early within each biennium of

- (1) a charter of general and specific responsibilities for each committee in the biennium, consistent with the applicable continuing resolutions; and
- (2) a projected time line for the pursuit and fulfillment of those responsibilities.

**9. Churchwide Assembly Rules of Organization and Procedure**

In each biennium, 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.

The text of the proposed rules is in Exhibit G, Part 1. These rules have been developed and refined as a result of the experiences of the nine previous Churchwide Assemblies as well as the experience of predecessor church bodies. The basic change in the current version is the listing of all of the deadlines in one section rather than scattered throughout the rules.

**CC ACTION**

**Recommended:**

To recommend adoption of the following resolution by the voting members of the 2007 Churchwide Assembly:

*To adopt the “Rules of Organization and Procedure” for the 2007 Churchwide Assembly (exclusive of quoted and highlighted constitutional provisions and bylaws that are already in force; and*

To authorize the presiding bishop and the secretary—as planning and agenda preparation for the assembly proceeds— to prepare revisions that may be found necessary for the rules prior to the publication of the rules in the Pre-Assembly Report.

**10. Amendment of continuing resolution 12.41.B04.**

The Vocation and Education unit, in consultation with the Association of Teaching Theologians of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, recommends an additional category of faculty resource persons for the Churchwide Assembly. This would require an amendment to continuing resolution 12.41.B04.

**CC ACTION**

**Recommended:** *Two-thirds required*

**To amend continuing resolution 12.41.B04. as 12.41.B07. to read:**

**12.41.B04 07.** *Seminary Faculty Resource Persons. A representative of the faculty of each seminary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America shall be appointed by the president of each seminary to serve as a seminary faculty resource person for each Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. In addition, a teaching theologian who is a member of a congregation of this church and who is teaching at a college or university of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America may be appointed by the steering committee of the Association of Teaching Theologians in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to serve as a faculty resource person. The faculty representative Faculty resource persons shall have voice, if so granted in the assembly's rules, but not vote in plenary sessions of the assembly. Travel, food, and housing costs for the seminary faculty resource persons shall be an expense of the assembly. Other expenses will be the responsibility of the individual or sending institution.*

**11. Recommendation of amendment of the Model Constitution for Congregations**

To clarify the amendment process for the Model Constitution for Congregations, the following amendments are proposed for consideration by the tenth Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

**CC ACTION**

**Recommended:**

*To recommend to the 2007 Churchwide Assembly the following amendments to the Model Constitution for Congregations:*

- \*C17.01.** *Unless provision \*C17.04. is applicable, those Those sections of this constitution that are not required, in accord with the Model Constitution for Congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, may be amended in the following manner. Amendments may be proposed by at least \_\_\_\_\_ voting members or by the Congregation Council... (with the remainder of the provision unchanged).*
- \*C17.04.** *Whenever the Model Constitution for Congregations is amended by the Churchwide Assembly, this This constitution may be amended to incorporate such amendment bring any section into conformity with a section or sections, either required or not required, of the Model Constitution for Congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America—as most recently amended by the Churchwide*



**Assembly—by a simple majority vote of those voting members present and voting at any subsequent legally called meeting of the congregation without presentation at a prior meeting of the congregation, provided that the Congregation Council has submitted by mail notice to the congregation of such an amendment or amendments, together with the council's recommendations, at least 30 days prior to the meeting. Upon the request of \_\_\_\_\_ voting members of the congregation, the Congregation Council shall submit such notice. Following the adoption of an amendment, the secretary of the congregation shall submit a copy thereof to the synod. Such provisions shall become effective immediately following a vote of approval.**

## **E. Planning and Evaluation Committee**

Action items related to the April 13, 2007, meeting of the Planning and Evaluation Committee are detailed below. Additional items or revised actions will be distributed following the committee's meeting.

### **1. Report on Multicultural Ministries**

In accordance with "Faithful Yet Changing: Design for Mission through the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America," the executive director for multicultural ministries will "...present a comprehensive plan and ongoing evaluation of the churchwide organization's work in the area of multicultural ministries. The plan will be developed collaboratively by churchwide staff from all units and partner organizations and presented, along with an evaluation, to the Church Council (annually) and to the Churchwide Assembly (biennially)."

The 2005 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America approved a resolution of recommitment to ethnic ministry strategies (CA05.05.19) and requested, in part, that "...a report of plans and accomplishments be brought to the 2007 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America."

Sherman Hicks, executive director of the Multicultural Ministries unit, will make a presentation to the Church Council at its April 2007 meeting. The report is printed in Exhibit N, Part 1.

#### **CC ACTION**

##### **Recommended:**

**To receive with gratitude the biennial report on Multicultural Ministries and to commend the Multicultural Ministries program unit and the inter-unit staff team on ethnic ministry strategies for their efforts on behalf of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; and**

**In response to actions of the 2005 Churchwide Assembly, to transmit the biennial report on Multicultural Ministries to the 2007 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, commending the content of the report for study, reflection, and response throughout this church.**

### **2. Report on Justice for Women**

In accordance with "Faithful Yet Changing: Design for Mission through the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America," the director for justice for women will "...present a comprehensive plan and ongoing evaluation of the churchwide organization's work in this area. The plan will be developed collaboratively by churchwide staff from all units and partner organizations and be presented, along with an annual evaluation, to the Church Council (annually), as well as to the Churchwide Assembly (biennially)."

The 2005 Churchwide Assembly of the ELCA voted (CA05.04.09):

... To have a full report by the director for justice for women to the 2007

Churchwide Assembly describing the work of this whole church in addressing the full participation of women and describing how this new staff structure has affected our ability as a church to address the scandalous reality of sexism in the church and society.

Mary Streufert, director for justice for women, will make a presentation to the Church Council at its April 2007 meeting. The report is printed in Exhibit K, Parts 2-2a.

**CC ACTION**

**Recommended:**

**To receive with gratitude the biennial report on Justice for Women and to commend the Church in Society program unit and the consulting committee on Justice for Women for their efforts on behalf of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; and**

**In response to actions of the 2005 Churchwide Assembly, to transmit the biennial report on Justice for Women to the 2007 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, commending the content of the report for study, reflection, and response throughout this church.**

## **F. Program and Services Committee**

Action items related to the April 12-13, 2007, meeting of the Program and Services Committee are detailed below. Additional items or revised actions will be distributed following the committee's meeting.

### **1. Social Statement on Education**

"Our Calling in Education" is the text of the proposed social statement on education for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Work on this statement was authorized at the 2001 ELCA Churchwide Assembly. The goals for the social statement are to: 1) present a Lutheran vision of education for our time; 2) address issues of education and schooling for children and young people in our society, with attention to purpose and quality, equity and access for all, responsibilities, and religion's role in public schooling; 3) set forth an understanding of our church's own educational institutions (e.g., pre-school, primary and secondary schools, and colleges and universities); and 4) consider our church's ministries in relation to public schools and universities and the vocation of those involved in education in different roles. If approved by the 2007 Churchwide Assembly, it will be the ninth social statement of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

The development and adoption of social statements by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America are guided by the document *Policies and Procedures of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for Addressing Social Concerns*, adopted by the 1997 Churchwide Assembly and revised by the Church Council in 2006. At the time of the inception of this social statement, the board of the Division for Church in Society had the responsibility to: name an appropriate group to study the topic; encourage broad participation by congregations and members of this church; and provide for a study document and/or preliminary draft, designed for study and response. Both the Church Council and the Conference of Bishops are fora for deliberation on preliminary documents.

Work on this social statement began in 2003 with the appointment by the board of the Division for Church in Society of a task force to oversee development of study materials, a first draft, and a final draft on the topic of education. Members of the task force included Dr. Robert Benne; Ms. Shirley A. Brown; Dr. Marcia Bunge; Pr. Michael Domenech; Dr. Paul J Dovre (co-chair); Ms. Christi Lines (co-chair); Ms. Marlene Lund; Dr. Susan W. McArver; Dr. David Pellauer; Ms. Ann Fretwell Schmidt; Dr. Barry Smith; Mr. Don Strickland; Bp. Harold Usgaard; Dr. Emily Van Dunk; Dr. Grace Wolf-Chase; Pr. Jean A. Zietlow. Program Committee advisors included Dr. Kathryn Johnson, Vocation and Education and Pr. Rosa Key, Church in Society. Staff members included Dr. Ronald Duty and Dr. John Stumme (lead studies staff). Other staff included Mr. Mark Carlson, Ms. Diane Monroe, Ms. Mary Nasby Lohre, Ms. Sue Rothmeyer, Dr. Mark Wilhelm, and Ms. Marilyn Campbell.

As part of the development process, the task force scheduled listening posts in a variety of locations in this church. It prepared and distributed a study document; responses to the study document helped to inform development of the first draft of the social statement.

The first draft of the social statement was distributed in the winter of 2005. Over 225 written responses to the first draft were received. In addition, synods hosted 48 hearings in 40 synods, including for the first time one bilingual hearing and one conducted in Spanish.

The proposed social statement, “Our Calling in Education,” was reviewed by the program committee for the Church in Society unit in March 2007 and referred to the Church Council for consideration by Rebecca Larson, executive director for the Church in Society unit.

In accordance with these policies and procedures, the ELCA Church Council is receiving “Our Calling Education” at its April 2007 meeting, and will vote to transmit the document for consideration by the 2007 ELCA Churchwide Assembly.

The Church Council “...shall review and act upon the recommendations of the executive director of the Church in Society unit (ELCA 14.21.01., 14.21.03.). The Church Council shall approve the text of proposed social statements and recommend the text to the Churchwide Assembly (ELCA 12.12.01.). Prior to a published deadline before a meeting of the Church Council, any voting member of the council who wishes to suggest an amendment to the proposed social statement shall submit it to the chair of the Program and Services Committee. The Program and Services Committee will make a recommendation concerning the proposed amendment to the Church Council, which will act upon that recommendation.” (*Policies and Procedures of the ELCA for Addressing Social Concerns*, page 15). The deadline for suggested amendments from members of the Church Council is April 9, 2007, at 12:00 noon.

The text of the social statement is printed in Exhibit K, Part 1. Any specific recommendations related to the text will be distributed following the meeting of the Program and Services Committee.

**CC ACTION**

***To recommend adoption by the 2007 Churchwide***

**Recommended:**

***Assembly of the following resolution:***

- 1. To adopt “Our Calling in Education” as a social statement of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, in accordance with “Policies and Procedures of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for Addressing Social Concerns” (2006); and**

***Faith Formation and Lifelong Learning***

- 2. To embrace our legacy as a teaching and learning church with gratitude and new vigor, and to pray for God’s guidance and power to renew and live boldly our calling in education for a new century; and**
- 3. To call upon congregations and families to educate all generations in the faith and to be partners in creating and funding compelling and creative curricula and programs for all ages—children, youth, and adults—thus forming an environment of living faith; and**
- 4. To call upon members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to renew their calling in education as students, parents, educators, and citizens and to live out their baptismal vocation as lifelong learners in the faith and in their knowledge of the world; and**
- 5. To call upon the program units for Evangelical Outreach and Congregational Mission and Vocation and Education to collaborate with Augsburg Fortress to continue and expand the provision of creative and comprehensive resources necessary to enable parents and congregations to help form the faith of all generations; and**
- 6. To call upon the presiding bishop, synodical bishops, and the Evangelical Outreach and Congregational Mission and Vocation and Education units to**

**work with Augsburg Fortress and other churchwide units persistently and persuasively to ensure that Christian education for all ages (adult, children, youth, and family ministry) is a priority in congregational life, seminary education, and synodical planning; and**

- 7. To call upon the Evangelical Outreach and Congregational Mission, Vocation and Education, and Augsburg Fortress program units to work with synods, regions, congregations, rostered leaders, the Lutheran Association of Christian Educators, Lutheran outdoor ministries, seminaries, and other groups and organizations to share best practices for Christian education and faith formation, and to encourage their use in congregations and other ministries; and**
- 8. To call upon ELCA seminaries and other teaching institutions of this church to continue their emphasis on preparing pastors, diaconal ministers, deaconesses, associates in ministry, and lay people for excellence in the practice of teaching Christian education and faith formation in service of lifelong learning; and**
- 9. To give thanks to God and recognize members who are educators in public, Lutheran, and other private schools at all levels of education, to encourage congregations to support them in their callings as educators, and to urge members and all expressions of this church to encourage youth and others to enter these callings; and**

*Public Educational Institutions*

- 10. To call upon all schools to prepare students for living in a complex and global society as persons who are capable of critical thinking, continuing personal growth and concern for others, family responsibility, civic participation, artistic appreciation, productive work, and financial responsibility; and**
- 11. To call upon members of this church to advocate for equitable access to an excellent education for all children and youth, to support early childhood education, their public schools, colleges, and universities, advocating for policies that provide adequate resources and their fair distribution for these educational institutions; and**
- 12. To call upon members and congregations to develop strong connections with their public schools and to work with others to ensure high quality education for all students; and**
- 13. To call upon this church's advocacy ministries to support legislative initiatives that improve public schools and **ensure** excellent education for all students in ways that are consistent with this social statement and to support financial aid and tuition policies that provide more equitable access for low- and middle-income students to higher education; and**

*Lutheran Institutions*

- 14. To recognize and affirm early childhood education centers, elementary and secondary schools, colleges and universities, seminaries, campus ministries, and outdoor ministries of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as part of this church's mission, and to call upon this church's leaders publicly and actively to support them; and**

