

**EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
CHURCH COUNCIL
April 5-7, 2013
Chicago, Illinois**

AGENDA

Participants

Voting Members

Mr. Paul G. Archer	Mr. William B. "Bill" Horne II
Mr. Nicholas A. Barber	Mr. Mark E. Johnson
Ms. Rebecca Jo Brakke	Pr. Susan Langhauser
Ms. Rebecca D. Carlson	Pr. Yvonne I. Marshall
Ms. Deborah L. Chenoweth	Ms. Susan W. McArver
Ms. Christine P. Connell	Pr. Raymond A. Miller
Pr. Rachel L. Connelly	Pr. Robert G. Moore
Bp. Jessica Crist	Mr. John S. Munday
Pr. Elizabeth E. Ekdale	Mr. Mark W. Myers
Ms. Marjorie B. Ellis	Pr. Linda O. Norman, Treasurer
Mr. John R. Emery	Mr. John M. Pederson
Mr. Gary D. Gabrielson	Mr. Carlos E. Peña, Vice President
Pr. Vicki T. Garber	Ms. Pamela E. Pritt
Pr. Amsalu T. Geleta (<i>excused</i>)	Ms. Feronika A. Raming
Ms. Karin L. Graddy	Pr. Laurie F. Skow-Anderson
Pr. Joyce M. Graue	Mr. David D. Swartling, Secretary
Bp. Mark S. Hanson, Presiding Bishop	Pr. Kathryn A. Tiede
Ms. Louise A. Hemstead	Pr. Philip R. Wold
Pr. Stephen R. Herr	

Liaison Bishops

Bp. William C "Chris" Boerger	Bp. Gerald Mansholt
Bp. Michael Burk	Bp. Stephen Talmage
Bp. Elizabeth Eaton	Bp. Harold Usgaard
Bp. Ralph Jones	Bp. Herman Yoos (<i>excused</i>)
Bp. Wilma Kucharek	

Youth and Young Adult Advisors

Ms. Amanda Briggs	Mr. Anthony Rhodes
Mr. Jacob Halsor (<i>excused</i>)	

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
Ms. Kathryn Lohre, Director, Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Relations (*excused*)
Pr. Walter May, Assistant to the Bishop for the Synodical Relations
Pr. Donald J. McCoid, Assistant to the Bishop for Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Relations
Ms. Jodi Slattery, Assistant to the Bishop for Governance
Ms. Else B. Thompson, Executive for Human Resources

Office of the Secretary

Mr. Phillip H. Harris, General Counsel
Mr. Frank F. Imhoff, Manager, Official Documentation
Ms. Sue Rothmeyer, Assistant to the Secretary
Mr. David A. Ullrich, Associate General Counsel

Unit Staff

Pr. Stephen P. Bouman, Executive Director, Congregational and Synodical Mission
Ms. Christina Jackson-Skelton, Executive Director, Mission Advancement
Pr. Rafael Malpica-Padilla, Executive Director, Global Mission
Ms. Antoinette "Toni" Daniels, Director for Relationships and Unit Operations, GM
Ms. Evelyn Soto, Director for CSM Operations and Programs, CSM
Pr. Cherylne Beck, Program Director, Disability Ministries and Support of Lay Rostered Leaders, CSM
Pr. Peter Perella, Director for Worship Formation & Liturgical Resources, CSM
Pr. Jonathan Strandjord, Program Director, Seminaries, CSM
Pr. Gregory Villalon, Director for Leadership for Mission/Candidacy, CSM

Separately Incorporated Ministries

Ms. Linda Post Bushkofsky, Executive Director, Women of the ELCA (*excused*)
Represented by Deb Calvert, Associate Executive Director, Women of the ELCA
Mr. Doug Haugen, Executive Director, Lutheran Men in Mission
Ms. Beth A. Lewis, President, Augsburg Fortress, Publishers
Ms. Eva M. Roby, President and CEO, MIF
Pr. Jeffrey D. Thiemann, President and CEO, Portico Benefit Services

Press

Ms. Melissa Ramirez Cooper, Mission Advancement
Ms. Elizabeth M. Hunter, *The Lutheran* magazine
Mr. Daniel Lehmann, *The Lutheran* magazine

Ecumenical Guests

Pr. Scott Anderson, Presbyterian Church (USA)
Ms. Stephanie Cheney, The Episcopal Church (*excused*)
Bp. Sharon Rader, United Methodist Church
Pr. Christopher Thore, Moravian Church in America
Pr. Lisa Vander Wal, The Reformed Church in America

Revised March 28, 2013

Friday, April 5, 2013

- 6:30 a.m. **Breakfast**, Marriott Hotel (Buffet opens at 6:30 a.m.)
- 7:00 a.m.** Executive Committee, **Full Epiphany**
- 9:45 a.m. Committees meet
 Budget and Finance, Epiphany
 Legal and Constitutional Review, Advent
 Program and Services, Pentecost
 Planning and Evaluation, 10th Floor Training Room
- 12:00 noon **Working Lunch** (Committees continue to meet until 2:15 p.m.)
- 2:30 p.m. **BREAK**
 Church Council Choir Rehearsal, Chapel
- 3:30 p.m. **PLENARY ONE**

PLENARY SESSION ONE

April 5, 2013
3:30 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.

I.A 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.

I.B Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the November 9-11, 2012 meeting of the Church Council have been distributed to council members electronically on Net Community. Minutes for meetings held in executive session have been added to the protocol file in the Office of the Secretary.

The minutes of the council's Executive Committee meetings on November 8, 2012, November 9, 2012, December 18, 2012, January 25, 2013 and February 20, 2013 have been distributed electronically to members. Minutes for meetings held in executive session have been 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 November 9-11, 2012 meeting of the Church Council;
and**

To ratify actions of the council's Executive Committee as indicated in the minutes of the November 8, 2012, November 9, 2012, December 18, 2012, January 25, 2013 and February 20, 2013 meetings.

I.C Report of the Presiding Bishop (Exhibit A, Part 1)

I.D Report of the Vice President ([Exhibit A, Part 2](#))

I.E Report of the Executive Committee

1.E.1. Church Council Committees for the 2013-2016 Triennium

In accordance with Church Council practice, the Executive Committee recommends and the Council ratifies committee assignments for continuing members at its August meeting. This ensures efficiency as the Council prepares for the November meeting and ensures that there are continuing members assigned to committees prior to the meeting.

Members elected at the Churchwide Assembly will indicate their preferences prior to the November meeting and be ratified at that meeting.

As you know, each member of the Church Council serves on one of four Church Council committees and has the option to indicate interest in others.

Most Church Council members continue serving on their current committees. For those who indicate a wish to serve on a different committee, the Executive Committee will try to align the member's experience and interests with the needs of the committee for expertise, experience and balance among members, but it is not known how preferences will cluster. For that reason, the Executive Committee cannot guarantee that members will be assigned their top preference. Continuing members will be informed of the committee assignments at the August 2013 meeting of the Church Council.

Additional information about the committees:

1. The committees review various aspects of churchwide work and develop recommendations in their areas of responsibility for consideration by the Council.
2. The committees normally convene the day before the Church Council begins its plenary sessions. For the initial organizing meeting of the triennium, however, the committees will meet on Saturday morning, November 9.
3. The committee assignments, including newly elected members, will be reported in the first Church Council electronic mailing for the November meeting.

[Exhibit L, Part 3](#) contains a form on which continuing members of the Church Council can indicate their committee preference. This form also will be distributed in the hanging folders. Please return the form to John Hessian by the end of the meeting.

1.E.2. Proposal on Theological Education

One of the strengths of the ELCA is its theological education network for preparing, connecting and supporting faithful, wise and courageous mission leaders.

In 1995, the Churchwide Assembly received a report entitled, "*Faithful Leaders for a Changing World: Theological Education for Mission in the ELCA.*" Central to the report was this vision: "The preparation of a wide variety of leaders, grounded in Scripture and the Lutheran confessional tradition and equipped for the church's mission in a rapidly changing environment, made possible through redeployment of resources in an interdependent network of theological education providers."

