

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
CHURCH COUNCIL
August 14, 2011
Orlando World Center Marriott
Orlando, Florida

AGENDA

Participants

Voting Members

Pr. David Anderson	Pr. Yvonne Marshall
Mr. Baron Blanchard	Ms. Susan McArver
Ms. Rebecca Jo Brakke	Pr. Raymond Miller
Ms. Rebecca Carlson	Mr. John Munday
Ms. Deborah Chenoweth	Mr. Mark Myers
Pr. Rachel L. Connelly	Ms. Ann Niedringhaus
Mr. John R. Emery	Pr. Pablo Obregon
Pr. Amsalu Geleta	Mr. Carlos Peña, Vice President
Ms. Karin Graddy	Mr. Ivan Perez (<i>excused</i>)
Bp. Mark S. Hanson, Presiding Bishop	Ms. Feronika Raming
Mr. Mark S. Helmke	Ms. Lynette Reitz
Ms. Louise Hemstead	Ms. Sandra Schlesinger
Mr. Bill Horne	Mr. Blaire Smith
Pr. Keith A. Hunsinger	Pr. Jeff Sorenson
Ms. Christina Jackson-Skelton, Treasurer	Mr. David D. Swartling, Secretary
Mr. Mark E. Johnson	Pr. Kathryn Tiede
Pr. Susan Langhauser	Mr. David Truland
Pr. Steven Loy	Pr. Phil Wold
Pr. Heather Lubold	

Liaison Bishops

Bp. Allan Bjornberg	Bp. Gerald Mansholt
Bp. Michael Burk	Bp. Margaret Payne
Bp. Elizabeth Eaton	Bp. Harold Usgaard
Bp. Murray D. Finck	Bp. Martin D. Wells
Bp. Ralph Jones	Bp. Herman Yoos

Resource People

Office of the Presiding Bishop

Pr. M. Wyvetta Bullock, Assistant to the Bishop, Executive for Administration
Mr. Kenneth W. Inskip, Executive for Research and Evaluation
Pr. Marcus Kunz, Assistant to the Bishop for Theological Discernment
Pr. Walter May, Assistant to the Bishop for the Conference of Bishops
Pr. Donald J. McCoid, Assistant to the Bishop for Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Affairs
Pr. Darrell D. Morton, Assistant to the Presiding Bishop for Chaplaincy
Ms. Myrna J. Sheie, Assistant to the Bishop for Governance
Ms. Else B. Thompson, Executive for Human Resources

Office of the Secretary

Pr. Ruth E. Hamilton, Executive for Office of the Secretary Administration

Mr. Phillip H. Harris, General Counsel
Mr. Frank F. Imhoff, Director for Official Documentation
Mr. David A. Ullrich, Associate General Counsel

Unit Executives

Program Units

Pr. Stephen P. Bouman, Executive Director, Congregational and Synodical Mission
Pr. Rafael Malpica-Padilla, Executive Director, Global Mission

Separately Incorporated Ministries

Ms. Linda Post Bushkofsky, Executive Director, Women of the ELCA
Mr. Doug Haugen, Director for Lutheran Men in Mission
Mr. John G. Kapanke, President, Board of Pensions
Ms. Beth A. Lewis, President, Augsburg Fortress, Publishers
Ms. Eva M. Roby, Executive Vice President for Administration, MIF

Press

Ms. Elizabeth M. Hunter, *The Lutheran* magazine
Mr. Daniel Lehmann, *The Lutheran* magazine
Ms. Melissa Ramirez-Cooper, ELCA Media Relations and News

Guests

Pr. Linda O. Norman, Treasurer-Elect
Ms. Jodi Slattery, Assistant to the Bishop for (effective 9/1/11)
President and CEO-Elect, ELCA Board of Pensions

Saturday, August 13, 2011

4:00–6:00 p.m. Registration, Convention Center Lobby

6:00 p.m. Executive Committee Dinner, Emerald Room

7:00 p.m. Executive Committee, Emerald Room

Sunday, August 14, 2011

8:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m. Registration, Convention Center Lobby

9:00 a.m. Joint Worship with Conference of Bishops, Synodical Vice Presidents and
Regional Coordinators, Vinoy Room

PLENARY SESSION ONE

Joint Session with the Conference of Bishops,
Marco Island/Harbor Beach Ballroom
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon

1.1 Call to Order and Adoption of the Agenda

Agenda items have been distributed electronically and 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.