15. To call upon this church's colleges, universities, seminaries, and lifelong learning partners to prepare and sustain leaders for schools and early childhood education centers of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and to provide ongoing professional development opportunities for them; to expect sponsoring congregations to ensure that their schools and early childhood education centers provide high quality Lutheran education; to encourage non-sponsoring congregations as well as synods to be in partnership with them; and to call upon the Vocation and Education unit to convene consultations throughout this church for the purpose of addressing the challenges and opportunities facing ELCA schools and early childhood education centers; and
16. To call upon synods and congregations to support ELCA colleges and universities in their ministry of preparing people to fulfill their vocations in Church and world; to call upon the Vocation and Education unit to continue its support of ELCA colleges and universities through the convening of administrators and faculty; and to call upon the Vocation and Education unit to convene consultations throughout this church for the purpose of furthering the respective and mutual ministries of ELCA colleges and universities and this church; and
17. To call upon synods and congregations to support campus ministries and to call upon the Vocation and Education unit to convene consultations throughout this church for the purpose of addressing the challenges and opportunities facing Lutheran campus ministry and developing a strategy to increase financial support, build new and stronger partnerships, and take such additional actions as may enhance the effectiveness and sustainability of this vital ministry; and
18. To affirm the Study of Theological Education, as approved by the 1995 Churchwide Assembly, and its continuing value as a guide for the strengthening of the ELCA's theological education network; and  
*Social Statement Reception*
19. To call upon the Church in Society, Evangelical Outreach and Congregational Mission, and Vocation and Education units, in cooperation with other churchwide units, to provide leadership and consultation for synods, seminary clusters and networks, and congregations on the basis of this social statement; and
20. To call upon the Vocation and Education, Evangelical Outreach and Congregational Mission units, in consultation with the Church in Society unit, to collaborate with Augsburg Fortress to develop educational resources to study and act upon this social statement; and
21. To call upon teaching theologians, bishops, pastors, diaconal ministers, associates in ministry, deaconesses, educators, and others to continue to deepen the theoretical and practical understanding of our calling in education, through intellectual discourse and continued reflection; and
22. To call upon all congregations, synods, early childhood education centers, elementary and secondary schools, colleges and universities, seminaries, campus ministries, outdoor ministries, social ministry organizations, public policy advocacy ministries, and all churchwide units to carry out the substance and spirit of this statement; and

**23. To call upon the program units for Vocation and Education, Church in Society, Evangelical Outreach and Congregational Mission, and Augsburg Fortress to oversee a process of implementation and accountability for this social statement and to report on implementation of this social statement to the Church Council in 2009.**

**Amendments to Social Statement on Education**

**[See agenda page 25.1]**

**2. Book of Faith: Lutherans Read the Bible**

*A Consultation and a Proposed Initiative*

In response to many voices calling for an ELCA effort to renew its engagement with Scripture and Lutheran approaches to the Bible, including a memorial from the North Carolina Synod considered by the 2005 Churchwide Assembly (CA05.06.27), an ad hoc committee has been at work for almost two years. The Office of the Presiding Bishop, the Office of the Secretary, Augsburg Fortress, Publishers, and the Vocation and Education unit, in regular conversation with the Conference of Bishops and others, developed an initial proposal for a consultation and a five-year initiative.

As word spread of the draft proposal and when The Lutheran and ELCA news service reported that such an initiative was under consideration in the ELCA, many individuals submitted suggestions, expressed strong support, and indicated an interest in participating in some way. These also shaped the concept.

The Church Council was kept apprised of the development of the initiative by regular reports. At its November 2006 meeting, the council voted (CC06.11.55):

To receive the report of the ad hoc committee for a five-year initiative, "Book of Faith: Lutherans Read the Bible";

To affirm the planned January 2007 consultation, "Book of Faith: Lutherans Read the Bible";

To direct that a report on the proposed initiative be prepared, with recommendations and expenditure plan, for consideration by the Church Council in April 2007;

To request that a report and overview of the initiative, "Book of Faith: Lutherans Read the Bible," be developed for possible recommendation by the Church Council to the 2007 Churchwide Assembly; and

To assign direction of this initiative to the presiding bishop, with programmatic implementation to be carried out by the Vocation and Education unit.

*Consultation—January 2007*

The committee planned a consultation, "Book of Faith: Lutherans Read the Bible." Its purpose was to explore issues around Lutheran understandings of the authority of Scripture and to lay groundwork for the proposed initiative.

Some 90 people were gathered in January 2007 for the consultation. These included lay people and rostered leaders, parish pastors, teaching theologians, bishops, specialists in such areas as worship, preaching, and theological education for all ages, and Augsburg Fortress staff. Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson convened the conversation with an opening address. Keynote speakers were Professor Diane Jacobson of Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minn., and Professor Erik Heen, Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, Penn. In a variety of ways, the consultation dwelt in the Word through worship, hearing, and study. The three presentations are available online at [www.elca.org/bookoffaith](http://www.elca.org/bookoffaith). For participants, see Exhibit O, Part 1a.

Much of the consultation was devoted to eight working groups on aspects and arenas of the Bible's place in Christian life: adult studies; children and the Bible; ethics, daily life and contemporary issues; evangelizing and outreach; hermeneutics; theological education; worship and preaching; and youth and young adult ministries.



**Amendments to Social Statement on Education**

Amendments to the social statement recommended by the Program and Services Committee in consultation with the Church in Society program unit and co-chair of the task force, Dr. Paul Dovre, are printed in Exhibit K, Part 1, Appendix 1.

**CC ACTION**

**Recommended:**

**To approve the amendments to the social statement on education as printed in Exhibit K, Part 1, Appendix 1.**

Each group addressed the needs and opportunities in that area and moved toward initial identification of elements that might be part of the initiative.

*The Book of Faith Initiative*

A proposal for a five-year Book of Faith initiative has been developed from the consultation. The initiative would pursue the dual objective of broader and deeper engagement with Scripture in the ELCA and a renewed teaching and use of Lutheran approaches to Scripture, which have proven fruitful for 500 years. Book of Faith would not be merely a theme or emphasis that would be succeeded by other emphases. Rather, the intent is to form culture and customs in this church that will open it to a new level of valuing and being shaped by the power of the Word.

Although decisions about what would be included await approval of the initiative by the Church Council and the Churchwide Assembly, there is a clear consensus on several things that would help the ELCA seize the opportunity God is giving it now. There is a call for: new learning resources for all ages; wider awareness of what is already available; common effort with Renewing Worship; an accessible resource on Lutheran approaches to Scripture (hermeneutics); a study of effective teaching methods for all ages; support in experiencing meditative uses of the Bible; and enabling the evangelizing use of the Scripture. Again and again, participants encouraged making use of emerging technologies for communication and taking particular interest in youth and young adults.

The initiative would aim to engage all expressions of the ELCA—congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization—as well as outdoor and campus ministries, colleges and universities, seminaries, and other agencies and institutions. Augsburg Fortress is committed enthusiastically to the effort and would collaborate with the Vocation and Education unit in leading the churchwide organization's involvement. Leaders of the Women of the ELCA have expressed interest in building on their long role in engaging the Scriptures. The board of Lutheran Men in Mission at its February 2007 meeting voted to support the proposal for the Book of Faith initiative. The committee for the Hein Fry Lecture Series already has committed to collaborate with this initiative as it plans for the next several years.

Ecumenical and global contexts and partnerships will be important in this effort. Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson, in his capacity as president of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF), addressed the 60th anniversary celebration of the LWF in Lund, Sweden, and said, "I believe that central to this fundamental ecumenism will be renewed and new practices of hearing, reading, and studying Scripture together, both within our communion and with our companion churches. Could the decade leading up to 2017 have this as a primary and public focus? In our multicultural communion, can we commit to becoming fluent in the first language of faith—the language of Scripture? It is very important that we build upon the results of the LWF study published in *Witnessing to God's Faithfulness: Issues of Biblical Authority*."

Expenditures for 2007, the initiative's first year, are anticipated to be less than \$50,000 and will come from the Vocation and Education budget and from a designated fund that was established by the Church Council for the proposed consultation and initiative. The draft Vocation and Education budget for 2008 contains \$166,000 for the initiative. This would supply staff, support, and resources, including some Web development. The planning committee assumes that some projects, such as publication of major resources, expanded efforts for a particular age

group, or expansion of Web usage, would require special subventions that might come in the form of designated gifts or grants.

Augsburg Fortress, Publishers, the publishing ministry of the ELCA, has been fully represented in the planning of the consultation and initiative. Augsburg Fortress and the Vocation and Education unit anticipate a broad partnership, parallel to that between the churchwide organization and publishing ministry for the Renewing Worship project. Augsburg Fortress is prepared to commit staff and financial resources to the initiative.

The following resolutions were formulated by the planning committee and Vocation and Education staff in consultation with the Office of the Secretary, the Office of the Presiding Bishop, and with those who participated in the January consultation.

### **CC ACTION**

**Recommended:**            *To recommend adoption by the 2007 Churchwide Assembly of the following resolution:*

**To rejoice with the whole Church of Jesus Christ in the revelation of God's Word conveyed to the people of every generation, declaring God's gifts of mercy and grace, forgiveness and hope, reconciliation and peace, and to confess that we often have failed to hear and heed the Word of God and to benefit from God's gifts; and**

**To give thanks for the Bible through which the Word of God has spoken to God's people throughout the ages; and**

**To remember with enduring esteem the multitudes throughout the ages who embraced the tradition received by the community of the faithful and passed to succeeding generations the glad news of God's steadfast love; and**

**To recall with gratitude the work of Martin Luther and that of the other reformers whose Word-inspired renewal grew from their study of Scripture; and**

**To acknowledge with joy the power of the Word of God in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, evident in many ways, including:**

- a. The affirmations of the constitutional Confession of Faith that**
  - + "Jesus Christ is the Word of God,"**
  - + "The proclamation of God's message to us as both Law and Gospel is the Word of God...,"**
  - + "The canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the written Word of God" (provision 2.02.a, b, and c), and**
  - + "This church accepts the canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as the inspired Word of God and the authoritative source and norm of its proclamation, faith and life" (provision 2.03.);**
- b. The empowered proclamation, study, teaching, worship, meditation, song, community, and service through which the people of this church daily hear, share, and live the witness of Scripture;**
- c. The members, congregations, synods, churchwide ministries, agencies, institutions, and networks of this church, and their planning and programs, including the ELCA Plan for Mission adopted in 2005, which are undergirded by the Bible and seek faithfully to express God's Word; and**

**To recognize that one of the six constitutionally stated purposes for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America through its congregations, synods,**

churchwide ministries, and related institutions and agencies is to nurture members “in the Word of God so as to grow in faith and hope and love, to see daily life as the primary setting for the exercise of their Christian calling, and to use the gifts of the Spirit for their life together and for their calling in the world” (provision 4.02.e.); and

To embrace the passion and commitment that is richly shared among people of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for the witness of Scripture in forming and guiding the members of this church individually and corporately in daily life; and

To express the hope and desire that—in the time leading up to the ELCA’s 25th anniversary in 2012 and to the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation in 2017—this church will be sustained and renewed by the Word of God, thereby fostering deeper and broader use and understanding of Scripture for the life of disciples; and

To recognize and give thanks that the Word of God speaks and is valued throughout Christ’s Church and that, globally and ecumenically, there are other movements and occasions for renewed attention to the authority of the Bible that will inform and enhance our own understanding, including the work already begun and anticipated in the Lutheran World Federation, the recent proposal among the U.S. Reformed churches for a Lutheran-Reformed consultation on the authority and role of the Word of God in the life of the churches, and the Roman Catholic Church’s intention to celebrate in 2015 the 50th anniversary of the Vatican II statement *Dei Verbum*; and

To acknowledge with gratitude the action of the 2005 North Carolina Synod Assembly in memorializing this church to undertake a renewed study of the authority of Scripture in the life of the Church.

#### CC ACTION

**Recommended:** *To recommend adoption by the 2007 Churchwide Assembly of the following resolution:*

To invite and encourage all members, expressions, institutions, and partners of this church to commit themselves regularly and increasingly to hearing, reading, studying, sharing, and being formed by God’s Word; and

To call members, congregations, synods, churchwide ministries, and institutions and agencies of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to engage in a five-year collaborative initiative-identified as “Book of Faith: Lutherans Read the Bible”—with the goal of raising to a new level this church’s individual and collective engagement with the Bible and its teaching, yielding greater biblical fluency, deeper worship and devotion, and a more profound appreciation of Lutheran principles and approaches for the use of Scripture; and

To urge that this initiative be designed and carried out in ways that affirm the Bible’s power through the work of the Holy Spirit to speak in all settings and to all ages, with attention to individual and corporate use of the Bible by members and leaders in worship, devotion, study, proclamation, teaching, moral formation, addressing social issues, and evangelizing; and

To commit the churchwide organization to substantial engagement in this initiative in extensive collaboration with synods and congregations; and

To request that the presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in

**America—who “as its pastor, shall be a teacher of the faith of this church and shall provide leadership for the life and witness of this church” (provision 13.21.)—lead this initiative personally and through collaborative programmatic work with the Vocation and Education unit in partnership with Augsburg Fortress, Publishers, as the publishing ministry of this church, and many others; and**

**To anticipate the wide availability and use of a rich constellation of existing and new resources as well as the creative use of new means of communication, mindful of the global and ecumenical context in exploration of the nature and authority of Scripture in the life of individuals and the whole Church; and**

**To affirm funding of the churchwide organization’s share of this “Book of Faith” initiative primarily through the regular operating budget in recognition not only that this initiative is of foundational and ongoing importance, but also in confidence that support for mission will grow from congregations through synods for churchwide ministries; and**

**To look beyond the time and scope of the “Book of Faith” initiative to what can be built on that work and to other ways in which God’s Word will continually renew this church.**

### **3. Affirmation of *Evangelical Lutheran Worship***

The 2005 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America affirmed the outcomes of the five-year Renewing Worship project and anticipated the 2006 publication of *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (CA05.03.05, partially quoted in the action below).

*Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (ELW) was released on October 3, 2007, as part of a new series of worship resources—the primary resource in an unfolding family of new worship resources that will be available in print and in electronic form—and early sales have been brisk. Nearly 600,000 volumes of the ELW were ordered in 2006; the fifth printing is now available.

Introductory efforts will culminate in “Worship Jubilee 2007,” a churchwide worship event designed to feature the flexibility of *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* and further the ongoing work of worship renewal throughout the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Worship Jubilee 2007 will be held at Navy Pier in Chicago prior to the 2007 ELCA Churchwide Assembly.

