

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
CHURCH COUNCIL
August 16-17, 2009
Hilton Hotel and Minneapolis Convention Center
Minneapolis, Minnesota

WORKING SCHEDULE

Sunday, August 16

- 11:00 a.m. Executive Committee meets, Hilton Hotel
- 12:00 noon **LUNCH**
Executive Committee, Hilton Hotel (location TBD)
Church Council, Hilton Hotel (location TBD)
- 12:00 noon Church Council registration, Hilton Hotel
- 1:00 p.m. *Deadline for removal of resolutions from En Bloc*
- 1:00 p.m. **PLENARY SESSION 1**, Hilton Hotel
Opening Prayer
Call to Order
Adoption of the Agenda (Agenda, p. 2)
Responses to Synodical Resolutions (Agenda, pp. 7-8; Exhibit B)
Nominations, Appointments, and Elections (Agenda, p. 9; Exhibit F)
Approve citations in honor of:
 - Ralston Deffenbaugh, president and CEO of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (Agenda, pp. 4-5)
 - Ishmael Noko, general secretary of The Lutheran World Federation (Agenda, p. 6)Consideration of Resolutions Removed from En Bloc
En Bloc Approval of Certain Agenda Items (Agenda, p. 10)
Information about November 2009 Church Council meeting (Agenda, p. 14)
Churchwide Assembly Overview (Agenda, pp. 13-14)
- 2:00 p.m. **PLENARY SESSION 2**, Hilton Hotel – *Executive Session with Conference of Bishops*
Board of Pensions Plan Amendments (Agenda, p. 3; Exhibit E)
- 3:00 p.m. Joint Worship with Conference of Bishops and Synodical Vice Presidents
Leader: Bishop Allan Bjornberg
- 3:30 p.m. BREAK
- 3:45 p.m. **PLENARY SESSION 3**, Hilton Hotel – *joint session with Conference of Bishops; synod vice presidents and regional coordinators also will attend*

Introduction: Vice President Carlos Peña and Bishop Allan Bjornberg
Report of the Presiding Bishop
Financial Report: Treasurer Christina Jackson-Skelton (Exhibit A, Part 1;
to be distributed)
Churchwide Assembly Preview: Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson
Assembly-related Items: Secretary David Swartling (Exhibit A, Part 2)

- 4:30 p.m. BREAK
- 4:45 p.m. **PLENARY SESSION 4**, Hyatt Crystal C Ballroom
Executive Session: Discussion with the Church Council Class of 2009
(Agenda, p. 14)
Facilitator: Kenneth Inskeep, ELCA Research and Evaluation
- 5:30 p.m. Adjournment
- 6:00 p.m. Dinner for Church Council, Conference of Bishops, Cabinet of Executives
(Seasons Room, Minneapolis Convention Center)

Monday, August 17

- Morning and Early Afternoon Pre-assembly preparation
No Church Council plenary session
- 9:30 a.m. Church Council Photo (location to be determined)
- 9:45 a.m. Orientation for Churchwide Assembly Assignments, Exhibit Hall E,
Minneapolis Convention Center
NOTE: Please bring Exhibit D, "2009 Churchwide Assembly
Assignments"
- Noon Church Council (lunch on your own)
- 4:00 p.m. OPENING WORSHIP: HOLY COMMUNION, Hall D, Minneapolis
Convention Center
- 5:30 p.m. DINNER, Grand Ballroom
- 7:00 p.m. PLENARY SESSION ONE, Exhibit Hall E, Minneapolis Convention
Center