Building upon that vision for an interdependent network of theological education providers, we are connecting seminaries, colleges and universities, synod-based programs, and ecumenical and international partners. We are ever mindful of the church we are becoming and the kind of leaders needed to serve the gospel and God's mission. We are preparing a wide range of leaders in a variety of ways to address the diverse needs of the church.

Our theological education network is adapting in a time of rapid changes in the culture, the church, and the profiles of leadership and educational structures, by means of new institutional collaborations and mergers, new degree program designs, certificate programs, strategies for forming learning communities, and staffing arrangements. It is especially crucial that this renewal happens well over the next few years as the ELCA enters a period of dramatic turn-over in its rostered leadership and as lay theological

education becomes even more important for the ELCA to live out its vocation in North American and global Christianity.

At the same time, economic challenges both for students and for educational providers are creating strains that limit capacity for creative adaptation and that could significantly reduce the richness, connectedness and productivity of our theological education network, unnecessarily suppress enrollment of gifted candidates, and diminish the common theological life of this church.

At its November 2012 meeting, the ELCA Church Council received the report of the Mission Funding Task Force and, in response to its recommendations and in light of the multiple study processes and experiments currently underway regarding forms of leadership and leadership education in this church, took the following action:

“To request the Office of the Presiding Bishop, in response to the recommendations of the Mission Funding Task Force relating to theological education and in recognition of the changing landscape in this church regarding leadership development, theological education, candidacy and call, and the rosters of this church, to consult with seminary presidents, the Conference of Bishops, the Word and Service Task Force, and other leaders and to bring a report and recommendations to the Church Council at its April 2013 meeting regarding next steps to address these issues in a holistic manner.”

Since that meeting, the need to “address these issues in a holistic manner” has become even more pressing as conversations about the rosters and candidacy move forward and as our seminaries addresses funding challenges and work quickly to develop new patterns of providing theological education in effective, sustainable ways.

There have been conference calls with seminary presidents, meetings with churchwide colleagues as well as an extensive conversation at the Conference of Bishops meeting in March. From those conversations, a proposal on theological education is being presented to Church Council at this April meeting. It outlines a strategy for the ELCA’s churchwide organization, synods and seminaries to work together in renewing our theological education network so we can serve mission well in rapidly changing circumstances. The proposal can be found in [Exhibit G](#). We will be introduced to the background and proposal at this plenary session, with consideration and further discussion to occur during a later plenary.

1.E.3. Book of Faith Initiative

For the past five years, the ELCA has been involved in a Book of Faith initiative that encourages members, congregations and synods to become fluent in the language of faith – the language of Scripture. Many of us are aware of the rich Lutheran insights that have been helpful in understanding the diverse ways that God engages us through the Bible. The initiative helped us address this church’s realities directly and to experience more fully the power of the Word.

This opportunity to dig deeper into our book of faith, the Bible, modeled a grassroots approach. It embraced a common vision in which all are invited to open scripture and join the conversation, and there are some meaningful practices that have occurred throughout the ELCA because of this new grassroots model.

Through the Book of Faith initiative, we strived to:

- Learn together about Lutheran approaches to Scripture which have been so helpful over the centuries

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- Enter fully into a conversation which is deep and broad, reaching across all ages and the many cultures that inform who we are as a people of God
- Experience more fully the power of the Word.

Although the initiative is now coming to an end, we want to look at new opportunities for us to engage in the good work that inspired widespread, creative and deep engagement with Scripture. Perhaps our work to dig deeper into the Bible will help us continue to explore a biblical approach to discernment questions. What is God's will for my life and our life together as a church? What would God have us do? Can we explore how God calls us through the Bible to engage in God's work in mission planning?

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." (ELCA provision 4.02.e.).

It may also be beneficial to recall the three great listenings – listening to God, listening to one another, and listening to our community – and how that, in combination with being a book of faith church, can help us in the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20). Marked by the sign of the cross we are sent to be an evangelizing church; Praying, Preparing and Renewing Leaders, Teaching Disciples, Starting and Renewing Congregations, we model and invite others to emulate the life of Christ by internalizing the Great Commission, a hope for our broken world.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To request the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit, in consultation with Augsburg Fortress Publishers, review and engage in further discussions on the work of the "Book of Faith" initiative and consider how this church can build upon that work and engage in other ways in which God's Word will continually renew this church; and

To request a report with possible recommendations for the 2013 Churchwide Assembly regarding the "Book of Faith" initiative to be considered at a special Church Council meeting at a time to be determined.

I.F Announcements

5:15 p.m. **EVENING PRAYER**, 1st Floor Chapel
 Leader: Pr. Susan Langhauser

6:00 p.m. **DINNER**, Augsburg Room
 Wine and beer available (\$5.00 donation)

7:00 p.m. **Café Conversation with Class of 2013**, Augsburg Room

Saturday, April 6, 2013

- 6:30 a.m. **BREAKFAST**, Marriott Hotel (Buffet opens at 6:30 a.m.)
Board Development Committee meeting, Marriott Hotel
- 8:00 a.m. **BIBLE STUDY**, Church Council Room
Led by Pr. Lisa Vander Wal, Ecumenical Liaison,
The Reformed Church in America

PLENARY SESSION TWO

April 6, 2013

8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

II.A Report of the Executive for Administration ([Exhibit A, Part 5](#))

II.B Report of the Planning and Evaluation Committee

The following report is provided by the Planning and Evaluation Committee. Items related to the April 5, 2013, meeting of the Planning and Evaluation Committee are below. Additional items or revised actions may be distributed following the committee's meeting.

II.B.1. Update on Communal Discernment Task Force ([Exhibit I](#))

II.B.2. Update on LIFT II ([Exhibit I](#))

II.C Update from Portico Benefit Services ([Exhibit Q, Parts 2 and 3](#))

In past meetings of the Church Council, the council has received periodic reports from our church's separately incorporated ministries. Portico Benefit Services will be bringing to this meeting two items: a revised ELCA Philosophy of Benefits and a preliminary plan design for the ELCA Health Care Plan due to the implementation of the Health Care Reform (HCR).

Since the inception of the ELCA, Portico Benefit Services ("Portico") (formerly known as the Board of Pensions of the ELCA) has had the responsibility under the Constitution, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions of the ELCA to "provide church retirement and other benefit plans" to rostered leaders and lay employees of the expressions of this church and to employees of other related organizations, including seminaries and social ministry organizations. In doing so, Portico has drawn on the legacy of predecessor church bodies and developed benefit programs that both recognize the importance of supporting the health and wellness of rostered leaders and other lay employees and the economic and social realities of the environments in which they are called or employed.

In an effort to synthesize an underlying philosophy of benefits and to bring additional consistency to the design and delivery of the ELCA benefit programs, Portico began in 2003 to undertake a review of the history and evolution of benefit plans and the governing documents of this church. This process resulted in a report prepared by Portico staff and approved by Portico's Board of Trustees in 2004. The 2004 Philosophy of Benefits Report identified five supporting principles, discussed their application in different plans, provided the views of church leaders, and suggested proposed interpretations to achieve greater flexibility. (The background of the 2004 report and the supporting principles are provided in part 4 of the revised ELCA Philosophy of Benefits.)

Since 2004, societal changes and changes in the ELCA have raised profound issues that have militated for re-visiting and revising the ELCA Philosophy of Benefits Report. These changes have included the financial and market turmoil in 2008 and the uneven and lengthy recovery, as well as demographic changes in the ELCA. At the same time, there have been profound changes in the marketplace for benefits. Collectively, these changes have placed substantial stresses on employers in the ELCA and related organizations. Moreover, the adoption of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act in March 2010 and the prospect of implementing many aspects of health care reform in January 2014 have caused a tectonic shift in the field of health care insurance. Health care reform also necessitates updating the ELCA Philosophy of Benefits and studying the possibility of providing alternative health care plans.