The Church Council is requested to consider the following resolution for transmittal to the 2007 ELCA Churchwide Assembly.

#### **CC ACTION**

**Recommended:** *To recommend adoption by the 2007 Churchwide Assembly of the following resolution:*

**To remember with joy that one of the six primary purposes of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is to “worship God in proclamation of the Word and administration of the sacraments and through lives of prayer, praise, thanksgiving, witness, and service,” (ELCA constitutional provision 4.02.d); and**

**To applaud the 1997 statement of this church, *The Use of the Means of Grace: A Statement on the Practice of Word and Sacrament*, for the way that statement has contributed to the development of worship resources and continues to provide guidance for the ministry of Word and sacrament; and**

To recall with gratitude the action of the Church Council in 2000 that authorized the “ELCA Next Generation of Worship Resources,” the churchwide effort that came to be known as Renewing Worship; and

To acknowledge the subsequent action of the 2005 Churchwide Assembly regarding the ways in which the Renewing Worship effort:

1. reinforced the importance of widespread participation in the ongoing work of worship renewal;
2. affirmed a collaborative approach to the development of worship resources, drawing on the wisdom of individuals, congregations, pastors, musicians, synodical bishops, teaching theologians and other leaders, institutions and agencies;
3. demonstrated this church’s commitment to thorough liturgical and theological review of materials intended for use in worshiping assemblies, and;
4. encouraged and allowed for the completion of the new primary book of worship, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*; and

To express gratitude for:

- those who have provided leadership and oversight for the various facets of the development of *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*;
- the widespread participation in introductory events, and to give thanks for the many individuals and synodical teams who have provided leadership in introducing *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*; and

To convey appreciation—through the national bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada—to the pastors, bishops, and many individuals and congregations throughout the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada who contributed to the development and introduction of *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*; and

To receive with thanksgiving *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* and celebrate the ways in which it:

- bears the rich tradition of Christian worship practiced among Lutherans and, at the same time, seeks to renew that tradition in response to a generation of change in the Church and in the world;
- reflects a body of prayer and song that are worthy to hold in common, consistent with the commitment to the treasury of Christian worship affirmed in the Lutheran confessions;
- is grounded in Lutheran convictions about the centrality of the means of grace;
- continues to emphasize that freedom and flexibility in worship is a Lutheran inheritance, and therefore the book is designed to make more transparent the principle of fostering unity without imposing uniformity;
- represents the gifts of the breadth of the Church of Christ, and prizes the words and songs Lutherans hold in common with other Christians, while at the same time extending the particular accents of the Lutheran heritage as gifts to the whole Church; and
- reflects the understanding that worship is fundamentally about what God does, bringing to expression how God nourishes the people of the Church for mission and accompanies them as they bear the creative and redeeming Word of God, Jesus Christ, to the whole world; and

To commit the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to the ongoing work of renewing worship, understanding that:

- worship takes place in particular assemblies within particular contexts, yet

every assembly gathered by the Holy Spirit for worship is connected to the whole Church;

- each Christian assembly worships in the midst of an ever-changing world; and
- worship is renewed in order to be both responsible and responsive to the world that the Church is called to serve.

#### 4. Churchwide Strategy on HIV and AIDS

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, including its predecessor church bodies, has a long history of work related to HIV and AIDS. Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson and several representatives from this church participated in the International AIDS Conference and ecumenical pre-conference event in July 2006. Following the conference, Bishop Hanson encouraged consideration by the Church Council and the 2007 Churchwide Assembly of a request to develop a comprehensive churchwide strategy on HIV and AIDS.

A planning group was organized, which includes representatives from the Church in Society unit, the Global Mission unit, the Communications section, and the Office of the Presiding Bishop. In November 2006, a larger group was convened involving members of an existing interunit staff working group on HIV and AIDS, missionaries, advocacy staff, and others. Prior to the meeting, staff conducted an inventory of existing work, policies, and funds that support AIDS ministries in this church. The meeting consisted of an asset-mapping process designed to lead to the development of a comprehensive strategy on AIDS ministries in this church.

The resolution below was considered by the program units for Global Mission and Church in Society and was submitted by the units' executive directors. It is recommended that the Church Council consider the resolution for transmission to the 2007 Churchwide Assembly for action.

Following approval by the Churchwide Assembly, a consultation will be planned to deepen and extend this church's ministry in HIV and AIDS in partnership with others.

#### CC ACTION

**Recommended:** *To recommend adoption by the 2007 Churchwide Assembly of the following resolution:*

[NOTE: the "whereas" clauses will be the basis for background narrative that will precede the recommended action in the Pre-Assembly Report. The narrative will be prepared by the Global Mission and Church in Society program units in consultation with the Office of the Secretary.]

— **WHEREAS, 65 million people have been infected with the HIV virus, of whom 25 million have died of AIDS since the late 1980s<sup>1</sup>; and**

**WHEREAS, 2.9 million people died last year from AIDS and the number of people worldwide living with HIV and AIDS increased to 39.5 million; and**

**WHEREAS, the AIDS epidemic is a human tragedy of massive proportion, affecting individuals and families of all races, religions, economic status, and social position on all continents; and**

**WHEREAS, in a rare, unanimous, international consensus, the 189 nations signing the Declaration of Commitment at the 2001 United Nations General Assembly on HIV and AIDS described AIDS as one of the greatest development crises in human history and committed themselves to act nationally and internationally to stop the epidemic; and**

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<sup>1</sup> Statistics in this resolution have been taken from the UN AIDS Report on the Global AIDS Epidemic, 2006.

**WHEREAS, the United Nations 2006 High-Level Review Meeting on HIV and AIDS reaffirmed the 2001 General Assembly Declaration, acknowledged the failures of the past five years, and committed governments at a national level to develop national level targets to move towards universal access to comprehensive prevention programs, treatment, care, and support by 2010; and**

**WHEREAS, the United Nations 2006 High-Level Review Meeting on HIV and AIDS also committed governments to undertake "comprehensive reviews in 2008 and 2011, within the annual reviews of the General Assembly, of the progress achieved in realizing the [2001] Declaration of Commitment on HIV and AIDS ...."; and**

**WHEREAS the 2006 G8 Summit in Gleneagles made a commitment to the goal of achieving universal access to treatment by 2010; and**

**WHEREAS, "Stop AIDS. Keep the Promise" (2005-2010) is the theme of the World AIDS Campaign, with the goal to ensure that governments and organizations, including religious organizations and leaders, keep the promises they have made to respond to AIDS effectively; and**

**WHEREAS, the HIV and AIDS crisis has had a disproportionate impact on Sub-Saharan Africa, as evidenced by the following facts:**

- **2.1 million—70 percent of AIDS-related deaths worldwide—occurred in Sub-Saharan Africa;**
- **nine percent of children under 15 in the region—over 12 million children—have lost one or more parent to AIDS;**
- **the highest HIV incidence rates in the world are found in southern Africa, with one-fifth to one-third of adult populations in some countries being HIV-positive; and**

**WHEREAS, significant advances have been achieved both in knowledge about HIV and AIDS and in medical options for treatment since the virus was identified in the late 1980s; and**

**WHEREAS, some countries have been able to reduce the incidence rate within their populations through intentional and coordinated efforts involving governments, international organizations, churches, businesses, medical institutions, and non-governmental organizations; and**

**WHEREAS, the economic poverty of individuals, communities, and countries has a significant impact on the spread of HIV and often limits access to life-saving and life-prolonging drugs, nutrition, and therapies<sup>2</sup>; and**

**WHEREAS, the spread of HIV has led to the even greater economic impoverishment of already poor communities, especially on the African continent; and**

**WHEREAS, the AIDS epidemic is poised to expand dramatically in other parts of the world (e.g., parts of Asia and the Caribbean) unless intentional action is taken quickly; and**

**WHEREAS, although progress has been made in reducing the stigmatization related to HIV and AIDS, fear and prejudice continue to cause pain and exclusion for those living with the virus and their circle of family and friends; and**

**WHEREAS, the ELCA, in partnership with ecumenical, interfaith, and**

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<sup>2</sup> According to the UN AIDS's analysis, less than a quarter of the 4.6 million people in Sub-Saharan Africa who need anti-retroviral therapy receive it.



**secular partners, has responded to the realities of HIV and AIDS within communities and throughout this country; and**

**WHEREAS, the ELCA has a long history of ministry with both companion churches and ecumenical, interfaith, and community-based partners in Africa and other countries, and has been deeply engaged with them in ministries to and with persons living with HIV and AIDS; and**

**WHEREAS, many of the ELCA's companion churches in Africa requested that the ELCA increase its efforts and "go the second mile" to walk with them as they respond to the AIDS crisis and as they seek justice for those affected by this disease; and**

**WHEREAS, the ELCA affirmed Stand With Africa: A Campaign of Hope in 2001 and three years later made the campaign an ongoing emphasis within the ELCA World Hunger Appeal in order to have the resources better to assist companion churches and agencies engaged in HIV and AIDS ministries in Africa, while continuing to assist companions from other continents through ongoing ELCA ministries and World Hunger support; and**

**WHEREAS, through companion synod relationships, knowledge among ELCA members—both of the impact of HIV and AIDS on the ministries of companion churches and the possibilities for effective common action—has grown over the last decade; and**

**WHEREAS, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America understands that it is called both to respond through its ministries to the 1.4 million people living with HIV on this continent and to address the global crisis, both as a member of the Lutheran World Federation and as a part of the wider ecumenical community; and**

**WHEREAS, twenty-five years into the AIDS epidemic, the United Nations has called on the nations of the world to transform the global response to AIDS "from an episodic, crisis management approach to a thoughtful, long-term response that emphasizes the use of evidence-based strategies and recognizes the need for long-term commitment"<sup>3</sup>; therefore be it**

**RESOLVED, that the 2007 ELCA Churchwide Assembly:**

**To C commit the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to a deeper engagement in addressing the AIDS epidemic through the development of a churchwide strategy for action in the coming decade, which will:**

- build on the experience and commitments of the past and the strength of ELCA congregations, synods, churchwide structures, institutions, and agencies;**
  - utilize the best thinking of ELCA experts, practitioners, congregational leaders, related institutions and agencies, and people living with HIV and AIDS, as well as ecumenical and global companions, in the development of this strategy;**
  - express the ELCA's commitment to work in cooperation with the Lutheran World Federation, in tandem with ecumenical partners both in this country and throughout the world;**
  - express the ELCA's commitment to engage proactively with others of good will in civil society and in government as they respond to the AIDS crisis;**
- and**

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<sup>3</sup> UN AIDS, Report on the Global AIDS Epidemic, 2006, p. 282.

- **continue to move from crisis management to a more integrated, effective, and sustainable long-term response to the AIDS epidemic; and**  
**To E express its the solidarity of the ELCA with all people who are living with HIV and AIDS and with their families, both in this country and throughout the world:**
- **recognizing and giving thanks for the gifts, skills, and experience that people living with HIV and AIDS bring to addressing the pandemic, and committing this church to work closely with them in its response;**
- **rejecting categorically the stigma and discrimination that are at times associated with HIV and AIDS;**
- **working to ensure universal access both to compassionate care and to effective treatment and prevention;**
- **engaging in education to prevent the further spread of HIV and AIDS; and**
- **providing a welcome in all aspects of church and congregational life to people living with or affected by HIV and AIDS; and**  
**To E encourage ELCA members, congregations, agencies and institutions, synods, and the churchwide organization, at the same time this strategy is being developed, to:**
- **continue and extend their ministries among and with people living with HIV and AIDS;**
- **pray for people directly affected by HIV and AIDS and for churches, communities, and governments, that they may have both the will and the wisdom to act boldly and effectively to address this crisis;**
- **intensify their support for the second-mile Stand With Africa campaign as well as the broader World Hunger Appeal, which enable this church to assist companions throughout the world as they respond to the AIDS crisis; and**
- **advocate with the U.S. government, urging it to:**
  1. **demonstrate global leadership to achieve agreed international goals including universal access to treatment, care and prevention by 2010;**
  2. **contribute its proportionate share to fully fund The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria;**
  3. **abolish its extraordinary requirements that make it difficult and painful for people living with HIV to receive a visa to enter the United States for any purpose, and prohibit discrimination against people living with HIV and AIDS; and**
- **To C convey its the deep appreciation of this church:**
- **to all those who provide care and support for those living with HIV and AIDS and those who seek a cure for this disease, in particular those members of this church who live out their Christian vocation as nurses, doctors, health researchers, and care providers;**
- **to ELCA pastors and congregations actively engaged in ministry with people living with HIV and AIDS as they support, counsel, and advocate with them for just and compassionate action in the church and in the wider society;**
- **to all those who have provided financial support to HIV and AIDS research and care, both in this country and throughout the world;**
- **to all those ELCA members whose financial gifts have enabled the ELCA to walk with companion churches in their response to the AIDS crisis, in particular through their “second mile” giving to the World Hunger Appeal’s**

- Stand With Africa campaign and companion synod action;**
- **to Lutheran social ministry organizations, hospitals, health facilities, and voluntary organizations, including the Lutheran AIDS Network (LANET), that provide assistance to people living with HIV and AIDS as well as leadership in church and society on this issue;**
  - **to The Lutheran World Federation, Lutheran World Relief, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, ecumenical agencies (both domestic and global), and others with which the ELCA partners to provide care, address the impact of HIV and AIDS in communities, prevent the further spread of the disease, and advocate with governments to step up their action in addressing this epidemic; and**
  - **to companion churches in other countries, with which the ELCA is privileged to walk in ministry, as they respond to often overwhelming human need resulting from the spread of HIV; and**
- To R request that the Church in Society and Global Mission program units take the lead in developing this strategy, which will be brought to the Church Council for adoption in 2008 and reported to the 2009 Churchwide Assembly.**

## **5. World Hunger Appeal**

In fall of 1998, staff of the World Hunger Appeal and Program in the former divisions for Congregational Ministries and Church in Society discussed with a variety of groups the possibility of using the 25th anniversary of the World Hunger Program in 1999 to encourage renewed interest and giving for the World Hunger Appeal. At its October 1998 meeting, the Conference of Bishops voted to encourage the Church Council to affirm plans for a 25th anniversary celebration of the World Hunger Program as a special accent in this church during 1999 and called on congregations and individuals to support this effort. The bishops also affirmed a goal of raising \$25 million in honor of the 25th anniversary of the ELCA World Hunger Program.