Structure of the Agenda

I. ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING.	1
A. Voting Members	1
B. Liaison Bishops	1
C. Resource People	1
D. Press	2
E. Adoption of Agenda	2
II. WRITTEN REPORTS	3
A. Reports of the Officers	3
1. Treasurer: Exhibit A	3
III. ITEMS FOR ACTION	3
A. Board of Pensions Plan Changes	3
B. Churchwide Assembly Citations	4
C. Responses to Synodical Resolutions	7
D. Nominations, Appointments, and Elections	9
1. Church Council	9
2. <i>The Lutheran Magazine</i> Advisory Committee	9
IV. ITEMS FOR <i>EN BLOC</i> ACTION	9
A. Nominations, Appointments, and Elections	10
1. Social Ministry Organizations	10
2. ELCA Risk Management, Inc. (ELCARM)	10
B. Authorization of Executive Committee	11
C. Ratification of Church Council Committees for the 2009-2011 Biennium	11
D. Amendments to “Guidelines on Candidacy Issues for German Students or Pastors from the Evangelical Church in Germany.”	12
E. Approval of Synod Constitutions	12
V. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION	14
A. Churchwide Assembly Overview	14
B. Discussion with the Church Council Class of 2009	14
C. Information about the November 2009 Church Council Meeting	14

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
CHURCH COUNCIL
August 16, 2009
1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Hilton Hotel and Minneapolis Convention Center
Minneapolis, Minnesota

AGENDA

I. ORGANIZATION OF MEETING

A. Voting Members

Officers

Bp. Mark S. Hanson, Presiding Bishop
Mr. Carlos Peña, Vice President
Mr. David Swartling, Secretary
Ms. Christina Jackson-Skelton, Treasurer

Church Council

Pr. David P. Anderson	Pr. Steven P. Loy
Ms. Rebecca Jo Brakke	Mr. John S. Munday
Mr. Baron Blanchard	Mr. Mark W. Myers
Ms. Judith Anne Bunker	Ms. Ann C. Niedringhaus
Ms. Deborah L. Chenoweth	Pr. J. Pablo Obregon
Pr. Rachel L. Connelly	Pr. J. Paul Rajashekar
Mr. John R. Emery	Ms. Lynette M. Reitz
Ms. Karin Lynn Graddy	Pr. John C. Richter
Mr. Mark S. Helmke	Ms. Sandra Schlesinger
Ms. Norma J. Hirsch	Pr. Norene Smith
Pr. Keith A. Hunsinger	Pr. Jeff Sorenson
Pr. David E. Jensen	Mr. David Truland
Mr. Mark E. Johnson	Mr. Richard Wahl
Pr. Susan Langhauser	Ms. Phyllis Wallace
Mr. William R. Lloyd, Jr.	Mr. Gary Wipperman
	Pr. Philip R. Wold

B. Liaison Bishops

Bp. Allan Bjornberg	Bp. H. Gerard Knoche
Bp. Leonard H. Bolick	Bp. Gerald Mansholt
Bp. Murray D. Finck	Bp. Peter Rogness
Bp. Callon W. Holloway	Bp. Paul Stumme-Diers
Bp. Marie C. Jerge	Bp. Martin D. Wells

C. Resource People

Office of the Presiding Bishop

Pr. Walter May, Executive for Synodical and Constituent Relations
Pr. M. Wyvetta Bullock, Executive for Administration
Pr. Marcus Kunz, Executive for Discernment of Contextual and Theological Issues
Ms. Myrna J. Sheie, Executive for Governance and Institutional Relations

Section Executives and Staff

Mr. Kenneth W. Inskeep, Executive for Research and Evaluation
Pr. Donald J. McCoid, Executive for Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations

Pr. Darrell D. Morton, Assistant to the Presiding Bishop for Federal Chaplaincy
Ministries
Pr. Craig Settlage, Director for Mission Support
Ms. Else B. Thompson, Executive for Human Resources
Pr. Robert Schaefer, Executive for Worship and Liturgical Resources

Office of the Secretary

Pr. Karen G. Bockelman, Executive Assistant to the Secretary
Pr. Ruth E. Hamilton, Executive for Office of the Secretary Administration
Mr. Phillip H. Harris, General Counsel
Mr. David A. Ullrich, Associate General Counsel

Office of the Treasurer: Section Executives and Staff

Mr. Jonathan Beyer, Executive for Information Technology
Pr. Jeffrey R. King, Support Specialist, Information Technology
Ms. Karen Rathbun, Executive for Management Services

Program Unit Executives

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

Service Unit Executives

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

D. Press

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

E. Adoption of Agenda

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

CC ACTION

Recommended:

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

II. WRITTEN REPORTS

A. Reports of the Officers

The Report of the Treasurer will be distributed in Exhibit A. The Report of the Bishop will be verbal.