In anticipation of health care reform and in order to address the impact of other changes in society and this church, Portico convened a task force to address possible revisions and updating of the ELCA Philosophy of Benefits. This task force included Portico staff, churchwide officers, bishops, and others. In November 2011, Church Council members Marjorie B. Ellis and John R. Emery were added to the task force. Originally, the hope had been to provide a report to the Church Council at its meeting in November 2012. However, that schedule became unrealistic in light of continued uncertainties regarding the implementation of health care reform and the appropriate response of Portico. In addition, Portico determined that it was advisable to add other stakeholders to the task force.

In addition to evaluating the impacts of health care reform, Portico was approached by ELCA seminary presidents in 2012 about the possibility of developing alternative health care plans for seminaries. In response to this request, Portico developed pilot proposals, which necessitated amendments to the ELCA Medical and Dental Plan. These amendments were approved by the ELCA Church Council in a special meeting on September 18, 2012. That action (CC12.09.21) also included the following provision:

* * * *

To commit that the Church Council will prepare proactively to address the challenges of health care reform and will encourage constructive discussion regarding the implications of health care reform among Portico plan members, congregations, synods, the churchwide organization, and agencies and institutions of this church

In the past two years, Portico has worked diligently to study possible plan designs that would recognize the values of this church and be competitive in the marketplace upon implementation of health care reform. Correspondingly, this work has impacted revision of the ELCA Philosophy of Benefits. Until the landscape of health care reform was clarified, it did not make sense to refine a revised ELCA Philosophy of Benefits. Consequently, an interim report was provided to the Church Council in November 2012, and the following action was adopted (CC12.11.35):

To express appreciation and thanks to the staff and board of Portico Benefit Services for providing leadership, education, and advice to this church regarding the provision of benefits

to plan members, especially in light of the complexities of addressing potential health care reform;

To encourage Portico to continue its leadership in providing timely and important education and advice to plan members, congregations, other employers, and those involved with preparing for and implementing health care reform;

To recognize that Portico has appointed a philosophy of benefits task force to undertake the process of revising Portico's philosophy of benefits in such a way that recognizes the historic principles of providing benefits to clergy, rostered laypersons, and church employees, the realities of societal changes, both within and outside this church, as well as pending health care reform, with the expectation that a report would be submitted to the Church Council meeting in November 2012;

To acknowledge that the Church Council appointed Marjorie Ellis and John Emery to serve on the philosophy of benefits task force;

To recognize that complexities and political uncertainties militate against revising Portico's philosophy of benefits until there is greater clarity regarding the political landscape and the form of health care reform;

To authorize deferring the submission of a report and recommendations of the philosophy of benefits task force until the Church Council meeting in April or August 2013; and

To authorize the Executive Committee of the Church Council to add additional members to the task force to include other stakeholders and to provide such other liaison and assistance as may be necessary for the Portico task force to complete its report and recommendations no later than August 2013.

In accordance with this action, additional members were added to the task force (including two parish pastors, a synod vice president, a congregational council member, and a former Synod Council member), and work continued both on the development of health care plan options and on revision to the ELCA Philosophy of Benefits. Possible health care plan options and pricing alternatives and the revised ELCA Philosophy of Benefits were shared with the Administrative Team of the churchwide organization and with the Conference of Bishops.

Because of the potential impact of health care reform on ELCA congregations, synods, the churchwide organization, and related organizations, it is important for Portico to educate these stakeholders and plan members about potential plan design changes and the revised ELCA Philosophy of Benefits at Synod Assemblies and in other venues.

In order to facilitate these activities, Portico will provide the Church Council at this meeting the draft ELCA Philosophy of Benefits and the framework for potential plan designs and pricing options. These proposals will be further refined and presented for final approval at the Church Council's August meeting. However, it is important in rolling out these proposals at Synod Assemblies and in obtaining further review from stakeholders that there be a clear sense of direction so that final decisions can be made in a timely manner and implemented in accordance with the timetable for health care reform. This timetable necessitates endorsement in concept of the ELCA Philosophy of Benefits and the preliminary plan designs and pricing proposals.

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II.D ELCA Philosophy of Benefits and Development of Health Care Plan Design Options

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To receive the report and recommendation of the Portico Benefit Services' philosophy of benefits task force and to express thanks and appreciation to the staff and board of trustees of Portico and to the members of its task force who have worked diligently to evaluate and update the ELCA Philosophy of Benefits in light of changes in this church and in society, especially in light of the complexities of addressing health care reform;

To affirm in concept the draft ELCA Philosophy of Benefits as presented by Portico and endorsed by its board of trustees;

To encourage Portico to continue to educate plan members, congregations, synods, the churchwide organization, other ELCA-related employers, and other interested persons regarding the ELCA Philosophy of Benefits at Synod Assemblies and in other venues and to continue to seek feedback and input from these individuals and groups as part of this process; and

To request that Portico bring a final version of the ELCA Philosophy of Benefits for review and consideration by the Conference of Bishops and for approval by the Church Council at their meetings in August 2013.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To receive the report and recommendations of Portico Benefit Services regarding development of health care plan design options and pricing alternatives that address the challenges and complexities of implementing health care reform, and to express appreciation to Portico staff and its board of trustees for considering these issues with insight, creativity, and compassion, consistent with the draft ELCA Philosophy of Benefits;

To recognize that development of plan design options and pricing alternatives is necessary if Portico is to continue to provide financially viable, self-supporting, wellness-focused health plans that can serve the needs of this church and related organizations and their plan members;

To affirm in concept the proposed plan design options and pricing alternatives presented by Portico and endorsed by its board and to encourage their further refinement, consistent with the draft ELCA Philosophy of Benefits, in anticipation of the implementation of health care reform in January 2014;

To request that Portico finalize plan design options and pricing alternatives and bring them and associated plan amendments for review and consideration by the Conference of Bishops and approval by the Church Council in August 2013;

To endorse as a benchmark the proposed health care plan option that approximates the current level of benefits provided by the ELCA health plan, and to encourage congregations, synods, the churchwide organization, other ELCA-related organizations, and other interested persons to advocate for selection of this plan option;

To further request that Portico continue to provide timely and important education and advice to plan members, congregations, synods, the churchwide organization, other ELCA- related organizations, and other interested persons regarding planning for and implementing health care reform; and

To authorize the Executive Committee of the Church Council to take additional actions as necessary to facilitate the development of health care plan design options and pricing alternatives so that a final proposal and recommendations can be considered by the Conference of Bishops and acted upon by the Church Council at their August meetings.

II.E Board orientation: Role of the Church Council at the Churchwide Assembly

The board development task force has requested that a primer on the role of Church Council members at the Churchwide Assembly be presented by David Swartling, secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and Jodi Slattery, assistant to the presiding bishop and chair of the Churchwide Assembly Planning Committee. A summary of the information to be shared is printed below.

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” committee and leading prayer during plenary sessions. Members will be notified by the vice president of specific assignments early in the summer.

Information about the draft schedule for the 2013 Churchwide Assembly is printed in [Exhibit Q, Part 1](#).

**II.F Report of the Conference of Bishops ([Exhibit A, Part 6](#))
Bishop Jessica Crist, Chair of the Conference of Bishops**

II.G Announcements

PLENARY SESSION THREE

April 6, 2013
10:45 a.m. – 12:00 noon

III.A Report of the Treasurer ([Exhibit A, Part 4](#))

III.B Report of the Budget and Finance Committee ([Exhibit F](#))

Action items recommended by the Budget and Finance Committee for *En Bloc* approval are found in [Exhibit D](#). *En Bloc* items will be acted upon later in the meeting.

III.B.1. 2012 Current Fund and World Hunger

The Report of the Treasurer summarizing the 2012 fiscal year financial results can be found in Exhibit F, Part 1a. The current fund operating results for the period are presented in Exhibit F, Part 1b. Operating results for the ELCA World Hunger program and ELCA Malaria Campaign are in Exhibit F, Part 1c. The statements of financial position for the year ended January 31, 2013 are reflected in Exhibit F, Part 1d. Exhibit F, Part 1e is the Capital Projects report for the fiscal year ended January 31, 2013.