Since that time, the World Hunger Appeal has grown and in 2006 reached a milestone, with more than \$20 million contributed in one year.

The Administrative Team, in consultation with staff of the World Hunger Appeal, the Church in Society unit, and Development Services, has requested the Church Council to recommend that the 2007 Churchwide Assembly adopt the following resolution of thanksgiving and recommitment to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal.

**CC ACTION**                      *To recommend adoption by the 2007 Churchwide Assembly*  
**Recommended:**                      *of the following resolution:*

**To celebrate the milestone of more than \$20 million contributed in one year during fiscal 2006 to the World Hunger Appeal of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA); and**

**To give thanks to God for the generosity of members in reaching for the first-time this new level in annual giving to the World Hunger Appeal; and**

**To remember with thanksgiving the vision and commitment of ELCA predecessor church bodies in initiating the World Hunger Appeal in 1974; and**

**To rejoice in the fruitful efforts of churches as well as governmental and non-governmental agencies in the battle against hunger, resulting in fewer people numerically going to bed hungry in the world today than in 1974, in spite**

**of the substantial increase in the population of the globe; and**

**To express abiding appreciation to the 1999 Churchwide Assembly for establishing the annual goal of \$25 million for World Hunger giving and for those who have used wisely and effectively the funds provided through the World Hunger Appeal this church and its predecessors throughout the past 33 years, especially:**

- a. the Lutheran World Federation, the 140-member communion of churches through which the ELCA joins in coordinated international efforts to respond to crises and engage in long-term, sustainable development work;**
- b. Lutheran World Relief, a ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS), individual and parish groups in international relief, development, advocacy, and social responsibility;**
- c. missionaries of the ELCA who witness to God's grace through their service and advocacy on behalf of persons living in extreme poverty;**
- d. ecumenical partners and others of good will with whom this church serves in response to God's love in meeting human needs; and**
- e. those who serve through congregations, synods, churchwide ministries, community organizations, and Lutheran agencies and institutions advocating for persons experiencing hunger and living in poverty;**

**To call upon each congregation of the ELCA to participate in the World Hunger Appeal and to invite members to contribute; and**

**To invite renewed efforts by members and congregations to reach and surpass, as soon as possible, a the goal of \$25 million in annual giving by individuals and congregations to the World Hunger Appeal of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.**

## **G. Responses to Synodical Resolutions**

### **1. Interpretation of 1993 Conference of Bishops Statement**

#### **Allegheny Synod (8C)**

WHEREAS, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America at its 2005 Churchwide Assembly adopted the following [CA05.05.18]:

WHEREAS, this church holds that "marriage is a lifelong covenant of faithfulness between a man and a woman" (*Message on Sexuality: Some Common Convictions [1996]*, page 3); and

WHEREAS, the Conference of Bishops in October 1993 stated, "We, as the Conference of Bishops of the ELCA, recognize that there is basis neither in Scripture nor tradition for the establishment of an official ceremony by this church for the blessing of a homosexual relationship. We, therefore, do not approve such a ceremony as an official action of this church's ministry. Nevertheless, we express trust in and will continue dialogue with those pastors and congregations who are in ministry with gay and lesbian persons, and affirm their desire to explore the best ways to provide pastoral care for all to whom they minister" (CB93.10.25); therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America continue to respect the guidance of the 1993 statement of the Conference of Bishops; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this church welcome gay and lesbian persons into its life (as stated in Churchwide Assembly resolutions from 1991, 1995, and 1999), and trust pastors and congregations to discern ways to provide faithful pastoral care for all to whom they minister; and

WHEREAS, the Synod Council of the New England Synod adopted "Guidelines for pastors and congregations of the New England Synod, regarding the blessing of unions of same-sex

WHEREAS, ever since the adoption of Recommendation Two at the 2005 Churchwide Assembly, there has been a lack of clarity in some quarters as to whether “pastoral care” means the approval of the blessing of same-sex unions; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Allegheny Synod Council request that the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America provide an interpretation of the action passed by the 2005 Churchwide Assembly.

**Background:**

The request contained in the Allegheny Synod Council resolution has been raised previously. At its July 2005 meeting, the Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod Council approved the following resolution, which requested that the Church Council consider clarification of its Recommendation for Assembly Action related to Recommendation Two of the ELCA Studies on Sexuality:

WHEREAS, there is a wide variety of interpretation and widespread confusion about the intent of the Church Council’s Recommendation Two on the ELCA Studies on Sexuality; and

WHEREAS, memorials to the Churchwide Assembly in response to Recommendation Two range in understanding all the way from saying that it will establish policy that does not support the blessing of same-sex couples to making the blessing of same-sex couples a matter of discernment entrusted to pastors and congregations; and

WHEREAS, Recommendation Two of the Church Council resolves to continue to respect the guidance of the 1993 statement of the Conference of Bishops and also reminds this church of our actions to welcome gay and lesbian persons into our life and to “trust pastors and congregations to discern ways to provide faithful pastoral care to same-sex couples”; and

WHEREAS, there is no definition provided for what pastoral care means concerning same-gender relationships and if the blessing of same-sex couples is precluded or provided for within this pastoral care; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Synod Council of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod request that the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America at its pre-assembly meeting in August 2005 provide clarifying information about the intention of Recommendation Two and provide interpretation to the 2005 Churchwide Assembly voting members about what is being considered so that they will have clarity about the recommendation prior to discussion, consideration, and action.

Following discussion, the Church Council at its August 2005 meeting voted [CC05.08.48]:

To receive the resolution of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod Council requesting further clarification about the intention of Recommendation Two related to the ELCA Studies on Sexuality;

To acknowledge with gratitude that the extensive dialogue and discernment within the Church Council has been echoed within the Conference of Bishops and the congregations and synods of this church and to anticipate that the dialogue and discernment will continue through the deliberations of the 2005 Churchwide Assembly;

To express concern that additional information provided by the Church Council in response to the request of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod may further complicate rather than clarify the information prepared by the Church Council, which has been widely distributed and discussed throughout this church; and

To express trust and confidence in the voting members of the 2005 Churchwide Assembly and to anticipate that their ongoing dialogue and discernment will establish the clarity sought by the Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod.

The 2005 Churchwide Assembly discussed Recommendation Two extensively. A number of attempts to amend the recommendation were made, some of which would have provided the clarity desired. The assembly defeated the following proposed substitution: "It shall be the policy of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America that for the sake of ministry and mission a congregation may choose to authorize its pastor(s) to preside at services of blessing for persons in covenanted same-gender relationships."

It also defeated the following substitute motion:

WHEREAS, the Conference of Bishops issued a statement in 1993 acknowledging 'that there is basis neither in Scripture nor tradition for the establishment of an official ceremony by this church for the blessing of a homosexual relationship'; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the 2005 ELCA Churchwide Assembly urge all congregations to welcome everyone in the life of its congregations regardless of their sexual self-identity; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the 2005 ELCA Churchwide Assembly believe the solemnizing and blessing of sexual unions is a rite of the church to be reserved for the marriage of a man and a woman.

It defeated as well the following proposed amendment [changes underlined]:

"RESOLVED, that this church welcome gay and lesbian persons into its life (as stated in Churchwide Assembly resolutions from 1991, 1995, and 1999) and trust pastors and congregations to discern ways other than the blessing of unions to provide faithful pastoral care to same-sex couples."

It also defeated the following proposed amendment [changes underlined]:

"RESOLVED, that the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America continue to respect the guidance of the 1993 statement of the Conference of Bishops, which is received as a statement of advice to congregations and pastors, and therefore shall not be used as grounds for discipline in this church;" [the rest of the recommendation remains unchanged].

It approved a proposed substitution, which returned Recommendation Two to the original language of the Conference of Bishops' statement: "RESOLVED, that this church welcome gay and lesbian persons into its life (as stated in Churchwide Assembly resolutions from 1991, 1995, and 1999) and trust pastors and congregations to discern ways to provide faithful pastoral care to same-sex couples for all to whom they minister."

It is clear, then, that the 2005 Churchwide Assembly declined to provide through amendment of the recommendation interpretation or clarification of Recommendation Two. It would be inappropriate for the Church Council to do what the assembly itself declined to do.

## **CC ACTION**

### **Recommended:**

**To receive the resolution of the Allegheny Synod Council;**

**To indicate that, in response to previous requests, the Conference of Bishops, the Church Council, and the Churchwide Assembly have declined to interpret further the 1993 statement of the Conference of Bishops or the action of the 2005 Churchwide Assembly; and**

**To request that the secretary provide the background information (above) as the response of the Church Council to the resolution.**

**2. Sexuality Task Force Recommendation Three  
Southeast Michigan Synod (6A)**

RESOLVED, that the Southeast Michigan Synod Council request that the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America recommend to the 2007 Churchwide Assembly that the third recommendation of the Task Force for the ELCA Studies on Sexuality, as presented to the 2005 Churchwide Assembly, be placed on the agenda of the 2007 Churchwide Assembly and adopted. The recommendation reads as follows:

WHEREAS, within this church we continue to share a profound commitment to the authority of Scripture as the norm for faith and life;

WHEREAS, we recognize there are deeply held yet different interpretations of Scripture to which consciences are bound;

WHEREAS, within this church we confess that all people are sinful beings, including those who serve in rostered ministry;

WHEREAS, within this church there are both those who believe that same-sex sexual conduct is inherently sinful, and those who believe that same-sex sexual conduct in a committed relationship is morally defensible for those who are of homosexual orientation;

WHEREAS, there are those in this church who believe that the ELCA should affirm and uphold current policy and practice regarding people in same-sex committed relationships;

WHEREAS, there are those in this church who believe that the Holy Spirit is calling into public ministry persons who are in committed, same-sex relationships, and congregations are indicating a willingness to call such persons to service; and

WHEREAS, within this church there is a desire to maintain the continuity of the church's traditional teaching and practice while also providing opportunity for ongoing discernment of new ways in which the Spirit might be speaking to this church in our time, and both may be honored by taking the step to create a process for consideration of exceptions; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America shall:

1. Affirm and uphold the standards for rostered leaders as set forth in "Vision and Expectations";
2. Create a process for the sake of outreach, ministry, and the commitment to continuing dialogue, which may permit exceptions to the expectations regarding sexual conduct for gay or lesbian candidates and rostered leaders in life-long, committed, and faithful same-sex relationships who otherwise are determined to be in compliance with "Vision and Expectations";
3. Adopt the following bylaws to permit implementation of this limited process for exceptions to the normative policies of this church:

7.31.18. Ordination for Particular Service. For pastoral reasons and for the sake of mission in the synod, under policy and procedures approved by the Church Council, upon recommendation by a synodical bishop to the Synod Council and upon endorsement by the Synod Council, a synodical bishop shall seek an exception from the Conference of Bishops to permit the assignment of a candidate who provides evidence of intent to live in a life-long, committed and faithful same-

sex relationship, and has been approved through the synodical candidacy process. When such an exception is granted, the synodical bishop may ordain—as authorized in the governing documents of this church and policy adopted by the Church Council—a candidate who has received and accepted a properly issued, duly attested letter of call for service in the ministry of Word and Sacrament by a congregation that has indicated its openness to call a candidate who provides evidence of intent to live in a life-long, committed and faithful same-sex relationship. Likewise, upon recommendation by a synodical bishop to the Synod Council and upon endorsement by the Synod Council, a synodical bishop shall seek through the Conference of Bishops—under policy and procedures approved by the Church Council—to maintain on the roster of ordained ministers an individual, under call for service in an ELCA ministry setting, who provides evidence of intent to live in a life-long, committed, and faithful same-gender relationship. All requirements of policies of this church related to ordained ministers apply to such an individual, except those that preclude living in such relationships.

7.52.16. Approval for Particular Service. For pastoral reasons and for the sake of mission in the synod, under policy and procedures approved by the Church Council, upon recommendation by a synodical bishop to the Synod Council and upon endorsement by the Synod Council, a synodical bishop shall seek an exception from the Conference of Bishops to permit the assignment of a candidate who provides evidence of intent to live in a life-long, committed and faithful same-sex relationship, and has been approved through the synodical candidacy process. When such an exception is granted, the synodical bishop may—as authorized in the governing documents of this church and policy adopted by the Church Council—commission as an associate in ministry or consecrate as a diaconal minister or deaconess a candidate who has received and accepted a properly issued, duly attested letter of call for such service by a congregation that has indicated its openness to call a candidate who provides evidence of intent to live in a life-long, committed and faithful same-sex relationship. Likewise, upon recommendation by a synodical bishop to the Synod Council and upon endorsement by the Synod Council, a synodical bishop shall seek through the Conference of Bishops—under policy and procedures approved by the Church Council—to maintain on the roster of associates in ministry, diaconal ministers, or deaconesses an individual, under call for service in an ELCA ministry setting, who provides evidence of intent to live in a life-long, committed, and faithful same-gender relationship. All requirements of policies of this church related to the official lay rosters apply to such an individual, except those that preclude living in such relationships.

4. Amend bylaw 20.71.11. to allow for the implementation of new bylaw 7.31.18. and bylaw 7.52.16:



- 20.71.11. 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 in each of the above categories, provided, however, that nothing therein shall require the application of discipline where bylaws 7.31.18. and 7.52.16. have been applied.
5. Direct that the Church Council, in consultation with the Conference of Bishops and the appropriate churchwide units, adopt policy and procedures for the implementation of bylaws 7.31.18. and 7.52.16.; and
6. Direct that this process be evaluated periodically by the Division for Ministry [or the appropriate churchwide unit] and reviewed by the Conference of Bishops and by the Church Council.