1.2 Reports of the Officers

1.2A Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson

1.2B Secretary David Swartling

1.2C Treasurer Christina Jackson-Skelton

1.3 Churchwide Assembly Orientation and Preview

The Conference of Bishops and synodical vice presidents will join the Church Council for a brief worship service, and for an overview of Churchwide Assembly business and procedures by Bishop Hanson and Secretary Swartling. The resources for this discussion will be in the Churchwide Assembly Program Book and Order of Business.

1.3A Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson

1.3B Assembly-Related Items: Secretary David Swartling

1.4 Overview of Proposed Bylaw Amendments

Secretary David Swartling will provide an overview of the proposed bylaw amendments 8.31. and 8.32. that would allow an ELCA seminary to be within an ELCA college or university. The proposed revisions are provided in this agenda under number 2.4A; the redlined version, including revisions, is provided in Exhibit D.

1.5 Nominations, Appointments and Elections

President John Kapanke, ELCA Board of Pensions will make brief remarks and introduce his successor. Following Mr. Kapanke's remarks, Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson will introduce Ms. Jodi Slattery, who will serve as program director for grassroots advocacy and communication, beginning September 8, 2011.

1.5A Board of Pensions

1.5B Office of the Presiding Bishop

- 12:00 noon LUNCH for Church Council, Conference of Bishops and Synodical Vice-Presidents, Solarius Room
- 1:00 p.m. Church Council Photograph (Solarius balcony)
The Church Council will gather at 1:00 p.m. on Monday, August 15 for a group photo. Dress is casual.

PLENARY SESSION TWO

Key West Ballroom
1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

2.1 Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the April 8-10, 2011 and May 23, 2011 meetings of the Church Council will be distributed to council members electronically on NetCommunity. Minutes for meetings held in executive session will be added to the protocol file in the Office of the Secretary.

The minutes of the council's Executive Committee meetings on April 8, 2011, June 2, 2011 and July 13, 2011 will be distributed electronically to members. Minutes for meetings held in executive session will be added to the protocol file in the Office of the Secretary.

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

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To approve the minutes of the April 8-10, 2011, May 23, 2011 and July 28, 2011 meetings of the Church Council; and

To ratify actions of the council's Executive Committee as indicated in the minutes of the April 8, 2011, June 2, 2011, July 13, 2011 and July 28, 2011 meetings.

2.2 Dwelling in the Word with Mark Helmke

2.3 Churchwide Assembly Citations

Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson has requested that the ELCA Church Council consider and approve two citations to honor BOP President John Kapanke and ELCA Treasurer Christina Jackson-Skelton at the Churchwide Assembly.

2.3A In Honor of John Kapanke

CC ACTION

Recommended: *To approve the following citation:*

To express abundant and abiding gratitude to Mr. John G. Kapanke for his 24 years of service as the first president of the Board of Pensions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America;

To recall that he was elected as president of the ELCA's Board of Pensions on June 30, 1987, during the days of the formation of this church, and that he subsequently was reelected five times with his final term as president concluding on September 30, 2011;

To declare gratitude for Mr. Kapanke's commitment to ensuring that the Board of Pensions has operated consistently throughout the years as one of the units within the churchwide ministries of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America;

To remember Mr. Kapanke's leadership in guiding the application of the mission, vision, and values of this church and its Board of Pensions to the daily operations of the board in seeking to be faithful to the well-being of members;

To be mindful of Mr. Kapanke's service in working to control the costs within the health plan of this church for the benefit of members, congregations, synods, churchwide ministries, and other sponsoring entities, while also maintaining the quality of such coverage for all members and encouraging steps toward healthier patterns of living to enhance the general well-being of members;

To acknowledge with thanks the ways in which Mr. Kapanke worked to build and maintain relationships with bishops and staff members of synods with clear communication for fostering mutual understanding of needs and concerns;

To be mindful of the steps that Mr. Kapanke initiated through ongoing strategic planning to develop and maintain broadly accessible and efficient service for members and congregations as well as other sponsoring entities;

To underscore the importance of Mr. Kapanke's leadership as president for many years of the Church Alliance in working ecumenically with the leaders of the pension and benefits plans of other churches, including monitoring the impact of federal legislation on such plans; and

To express the hope that Mr. Kapanke will step into a new stage in his life with grand memories of his years of service as president of the Board of Pensions and deep awareness of the gratitude of this church for his leadership.