At its March 2009 meeting, the Church Council voted to amend the the proposed Rules of Organization and Procedure for the 2009 Churchwide Assembly (CC09.03.13):

To amend the proposed Rules of Organization and Procedure for the 2009 Churchwide Assembly by making the changes identified in Exhibit G, Part 2; and

To authorize the presiding bishop and secretary of this church to prepare further editing and scheduling revisions that may be found necessary for the Rules prior to their publication in the Pre-Assembly Report; and

To report any changes to the Church Council at its August 2009 meeting.

Pursuant to that action, Secretary David Swartling will report on changes reflected in the Rules of Organization and Procedure as distributed in the *Pre-Assembly Report, Section 1*.

CC INFORMATION

III. ITEMS FOR ACTION

A. Board of Pensions Plan Amendments: ELCA Pension and Other Benefits Program

The Board of Trustees of the Board of Pensions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America met July 30 – August 1, 2009, in Minneapolis, Minn. The following Plan amendments, approved by the Board of Trustees at that time, are recommended for adoption by the Church Council.

1. Amendments to the ELCA Retirement Plan

The amendments that follow are required because of the closing on April 3, 2009, of the ELCA Participating Annuity Bridge Fund and the ELCA Participating Annuity Fund:

- a. Section 1.02 and the addition of Section 1.07 of Article I (*Introduction*);
- b. Sections 2.13, 2.26 and 2.27 of Article II (*Definitions*);
- c. Section 3.02 of Article III (*Participating Employers*);
- d. Section 4.05 of Article IV (*Eligible Employees*);
- e. Section 5.05 of Article V (*Contributions for Sponsored Members*);
- f. Sections 7.01 and 7.02 of Article VII (*Transfers and Rollovers*);
- g. Sections 8.01 and 8.03 of Article VIII (*Investment Funds*);
- h. Sections 9.07, 9.08 and 9.11 of Article IX (*Withdrawals and Distributions*); and
- i. Sections 10.01(a) and (c), 10.03, 10.04, 10.05 and 10.06 of Article X (*Monthly Annuity Benefits Administered by the ELCA Board of Pensions*).

The specific amendments are printed in Exhibit E. Links to the complete documents will be uploaded to Net Community for your information

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To adopt amendments to the ELCA Retirement Plan as printed in Exhibit E: Section 1.02 and the addition of Section 1.07 of Article I; Sections 2.13, 2.26 and 2.27 of Article II; Section 3.02 of Article III; Section 4.05 of Article IV; Section 5.05 of Article V; Sections 7.01 and 7.02 of Article VII; Sections 8.01 and 8.03 of Article VIII; Sections 9.07, 9.08 and 9.11 of Article IX; and Sections 10.01(a) and (c), 10.03, 10.04, 10.05 and 10.06 of Article X.

B. Churchwide Assembly Citations

Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson has requested that the ELCA Church Council consider and approve two citations to honor at the 2009 Churchwide Assembly two retiring partners in ministry: The Rev. Dr. Ishmael Noko, general secretary of the Lutheran World Federation, and The Rev. Dr. Ralston Deffenbaugh, president and CEO of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service.

1. Citation for Ralston H. Deffenbaugh, Jr.

CC ACTION

Recommended: *To adopt the following resolution:*

Whereas, in response to God's love in Christ, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS) has since its beginnings in 1939 provided a Lutheran presence in the United States and through global partnerships to welcome the stranger, bringing new hope and new life through ministries of service and justice;

Whereas, through its collaboration with Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America deepens and extends its ministry with refugees and migrants by building welcoming communities;

Whereas, Ralston H. Deffenbaugh, Jr, president of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, has provided exemplary leadership since being appointed LIRS's fifth president in 1991;

Whereas, over the past 18 years under the leadership of Ralston Deffenbaugh, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service has:

- **resettled more than 100,000 refugees through 25 affiliates across the United States;**
- **advocated for increased U.S. resettlement of refugees from Africa (including the so-called "Lost Boys" from Sudan), the Balkans, Burma, and Bhutan;**
- **revived the U.S. system for resettlement and foster care for unaccompanied refugee children;**
- **advocated for and currently administers federally-funded child-friendly non-detention care for undocumented unaccompanied children in federal custody;**
- **advocated for federally-funded "Know Your Rights" presentations in immigration detention facilities and for increased availability of legal representation for persons held in immigration detention;**
- **advocated for federally-funded alternatives to detention programs for asylum seekers and others in immigration proceedings;**
- **advocated for and currently administers federally-funded programs of assistance for victims of torture being held in immigration detention;**
- **advocated for and currently administers the availability of refugee resettlement assistance for asylees;**
- **worked closely with the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees to revive the full use of resettlement as a durable solution for refugees;**
- **collaborated with UNHCR to identify and apply Best Interests Determinations for unaccompanied and separated refugee children;**
- **solidified the reputation of LIRS as a "partner of choice" because of its commitment to mutually supportive relationships;**
- **provided strong and visible leadership in this decade's contentious debates over immigration reform;**

- strengthened the commitment of U.S. Lutherans to welcome and accompany immigrants and refugees;
- tripled the programs and staff of LIRS, expanding its capacity to a \$25 million annual budget with more than 100 staff.

WHEREAS Ralston Deffenbaugh has been called the "moral compass" of response to refugees in the United States because of his unwavering commitment to treat all people with dignity, compassion, and respect;

WHEREAS, Ralston Deffenbaugh will complete his service with Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service on August 31, 2009; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, acting on behalf of all expressions of this church, express its deepest appreciation to Ralston H. Deffenbaugh, Jr. for his exemplary service and leadership as president of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service; and be it

RESOLVED, that the ELCA Church Council request that Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson convey this heartfelt expression of thanks for Ralston Deffenbaugh's leadership of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, along with this church's belief that his rich gifts and experience will continue to contribute to a world that is marked by hospitality, grace, and love for the neighbor.

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2. Citation for Ishmael Noko

CC ACTION

Recommended: *To adopt the following resolution:*

WHEREAS, the Rev. Dr. Ishmael Noko has dedicated his life to the work of the Lutheran global community; and

WHEREAS, in his exemplary leadership of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) as general secretary since 1994, Ishmael Noko has been a passionate advocate for the empowerment of LWF member churches; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Noko's theological wisdom has contributed significantly to the growth of the Lutheran World Federation's self-understanding as a communion of churches; and

WHEREAS, under his leadership, the Lutheran World Federation has developed an understanding of and commitment to prophetic diakonia, keeping service inseparable from justice-seeking and peace-making;

WHEREAS, Ishmael Noko, a son of Africa rooted in the Pan-African experience, is the first person from the global South to serve as general secretary; and

WHEREAS, Ishmael Noko has played an active role as an ambassador to other Christian churches on behalf of the Lutheran World Federation; and

WHEREAS, Ishmael Noko's exceptional skills as a negotiator have reduced tensions, mediated agreements, and reconciled divisions within and between churches and in civil society; and

WHEREAS, in his support of theological understanding and ecumenical conversations with a wide range of Christian churches, and in his encouragement of cooperative and caring ministries with Christians throughout the world, Ishmael Noko has been a masterful diplomat and a skillful theologian; and

WHEREAS, Ishmael Noko's commitment to building interfaith cooperation led him to be instrumental in convening the creation of Interfaith Action for Peace in Africa, a council of the largest religions in Africa;

WHEREAS, as general secretary, he has been a model of ecumenism and has provided dynamic leadership for the reception of ecumenical dialogues, including the historic "Joint Declaration on the Declaration of Justification";

WHEREAS, Ishmael Noko has been a trusted partner, wise colleague, patient mentor, and beloved friend to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; and

WHEREAS, Ishmael Noko will complete his service as general secretary of the Lutheran World Federation on October 31, 2010; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), acting on behalf of all expressions of this church, express its deepest appreciation to Ishmael Noko for his exemplary service and leadership as general secretary of the Lutheran World Federation; and be it

RESOLVED, that the Church Council requests that Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson convey this heartfelt expression of thanks for Ishmael Noko's leadership of the Lutheran World Federation along with the ELCA's conviction that Lutherans will continue to build upon the strong foundation of his leadership and to draw from it courage, vision, and hope for the future.