#### **CC ACTION**

##### **Recommended:**

**To receive the resolution of the Southeast Michigan Synod;**

**To acknowledge that the third recommendation of the Task Force for the ELCA Studies in Sexuality, as presented to the 2005 Churchwide Assembly, was defeated;**

**To acknowledge that work toward a social statement on human sexuality continues, including the current study, "Free in Christ to Serve the Neighbor: Lutherans Talk about Human Sexuality" and that social statement will be considered by the 2009 Churchwide Assembly; and**

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

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couples," in which liturgical rites are provided for the blessing of same-sex unions; and

**IV. ITEMS FOR *EN BLOC* ACTION**

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

Each of the items is noted as [*EN BLOC*] on pages 39-55. On the first day of the Council meeting, the chair will provide an opportunity for members to indicate whether they wish to discuss separately any of the items any of the items listed in the *en bloc* resolution; any such item will be removed from the *en bloc* resolution and discussed at the appropriate point in the agenda.

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

**CC ACTION**

**Recommended:**

To take action *en bloc* on the items listed below, the full texts of which are found in the body of the agenda or in the exhibit as noted:

<b>IV.A.1</b>	<b>Synodical Resolutions directed to the Church Council. . . . .</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>IV.A.2</b>	<b>Churchwide Assembly Referrals directed to the Church Council. . . . .</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>IV.B</b>	<b>ELCA Pension and Other Benefits Program. . . . .</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>IV.B.1</b>	<b>Amendments to the ELCA Retirement Plan. . . . .</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>IV.B.1a</b>	<b>Withdrawals and Distributions. . . . .</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>IV.B.1b</b>	<b>Miscellaneous Provisions. . . . .</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>IV.B.2</b>	<b>Amendments to the ELCA Medical and Dental Benefits Plan. . . . .</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>IV.B.2a</b>	<b>Coverage for Spouse and Child. . . . .</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>IV.B.2b</b>	<b>Miscellaneous. . . . .</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>IV.B.2c</b>	<b>Behavioral Health Benefits Coverage. . . . .</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>IV.B.2d</b>	<b>Claims Appeal Procedure. . . . .</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>IV.B.2e</b>	<b>Coverage for Spouse and Child. . . . .</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>IV.B.2f</b>	<b>Claims Appeal Procedure. . . . .</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>IV.B.2g</b>	<b>Introduction. . . . .</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>IV.B.2h</b>	<b>Benefits Coverage and General Provisions. . . . .</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>IV.B.2i</b>	<b>PPO Medical Benefits coverage and Eligible Medical Expenses. . . . .</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>IV.B.2j</b>	<b>PPO Medical Benefits Coverage. . . . .</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>IV.B.2k</b>	<b>PPO Medical Benefits Coverage. . . . .</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>IV.B.2l</b>	<b>Eligible Medical Expenses and Supporting Services. . . . .</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>IV.B.2m</b>	<b>Appendix. . . . .</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>IV.B.3</b>	<b>Amendments to the ELCA Survivor Benefits Plan. . . . .</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>IV.B.3a</b>	<b>Miscellaneous Provisions. . . . .</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>IV.B.4</b>	<b>Amendments to the ELCA Disability Benefits Plan. . . . .</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>IV.B.4a</b>	<b>Miscellaneous Provisions. . . . .</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>IV.B.5</b>	<b>Amendments to the ELCA Master Institutional Retirement Plan. . . . .</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>IV.B.5a</b>	<b>Withdrawals and Distributions. . . . .</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>IV.B.5b</b>	<b>Miscellaneous Provisions. . . . .</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>IV.B.6</b>	<b>Amendments to the ELCA Retirement Plan for the Evangelical Lutheran Good Samaritan Society. . . . .</b>	<b>43</b>

<b>IV.B.6a</b>	<b>Withdrawals and Distributions. . . . .</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>IV.B.6b</b>	<b>Miscellaneous Provisions. . . . .</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>IV.B.7</b>	<b>Amendments to the ELCA 457(b) Deferred Compensation Plan. . . . .</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>IV.B.7a</b>	<b>Amendment of the Plan. . . . .</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>IV.B.8</b>	<b>Amendments to the ELCA Continuation of the ALC and LCA Minimum and Non-Contributory Pension Plans. . . . .</b>	<b>44</b>
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<b>IV.B.9a</b>	<b>Miscellaneous Provisions. . . . .</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>IV.C</b>	<b>Budget and Finance Committee. . . . .</b>	<b>45</b>
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<b>IV.E.1</b>	<b>Lutheran Men in Mission Articles of Incorporation. . . . .</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>IV.E.2</b>	<b>Global Mission Personnel. . . . .</b>	<b>51</b>
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<b>IV.E.6</b>	<b>Policy on Criteria for Synodically Authorized Worshiping Communities. . . . .</b>	<b>53.1</b>
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<b>IV.G.1</b>	<b>Revised Message on Immigration. . . . .</b>	<b>54</b>
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<b>IV.H</b>	<b>Other Nominations, Appointments, and Elections. . . . .</b>	<b>54</b>
<b>IV.H.1</b>	<b>Boards of ELCA Seminaries. . . . .</b>	<b>54</b>
<b>IV.H.2</b>	<b>Social Ministry Organization Boards. . . . .</b>	<b>55</b>

**A. Synodical Resolutions and Churchwide Assembly Actions**

**1. Synodical Resolutions Directed to the Church Council**

Synodical resolutions directed to the Church Council that have been received since the council's November 2006 meeting are printed in Exhibit B, Part 1a. The actions contained in Exhibit B, Part 1a will be voted *en bloc* unless indicated otherwise.

Exhibit B, Part 1b contains proposed responses to synodical resolutions that were referred to units at previous Church Council or Executive Committee meetings. The actions contained in Exhibit B, Part 1b will be considered *en bloc* unless indicated otherwise.

**CC ACTION [EN BLOC]**

**Recommended:**

**To approve the actions found in Exhibit B, Parts 1a and 1b.**

**2. Churchwide Assembly Referrals Directed to the Church Council**

Exhibit B, Part 2b contains proposed responses to referrals to the Church Council from the 2005 Churchwide Assembly. The actions contained in Exhibit B, Part 2b will be considered *en bloc* unless indicated otherwise.

**CC ACTION [EN BLOC]**

**Recommended:**

**To approve the actions found in Exhibit B, Part 2b.**

**B. ELCA Pension and Other Benefits Program**

The Board of Trustees of the Board of Pensions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America met on February 23-25, 2007, in Chicago, Ill. Copies of the full documents are available for review by Church Council members at the materials distribution table.

The following plan amendments, approved by the Board of Trustees at that time, are recommended to the Church Council for adoption at its April 2007 meeting:

**1. Amendments to the ELCA Retirement Plan**

a. Withdrawals and Distributions

**Section 9.10 (*Payment of Small Amounts*) was amended to allow the Board of Pensions to roll certain terminated member's accounts to IRAs.**

**CC ACTION [EN BLOC]**

**Recommended:**

**To adopt the amendment to Section 9.10 of Article IX of the ELCA Retirement Plan.**

b. Miscellaneous Provisions

Sections 12.05(a) (*Appeals Procedure*) and 12.12 (*Amendments*) were amended to modify and simplify the plan amendment approval process.

**CC ACTION [EN BLOC]**

**Recommended:**

**To adopt amendments to Sections 12.05(a) and 12.12 of Article XII of the ELCA Retirement Plan.**

**2. Amendments to the ELCA Medical and Dental Benefits Plan**

a. Coverage for Spouse and Child

Section 4.01(b) (*In General*) was amended to correct enrollment eligibility period from monthly to yearly.

**CC ACTION [EN BLOC]**

**Recommended:**

**To adopt the amendment to Section 4.01(b) of Article IV of the ELCA Medical and Dental Benefits Plan.**

b. Miscellaneous

Sections 4.02 (*Eligible Spouse*), 9.04 (*Mid-Year Changes in Coverage*), 13.03 (*Limits on Eligible Dental Benefits Expenses*), and 17.15 (*Special Provisions for Foreign Missionaries Employed by ELCA Global Mission*) were amended to clarify current practice.

**CC ACTION [EN BLOC]**

**Recommended:**

**To adopt amendments to Section 4.02 of Article IV, Section 9.04 of Article IX, Section 13.03 of Article XIII, and Section 17.15 of Article XVII of the ELCA Medical and Dental Benefits Plan.**

c. Behavioral Health Benefits Coverage

Section 14.13 (*Transitional Behavioral Health Care*) was eliminated due to the continuing contract with the behavioral health administrator.

**CC ACTION [EN BLOC]**

**Recommended:**

**To adopt the amendment to Section 14.13 of Article XIV of the ELCA Medical and Dental Benefits Plan.**

d. Claims Appeal Procedure

Section 16.02 (*Appeals Procedure*) was amended to correct an inadvertent omission of "Prescription Drug Administrator" from the list of plan administrators.

**CC ACTION [EN BLOC]**

**Recommended:**

**To adopt the amendment to Section 16.02 of Article XVI of the ELCA Medical and Dental Benefits Plan.**

e. Coverage for Spouse and Child

Section 4.05 (*Age or Disability Requirements*) was amended to allow a part-time student to participate in the plan if his or her qualified health care provider verifies that the child is only able to attend school part-time due to health reasons.

**CC ACTION [EN BLOC]**

**Recommended:**

**To adopt the amendment to Section 4.05 of Article IV of the ELCA Medical and Dental Benefits Plan.**

f. Claims Appeal Procedure

Sections 16.02(a) (*Appeals Procedure*) and 17.11 (*Amendments*) were amended to modify and simplify the plan amendment approval process.

**CC ACTION [EN BLOC]**

**Recommended:**

**To adopt amendments to Section 16.02(a) of Article XVI and Section 17.11 of Article XVII of the ELCA Medical and Dental Benefits Plan.**

g. Introduction

Section 1.02 (*History of the Medical and Dental Benefits Plan*) was amended to update the plan's history.

**CC ACTION [EN BLOC]**

**Recommended:**

**To adopt the amendment to Section 1.02 of Article I of the ELCA Medical and Dental Benefits Plan.**

h. Benefits Coverage and General Provisions

Sections 9.01 (*Members who have Medical Benefits Coverage*), 9.03 (*Members who have Prescription Drug, Behavioral Health and Dental Benefits Coverage*), 9.04 (*Mid-Year Changes in Coverage*), 12.07 (*Other Eligible Medical Expenses*), 12.08 (*Exclusions from Eligible Medical Expenses*), 12.10 (*Other Precertification Review*), 12.11 (*Disease Management Program*), 16.02 (*Appeals Procedure*), 17.04 (*Correction of Errors*), 18.21 (*Medical Necessity/Medically Necessary*) and 18.25 (*Reasonable and Customary*) were amended to reflect the removal of Standard Benefits Coverage.

**CC ACTION [EN BLOC]**

**Recommended:**

**To adopt the amendments to Sections 9.01, 9.03 and 9.04 of Article IX; Sections 12.07, 12.08, 12.10 and 12.11 of Article XII; Section 16.02 of Article XVI; Section 17.04 of Article XVII; and Sections 18.21 and 18.25 of Article XVIII of the ELCA Medical and Dental Benefits Plan.**

i. PPO Medical Benefits Coverage and Eligible Medical Expenses

Sections 10.03 (*Benefits for Eligible Expenses for Preventive Services*) and 12.06 (*Preventive Services*) were amended to reflect increased preventive services benefits designed to encourage optimal utilization and earlier identification of medical conditions.

**CC ACTION [EN BLOC]**

**Recommended:**

**To adopt amendments to Section 10.03 of Article X and Section 12.06 of Article XII of the ELCA Medical and Dental Benefits Plan.**

j. PPO Medical Benefits Coverage

Sections 10.04 (*Deductibles and Percent Copayments for In-network Eligible Medical Expenses Other Than Preventive Services*), 10.05 (*Maximum Out-of-Pocket Amount for In-network Eligible Medical Expenses*), 10.06

*(Deductibles and Percent Copayments for Out-of-network Eligible Medical Expenses Other Than Preventive Services), and 10.07 (Maximum Out-of-Pocket Amount for Out-of-network Eligible Medical Expenses) were amended to reflect the 2008 plan design, which features deductibles based on coverage option elected (e.g., member only, member and spouse, member plus children, and member plus spouse plus children).*

**CC ACTION [EN BLOC]**

**Recommended:**

**To adopt amendments to Sections 10.04, 10.05, 10.06 and 10.07 of Article X of the ELCA Medical and Dental Benefits Plan.**

k. PPO Medical Benefits Coverage

Section 10.10 (*Transitional Medical Care*) was amended to allow flexibility to implement the PPO vendor's transition rules due to 2008 changes.

**CC ACTION [EN BLOC]**

**Recommended:**

**To adopt the amendment to Section 10.10 of Article X of the ELCA Medical and Dental Benefits Plan.**

l. Eligible Medical Expenses and Supporting Services

Section 12.12 (*Eligible Medical Expenses Under Medicare Supplement Coverage*) was amended to include language recognizing that members with PPO Benefits or Standard Benefits Coverage at the end of 2007 immediately prior to Medicare are eligible for this benefit.

**CC ACTION [EN BLOC]**

**Recommended:**

**To adopt the amendment to Section 12.12 of Article XIX of the ELCA Medical and Dental Benefits Plan.**

m. Appendix

The appendix to the plan (*Certain Amounts Related to Benefits*) was amended to set the deductibles and copayments in the 2008 plan design.

**CC ACTION [EN BLOC]**

**Recommended:**

**To adopt amendments to the Appendix of the ELCA Medical and Dental Benefits Plan.**

**3. Amendments to the ELCA Survivor Benefits Plan**

a. Miscellaneous Provisions

Sections 9.04(a) (*Appeals Procedure*) and 9.13 (*Amendments*) were amended to modify and simplify the plan amendment approval process.