2.3B In Honor of Christina Jackson-Skelton

CC ACTION

Recommended: *To approve the following citation:*

To express deep gratitude to Christina Jackson-Skelton for the decade of exceptional service as treasurer of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and president of the Mission Investment Fund from February 2002 until August 31, 2011;

To recognize her unwavering commitment to and support of the mission and people of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America;

To acknowledge her financial expertise, her application of that expertise to this church's life and mission, and her effective stewardship of the financial and physical resources of this church, including accounting, insurance, property management, investment; and money management;

To thank her for reports that provided clarity and transparency about the financial position of this church, but always within the context of being generous and faithful stewards of God's gifts;

To recall her sound judgments and collaborative work with colleagues and partners;

To call to mind the trust of leaders and members of this church that the church's financial resources were being handled with integrity and care;

To remember her commitment that this church work within the available financial and physical resources, always seeking to grow both in our giving and in our capacity to be in mission together;

To celebrate that under her leadership the investments of ELCA members in the Mission Investment Fund have generated growth in the Fund's assets from \$380 million to \$640 million in nine years;

To acknowledge with joy that she will continue to provide leadership within the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as executive director of the Mission Advancement unit;

To give thanks to God for her "work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ" (1Thessalonians 1:3).

Upon action of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the Servus Dei Medal is conferred upon Ms. Christina Jackson-Skelton, treasurer of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, 2002-2011.

2.4 Revisions to ELCA Governing Documents

2.4A Churchwide Assembly Recommendations: Governing Documents

The Church Council has the responsibility for submitting recommendations for action by the 2011 Churchwide Assembly. According to provision 22.21. of the ELCA constitution:

Bylaws not in conflict with this constitution may be adopted or amended at any regular meeting of the Churchwide Assembly when presented in writing by the Church Council or by at least 15 members of the assembly. An amendment proposed by members of the assembly shall immediately be submitted to the Committee of Reference and Counsel for its recommendation. In no event shall an amendment be placed before the assembly for action sooner than the day following its presentation to the assembly. A two-thirds vote of the members present and voting shall be necessary for adoption.

Proposed bylaws have been recommended to the Church Council by the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee to facilitate a merger between Lenoir-Rhyne University and Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary.

Background information from the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit:

Over the past several years the ELCA's seminaries have been working with each other and with other partners to find new ways to organize their educational and administrative work in ways that advance a strong, wide-reaching, and sustainable theological education network that meets the leadership needs of a church in mission. In this work, ELCA colleges and universities have emerged as particularly important partners. In conversations over the last several months, the Lutheran Theological

Southern Seminary (LTSS) and Lenoir-Rhyne University (LRU) have come to the conviction, in consultation with synod bishops, the ELCA seminary presidents, and churchwide leaders, that the two schools can best serve the ELCA's work of theological education by moving toward merger, with LTSS becoming part of LRU.

In their current form, ELCA bylaws relating to seminaries require them to be separately incorporated. Over the last several months the Office of the Secretary has worked with the leadership of LTSS, LRU, and staff of the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit to make it possible for seminaries to be part of an ELCA college or university. The proposed revisions were crafted to enable these seminaries to have the same close connections with the rest of this church that separately incorporated seminaries enjoy.

New proposed bylaw 8.31.01. would authorize a seminary of this church to be an unincorporated "school, department, or unit of a college or university of this church." Such an unincorporated seminary would have an advisory council or governing board distinct from the board of directors of the college or university (8.31.04.), as well as a chief administrative officer instead of a president (8.31.06.). As with incorporated seminaries, changes to governing documents of unincorporated seminaries affiliated with a college or university would require approval by the ELCA Church Council (8.31.02.), and such seminaries would remain subject to ELCA constitutional provision 8.31. with respect to sponsorship, support, and oversight. New proposed bylaw 8.32.06. would require a college or university of this church that includes a seminary to comply with provision 8.31. and its associated bylaws. Finally, some language in bylaws relating to separately incorporated seminaries has been changed to better reflect current standard practices in higher education.

The Conference of Bishops, presidents of seminaries, and presidents of colleges and universities have reviewed the proposed bylaws. The "redlined" version of the bylaws, with revisions indicated, is provided in [Exhibit D](#).

CC ACTION

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

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

8.30. Relationship with Institutions and Agencies

8.31. Seminaries. This church shall sponsor, support, and provide for oversight of seminaries for the preparation of persons for the ordained and other ministries and for continuing study on the part of ordained ministers and laypersons.