C. Responses to Synodical Resolutions

At its May 2009 meeting, the Executive Committee discussed the place of memorials and resolutions in the priorities of the churchwide organization, especially related to the current context of reduced budget and staff. After discussion, the Executive Committee voted (EC09.05.18):

To postpone consideration of the resolutions from the Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Synod on the use of military language in worship and on suicide prevention, from the LaCrosse Area Synod on the Hmong military veterans, from the Eastern Washington-Idaho Synod on the West Bank and Gaza, from the Southeastern Pennsylvania synod the fullness of leadership and on Lutheran Disaster Response until the June meeting of the Executive Committee.

Synod Assemblies for 2009 have been completed and the Office of the Secretary has notified synods of which actions will be received as memorials and which will be received as resolutions. As a result, some of the topics indicated in the action above were considered as memorials by the Memorials Committee at its June 26-27, 2009, meeting. Others are included in Exhibit A, which details all synodical actions to be considered as resolutions.

The appendix to the Report of the Memorials Committee includes the following information:

The Office of the Secretary has determined that eleven synod assembly memorials are resolutions that more properly should have been forwarded to Synod Councils for transmission to the Executive Committee of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

The Church Council voted in November 1988 "that future communications from synods will be dealt with according to ELCA constitutional and bylaw provisions. . . ." This affirms that

- Synod Assemblies address the Churchwide Assembly;
- Synod Councils address the Church Council; and
- Synod Councils address churchwide units through the Church Council's

Executive Committee, including forwarding resolutions adopted by the Synod Assembly.

The content of a synod assembly's action determines whether it is a memorial or a resolution. Generally, memorials are reserved for broad policy matters that are the primary work of the assembly. Resolutions concern implementation of policies that already have been established or specific requests that concern either work already assigned or work that is related to the responsibilities of churchwide units. For example, if a previous assembly has taken action to establish a policy, the work is underway. Advice about the work goes to those units carrying out this responsibility.

The Office of the Secretary has provided the following information for all synods prior to each synod assembly:

Memorials

Synod assemblies pass memorials to the Churchwide Assembly. This is in keeping with bylaw 12.21.c. in the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*, which declares, "The Churchwide Assembly shall . . . receive and consider proposals from synod assemblies." Memorials should be reserved for broader policy issues that belong in the Churchwide Assembly. A memorial addresses only the Churchwide Assembly, not the Church Council or churchwide units. Memorials adopted by a Synod Assembly are submitted to the secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for transmittal to the Churchwide Assembly with a recommendation for action prepared by the Memorials Committee of the Churchwide Assembly. One of the final "Resolved" clauses should make clear that the action is a memorial, and should contain the concern to be discussed, such as:

RESOLVED, that the _____ Synod Assembly memorialize the [YEAR] Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to . . . [describe the proposed course or action for consideration.]

Resolutions

Synod Councils may pass resolutions to the Church Council. Resolutions follow a more direct route than memorials, which must go to the Church wide Assembly. "The Church Council shall act on resolutions from synod councils," according to bylaw 14.21.11. Synod Councils also may seek to address churchwide units through resolutions. These must be submitted to the Church Council's Executive Committee for appropriate referral, according to bylaw 14.41.11.b., which specifies that the council's Executive Committee shall "transmit resolutions from synods to the appropriate unit or units of the churchwide organization."

Synods also may forward resolutions emerging from the Synod Assembly for attention by the Church Council or referral to churchwide units by the Church Council's Executive Committee. This is the appropriate method for addressing specific churchwide units about a given concern.

In the final "Resolved" clause of a resolution to be referred to a churchwide unit, the Synod Assembly's action should include the following:

RESOLVED, that the _____ Synod Assembly direct the _____ Synod Council to forward this resolution to the Church Council's Executive Committee for proper referral and disposition under the bylaws and continuing resolutions of this church.