**CC ACTION [EN BLOC]**

**Recommended:**

**To adopt amendments to Sections 9.04(a) and 9.13 of Article IX of the ELCA Disability Benefits Plan.**



**4. Amendments to the ELCA Disability Benefits Plan**

a. Miscellaneous Provisions

Sections 10.04(a) (*Appeals Procedure*) and 10.12 (*Amendments*) were amended to modify and simplify the plan amendment approval process.

**CC ACTION [EN BLOC]**

**Recommended:**

**To adopt amendments to Sections 10.04(a) and 10.12 of Article X of the ELCA Disability Benefits Plan.**

**5. Amendments to the ELCA Master Institutional Retirement Plan**

a. Withdrawals and Distributions

Section 8.10 (*Payment of Small Amounts*) was amended to allow the Board of Pensions to roll certain terminated member's small accounts to IRAs.

**CC ACTION [EN BLOC]**

**Recommended:**

**To adopt the amendment to Section 8.10 of Article VIII of the ELCA Master Institutional Retirement Plan.**

b. Miscellaneous Provisions

Sections 11.05(a) (*Appeals Procedure*) and 11.12 (*Amendments to the Plan*) were amended to modify and simplify the plan amendment approval process.

**CC ACTION [EN BLOC]**

**Recommended:**

**To adopt amendments to Sections 11.05(a) and 11.12 of Article XI of the ELCA Master Institutional Retirement Plan.**

**6. Amendments to the ELCA Retirement Plan for The Evangelical Lutheran Good Samaritan Society**

a. Withdrawals and Distributions

Section 8.10 (*Payment of Small Amounts*) was amended to allow the Board of Pensions to roll certain terminated member's small accounts to IRAs.

**CC ACTION [EN BLOC]**

**Recommended:**

**To adopt the amendment to Section 8.10 of Article VIII of the ELCA Retirement Plan for The Evangelical Lutheran Good Samaritan Society.**

b. Miscellaneous Provisions

Sections 11.05(a) (*Appeals Procedure*) and 11.12 (*Amendments to the Plan*) were amended to modify and simplify the plan amendment approval process.

**CC ACTION [EN BLOC]**

**Recommended:**

**To adopt amendments to Sections 11.05(a) and 11.12 of Article XI of the ELCA Retirement Plan for The Evangelical Lutheran Good Samaritan Society.**

**7. Amendments to the ELCA 457(b) Deferred Compensation Plan**

a. Amendment of the Plan

Section 14.01 (*Amendment of the Plan*) was amended to modify and simplify the plan amendment approval process.

**CC ACTION [EN BLOC]**

**Recommended:**

**To adopt amendments to Section 14.01 of Article XIV of the ELCA 457(b) Deferred Compensation Plan.**

**8. Amendments to the ELCA Continuation of the ALC and LCA Minimum and Non-Contributory Pension Plans**

a. Miscellaneous Provisions

Section 4.04(a) (*Appeals Procedure*) and 4.08 (*Amendments*) were amended to modify and simplify the plan amendment approval process.

**CC ACTION [EN BLOC]**

**Recommended:**

**To adopt amendments to Sections 4.04(a) and 4.08 of Article IV of the ELCA Continuation of the ALC and LCA Minimum and Non-Contributory Pension Plans.**

**9. Amendments to the ELCA Supplemental Retirement Plan for Government Chaplains**

a. Miscellaneous Provisions

Sections 5.03(a) (*Unclaimed Benefits*) and 5.08 (*Amendments*) were amended to modify and simplify the plan amendment approval process.

**CC ACTION [EN BLOC]**

**Recommended:**

**To adopt amendments to Sections 5.03(a) and 5.08 of Article V of the ELCA Supplemental Retirement Plan for Government Chaplains.**

**C. Budget and Finance Committee**

**Action items recommended by the Budget and Finance Committee for *en bloc* approval will be distributed following the committee's April 13, 2007 meeting.**

**1. Audit Committee**

**a. Audit Committee Membership**

The Audit Committee shall consist of six members. A minimum of two members should be ELCA Church Council Budget and Finance Committee members. Members of the committee shall be appointed by the Budget and Finance Committee and forwarded to the Church Council for approval. Budget and Finance Committee members should be appointed for a two-year term with the possibility of reappointment up to their Church Council term. Non-Church Council members should be appointed for a two-year term, renewable for two additional terms. Terms need to be staggered in recognition of the need for continuity of committee membership from year to year.

Members of the Audit Committee and current term end date are:

Ingrid Stafford (8/2007)

Rev. John Richter (4/2007)

Ann F. Niedringhaus (8/2007)

Michele Harbeck Haley (4/2008)

John F. Timmer (8/2008)

Ingrid Stafford is completing her final term. A nomination for this vacancy is presented in Exhibit F, Part 6.

**CC ACTION**

**Recommended:**

**To recommend that the Church Council re-elect Audit Committee member Rev. John Richter for a two-year term beginning April 2007;**

**To recommend that the Church Council re-elect Audit Committee member Ann Niedringhaus for a two-year term beginning August 2007; and**

**To recommend that the Church Council elect Timothy Stephan to the ELCA Audit Committee for a two-year term beginning August 2007.**

**b. Report of the Audit Committee**

There is no written report at this time. The Audit Committee will meet on June 12, 2007, to review the audited financial statements for the year ended January 31, 2007.

## **2. Synodical/Churchwide Mission Support Plans and Consultations**

The ELCA Church Council has responsibility for reviewing and acting on synod mission support plans. Exhibit F, Part 4, shows original and revised plans for fiscal 2006 and current synod plans for 2007.

### **a) Revisions to 2007 Mission Support Plans**

Since the November 2006 meeting, revisions to six synod mission support plans have been received plus one new submission received that had been outstanding. They are reflected in Exhibit F, Part 4 as shaded areas in the columns titled "Revised Estimates" under the year 2007.

### **CC ACTION [EN BLOC]**

#### **Recommended:**

**To acknowledge that the ELCA constitution established the process for determination of the percentage for the sharing of mission support contributions for synodical and churchwide ministries and that this process has been affirmed by actions of the 1995 Churchwide Assembly;**

**To underscore that this process specifies that the implementation of churchwide constitutional provision 10.71. and +S15.12. in the Constitution for Synods for the sharing of mission support funds shall involve mutual consultation, mutual agreement, and mutual affirmation;**

**To affirm the revised 2007 mission support dollar estimates for the sharing of mission support contributions by congregations for synodical and churchwide ministries of the following synods:**

**South Dakota, Southeastern Minnesota, Northeastern Pennsylvania, Lower Susquehanna, and Southeastern synods.**

**To affirm with sincere appreciation the increases in the percentage for the sharing of 2007 mission support contributions by congregations for the synodical and churchwide ministries of the following synods:**

**Northern Texas/Northern Louisiana synod.**

**To acknowledge the decision of the following synods to request a reduction of their previously established percentage for the sharing of mission support contributions by congregations for synodical and churchwide ministries; to affirm their prayerful efforts in continuing to be strong partners; to encourage them to restore their percentage to their previous level in the future; and to commit to supporting them in this process through continuing conversation and collaboration on behalf of our shared ministries:**

**Alaska synod.**

b) 2008 Mission Support

Synod/churchwide mission support consultations were held September 2006 through March 2007. Regional consultations were held in Regions 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, and 8. Consultations with individual synods were held in Regions 1, 5, and 9. The typical pattern for these consultations was to have two representatives from the churchwide offices meet with synod representatives.

This year's format began with questions that invited participants to discuss the relationship between their synod and the churchwide organization. Synod representatives were asked to reflect on the strongest aspects of that relationship as well as those aspects that were troublesome or challenging. The reports from these consultations indicated that these questions elicited significant conversation between the synod and churchwide representatives with ideas generated to continue to strengthen the partnership between synods and the churchwide organization.

The second segment of this year's consultations included extensive discussion of financial and funding realities in each synod and the churchwide organization. This segment included discussion of the "challenges we face together." These challenges include the importance of our Lutheran identity, mission support giving from abundance and not scarcity, and how ministries will be funded in the future. Extensive notes from each consultation were kept by the churchwide representatives and will be used as a resource in developing future consultations between the churchwide organization and synods.

At the March 1-6, 2007, meeting of the Conference of Bishops the new director for mission support, Pr. Craig Settlage, spoke to the conference about his commitment to support the mission and ministry of the ELCA by close collaboration with the synods in interpreting that mission and ministry to the members and congregations of the synods. He spoke of the need for expanded consultations that will be based on transparency and mutual accountability. The report and recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Committee on Mission Funding will give direction and content to his work in the coming years.

Annually, synods are requested to forward their mission support numbers to the churchwide organization by March 15. Forms indicating 2008 mission support plans including both dollar and percentage estimates have been received from 58 synods. Two additional synods have supplied estimates for percentage sharing, but do not yet have dollar estimates available.

**CC ACTION**

**Recommended:**

**To acknowledge that the ELCA constitution established the process for determination of the percentage for the sharing of mission support contributions for synodical and churchwide ministries and this process has been affirmed by actions of the 1995 Churchwide Assembly;**

**To underscore that this process specifies that the implementation of churchwide constitutional provision 10.71. and +S15.12. in the Constitution for Synods for the sharing for mission support funds shall involve mutual consultation, mutual agreement, and mutual affirmation;**

**To affirm the 2008 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, Eastern North Dakota, South Dakota, Northeastern Minnesota, Southwestern Minnesota, Saint Paul Area, Southeastern Minnesota, Central States, Arkansas-Oklahoma, Southwestern Texas, Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast, Metropolitan Chicago, Northern Illinois, Central/Southern Illinois, Southeastern Iowa, Northwest Synod of Wisconsin, East-Central Synod of Wisconsin, Greater Milwaukee, South-Central Synod of Wisconsin, North/West Lower Michigan, Indiana-Kentucky, Northwestern Ohio, Northeastern Ohio, New Jersey, New England, Metropolitan New York, Northeastern Pennsylvania, Southeastern Pennsylvania, Southwestern Pennsylvania, Lower Susquehanna, Upper Susquehanna, Delaware-Maryland, Metropolitan Washington D.C., West Virginia-Western Maryland, and the Southeastern synods.**

**To affirm with sincere appreciation the increases in the percentage for the sharing of 2008 mission support contributions by congregations for synodical and churchwide ministries of the following synods:**

**Northwest Washington, Eastern Washington-Idaho, Oregon, Montana, Sierra Pacific, Southwest California, Pacifica, Grand Canyon, Western North Dakota, Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana, Western Iowa, Northeastern Iowa, Southern Ohio, Slovak Zion, Northwestern Pennsylvania, Virginia, North Carolina, and the Florida-Bahamas synods.**

**To acknowledge the decision of the following synods to request a reduction of their previously established percentage for the sharing of mission support contributions by congregations for synodical and churchwide ministries: to affirm their prayerful efforts in continuing to be strong partners; to encourage them to restore their percentage to their previous level in the future; and to commit to supporting them in this process through continuing conversation and collaboration on behalf of our shared ministries:**

**Alaska, Northern Great Lakes, South Carolina, and the Caribbean synods.**

**To refer action on 2008 mission support plans to the Church Council Executive Committee for the following synods:**

**Northwestern Minnesota, Minneapolis Area, Nebraska, La Crosse Area, Southeast Michigan, Upstate New York, Allegheny, and the Florida-Bahamas synods.**

**To request further discussion with the following synod and to refer action on its 2008 mission support plan to the Church Council Executive Committee:**

{To be provided}

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**D. Executive Committee**

**Action items recommended by the Executive Committee for *en bloc* approval are detailed below. Additional items or revised actions will be distributed following the committee's April 13, 2007 meeting.**

**E. Legal and Constitutional Review Committee**

**Action items recommended by the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee for *en bloc* approval will be distributed following the committee's April 13, 2007 meeting.**

**1. Lutheran Men in Mission Articles of Incorporation**

Lutheran Men in Mission (LMM) has experienced steady and solid growth every year since 1993. More than 35,000 copies of the Master Builders Bible are in circulation. In addition, LMM has identified 15 congregations in each synod to receive Bibles and build an effective men's ministry. Spanish-language New Testaments have been published and given as gifts at no cost to congregations involved in mission. LMM works with young men, the most unchurched generation there is, and has established a young men's leadership committee.

Incorporation has always been a goal of LMM. LMM leaders believe that incorporation will have a significant impact on donations and assist the organization to achieve more visibility and identity. To assist Lutheran Men in Mission in achieving its goal of incorporation, at its April 2006 meeting the Church Council voted [06.04.10]:

To request that the Church Council affirm Lutheran Men in Mission (LMM) as the men's organization of the ELCA and affirm Lutheran Men in Mission's desire for deeper connection with this church;

To request that the Church Council affirm the resolution passed by Lutheran Men in Mission and the board of the former Division for Congregational Ministries that LMM continue moving toward the formation of a non-profit corporation to further ministries to men in the ELCA:

- a. as a separately incorporated 501(c)(3) organization with a strong relationship to the church structure through a relationship with the Evangelical Outreach and Congregational Mission unit and engagement with all units of this church; and
- b. With the triennial assembly of Lutheran Men in Mission being the highest authority for the organization and a board of directors empowered to conduct the business of the organization between assemblies under the constitution, bylaws, and personnel policies of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; and as a next step

To refer this process to the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee of the Church Council for further direction.

After consultation with David A. Ullrich, associate general counsel, Lutheran Men in Mission voted to submit the restated Articles of Incorporation to the Church Council for approval.

Due to the length of the amended constitution, complete copies of the text with amendments indicated was provided only to members of the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee. One complete copy also is available for review by Church Council members at the materials distribution table.