8.31.01. Each seminary of this church shall be separately incorporated or, if unincorporated, shall be a school, department or unit of a college or university of this church. Whether separately incorporated or not, seminaries of this church shall be governed consistent with policies established by the Church Council upon recommendation of the appropriate unit of the churchwide organization. Seminaries

may be organized into groupings, known as clusters, for the purposes of cooperation, interaction and support.

8.31.02. Amendments to the governing documents of each separately incorporated seminary and each seminary cluster shall be submitted, upon recommendation of the appropriate unit of the churchwide organization, to the Church Council for approval. Amendments to the governing documents of a college or university of this church that affect the authority or integrity of an unincorporated seminary of this church associated with that college or university shall be submitted, upon recommendation of the appropriate unit of the churchwide organization, to the Church Council for approval.

8.31.03. The board of directors of each separately incorporated seminary shall be nominated and elected to terms as specified in the governing documents of the respective seminaries, and shall consist of 12 to 30 members, as follows:

- a. At least one-fifth nominated, in consultation with the seminaries, by the appropriate churchwide unit and elected by the Church Council;
- b. Two members elected by the bishops of the supporting synods from among their number; and
- c. The remaining members elected by the supporting synods, in consultation with the seminaries, with the number to be elected by each synod set forth in the governing documents of the seminary.

Elections shall be so arranged that the terms of all directors of any given seminary elected in any year shall commence simultaneously.

8.31.04. Each unincorporated seminary shall have an advisory council or governing board distinct from the board of directors of the college or university of which the seminary is a school, department or unit. The seminary advisory council or governing board shall relate to the Church Council through the appropriate churchwide unit. The members of the unincorporated seminary's advisory council or governing board shall be elected as specified in the governing documents of the related college or university, and shall consist of 12 to 30 members, as follows:

- a. At least one-fifth nominated by the Church Council upon recommendation of the appropriate churchwide unit after consultation with the seminary's advisory council or governing board;
- b. Two members nominated by the bishops of the supporting synods from among their number;
- c. One member, who shall serve as chair of the advisory council or governing board and as a voting member of the board of directors of the college or university, nominated by the Church Council, upon recommendation of the appropriate churchwide unit after consultation with the seminary's advisory council or governing board; and

- d. **The remaining members to be from the supporting synods, nominated by the seminary's advisory council or governing board in consultation with the supporting synods.**

8.31.05. In accordance with the governing documents of each separately incorporated seminary, the board of directors shall elect the president of the seminary in consultation with the presiding bishop of this church and the appropriate churchwide unit. The board shall exercise all other normal governance functions, including the appointment of tenured faculty, and shall have authority to recruit students throughout this church.

8.31.06. Each unincorporated seminary shall have a chief administrative officer, such as an academic dean, seminary provost, or vice president, who is on the roster of ordained ministers of this church. In the appointment or election of the chief administrative officer of the seminary, the college or university shall consult with the seminary advisory council or governing board, the presiding bishop of this church, and the appropriate churchwide unit. The college or university board shall exercise all other normal governance functions, including the appointment of tenured faculty, in consultation with the seminary's advisory council or governing board, and shall have authority to recruit students throughout this church.

8.31.07. The seminaries shall receive churchwide and synodical financial support. The amount of such support shall be determined through a consultation process involving seminaries, synods, and the appropriate churchwide unit. To implement financial support by this church, synods shall be assigned to specific seminaries in such manner as to attain equitable distribution of synods. Normally, all synods in a given region will be assigned to one seminary. Churchwide funds shall be distributed according to a formula developed by the appropriate churchwide unit and approved by the Church Council. Seminaries shall provide for their remaining financial requirements through tuition, fees, endowment income, and fund-raising programs. Fund-raising in the congregations of supporting synods, however, shall be conducted only upon approval of the synods.

8.31.08. Aid to students preparing for the ministries of this church shall be administered by the seminaries under guidelines developed by the appropriate churchwide units in consultation with the presidents of the seminaries and adopted by the Church Council.

8.32. Colleges and Universities. This church shall express its responsibility for higher education through its colleges and universities, the appropriate churchwide unit as determined by the Church Council, and its synods. While variation is possible in college or university relationships across this church, this church recognizes the desirability of some degree of uniformity of relationship for colleges and universities within the same region.

8.32.01. The relationship of this church to its colleges and universities shall be guided by policies fostering educational institutions dedicated to the Lutheran tradition wherein such institutions are an essential part of God's mission in the world; faithful to the will of God as institutions providing quality instruction in religion and a lively ministry of worship, outreach, and service; diligent in their preparation of leaders committed to truth, excellence, and ethical values; and pledged to the well-being of students in the development of mind, body, and spirit.