III.B.2. 2013 Income Estimate and Expenditure Authorization

Exhibit F, Part 2a shows the revised 2013 income estimates. Exhibit F, Part 2b shows the revised 2013 expense authorization by unit. The 25th Anniversary Campaign is not anticipated in the revised income or spending proposals. The 2013 revised current fund income totals \$70,731,675, an increase of \$1,725,370 from the November 2012 estimate. There is no change in the \$19 million income estimate for World Hunger.

Indicators from 2012 mission support results and 2013 mission support plans support an increase of \$400 thousand from the November 2012 estimate. Investment income is increased to \$2.4 million, based on a review of year-end results. Using the finalized 2013 distribution value per unit, endowment distributions are estimated to increase to \$721 thousand for unrestricted purposes and \$1.5 million for temporarily restricted purposes. Rent income for the Lutheran Center and other locations has increased to align with 2012 results plus a moderate projection for current vacancies. A \$200 thousand decrease in Global Church Sponsorship income reflects year-end results. Gift income for Missionary Sponsorship was approximately \$240 thousand below the budgeted level for 2012.

The largest revenue change is in 'Other' income. Beginning in 2013, self-supporting ministries and other designated and restricted programs will be charged for associated services related to human resources, facilities, information technology and accounting. Income from these sources is anticipated at \$922 thousand.

Other fund sources include designated funds released in the amount of \$620,675, primarily from the Mission Development Fund in support of expanding the Young Adults in Global Mission program. Restricted Funds released are reduced by \$582,050. After further review, it was determined that the impact to the standalone financial reports for ELCA World Hunger would be too significant. We will continue

to use transfers to record the use of World Hunger funds, thus requiring a reduction of the unit allocation for Global Mission.

Other expense adjustments include items relating to transfers previously recorded as negative expenses in Congregational and Synodical Mission and the Office of the Treasurer that will now be recorded as income. Increases for the three Offices include staffing and compensation adjustments as well as increased insurance premium costs. Income in excess of the expense adjustments have been added to the Strategic Initiative Fund.

Although not part of the budget approval process for the Church Council, it is noted that the ELCA Malaria Campaign anticipates raising \$5 million in 2013. The 2013 World Hunger expense proposal reflects full spending of the 2013 goal of \$19 million as well as allocations from existing fund balance. The World Hunger Steering Committee recommended allocations from fund balance based on unit proposals. The current World Hunger expense proposal anticipates revision to the “Guidelines for ELCA World Hunger Program Activities” as described below.

Guidelines for ELCA World Hunger Program Activities

In accordance with action of the 1991 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, ELCA World Hunger funds are expended 25-30 percent within the territorial jurisdiction of this church and 70-75 percent in other parts of the world. The 2013 World Hunger spending authorization reflects \$13.3 million [70.1 percent] for international spending and \$5.7 million [20.9 percent] for domestic spending.

In 1988, an inter-unit task force on World Hunger comprised of churchwide organization staff adopted “Guidelines for ELCA World Hunger Program Activities” to direct implementation of the program. The guidelines document was most recently revised in 2006, and stipulates that “fund-raising, administration and communication costs related to the World Hunger Program and Appeal will be covered from those funds available for use within the territorial jurisdiction of this church.” (Section 5.c. of the “Guidelines for ELCA World Hunger Program Activities”)

Increasing ELCA World Hunger income from approximately \$11 million in 1989 to approximately \$19 million in 2012 has required increased investments in fund-raising efforts. A 2012 World Hunger Program Review highlighted the potential to significantly increase the income for and impact of ELCA World Hunger. Desiring to continue investing in fund-raising and yet having reached the percentage limits for the current spending allocations, ELCA World Hunger is confronted with the dilemma that further investment in fund-raising will necessitate short-term reduction in domestic relief, advocacy and education efforts.

As the inter-unit group responsible for ensuring compliance with established guidelines and monitoring the financial position of ELCA World Hunger, the World Hunger Steering Committee (WHSC) has evaluated scenarios that could facilitate growth in both fund-raising and program activities. The World Hunger Steering Committee is comprised of the following: Executive for Administration [chair], Executive Director for Congregational and Synodical Mission, Executive Director for Global Mission, Executive Director for Mission Advancement, Director for World Hunger and Disaster Appeal, and Treasurer.

The WHSC proposes that fund-raising costs be counted as 50 percent from domestic funds and 50 percent from international funds. This scenario provides flexibility for building capacity for the entire program while also supporting the current methodology for determining unit spending authorizations.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To endorse the World Hunger Steering Committee proposal to revise the “Guidelines for ELCA World Hunger Program Activities” to reflect that, for the purpose of determining compliance with ELCA World Hunger spending restrictions, 50 percent of fund-raising costs will be counted towards the domestic percentage and 50 percent will be counted towards the international percentage.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To approve a revised current fund spending authorization for fiscal year 2013 of \$70,731,675; and

To approve a revised total World Hunger spending authorization for fiscal year 2013 of \$20,195,415 subject to endorsement of the World Hunger Steering Committee’s revision of the “Guidelines for ELCA World Hunger Program Activities.”

III.B.3. Proposed 2014-2016 Triennium Budget

The 2014-2016 income proposal is shown in Exhibit F, Part 3a. Income estimates do not anticipate any funds anticipated in the proposal for a 25th Anniversary Campaign.

In consideration of the recent hopeful pattern whereby more synods are reporting increases in projected mission support, the proposal anticipates moderate growth in mission support during each of the three years. Major areas of reduced funding are in investment income as a result of expiring mineral rights leases; return of Mission Investment Fund support to previous levels of funding; and, the end of receiving a block grant from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.

In 2014, reductions from investment income and grants total \$2.1 million. These reductions are offset by anticipated increases of \$450 thousand in mission support and \$1.3 million in designated and restricted funds released. In 2015 and 2016, reductions in designated and restricted funds reflect exhaustion of existing restricted and designated fund balances and conclusion of projects supported by the Mission Development Fund.

World Hunger income is projected to remain at the base level of \$19 million for each of the three years of the triennium.

Exhibit F, Part 3b details the initial 2014 spending authorization by unit. Changes in current fund allocations reflect an expanded Young Adults in Global Mission program, increased building and infrastructure costs and planned use of the Strategic Initiative Fund. The World Hunger spending authorization does not anticipate

allocations of fund balance, and reflects spending at an amount equal to the income proposal.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To recommend the following for adoption by the 2013 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

2014 Budget Proposal

To approve a 2014 current fund spending authorization of \$70,541,740;
To approve a 2014 World Hunger income proposal of \$19,000,000; and
To authorize the Church Council to revise the spending authorization after periodic review of revised income estimates.

2015 Budget Proposal

To approve a 2015 current fund income proposal of \$68,552,278;
To approve a 2015 World Hunger income proposal of \$19,000,000; and
To authorize the Church Council to establish a spending authorization after periodic review of revised income estimates.

2016 Budget Proposal

To approve a 2016 current fund income proposal of \$67,920,675;
To approve a 2016 World Hunger income proposal of \$19,000,000; and
To authorize the Church Council to establish a spending authorization after periodic review of revised income estimates.

III.B.4. 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 approved spending levels 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 Endowment Fund Pooled Trust (Pooled Trust) as Church Council designated funds “functioning as endowment.” They are reported annually to the Church Council in the spring through the Church Council Budget and Finance Committee. Exhibit F, Part 4a details those funds. One of the funds invested in the Pooled Trust is the Mission Development Fund. Exhibit F, Part 4b reflects activity in this fund as requested by the Church Council at the inception of the Mission Development Fund.

The second way designated funds are managed is through the ELCA treasury as designated funds to be used for a specific activity within a given time frame. Exhibit F, Part 4c is a summary exhibit of all active Church Council designated funds,

exclusive of those “functioning as endowments.” Exhibit F, Parts 4d-f includes reports for each of the active Church Council designated funds.