**CC ACTION [EN BLOC]**

**Recommended:**

**To approve the restated Articles of Incorporation of Lutheran Men in Mission.**

**2. Global Mission Personnel**

Previously all long-term mission personnel, both lay and clergy, and rostered individuals serving under provisions of a Letter of Agreement or Global Mission two-year and Global Mission associate appointments received a call from the board of the Division for Global Mission. Action is required to accept their resignations or retirements upon completion of service.

The action below contains the names of ELCA mission personnel appointed by a board call committee who have resigned from service between January 1, 2006, and December 31, 2006. The full report is printed in Exhibit M, Part 1.

**CC ACTION [EN BLOC]**

**Recommended:**

**To accept the following resignations with gratitude for the commitment and service given in the global mission program of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, effective on or about the dates indicated:**

**Assigned**

**Persson, Lennart (Thailand) effective November 30, 2006; Schick, Robert (India) effective September 30, 2006; Schubert, Daryl (Tanzania) effective August 31, 2006; Sorum, Jonathan (Slovakia) effective October 13, 2006; and**

**Associate**

**Persson, Carin (Thailand) effective November 30, 2006; Schubert, Jane (Tanzania) effective November 16, 2006; and**

**Contract**

**Redfield, Guy (Norway) effective September 30, 2006; and**

**Full-time Regular**

**Johnson, Scott (Madagascar) effective May 15, 2006; Yuen, Royan and Candice (Hong Kong) effective January 31, 2006; Swanson, William (Germany) effective April 20, 2006; and**

**Full-time Team**

**Roth Johnson, Heather (Madagascar) effective September 15, 2006; and**

**GM2**

**Bradway, H. Leroy (Slovakia) effective October 3, 2006; Quello, J. Christian (Lithuania) effective August 26, 2006; Nipp, Jessica (Germany) effective September 30, 2006; and**

**Global Mission Associate**

**Lunn, John (India) effective June 30, 2006; Satran, Shelly (Haiti) effective February 6, 2006; Douglass, Katherine (France) effective August 31, 2006; Anderson, William (China) August 1, 2006.**

**CC ACTION [EN BLOC]**

**Recommended:**

**To acknowledge with gratitude the following person who died during the course of service in the global mission program of the Evangelical Lutheran**

**Church in America:**

**Associate**

**Murnyak, Meredith (Tanzania) effective March 24, 2006.**

**3. Amendments to Seminary Governing Documents**

Bylaw 8.31.01. provides both for the independent incorporation of ELCA seminaries and for a churchwide role in the approval of their governing documents: “Each seminary shall be a seminary of this church, shall be incorporated, and shall be governed by its board of directors consistent with policies established by the Church Council. Amendments to the governing documents of each seminary and each seminary cluster shall be submitted, upon recommendation of the appropriate unit of the churchwide organization, to the Church Council for approval.”

This process of approval is accomplished by the following steps:

1. The appropriate seminary president notifies the director for theological education that the seminary board has taken action to amend its governing documents.
2. The director for theological education consults with the president on the content and intent of the amendment(s).
3. The director for theological education consults with the executive director of Vocation and Education and ELCA legal counsel.
4. The executive director of Vocation and Education and the director for theological education recommend appropriate amendments to the Church Council at its next meeting.
5. The Office of the Secretary notifies the seminary president and the executive director of Vocation and Education of the action taken by the Church Council on the recommendation.
6. The amendment(s) become(s) effective upon approval of the Church Council.

Due to the length of the amended constitution, complete copies of the text with amendments indicated was provided only to members of the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee. One complete copy also was available for review by Church Council members at the materials distribution table.

**CC ACTION [EN BLOC]**

**Recommended:**

**To approve the amended constitution of Trinity Lutheran Seminary, Columbus, Ohio; and**

**To approve the amended constitution of the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, Ill.**

**4. Amendments to Seminary Cluster Governing Documents**

Bylaw 8.31.01. provides for a churchwide role in the approval of governing documents for seminary clusters: “Amendments to the governing documents of each seminary and each seminary cluster shall be submitted, upon recommendation of the appropriate unit of the churchwide organization, to the Church Council for approval.”

This process of approval is accomplished by the following steps:

1. The appropriate seminary cluster notifies the director for theological education that the seminary cluster has taken action to amend its governing documents.
2. The director for theological education consults with the cluster on the content and intent of the amendment(s).

3. The director for theological education consults with the executive director of Vocation and Education and ELCA legal counsel.
4. The executive director of Vocation and Education and the director for theological education recommend appropriate amendments to the Church Council at its next meeting.
5. The Office of the Secretary notifies the seminary cluster and the executive director of Vocation and Education of the action taken by the Church Council on the recommendation.
6. The amendment(s) become(s) effective upon approval of the Church Council.  
Due to the length of the amended governing documents, complete copies of the text with amendments indicated was provided only to members of the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee. One complete copy also is available for review by Church Council members at the materials distribution table.

**CC ACTION** *[EN BLOC]*

**Recommended:**

**To approve the amended governing documents of the Western Mission Cluster.**

**5. Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots–Canada and Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots U.S.**

At its April 2006 meeting, the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America 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 *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*. In accord with the revised policy, the Rev. Sherman G. Hicks, executive director of the Multicultural Ministries unit, is recommending the establishment of relationships with the Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots (LAMP; also known as LAMP Ministry Inc. and LAMP-Canada) and with Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots U.S. through the Multicultural Ministries unit.

**CC ACTION** *[EN BLOC]*

**Recommended:**

To acknowledge, in accord with bylaw 14.21.16. of the *Constitution, 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 Association of Missionaries and Pilots (LAMP, also known as LAMP Ministry Inc. and LAMP–Canada) as an independent Lutheran organization, which will relate to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America through the Multicultural Ministries unit of the churchwide organization.

**6. Policy on Criteria for Synodically Authorized Worshiping Communities**

[See agenda page 53.1]

**F. Planning and Evaluation Committee**

Action items recommended for *en bloc* approval by the Planning and Evaluation Committee will be distributed following the committee’s April 13, 2007 meeting.

**Provinces of the Moravian Church in America:**

The Northern and Southern Provinces of the Moravian Church in America, hereinafter termed the Moravian Church in America, and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America hereby agree that in their respective assemblies there shall be one vote to accept or reject, without separate amendment, the resolutions which follow. If adopted by both churches, each church agrees to take these measures to establish full communion:

WHEREAS, Jesus our Shepherd calls us to unity so that the world may believe; and

WHEREAS, Moravians and Lutherans share common theological traditions and commitments to mission; and

WHEREAS, in North America Lutherans and Moravians have developed distinct church bodies while cooperating in serving our Lord; and

WHEREAS, "Following Our Shepherd to Full Communion," the report of the Lutheran-Moravian dialogue, affirmed that there are no "church-dividing differences" precluding full communion between the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Moravian Church in America; therefore, be it

RESOLVED that:

1. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Moravian Church in America hereby recognize in one another the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic faith as it is expressed in the Scriptures, confessed in the Church's historic creeds, attested to in the Unaltered Augsburg Confession and Small Catechism, and the Ground of the Unity of the Unitas Fratrum;
2. The Moravian Church in America and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America hereby
  - recognize the authenticity of each other's Baptisms and Eucharists, and
  - extend sacramental hospitality to one another's members;
3. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Moravian Church in America hereby
  - recognize each other's ordinations of persons to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament; and
  - recognize each other's polity and ministries of oversight (including the interpretation of church doctrines, discipline of members, authorization of persons for ordained and lay ministries, and provision for administrative functions);
4. The Moravian Church in America and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America hereby recognize the full interchangeability and reciprocity of all ordained ministers of Word and Sacrament, subject to the constitutionally approved invitation for ministry in each other's churches;
5. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Moravian Church in America hereby authorize the establishment of a joint commission by June 2000
  - to coordinate the implementation of these resolutions,
  - to assist joint planning for mission,
  - to facilitate consultation and common decision-making through appropriate channels in fundamental matters that the churches may face together in the future, and
  - to report regularly and appropriately to each church;
6. The Moravian Church in America and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America through the aforementioned joint commission shall
  - encourage the development of worship materials to celebrate the churches' full communion,
  - encourage on-going theological discussion,
  - encourage joint formulation of educational materials, and
  - encourage continuing education for church professionals regarding the churches' full communion;
7. The Moravian Church in America and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America hereby affirm that neither will issue an official commentary on the text of these resolutions that has not been approved by the joint commission as a legitimate interpretation thereof;

8. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Moravian Church in America hereby agree that each will continue to be in communion with all the churches with which each is in communion presently;
9. The Moravian Church in America and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America hereby
  - pledge to take each other and these agreements into account at every stage of their dialogues and agreements with other churches and faith traditions,
  - pledge to seek to engage in joint dialogue when appropriate, and pledge not to enter into formal agreements with other churches and faith traditions without prior consultation with the other.

In the course of the dialogue that led to the establishment of this relationship of full communion, it was not possible for the Alaska Province of the Moravian Church in America and the East West Indies Province of the Moravian Church in America to participate in the conversations even though geographically these two provinces overlap with the territory of this church. The Lutheran-Moravian Coordinating Committee has encouraged church leaders in those two areas to engage in conversation about deepening their cooperative efforts and have received periodic reports on these conversations. On the basis of these local dialogues the Coordinating Committee has urged this church and the Northern and Southern Provinces to invite the Alaska Province and the East West Indies Province to vote to enter this relationship of full communion by adopting "Following Our Shepherd to Full Communion." The East West Indies Province voted on August 17, 2006, to adopt "Following our Shepherd." The Alaska Province is considering a similar action.

The executive for ecumenical and inter-religious relations, on behalf of the presiding bishop as the chief ecumenical officer of this church and the Lutheran-Moravian Coordinating Committee, requests that the Church Council take the following action.

**CC ACTION [EN BLOC]**

**Recommended: To recommend to the 2007 Churchwide Assembly the following:**

**To continue to rejoice in the relationship of full communion between this church and the Northern Province and the Southern Province of the Moravian Church in America; and**

**To recognize that these two provinces of the Moravian Church in America do not cover all the geographical territory encompassed by this church; and**

**To acknowledge that by extending the relationship of full communion as outlined in "Following Our Shepherd to Full Communion" to the Alaska Province and to the East West Indies Province more people can participate in the closer working relationship allowed by full communion; and**

**To rejoice in the action of the East West Indies Province, which approved a relationship of full communion with this church by adopting "Following Our Shepherd to Full Communion";**

**To encourage the Alaska Province to take a similar action;**

**To invite the Alaska Province and the East West Indies Province to appoint members to the Lutheran-Moravian Coordinating Committee in order to live into this relationship of full communion more effectively; and**

**To declare that a relationship of full communion exists between the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the East West Indies Province of the Moravian Church in America and between the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Alaska Province of the Moravian Church in America, pending approval by the Alaska Province.**

## **G. Program and Services Committee**

Action items recommended for *en bloc* approval by the Program and Services Committee will be distributed following the committee's April 12-13, 2007 meeting.

### **1. Revised Message on Immigration**

At its November 2006 meeting, the Church Council approved the following action in response to resolutions from four synods (CC06.11.60e):

To direct the Church in Society program unit to develop, in cooperation with Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS), a new message on immigration in response to resolutions from the Rocky Mountain, Northeastern Ohio, New Jersey, and Metropolitan Washington, D.C. synods; and

To request that the new message on immigration be brought to the ELCA Church Council for consideration in November 2007, with a preliminary draft brought to the Program and Services Committee of the Church Council in April 2007; and

To request the Church in Society program unit to consider the feasibility of working with LIRS to develop supporting material for the message following its adoption by the Church Council; and

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

Due to staffing limitations, the executive director of the Church in Society unit has requested a delay in the timeline for a revised message on immigration.

**CC ACTION [EN BLOC]**

#### **Recommended:**

**To authorize a delay in the development of a revised message on immigration by the Church in Society program unit, in cooperation with Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS); and**

**To request that the new message on immigration be brought to the ELCA Church Council for consideration in April 2008, with a preliminary draft brought to the Program and Services Committee of the Church Council in November 2007; and**

**To request that the secretary of this church inform the Rocky Mountain, Northeastern Ohio, New Jersey, and Metropolitan Washington, D.C. synods of this action.**

### **2. Revisions to Personnel Policies**

The Human Resources section of the Office of the Presiding Bishop has recommended changes to two of the Personnel Policies of the Churchwide Organization. The policies in revision include 7.4 *Overtime* and 9.6 *Time Off for Voting*. The proposed revisions are being made to clarify the intent of each policy. They have been reviewed by ELCA legal counsel.

**CC ACTION [EN BLOC]**

#### **Recommended:**

**To approve the revisions to the following ELCA Churchwide Personnel Policies as detailed in Exhibit I, Part 2.**

### **3. Proposed Full-Communion Agreement between the Alaska Province and the East West Indies Province of the Moravian Church in America and the ELCA**

Following seven years of formal dialogue, the 1999 ELCA Churchwide Assembly voted 1007 to 11 (CA99.04.11) to adopt the following action, which established a relationship of full communion between this church and the Northern and Southern

## H. Other Nominations, Appointments, and Elections

### 1. 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." This process of nomination and election is accomplished by these steps:

1. The appropriate seminary president notifies the director for theological education of an upcoming board vacancy and the term of that board position (as specified in the seminary's governing documents).
2. The director for theological education contacts the seminary president in order to consult on filling the vacancy and, with the concurrence of the executive director of Vocation and Education, reaches an agreement on a single nomination.
3. The director for theological education submits that nomination in a letter also signed by the executive director to the secretary of the ELCA for inclusion in the agenda of the Church Council. This letter will include a brief candidate vita and a summary of the gifts this person brings to this service.
4. The Church Council is asked to ratify the nomination at its next meeting.
5. The Office of the Secretary notifies the seminary president of the action taken on the nomination, sending a copy to the director for theological education for the unit's records.