In response to the sixteen synod assembly actions listed below, the Executive Committee will recommend specific actions to for consideration by the ELCA Church Council at its August 2009 meeting. A report of the recommendations and referrals will be distributed to the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly as information. The synod assembly actions are:

- Use of Military Language in Worship [Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana (4D), 2009]
- Suicide Prevention [Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana (4D); Metropolitan Chicago (5A); Southeastern (9D); Northeastern Iowa (5F), 2009]
- Save the Hmong Vietnam Veterans and Their Families [LaCrosse Area (5L), 2009]
- Creation of a Department of Peace in the U.S. Government [Minneapolis Area (3G), 2009]
- Permanent Resident Status for Liberian People [Minneapolis Area (3G), 2009]
- Darfur [New England (7B), 2009]
- Grace Matters [South-Central Synod of Wisconsin (5K), 2009]
- Benefits for Domestic Partners [South-Central Synod of Wisconsin (5K), 2009]
- The Lesser Festivals of the Church [Southwestern Pennsylvania (8B), 2009]
- Board of Pensions Health Plan [New England (7B), 2009]
- Health Care [New England (7B), 2009]
- Translation of the Psalms [Allegheny (8C), 2009]
- Vote Margin on Ministry Policies [Northwestern Minnesota (3D), 2009]

At its July 2009 meeting, the Executive Committee discussed the resolutions and appointed a working group to bring recommendations to the August 2009 meeting. The working group includes: Bill Lloyd, Norma Hirsch, Myrna Sheie (staff), and Secretary David Swartling. Following the Executive Committee meeting, the report and recommendations will be distributed in Exhibit B.

The report will be submitted to the 2009 Churchwide Assembly as information.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To approve the responses to synodical actions as printed in Exhibit B.

D. Nominations, Appointments, and Elections

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

1. Church Council

Clergy [Term 2011] *to replace the vacancy of Pr. Jonathan Linman, New York, N.Y., (8B)*

Pr. William B. Diehm, Pittsburgh, Penn. (8B)

Pr. Heather S. Lubold, Pittsburgh, Penn. (8B)

2. The Lutheran Magazine Advisory Committee

Clergy Male [Term 2013] *to replace the vacancy of Pr. Harold Eppley, Milwaukee, Wisc. (5J)*

Pr. Paul L. Campbell, Scottsdale, Ariz. (2D)

Pr. Wilbert S. Miller, San Diego, Calif. (2C)

Lay Male [Term 2011] (Person of color or language other than English) *to replace the vacancy of Mr. Frank Ramos, Guaynabo, Puerto Rico, (9F)*

Mr. Tony C. Aguilar, Brooklyn, N.Y. (7C)

Mr. Keith E. Gatling, Liverpool, N.Y. (7D)

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To recommend that the Church Council receive the written report of the Executive Committee on nominees to fill vacancies on the Church Council and the advisory committee for *The Lutheran* magazine; and

To transmit the nominations as provided in Exhibit F.

IV. ITEMS FOR *EN BLOC* ACTION

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*] below. Early in the Council meeting, the chair will provide an opportunity for members to indicate whether they wish to discuss separately any of the items any of the items listed in the *en bloc* resolution; any such item will be removed from the *en bloc* resolution and discussed at the appropriate point in the agenda.

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

CC ACTION

Recommended:

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

- A.1. Nominations, Appointments, and Elections: Social Ministry Organizations
- A.2. Nominations, Appointments, and Elections: ELCA Risk Management, Inc. (ELCARM)
- B. Authorization of Executive Committee
- C. Ratification of Church Council Committees for the 2009-2011 Biennium
- D. Amendments to “Guidelines on Candidacy Issues for German Students or Pastors from the Evangelical Church in Germany.”
- E. Approval of Synod Constitutions

A. Nominations, Appointments, and Elections

1. Social Ministry Organizations

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

The ELCA serves as a corporate member of Mosaic, Inc., Omaha, Neb., Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, Baltimore, Maryland, and the Lutheran Medical Center, Brooklyn, New York. The Church in Society program unit has forwarded to the Church Council the following nominations for boards of these organizations.