The Church Council is being requested to approve one new designation at this time. Expenses related to the proposed 25th Anniversary Campaign are estimated at \$6.5 million, or 9.5 percent of the expanded campaign goal. Campaign expenses are anticipated to be funded through two primary sources. The first source is from a percentage of gifts raised; the amount anticipated to be received from this source is \$1.5 million. The balance of the estimated expenses is requested to be funded from Church Council designation of \$5 million of the fiscal year 2012 net operating revenue over expense. Exhibit F, Part 4g is the anticipated expense budget for the 25th Anniversary Campaign.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To approve Church Council designated funds for the preparation and for the support of the 25th Anniversary Campaign of the ELCA in an amount of \$5,000,000 for expenses already incurred and for anticipated expenses which will be incurred subject to the approval of the campaign.

III.B.5. Revisions to 2013 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). A report of the actual mission support received from each synod for 2012, with plans and any revisions for the 2013 and original synod plans for 2014 fiscal years, is provided in Exhibit F, Part 5b.

Revisions in synod plans following the November 2012 meeting of the Church Council were received and reviewed by the Conference of Bishops at its March 2013 meeting.

Since the November 2012 Church Council meeting, we have received revisions for 2013 mission support plans from **eight** synods, with all **eight** synods remaining at their previous percentage sharing plans

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To acknowledge the decision of the following synods to maintain the percentage of sharing of 2013 mission support contributions by congregations for synodical and churchwide ministries but estimating an adjustment in the estimated amount to be shared: Oregon; Pacifica; Northeastern Minnesota; Southeastern Minnesota; Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana; Northwest Synod of Wisconsin; South Carolina; and, Florida-Bahamas 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

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

III.B.6. Synod Mission Support Plans for 2014

Many synods are still in the process of preparing their 2014 mission support plans for presentation to their synod assemblies this spring and summer. To date, we have received plans from **forty-nine** synods. **Fourteen** synods are showing increased percentages, **five** decreases and the remaining **thirty** synods remaining constant.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To acknowledge that circumstances in the following synods have led to decisions to seek a decrease from prior levels in the percentage of sharing of 2014 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: **Sierra-Pacific; Southeast Michigan; New England; Virginia; and North Carolina synods;**

To acknowledge the decision of the following synods to increase the percentage of sharing of 2014 mission support contributions by congregations for synodical and churchwide ministries: **Northwest Washington; Eastern Washington-Idaho; Montana; Western North Dakota; Southeastern Minnesota; Arkansas-Oklahoma; Southwestern Texas; Western Iowa; Northern Great Lakes; Metropolitan New York; Slovak Zion; South Carolina; Florida-Bahamas; and Caribbean synods;**

To acknowledge the decision of the following synods to maintain the percentage of sharing of 2014 mission support contributions by congregations for synodical and churchwide ministries: **Alaska; Southwestern Washington; Oregon; Pacifica; Grand Canyon; Rocky Mountain; South Dakota; Northwestern Minnesota; Northeastern Minnesota; Southwestern Minnesota; Nebraska; Central States; Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana; Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast; Central/Southern Illinois; Northeastern Iowa; Northwest Synod of Wisconsin; East-Central Synod of Wisconsin; Greater Milwaukee; South-Central Synod of Wisconsin; LaCrosse Area; North/West Lower Michigan; Northeastern Ohio; New Jersey; Upstate New York; Northeastern Pennsylvania; Northwestern Pennsylvania; Southwestern Pennsylvania; Metropolitan Washington, D.C.; and, Southeastern 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; and

To request that all synods submit their 2014 mission support plans prior to their 2013 synod assemblies.

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III.B.7. 25th Anniversary Campaign for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

In 2013, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America will celebrate its 25th anniversary. This significant milestone provides the occasion both to reflect on the people and events that shaped the life of this church and to seek new opportunities to expand its mission and ministry. A 25th anniversary campaign for the ELCA is an opportunity to have a transformational impact on the shared ministries of this church so that together we can develop and expand ministries both locally and globally.

In response to the proposal of the Mission Funding Task Force that the ELCA consider a comprehensive campaign to coincide with its 25th anniversary, and in consultation with fundraising counsel and churchwide leadership, the Mission Advancement unit has undertaken preliminary work on a campaign.

In the fall of 2012, a presentation on the proposed campaign was made to the Conference of Bishops and synod vice presidents with time for questions and feedback, including the collection of written comments. The proposal for a comprehensive campaign for the ELCA was supported by the Conference of Bishops at that time.

In order to refine and finalize the specific proposal, further analysis and consultation was undertaken and included ongoing dialogue with the Conference of Bishops as well as other partners, leaders and ELCA members.

In November 2012, the ELCA Church Council authorized further work in anticipation of an action at the April 2013 Church Council meeting forwarding a recommendation to the Churchwide Assembly, in accordance with ELCA bylaw 11.41.06 which states a churchwide appeal must be approved by the assembly. The action taken at the November 2012 meeting (CC12.11.36) was:

To receive with appreciation the report of the Mission Funding Task Force and the proposal of the Mission Advancement unit regarding a potential campaign for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America on the occasion of its 25th anniversary;

To thank the Conference of Bishops, the Bishop's Advisory Council, and synod vice presidents for their feedback and suggestions on the specific opportunities lifted up in the campaign and for their advice on the scope, process and possibilities for the campaign;

To endorse in concept a 25th anniversary campaign for the ELCA, subject to finalizing a proposal and budget, further consultation with the Conference of Bishops, recommendation by the Church Council, and approval of the Churchwide Assembly in 2013;

To authorize the Mission Advancement unit to continue development and finalization of a comprehensive campaign proposal and to begin work related to the campaign, specifically the preparation of resources, hiring of staff, solicitation of individual donors for leadership gifts, and collaboration with synods for anticipated fundraising engagement following the 2013 assembly;

To encourage conversations among members and in congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization regarding ways that an ELCA campaign can be developed and implemented to take advantage of synergies among all expressions of this church;

To request that a refined proposal be brought to the Conference of Bishops at its March 2013 meeting and a final proposal be considered by the Church Council at its April 2013 meeting, in order for a recommendation to be forwarded to the Churchwide Assembly in August 2013.

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The Mission Advancement unit, Office of the Treasurer, and Office of the Presiding Bishop have developed a campaign budget to be shared with the Church Council.

Consideration of this proposed campaign on the 25th anniversary of the ELCA will occur in this April 2013 meeting for forwarding to the August 2013 Churchwide Assembly. A case statement laying out the goals for the campaign can be found in Exhibit F, Part 8a. A frequently asked questions document can be found in Exhibit F, Part 8b.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To recommend the following for adoption by the 2013 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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

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

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

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

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

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

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III.C Dwelling in the Word with Mr. Mark Myers

III.D Announcements

**12:00 noon SIM Lunches (Various Locations)
 Deadline for Removal of Items from *En Bloc*
 Deadline for New Business**

PLENARY SESSION FOUR

April 6, 2013

1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

IV.A Dwelling in the Word with Pr. Susan Langhauser

This Dwelling in the Word will be similar to our communal practice experienced in the April 2012 meeting of the Church Council.

IV.B Report of the Secretary ([Exhibit A, Part 3](#))

IV.C Report of the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee

The following report is provided by the [Legal and Constitutional Review](#) Committee. Additional items or revised actions may be distributed following the committee's meeting.

IV.C.1. Merger of CLU and PLTS

In 2011, the Churchwide Assembly adopted amendments to Chapter 8 of the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*. These amendments made it possible for a merger of a seminary and university. Such a merger occurred for the first time in 2011 between Lenoir-Rhyne University (LRU), Hickory, N.C., and Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary (LTSS), Columbia, S.C.

Over the past several years the ELCA seminaries have been working with each other and with other partners 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 past several months, California Lutheran University (CLU), Thousand Oaks, Calif., and Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary (PLTS), Berkeley, Calif., have come to an agreement that the two schools can best serve the ELCA's work of theological education by moving toward merger, with PLTS becoming part of CLU. In accordance with bylaw 8.31.02. of the ELCA Constitution, amendments to governing documents of each separately incorporated seminary as well as amendments to the governing documents of a college or university of this church need approval by the Church Council. Background information can be found in [Exhibit H](#).