8.32.02. Colleges and universities of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America may relate to this church in various ways, including relationship with the Churchwide Assembly, a synodical assembly, or a corporation whose voting members are, or have been elected by, synodical assemblies, other organizational units (conferences, clusters, etc.), or congregations. Subject to approval by the appropriate synods, a college or university may be owned by a not-for-profit corporation (1) that has voting members, at least 90 percent of whom shall consist of members of the biennial Churchwide Assembly, and (2) that shall hold the biennial meeting of such a corporation in conjunction with the Churchwide Assembly for the purpose of electing or ratifying members of the governing board and approving amendments to the governing documents. At least 60 percent of the members of the governing boards of the corporations that meet in conjunction with the Churchwide Assembly shall be members of this church.

8.32.03. Primary responsibility for recruiting members for its board belongs to each college or university of this church. This responsibility is best exercised when appropriate structures of this church are substantially involved. The college or university and the appropriate synods shall determine how many of the college or university board members are to be elected or ratified by the approved form of relationship as provided in 8.32.02.

8.32.04. The responsibility for initiating changes in constitutional documents rests with each college or university of this church. Each college or university will reach agreement with the appropriate structures of this church as identified in 8.32.02. regarding changes in constitutional documents. This church's participation may range from prior consultation to final approval.

8.32.05. Representation of members of this church on college or university boards, limitation of terms for board members, whether or not college or university presidents shall be members of this church, and representation of bishops of synods on college or university boards shall be determined by each institution and the appropriate synods.

8.32.06. In addition to and consistent with the above provision 8.32 and bylaws 8.32.01 through 8.32.05, colleges and universities of this church where a school,

department or unit of that institution is a seminary of this church must comply with all requirements, policies, procedures and standards specified in provision 8.31 and bylaws 8.31.01 through 8.31.08.

2.4B Editorial Changes to Constitutional Amendments

The Legal and Constitutional Review Committee has reviewed and Secretary David Swartling has reported the editorial changes to constitutional amendments in accordance with the action adopted by the Church Council at its November 2010 meeting. The listing is provided in [Exhibit E](#).

2.5 Synod Mission Support Plans

The ELCA Church Council has responsibility for reviewing and taking action on synod mission support plans as an interdependent partner with congregations and synods in implementing and strengthening the financial support for the work of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA Constitution, 8.15 and 10.71). Since the Budget and Finance Committee is not meeting prior to this Church Council meeting where the recommendations to the Church Council for action usually are made, the Office of the Bishop and The Office of the Treasurer are recommending the following action. [Exhibit F](#), Part 2 shows the actual mission support received from each synod for 2010 with plans and any revisions for the 2011 and 2012 fiscal years.

2.5A Revisions to 2011 synod mission support plans

Since the April 2011 Church Council meeting, revisions for 2011 mission support plans have been received from 17 synods. Two synods have increased their percentage share and five synods have decreased their percentage share. The other 10 synods remained at their previous percentage sharing plans.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To acknowledge with sadness that circumstances in the following synods have led to decisions to seek a decrease in the percentage of sharing of 2011 mission support contributions by congregations for synodical and churchwide ministries; to encourage each synod to continue to work to grow mission support in the synod; and to request that each synod develop a plan, in consultation with the churchwide organization, to restore or surpass the previous level of mission support sharing: Metropolitan Chicago; Greater Milwaukee; Southeast Michigan; Southern Ohio; and Caribbean synods;

To acknowledge with thanksgiving the decision of the following synods to increase the percentage of sharing of 2011 mission support contributions by congregations for synodical and churchwide ministries: Arkansas-Oklahoma and Upper Susquehanna synods;

To acknowledge with thanksgiving the decision of the following synods to maintain the percentage of sharing of 2011 mission support contributions by congregations for synodical and churchwide ministries but estimating an

adjustment in the estimated amount to be shared: Northwest Washington; Southwestern Washington; Pacifica; Northeastern Minnesota; Southwestern Minnesota; Nebraska; Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast; Central/Southern Illinois; South-Central Synod of Wisconsin; New England; and Southeastern Pennsylvania synods; and