CC ACTION [EN BLOC]

Recommended:

To elect to the board of directors of the Lutheran Medical Center: Dr. Genevieve Go, Ms. Brenda Grandell, Dr. Anthony Kovner, Ms. Violet Maya, Ms. Miriam Katowitz, Mr. George Renert, Mr. Vincent Rohan, Mr. Danny Tsoi, Mr. Peter Turchi, and Ms. Kathryn Wylde to three-year terms expiring in 2012;

To elect Ms. Christine Grumm to the board of directors of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service to fill an unexpired term ending in 2011;

To elect Mr. Richard Toftness to the board of directors of Mosaic, Inc., to fill an unexpired term ending in 2012; and

To authorize the Executive Committee to act on behalf of the Church Council relative to elections to the board of directors of Mosaic, Inc. between meetings of the Church Council.

2. ELCA Risk Management, Inc. (ELCARM)

The Vocation and Education unit is charged to “provide risk management services for the colleges, universities, and seminaries of this church” (CR16.12.C06.c.9). Since 1988, this requirement has been met successfully through ELCA Risk Management, Inc. (ELCARM), an Illinois not-for-profit corporation created specifically to provide these and related insurance services to educational institutions affiliated with the ELCA.

At its March 2009 meeting, the ELCA Church Council approved amendments to ELCARM's governing documents in order to: 1) comply with the ELCA governance changes established after the 2005 reorganization of churchwide units and committees; and 2) vest in the participating institutions sufficient membership rights so that ELCARM becomes eligible under federal law to be a member of a risk retention group (CC09.03.38).

The council also appointed members to serve on the ELCARM board of directors, noting that one additional appointment, to be nominated by the Council of Seminary Presidents, was pending. The action below will finalize this delayed action.

CC ACTION [*EN BLOC*]

Recommended:

To appoint Don Lewis to serve on the Board of Directors of ELCA Risk Management, Inc., on the basis of nomination by the Council of Seminary Presidents.

B. Authorization of Executive Committee

At its pre-council meeting on August 16, the Executive Committee will consider how the functions of the Executive Committee will be carried out between the Churchwide Assembly in August 2009 and the first regular meeting of the newly constituted Church Council in November 2009. A recommendation on this matter will be brought to the Church Council at its pre-assembly meeting. It is anticipated that the action will be similar to the recommended action below.

CC ACTION [*EN BLOC*]

Recommended:

To authorize the officers of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the continuing members of the Executive Committee to serve as the Executive Committee of the Church Council between the Churchwide Assembly and the November 2009 meeting of the Church Council.

C. Ratification of Church Council Committees for the 2009-2011 Bienium

In preparation for the August 2009 meeting of the ELCA Church Council, continuing members of the Church Council were invited to indicate their preferences for service on one of the four standing committees of the Church Council, plus the Board Development Committee: Budget and Finance; Legal and Constitutional Review; Planning and Evaluation; and Program and Services. At its August 2009 meeting, the Church Council will ratify the provisional membership for the four standing committees.

Following the elections at the Churchwide Assembly, newly elected members will indicate their preferences prior to the November meeting. A final listing of committee membership for the biennium will be ratified by the Church Council at its November meeting upon recommendation by the Executive Committee.

At its November 2009 meeting, the Church Council also will appoint members to related advisory committees for the biennium. Members of the Board Development Committee for the 2009-2011 biennium will be appointed by the Executive Committee in November 2009.

CC ACTION [EN BLOC]

Recommended:

To ratify the following appointments of continuing members of the ELCA Church Council to Church Council committees for the 2009–2011 biennium:

Budget and Finance Committee: David Anderson; Deborah Chenoweth; John Emery; Keith Hunsinger; Ann Niedringhaus;

Legal and Constitutional Review Committee: Mark Helmke; Mark Johnson; Lynette Reitz;

Planning and Evaluation Committee: Baron Blanchard; Karin Graddy; Susan Langhauser (chair); Pablo Obregon; Jeff Sorenson; David Truland; and

Program and Services Committee: Rebecca Brakke; Rachel Connelly; Steven Loy (chair); John Munday; Mark Myers; Sandra Schlesinger.