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To receive with appreciation the report and draft documents relating to the proposed merger of California Lutheran University (CLU) and Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary (PLTS);

To thank the administrations and trustees of CLU and PLTS for engaging in thoughtful, forward-looking, spirit-filled discussions about the future of these institutions within the ecology of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America;

To acknowledge that the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is the sole corporate member of PLTS and that merger actions involving these schools must

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comply with the requirements in the Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of this church;

To endorse in concept the proposed merger of CLU and PLTS, and to encourage the leadership of these institutions to continue their discussions and to prepare the appropriate documentation to effectuate the merger; and

To authorize the Executive Committee of the Church Council, in collaboration with the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee and the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit, to engage in further discussions and document review with CLU and with PLTS, as necessary, for the purpose of finalizing the proposed merger and to bring a recommended action regarding the merger and the final documents to implement it at a special Church Council meeting at a time to be determined.

IV.D Report of the Executive Committee

IV.D.1. Lutheran Medical Center

Lutheran Medical Center (LMC) of Brooklyn, New York, is an ELCA affiliated social ministry organization incorporated under the New York not-for-profit corporation law. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) is the sole voting member of the corporation. As sole voting member, the ELCA is authorized to adopt and amend Lutheran Medical Center's governing documents, including its Certificate of Incorporation and Constitution. For the reasons presented here, Lutheran Medical Center is now proposing to change its formal corporate relationship with the ELCA. This change is necessitated in order to provide LMC maximum flexibility to manage the challenges LMC confronts as a consequence of the rapidly changing health care environment nationally and in the state of New York. By these proposals, LMC seeks to preserve and extend its unique healthcare ministry in Brooklyn, New York.

A special LMC Board committee, the Mission Affirmation Task Force, was charged with several tasks to assist in the transition. As a result of that review, the LMC Board of Trustees, on December 13, 2012, and the Executive Committee, on January 4, 2013, unanimously approved a new mission statement [Exhibit H, Part 3a] and a covenantal commitment [Exhibit H, Part 3b] in support of ELCA social ministry. The Board also adopted a resolution proposing amendments to the LMC Constitution and proposing to amend the LMC Restated Certificate of Incorporation in order to substitute another LMC-related corporation as the sole voting member of LMC. The LMC Board recommended for approval and adoption by the ELCA Church Council the amendment to LMC's Certificate of Incorporation and the revisions to LMC's Constitution.

On March 20, 2013, these resolutions were affirmed by the Board and LMC Health System, Inc., was selected to become the member corporation of LMC. LMC Health System, Inc., is a not-for-profit, tax exempt, 501(c)(3) corporation with a Board to be comprised of LMC's Executive Committee, which provides a permanent seat for the bishop of the Metropolitan New York Synod. The certificate of incorporation and proposed bylaws of LMC Health System, Inc., are provided to the Church Council as information.

The documents referenced can be found in [Exhibit H](#). After approval by the Council, the new LMC Constitution will be as it appears in Exhibit H, Part 2b. The

action below and the exhibits to which it refers have been reviewed by the General Counsel of the ELCA, and by the Executive Director for the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit and the Director for Justice and Poverty Ministries.

Emma Graeber Porter, the Rev. Don Stiger and Barbara Katz Arky from LMC will be present to provide background information and to address any questions.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To adopt the following resolution on behalf of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:

WHEREAS, Lutheran Medical Center (LMC), a New York not-for-profit corporation, is an affiliated social ministry organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA); and

WHEREAS, the ELCA is the sole voting member of the LMC corporation and the ELCA has the authority to adopt and amend the LMC governing documents; and

WHEREAS, LMC, by action of its Board of Trustees [Exhibit H, Parts 4a and 4b], has requested that its Constitution be amended by the ELCA Church Council as specifically indicated in Exhibit H, Part 2a, attached hereto; and

WHEREAS, LMC, by action of its Board of Trustees, has requested that its Restated Certificate of Incorporation [Exhibit H, Part 1a] be amended by the ELCA Church Council as specifically indicated in Exhibit H, Part 1b, attached hereto; and

WHEREAS, LMC has therefore requested that the ELCA formally adopt the LMC Constitution as amended [Exhibit H, Part 2b] and the Restated and Amended Certificate of Incorporation [Exhibit H, Part 1a and 1b] attached hereto; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Church Council, on behalf of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, hereby approves and adopts the amendments to the Constitution of Lutheran Medical Center specified in Exhibit H, Part 2a; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Church Council, on behalf of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, hereby approves and adopts the amended Restated Certificate of Incorporation of Lutheran Medical Center as indicated in Exhibit H, Parts 1a and 1b.

IV.D.2. Proposal on Theological Education ([Exhibit G, Part 1](#))

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To receive with appreciation the theological education proposal from the Office of the Presiding Bishop and to encourage continued conversation and discernment throughout this church regarding theological education and the renewal of work to call forth women and men to be formed as servant leaders;

To thank the Conference of Seminary Presidents, Conference of Bishops, and churchwide staff for their input, feedback and advice in shaping the scope, process and possibilities for this proposal; and

To affirm the work of the seminaries, colleges and universities, and other theological education providers in creating a strong and increasingly flexible and

efficient network that prepares a wide variety of leaders grounded in Scripture and the Lutheran confessional tradition and equipped for God's mission in a rapidly changing environment.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To authorize the creation of an advisory council which shall be known as the Theological Education Advisory Council, the members of which shall be appointed by the Executive Committee of the Church Council;

To authorize the Theological Education Advisory Council to implement the tasks outlined in the "Proposal for Churchwide Response to Current Challenges and Opportunities in Theological Education";

To authorize the Theological Education Advisory Council to consult as appropriate with other leaders both within and beyond the ELCA in order to consider how our interdependent network of theological education providers can best serve the church as it seeks to address in a holistic manner issues in leadership development, theological education, candidacy and call, and the rosters of this church;

To authorize the Theological Education Advisory Council to convene presidents of ELCA universities with embedded seminaries, seminary presidents, board chairs, a bishop from each seminary's board and others to share counsel on priorities and strategic plans, current collaboration initiatives, new collaborative possibilities, and degree program design innovations, and to examine implications for our leadership identification and preparation systems;

To request that the Theological Education Advisory Council submit periodic progress reports on its deliberations along with updates on new developments in the theological education network to the Conference of Bishops and the Church Council, with a final comprehensive report and possible recommendations submitted at the fall 2015 meeting of the Church Council for consideration at the 2016 Churchwide Assembly; and

To authorize the Executive Committee of the Church Council to act as necessary to facilitate the work of the Theological Education Advisory Council, including the authority to authorize additional expenditures.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To request the Office of the Presiding Bishop, in consultation with Conference of Bishops and Church Council, to bring a budget proposal to the 2013 Churchwide Assembly, designating a regular percentage of mission support to the support of theological education;

To encourage the Conference of Bishops and Synod Councils, in partnership with the churchwide organization, to stabilize and strengthen congregational and synodical support of theological education; and

To encourage the Mission Advancement Unit and synods to articulate to congregations and members that an important way we serve God's mission is through our shared support of theological education through mission support and individual gifts.

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- IV.E Church Council Joys and Concerns**
- IV.F Executive Session – Legal Briefing, Mr. Phil Harris**
- IV.G Announcements**
- 3:30 p.m. Health and Wellness Break**

PLENARY SESSION FIVE

April 6, 2013
4:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.

V.A Greeting from the ELCIC National Bishop Susan Johnson

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.

Bishop Susan C. Johnson, National Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, will be present for the April 2013 meeting of the Church Council and will bring a greeting to the Church Council.

V.B Report of the Program and Services Committee

The following report is provided by the Program and Services Committee. Action items related to the April 5, 2013 meeting of the Program and Services Committee are detailed below. *En Bloc* items recommended by the Program and Services Committee for *En Bloc* approval are found in [Exhibit D](#). *En Bloc* items will be acted upon later in the meeting. Additional items or revised actions may be distributed following the committee's meeting.