### CC ACTION [EN BLOC]

#### Recommended:

**To elect as at-large members of the board of directors of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, Pa., to three-year terms expiring in 2011: Ms. Suzanne Moyer, Mr. Larry Weber, and Dr. Gwen Halaas; and**

**To elect as an at-large member of the board of directors of Trinity Lutheran Seminary at Columbus, Ohio, to a two- year term expiring in 2011: Dr. Thomas Ludwig; and**

**To elect as at-large members of the board of directors of the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, Ill., to a three-year term expiring in 2010: Ms. Sarah Stegemoeller and Ms. Trina Gould; and**

**To elect as an at-large member of the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, Ill., to a two-year term expiring in 2009: Dr. David Wegge.**

**To elect as at-large members of the board of directors of Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Min., to a four-year term expiring in 2010: Ms. Beth Lewis and Mr. Robert Torkelson.**

**To elect as an at-large member of the board of directors of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, Penn., to a three- year term expiring in 2010: Ms. Addie J. Butler and Ms. Lynn H. Askew.**

### 2. Social Ministry Organization Boards

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 is expressed through the Church in Society unit.

The ELCA serves as a corporate member of Lutheran Health Care, Brooklyn,

## **1. Church Council Designated Funds**

The established method for funding the mission plans of the churchwide organization is through the operating budget. The operating budget, developed after review of potential income sources, is used to establish expense dollar guidelines for the various units of the churchwide organization as they provide programs or support outlined in the ELCA governing documents.

The Church Council is asked occasionally to establish designated funds for support of certain specific programs or events that may not be included in the “normal” yearly operations of the churchwide organization. Approved requests may be managed in two different ways.

The first way designated funds are managed is through investment in the ELCA Foundation as Church Council designated funds “functioning as endowment.” They are reported annually to the Church Council through the Church Council Budget and Finance Committee. Exhibit F, Part 3a, details those funds.

The second way designated funds are managed is through the ELCA treasury as a designated fund to be used for a specific activity within a given time frame. Exhibit F, Part 3b, is a summary exhibit of all active Church Council designated funds, exclusive of those “functioning as endowments.” Exhibit F, Part 3c-j, includes reports for each of the active Church Council designated funds.

### **CC INFORMATION**

## **2. Mission Development Fund**

The Church Council approved the establishment of the Mission Development Fund at its November 2006 meeting. The final amended action read:

To approve the establishment of a new temporarily restricted fund, the Mission Development Fund, to reside in the Foundation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The source of the funds will be unrestricted bequests and trusts income received in excess of the budgeted amount, after covering any shortfall in other current income categories, in any fiscal year. Additional considerations will be given to the cash balances available for the ELCA to meet its cash management policies. The transfer of such income shall be authorized by the Office of the Presiding Bishop and the Treasurer. The fund will be used as seed money for new and innovative ministries and in support of churchwide priorities at the request of the Office of the Presiding Bishop, in consultation with the Office of the Treasurer and the Foundation of the ELCA and in collaboration with the Cabinet of Executives. Expenditures from the Mission Development Fund in an amount greater than \$1 million shall require action by the Church Council.

This fund will be included in the annual report provided by the ELCA Foundation for Church Council designated funds functioning as endowment. If a request for use exceeding \$1 million would arise in any fiscal year, a separate action will be brought to the Church Council through the Budget and Finance Committee.

An amount of \$750,000 was transferred to this new fund in fiscal 2006. This was a significant portion of the \$791,142 of unrestricted bequests and trusts received in excess of the budgeted amount of \$1.1 million. An additional \$1.4 million was budgeted for temporarily restricted bequests and trusts and \$1.6 million received. The total income received showed a favorable variance of \$2.0 million. This church’s cash position was deemed satisfactory, so all conditions were met to allow for this transfer.

At the March 2007 Conference of Bishops meeting, a check in the amount of \$280,000 from the Pacifica Synod as a distribution of the proceeds from the sale of a congregation was presented to Presiding Bishop Hanson for credit to this fund. The addition of this gift brings the current fund balance available to \$1,030,000.

### **CC INFORMATION**



New York (formerly Lutheran Medical Center, Brooklyn, N.Y.); 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. The Church in Society program unit has forwarded to the Church Council the following nominations for positions on the boards of these organizations.

**CC ACTION** [EN BLOC]

**Recommended:**

**To elect Ms. Karen Hawkins and Ms. Julie Schlueter to the board of directors of Mosaic, Inc. for terms ending in 2010.**

**V. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

**A. Office of the Presiding Bishop**

**1. Report of LWF Regional Officer**

The Church Council, at its November 2006 meeting, received the written report of the North American regional officer for the Lutheran World Federation (LWF). At the April 2007 meeting, the Church Council will hear a verbal update from Kathy Magnus, the LWF Regional Officer for North America. The LWF North American regional desk is located at the Lutheran Center in Chicago, Ill.

**CC INFORMATION**

**B. Budget and Finance Committee**

Information items related to the April 13, 2007 meeting of the Budget and Finance Committee will be distributed following the committee's meeting.

[See agenda page 56.1]

**C. Executive Committee**

Information items related to the April 13, 2007 meeting of the Executive Committee will be distributed following the committee's meeting.

**D. Legal and Constitutional Review Committee**

Information items related to the April 13, 2007 meeting of the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee will be distributed following the committee's meeting.

**E. Planning and Evaluation Committee**

Information items related to the April 13, 2007 meeting of the Planning and Evaluation Committee will be distributed following the committee's meeting.

**F. Program and Services Committee**

Information items related to the April 12-13, 2007 meeting of the Program and Services Committee will be distributed following the committee's meeting.

**1. Church in Society Biennial Program of Study**

The "Policies and Procedures of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for Addressing Social Concerns" includes as one of the procedures that Church in Society "... shall report its biennial program of study to the Church Council and the Churchwide Assembly and shall promote this program throughout this church." In

accordance with this procedure, the biennial program of study for the Church in Society unit is printed in Exhibit K, Part 4.

**CC INFORMATION**

**VI. OTHER CHURCHWIDE ITEMS**

**A. Bible Studies on Luther's *Freedom of a Christian***

At its April 2007 meeting, the ELCA Church Council will participate in two studies related to *Free In Christ to Serve the Neighbor: Lutherans Talk About Human Sexuality*. The Rev. Dr. Timothy Wengert, a member of the task force for the ELCA Studies on Sexuality and professor of Reformation history at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, will lead two studies on Luther's *Freedom of a Christian*.

**CC INFORMATION**

**B. Reports of Synod Visits**

The Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is committed to building relationships between the churchwide organization and synods, congregations, and institutions and agencies. According to the "Report on Governance" prepared for the 2005 ELCA Churchwide Assembly by the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (2004), "Church Council voting members . . . interact with synods in their region in various ways, including attending at least one synodical council meeting per year, visiting congregations, and participating in synodical assemblies, especially in years when a synod is nominating people to the Church Council."

At its November 2005 meeting, members of the Church Council prepared assignments for "Church Council contacts with synods: 2005-2007." Members are encouraged to report on synod visits regularly. A summary of the reports received since the November 2006 meeting of the Church Council are printed in Exhibit D, Part 1. A notebook including the full texts of reports submitted is available on the materials distribution table.

**CC INFORMATION**

**C. Board Development: Role of Church Council members at the Churchwide**

**Assembly**

The Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is comprised of 37 members, including the four officers of this church. The 33 elected members of the Church Council serve as advisory members of the assembly, with voice but not vote, unless they are elected by their respective synods to serve as a voting member of the assembly. The four ELCA officers are voting members by virtue of the offices held.

In accord with the ELCA constitution and bylaws, the Church Council serves as the "interim legislative authority" between meetings of the Churchwide Assembly. In this role, the Church Council reviews recommendations from churchwide units for consideration by the Churchwide Assembly, arranges for appropriate elections, and submits a budget proposal for Churchwide Assembly action. At the Churchwide Assembly, members of the Church Council are present to advise voting members on Church Council actions related to these responsibilities. In addition to its advisory function, the Church Council appoints members of the Memorials Committee and the Committee of Reference and Counsel. Members of the Church Council chair these committees and make up a portion of the members. Church Council members also provide leadership by facilitating the hearings, participating as members of "ad hoc"

committees, serving as hosts for nominees for presiding bishop and secretary, and leading prayer during plenary sessions. Members will be notified by the vice president of specific assignments early in the summer.

The board development task force has requested that a primer on the role of Church Council members at the Churchwide Assembly be presented by Lowell Almen, secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and Myrna J. Sheie, executive assistant to the presiding bishop and chair of the Churchwide Assembly Planning Committee.

Information about the schedule for the 2007 Churchwide Assembly is printed in Exhibit R, Part 1.

### **CC INFORMATION**

#### **D. Raiser's Edge Update**

At its November 2006 meeting, the Church Council received the following update from Don Hallberg, executive for Development Services, "The ... Budget and Finance committee, along with the Foundation Trustees and Development Services board have heard reports for sometime regarding an integrated donor database for the churchwide offices. I am pleased to report that [the] Raiser's Edge [software] has been implemented successfully. I am grateful to colleagues within the churchwide office who have worked diligently to bring this gigantic task into being. The Office of the Treasurer's receipt processing department is now entering gifts into the unified donor database, along with life income agreements that are placed in the same database from the ELCA Foundation. This is also true for Global Mission support, World Hunger and Disaster Appeal, and all other churchwide programs that receive financial gifts. This eventually will provide greater efficiency, better use of development officer time, and research and integration between Development Services and the Foundation. We have already experienced very positive results. Gratitude goes to the Office of the Bishop and the Church Council for allocating the funds to bring resource development within the churchwide offices into a modern era. The next phase will be significant: to coordinate all databases within the churchwide offices."

The Church Council will receive an update about Raiser's Edge from Patrick Nagaro, director for integrated database programs, on Monday morning, April 16.

### **CC INFORMATION**

#### **E. Electronic Distribution of Materials**

The Office of the Presiding Bishop, in consultation with the Communication Services unit, has reviewed both current and future possibilities for electronic distribution of Church Council materials. It is anticipated that both distribution and access for materials will be improved within the year, but several volunteers will participate in a transitional plan that will provide the materials for each meeting electronically. The volunteers include: Judith Bunker, Joseph Crippen, Brad Dokken, Norma Hirsch; Sandy Schlesinger, Jeff Sorenson, Jennifer Thomas, David Truland, Gary Wipperman. Advisors include: Dan Lehmann, Beth Lewis, Peter Rogness.

During the transitional period:

1. Material for each meeting will continue to be mailed to all members on paper.
2. Members who have requested material on a CD will receive one when they arrive in Chicago. The CD will contain all of the documents, including any revisions. Revised pages or additional documents will be provided directly either on paper or by use of a thumb drive. Some of the volunteers may use the CD exclusively for the entire

meeting and give feedback on your experience.

3. In the future, the new Raiser's Edge (Blackbaud) software will provide Web-based opportunities for secure access to information about Council meetings, including an archive of minutes. A demonstration of the use of the Blackbaud system will be given during the meeting.

Paul Edison-Swift, director for interactive media and networks, from the Communication Services section will provide an overview of future options for Church Council members to receive and access information electronically. In preparation for the overview, the following summary was provided:

- The ELCA Church Council currently has an e-group on Ecunet/LutherLink, which is primarily used for group announcements and discussion. Most council members participate in the e-group through e-mail.
- With the implementation of a new content management system for [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org), the ELCA Church Council may have a number of other online collaboration options available, including, but not limited to, private:
  1. Password-protected login. Church Council members who log onto [ELCA.org](http://ELCA.org), will see additional navigation and features that other site visitors will not see.
  2. Discussion forums with notes readable on the Web or through a member's e-mail address.
  3. Live chat or white board can be used for note taking or keeping a transcript of some live discussions.
  4. File libraries are annotated with file contents, which can be searched for key words. The libraries can be used to upload or download files.
  5. Online directory: a current listing of Church Council members with as much contact information as members are willing to share within the council.
  6. Special announcement pages for announcements, reminders, and other information for reference and action.
  7. Group calendar with dates of interest to Church Council members, including automated e-mail reminders.
  8. Group surveys or polls.
  9. Blogs, image albums, and personal pages are also options for this private group.

Church Council members may want to consider additional collaboration features that would be helpful to support the work of the council.

### **CC INFORMATION**

#### **F. Greeting from ELCIC Bishop Raymond Schultz**

The closest neighbor of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC). For the last several years, a representative of the ELCIC has been a guest at each spring meeting of the ELCA Church Council, just as a representative of the ELCA has been a guest at each fall meeting of the ELCIC National Church Council.

The Rev. Raymond L. Schultz, the National Bishop of the ELCIC, will be present for the April 2005 meeting of the Church Council and will bring a greeting to the Church Council on Saturday afternoon, April 14, 2007. He has announced his retirement and a reception is planned in his honor at the Marriott O'Hare Hotel on Saturday evening at 5:30 p.m.

### **CC INFORMATION**

**G. Update on Sexuality Task Force**

The Church Council will receive a verbal update on the work of the task force for the ELCA Studies on Sexuality from Pr. Rebecca Larson, executive director of the Church in Society unit, and studies staff Pr. Roger Willer and Pr. Kaari Reiersen. The written report is printed in Exhibit K, Part 2.

Dr. Norma Hirsch, Church Council advisor to the task force will bring an update on the work of the task force from her perspective prior to Pr. Larson's update.

**CC INFORMATION**

**H. Recipients for Church Council Offerings**

At its November 2005 meeting, the ELCA Church Council discussed offerings taken during worship services held during Church Council meetings. Subsequent to that meeting, the ELCA Administrative Team recommended that the Executive Committee discuss a two-part process for identification of offering recipients prior to each Church Council meeting: 1) a recommendation by the Development Services unit of the offering recipient(s) for each Church Council meeting; and 2) approval of the offering recipient(s) by the Executive Committee prior to each Church Council meeting.

The Executive Committee voted EC07.03.09:

To approve that the offering to be taken at the April 2007 meeting of the Church Council be designated for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land housing.

The offering taken at the worship service on Sunday, April 15 will support the housing project of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL). The project, located on the Mount of Olives, will provide housing for Palestinian Christians.

**CC INFORMATION**