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

2.5B 2012 synod mission support plans

To date, notification of plans is pending from four synods. Since the April Church Council meeting, notification of original plans or revisions to previously submitted plans have been received from 34 synods.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To acknowledge with sadness that circumstances in the following synods have led to decisions to seek a decrease from prior levels in the percentage of sharing of 2012 mission support contributions by congregations for synodical and churchwide ministries; to encourage each synod to continue to work to grow mission support in the synod; and to request that each synod develop a plan, in consultation with the churchwide organization, to restore or surpass the previous level of mission support sharing: Metropolitan Chicago; Southeast Michigan; and West Virginia-Western Maryland synods;

To acknowledge with thanksgiving the decision of the following synods to increase the percentage of sharing of 2012 mission support contributions by congregations for synodical and churchwide ministries: Alaska; Eastern Washington-Idaho; Sierra-Pacific; Arkansas-Oklahoma; Western Iowa; Southern Ohio; Delaware-Maryland; Virginia; Florida-Bahamas; and Caribbean synods;

To acknowledge with thanksgiving the decision of the following synods to maintain the percentage of sharing of 2012 mission support contributions by congregations for synodical and churchwide ministries: Northwest Washington; Southwest California; Pacifica; Grand Canyon; Eastern North Dakota; Northwestern Minnesota; Southwestern Minnesota; Minneapolis Area; Saint Paul Area; Central/Southern Illinois; Southeastern Iowa; Greater Milwaukee; South-Central Synod of Wisconsin; North/West Lower Michigan; Indiana-Kentucky; Northeastern Pennsylvania; Southeastern Pennsylvania; Slovak Zion; Northwestern Pennsylvania; Allegheny; and Upper Susquehanna synods;

To thank the bishops and synod leaders of every synod as they strive to be faithful to shared commitments within the ELCA, and to direct synod and churchwide staff, including the directors for evangelical mission, to deepen their

partnership in efforts to strengthen financial support for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; and

To request that the following synods submit their 2012 mission support plans: Western North Dakota; Northwestern Ohio; Northeastern Ohio; and Metropolitan New York synods.

2.6 Consideration of unfinished agenda items

2.7 Consideration of Resolutions Removed from *En Bloc* (Exhibit B)

2.8 *En Bloc* Approval of Certain Items

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

Each of the items is noted as [*En Bloc*] in [Exhibit B](#). At the beginning of the Council meeting, the chair will provide an opportunity for members to indicate whether they wish to discuss separately any of the items listed in the en bloc resolution; any such item will be removed from the en bloc resolution and discussed at the appropriate point in the agenda.

The chair will not call for a discussion or separate vote on those items that are not removed from the en bloc resolution 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 in Exhibit B.

2.9 Feedback from the Class of 2011

At its final meeting of the biennium, the Church Council invites the retiring members to reflect on their experience as members of the ELCA Church Council. In April 2011, members provided verbal reflections; at this meeting, a report on responses to a series of questions posted by the Board Development Committee in consultation with Kenneth Inskeep, executive for ELCA Research and Evaluation. Lynette Reitz and Mark Helmke will provide an introduction, followed by an overview by Dr. Inskeep.

The Church Council Class of 2011 is: David Anderson, Baron Blanchard, Mark Helmke, Keith Hunsinger, Steven Loy, Heather Lubold, Ann Niedringhaus, Lynette Reitz, Sandra Schlesinger, Jeff Sorenson, and David Truland. The class will be honored during the final plenary session of the 2011 ELCA Churchwide Assembly.

2.10 Information about the November 2011 Church Council Meeting

The November 2011 meeting of the ELCA Church Council will be held November 11-13, 2011 at the Lutheran Center in Chicago, Illinois. The Executive Committee and Audit Committee will meet on Thursday, November 10. Orientation for newly elected members of the Church Council will be Friday morning, November 11 from 7:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., with the Church Council meeting beginning at 1:00 p.m. The newly constituted committees of the Council will meet on Saturday morning, November 12. The meeting will conclude on Sunday, November 13 at 3:00 p.m.

3:30 p.m. Closing Prayer and Adjournment

3:45 p.m. Churchwide Assembly Orientation for Church Council

Orientation to the Churchwide Assembly for Church Council members is scheduled on Sunday, August 14 at 3:45 p.m. in the plenary hall, Cypress 2 in the convention center. Please bring [Exhibit C](#), which details Churchwide Assembly assignments for Church Council members. The orientation will include an overview and discussion of hearings and other CWA items. In addition, those scheduled to lead prayers during plenary sessions will meet with communications staff and have an opportunity to practice at the microphone. Please note that the prayers will be provided for you.

6:30 p.m. DINNER for Church Council, Conference of Bishops, and Churchwide Executive Leadership, Grand Ballrooms 4-6