V.B.1. Update on Word and Service Task Force ([Exhibit J, Part 1](#))

V.B.2 Update on 500th anniversary

Program and Services Committee members discussed the challenges and opportunities with the upcoming observance of the 500th Anniversary of the "Lutheran" Reformation. In order to help facilitate the ongoing work and to implement the proposal that was presented at the Church Council meeting in November 2012, it was discussed to hire additional staff to help with the work.

CC Action

Recommended:

To request funding for staff to guide the ELCA in observance of the 500th anniversary.

V.B.3. Addressing Social Concerns Review Task Force ([Exhibit J, Part 3](#))

Please see page 35.

V.B.4. Women and Justice: One in Christ *(Please see Agenda page 36)*

The ELCA Churchwide Assembly in 2009 voted “To request that the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America develop a social statement on the topic of justice for women in church and society to be received by the Churchwide Assembly for approval in 2015.” Given the triennial assembly schedule adopted in 2011, an adjusted target date naturally would be 2016. However, the ELCA Task Force on Women and Justice has requested an extension for its work with the intention to develop a social statement to be received by the Churchwide Assembly for approval in 2019.

Members of the Program and Services Committee have been present for the two meetings of the ELCA Task Force on Women and Justice (September and December 2012) as have Churchwide staff in the capacity of advisors (OB, WELCA). The task force is energetic and dedicated, but the breadth and depth of the issues and realities of the task at hand led to a discussion at the December meeting about the possibility of an extension. The request is based on four major factors:

- Seating of task force was delayed—work on composing a task force was begun in early 2010 but was put on hiatus until early 2012 for several reasons (e.g., reduced staff capacity after October 2010 when the position was eliminated of the lead staff person for the work);
- Importance of broad participation and engagement—the task force believes that the ELCA should take adequate time to engage these issues thoroughly and to allow broad participation;
- Resource development—the task force desires to develop various study resources and provide several study modes in order to encourage participation and engagement and such efforts require additional time;
- Proposed recommendations from Addressing Social Concerns Review Committee (ASCRC)—if affirmed by the 2013 Churchwide Assembly, some recommendations from the ASCRC report may result in protocol changes (e.g., the recommendation for an extension of the comment period on a social statement draft would mean a draft should be readied by autumn 2014 for a 2016 Churchwide Assembly) and task force needs time to incorporate these.

For these reasons the task force believes its work and the engagement by the whole church would be dramatically improved by an extension of the timeline and requests Church Council to grant a delay.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To authorize a delay for the consideration of a social statement on women and justice until the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly.

V.B.5. Social Statement on Criminal Justice *(Exhibit J, Part 2)*

“The Church and Criminal Justice: Hearing the Cries” is the text provided by the ELCA Task Force on Criminal Justice as the proposed social statement on criminal justice for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Work on this statement was authorized at the 2007 ELCA Churchwide Assembly (CA07.02.09). If approved by

the 2013 Churchwide Assembly, it will be the twelfth social statement of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

ELCA social statements are teaching and policy documents that assist members in their thinking about social issues. They are meant to aid in communal and individual moral discernment and formation. Social statements also set policy for this church in regard to social questions and guide its advocacy and work in the public arena. They result from an extensive process of participation and deliberation and are adopted by a two-thirds vote of a Churchwide Assembly.

The initial request for a social statement on criminal justice came as memorials from the Rocky Mountain Synod, South Dakota Synod and La Crosse Area synods that cited concerns to address issues of mass incarceration and the impact on the people incarcerated, their families, workers in the system and the broader society.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To recommend the following for adoption by the 2013 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

To adopt the text of the proposed social statement “The Church and Criminal Justice: Hearing the Cries” as a social statement of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in accordance with the “Policies and Procedures of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for Addressing Social Concerns” (2011).

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To recommend the following implementing resolutions for adoption by the 2013 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

- 1. To call upon members of this church through steadfast prayer, discernment, ministry efforts, and public action to hear the cries, offer hospitality, accompany, and advocate on behalf of those whose lives are caught up in or committed in service to the criminal justice system;**
- 2. To call upon members, congregations, synods, social ministry organizations, and churchwide ministries to advocate intentionally and creatively for system reform consistent with the principles and recommendations set forth in this social statement;**
- 3. To encourage ELCA congregations to work with victims, victim advocates, and victim support organizations, to grow in sensitivity and response to the harm caused by crime, and to grow in awareness of restorative justice practices;**
- 4. To encourage ELCA congregations to consider becoming sites of ministry and action for the incarcerated and their families, possibly in ecumenical collaboration, and with special attention to re-entry ministries and to preferential hiring for ex-offenders, as appropriate;**
- 5. To hold in prayer the ministry of ELCA chaplains and pastors serving in all correctional facilities, or serving with law enforcement agencies around the**

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- country, and to encourage all expressions of the ELCA and its affiliated institutions to provide greater support to prison ministry;
6. To request the ELCA's Congregational and Synodical Mission unit to enlist the aid of leaders in conferences, synods, social ministry organizations or other appropriate groups in creating and maintaining a resource database, to which members, pastors or other professionals can turn for information about activities, models, and training modules that support ministry to people and action toward reform of the criminal justice system;
 7. To call upon the ELCA's Worship and Liturgical Resources Team to develop additional liturgical resources for those involved in the criminal justice system, such as services and prayers for victims and their families, for those incarcerated, for those employed in the system, or rites of blessing for those engaging in visitation ministries;
 8. To direct the staff of the ELCA's **advocacy ministries** to coordinate efforts to develop on behalf of this church a social investment screen on private prison operations, along with developing education materials to use within the ELCA for understanding these actions.
 9. To direct the ELCA's Theological Discernment Team in the fall of 2015 to bring to the ELCA Church Council an assessment of the feasibility of developing a social message on U.S. national drug policy, in accordance with "Policies and Procedures of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for Addressing Social Concerns" (Chicago: ELCA, 1997, revised 2006, 2011);
 10. To encourage the three expressions of this church to utilize the **recommendations of the Addressing Social Concerns Review Task Force in the process of disseminating and implementing this social statement; and**
 11. To call upon appropriate staff in the ELCA's Congregational and Synodical Mission unit and the Office of the Presiding Bishop to establish and oversee a process of implementation and accountability for this social statement that provides a report on implementation to the ELCA Church Council in the fall of 2017.

V.C Church Council Joys and Concerns

V.D Dwelling in the Word with Ms. Pamela Pritt

V.E Process Observation

V.F Announcements

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Sunday, April 7, 2013

6:30 a.m. **Breakfast**, Marriott Hotel (Buffet opens at 6:30 a.m.)

8:30 a.m. **Holy Communion, 1st Floor Chapel**

Presiding Minister: Bishop Mark Hanson
Preaching Minister: Pastor Linda Norman
Assisting Minister: Ms. Rebecca Carlson
Lector: Mr. Mark Myers

The Executive Committee has recommended that the offering taken at this worship service support ELCA Vision for Mission. Please make checks payable to the ELCA with the notation "Vision for Mission."

9:30 a.m. Break

9:30 a.m. **Leadership Tables Conversation**, Augsburg Room ([Exhibit Q, Part 4](#))
Facilitator: Ms. Christine Grumm

12:30 p.m. **Lunch**, Augsburg Room
Social Justice Working Group meeting, Augsburg Room
Executive Committee meets with officers
With Bishop Hanson, 11A
With Treasurer Norman, Luther Room
With Secretary Swartling, OS Conference Room

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PLENARY SESSION SIX

April 7, 2013

1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

VI.A Report of Board Development Committee

Action and information items related to the April 6, 2013, meeting of the Board Development Committee will be distributed following the committee's meeting.

VI.A.1. Church Council Retreat

At the November meeting of the Church Council, members discussed the opportunities to organize a retreat for the Church Council and took the following action (CC12.11.43):

To authorize the Board Development Committee to plan a retreat for the Church Council in August, 2014;

To establish a designated fund of up to \$35,000 for the purposes of the retreat, where the monies would come from current fund income over (in excess) of budget; and

To request the Board Development Committee to bring a final plan for the retreat for approval at the April 2013 meeting of the Church Council.

The intent of the retreat would be the following: engagement with LIFT, communal discernment, opportunities for bonding and team-building, getting to know each other and an examination of the role of the council. Further planning will occur by phone conference and at the 2013 Churchwide Assembly in Pittsburgh.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To designate Camp Carol Joy Holling, subject to the satisfactory completion of negotiations in the judgment of the secretary of this church, as the site for the Church Council retreat to be held August 15-17, 2014.

VI.B Dwelling in the Word with Mr. Paul Archer

VI.C New Business

VI.D Site for the 2016 Churchwide Assembly

The Office of the Secretary is responsible to "arrange for and manage churchwide meetings, including the Churchwide Assembly ..." (ELCA 13.41.02.) and presents its recommendations for Churchwide Assembly sites to the Church Council for approval. Information about the site for the 2016 ELCA Churchwide Assembly will be provided at this meeting.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To designate [to be provided] – subject to the satisfactory completion of negotiations in the judgment of the secretary of this church – as the site for the Fourteenth Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, August [to be provided], 2016.

**VI.E Café Conversation on Board Governance
Led by Secretary David Swartling**

VI.F Consideration of Unfinished and Additional Agenda Items

(Please see agenda pages 36-37, Women and Justice: One in Christ.)

VI.G Consideration of Items Removed from *En Bloc* ([Exhibit B](#) and [Exhibit D](#))

(Please see agenda pages 38-39, Confirmation Resources.)

VI.H *En Bloc* Approval of Certain Items

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*] in Exhibit B and Exhibit D. 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 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 and Exhibit D.

VI.I Church Council Joys and Concerns

VI.J Meeting evaluation and debriefing

VI.K Process Observation

VI.L Announcements

VI.M Closing Prayer

3:00 p.m. Adjournment

Revised April 5, 2013

V.B.3. Addressing Social Concerns Review Task Force ([Exhibit J, Part 3](#))

Continued from page 28.

In 2011, the Churchwide Assembly authorized the Church Council, in consultation with the Conference of Bishops and the Communal Discernment Task Force, to establish a review process of current procedures for the development and adoption of social concerns. Since that time, an Addressing Social Concerns Review Task Force was named and has been hard at work on engaging in the issue.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To receive with thanks the report and recommendations of the Addressing Social Concerns Review Task Force, “With Hearts and Hands and Voices,” and to express gratitude to task force members for their generous and capable service;

To request that the Office of the Presiding Bishop, in collaboration with the Conference of Bishops, facilitate implementation of the task force’s recommendations to foster moral deliberation, to increase involvement in the deliberative processes of this church, and to expand the use of ELCA social teaching (recommendations 1-5);

To request that the Office of the Presiding Bishop, in consultation with the Office of the Secretary and the Conference of Bishops, prepare a written proposal that addresses implementing the recommendations for procedural changes in the processes for addressing social concerns in this church, including proposed revisions to Policies and Procedures for Addressing Social Concerns in the ELCA, and to report on the progress of this work to the Church Council beginning in November 2013 (recommendations 6-8); and

To request that the Office of the Presiding Bishop review the allocation of resources in the churchwide organization and explore the possibilities for partnerships with other groups and individuals to assist the church in responding to social issues, in word and deed, as part of its evangelical mission in the world, and to make recommendations, as appropriate, to the Church Council to authorize the funding and personnel necessary to implement these recommendations (recommendation 9).

Revised April 7, 2013

V.B.4. Women and Justice: One in Christ *(Continued from agenda page 29.)*

The ELCA Churchwide Assembly in 2009 voted “To request that the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America develop a social statement on the topic of justice for women in church and society to be received by the Churchwide Assembly for approval in 2015.” Given the triennial assembly schedule adopted in 2011, an adjusted target date naturally would be 2016. However, the ELCA Task Force on Women and Justice has requested an extension for its work with the intention to develop a social statement to be received by the Churchwide Assembly for approval in 2019.

Members of the Program and Services Committee have been present for the two meetings of the ELCA Task Force on Women and Justice (September and December 2012) as have Churchwide staff in the capacity of advisors (OB, WELCA). The task force is energetic and dedicated, but the breadth and depth of the issues and realities of the task at hand led to a discussion at the December meeting about the possibility of an extension. The request is based on four major factors:

- Seating of task force was delayed—work on composing a task force was begun in early 2010 but was put on hiatus until early 2012 for several reasons (e.g., reduced staff capacity after October 2010 when the position was eliminated of the lead staff person for the work);
- Importance of broad participation and engagement—the task force believes that the ELCA should take adequate time to engage these issues thoroughly and to allow broad participation;
- Resource development—the task force desires to develop various study resources and provide several study modes in order to encourage participation and engagement and such efforts require additional time;
- Proposed recommendations from Addressing Social Concerns Review Committee (ASCRC)—if affirmed by the 2013 Churchwide Assembly, some recommendations from the ASCRC report may result in protocol changes (e.g., the recommendation for an extension of the comment period on a social statement draft would mean a draft should be readied by autumn 2014 for a 2016 Churchwide Assembly) and task force needs time to incorporate these.

For these reasons the task force believes its work and the engagement by the whole church would be dramatically improved by an extension of the timeline and requests Church Council to grant a delay.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To affirm the importance of and work by the ELCA Task Force on Women and Justice, and to thank members of the task force for their commitment;

To honor the request of the task force and to grant an extension of time for the consideration of a social statement on women and justice until the 2019 Churchwide Assembly in recognition of the realities that have affected its work;

To request that the task force and all the expressions of this church utilize the recommendations of the Addressing Social Concerns Review Task Force in the process of developing this social statement; and

To ask the task force to make periodic progress reports to the Conference of Bishops and the Church Council and an interim report on its progress to the 2016 Churchwide Assembly.

~~**To authorize a delay for the consideration of a social statement on women and justice until the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly.**~~

VI.G Consideration of Items Removed from *En Bloc*

(Removed from Exhibit D)

VI.G.1 Confirmation Resources

Southeastern Minnesota (3I)

Whereas members of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod have engaged in ongoing conversation about confirmation ministry and what it means in this time and place;

Whereas the most recent study of confirmation ministry in the ELCA is from 1993;

Whereas 56% youth in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America ages 13-17 make a personal commitment to living life with and for God (Portraits of Protestant Teens: A Report on Teenagers in Major US Denominations, Phil Schwadel and Christian Smith, 2005);

Whereas one third of adults under 30 are religiously unaffiliated (Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life, October 2012); and

Whereas if confirmation is only centered in youth ministry we miss opportunities for lifelong faith formation; and

Whereas some in our Lutheran faith community are struggling with Biblical literacy, faith articulation and Christian identity;

Therefore be it resolved that the Southeastern Minnesota Synod will continue innovative exploration of Confirmation ministry;

Be it further resolved that the Southeastern Minnesota Synod will share with other expressions of the church any resources that are discovered in this exploration;

Be it further resolved that synods and congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America be invited to reimagine Confirmation ministry in the 21st century;

Be it further resolved that the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America be a network for the adaptations that are already and will take place in the three expressions of the church; and

Be it further resolved that the Southeastern Minnesota Synod Council requests that the Church Council direct the appropriate unit of the churchwide expression to update the resources available on the churchwide web site to reflect the changes in faith formation ministry that are taking place within all expressions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To thank the Southeastern Minnesota Synod for its resolution related to confirmation ministry;

To acknowledge that the churchwide organization is in the process of a complete redesign of the entire ELCA.org website;

To request the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit, in consultation with the Mission Advancement unit and the Office of the Presiding Bishop, to update the resources on the new ELCA.org website to reflect the changes in faith formation ministry taking place within all expressions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America;

Revised April 7, 2013

To further request the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit, as part of the ongoing work of the Faith Formation Team (which includes unit staff, and staff from Augsburg Fortress, Publishers, as well as Christian education teachers in ELCA colleges and seminaries, and other partners) to take up the conversation about "reimagining" confirmation ministry and resources, and to report progress to the Conference of Bishops and the Church Council; and

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