D. Amendments to “Guidelines on Candidacy Issues for German Students or Pastors from the Evangelical Church in Germany.”

An agreement between the Evangelical Church in Germany (EKD) and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) was signed on September 24, 2007. The agreement, in part, allows for short-term service and exchangeability for rostered people from both church bodies. The agreement is printed in Exhibit C, Parts 1 - 2b.

The Church Council is asked to approve revisions to the ELCA’s “Guidelines on Candidacy Issues for German Students or Pastors from the Evangelical Church in Germany.” The suggested revisions are printed in Exhibit C, Parts 1 - 2b, and include revisions to the layout to clarify the pathways for service under exchangeability, the candidacy process for already-ordained EKD pastors coming onto the ELCA roster, and the candidacy process for candidates who are not yet ordained.

CC ACTION [EN BLOC]

Recommended:

To approve the revisions to “Guidelines on Candidacy Issues for German Students or Pastors from the Evangelical Church in Germany” as printed in Exhibit C, Parts 1 - 2b.

E. Approval of Synod Constitutions

Provision 10.12. of the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* stipulates: "Each synod shall have a constitution, which shall become effective upon ratification by the Church Council. Amendments thereto shall be subject to like ratification"

CC ACTION [EN BLOC]

Recommended:

To ratify the following amendments to synodical constitutions:

1. Southeastern Minnesota Synod

•amend provision †S8.12.e. to make it consistent with the required provision in the model Constitution for Synods:

Attest letters of call for persons called to serve congregations in the synod, letters of call for persons called by the Synod Council, and letters of call for persons on the rosters of this synod called by the Church Council ~~on the rosters of this synod.~~

- amend provision †S13.23. to make it consistent with the required provision in the model Constitution for Synods:

Provision 9.71. of the ELCA constitution shall govern the relationship of this synod and a congregation of this synod regarding the property of the congregation. This synod may transfer or convey property to a congregation of the synod, subject to restrictions accepted by the congregation, including provision that if the Synod Council, in its sole and exclusive discretion, determines (1) that the property is not being used to serve the mission and ministry needs of this church, or (2) that the congregation has transferred, encumbered, mortgaged, or in any way burdened or impaired any right, title, or interest in the property without the prior approval of the Synod Council, then title to the property shall revert to the synod, and the congregation, upon written demand, shall reconvey the property to the synod.

- amend provision †S15.32. to make it consistent with the required provision in the model Constitution for Synods:

This synod shall maintain adequate, continuous insurance coverage in accordance with standards recommended by the churchwide organization. Insurance programs offered or endorsed by the churchwide organization shall be deemed to fulfill this obligation.

2. Southwestern Minnesota Synod

- amend provision S11.50. and accompanying bylaw S11.50.01. as follows:

~~S11.50. Serving Christ's Mission Board~~ Serving in God's World Board

S11.50.01. There shall be a twelve-member board for oversight, evaluating, and planning the synod's work of serving Christ's mission in God's world.

- amend provision S7.23. to make it consistent with required provision †S7.21.b. in the model Constitution for Synods:

All retired ordained ministers, all ordained ministers on leave from call, all associates in ministry on leave from call or retired, all deaconesses of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America on leave from call or retired, and all diaconal ministers of this church on leave from call or retired, all of whose names appear on the rosters of this synod, shall have the privilege of voice but not vote at all meetings of the Synod Assembly. If retired or on-leave-from-call associates in ministry, deaconesses, or diaconal ministers are elected by their congregation as voting members, they shall have the privilege of voice and vote. The presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and other official representatives of this church as may be designated from time to time by the Church Council shall also have voice but not vote in the meetings of the Synod Assembly. Like privileges shall be accorded to those members of the Synod Council who are not voting members of the Synod Assembly and to those additional persons whom the Synod Assembly or the Synod Council shall from time to time designate.

V. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

A. Churchwide Assembly Overview

On August 16, 2009, at 2:00 p.m., the Conference of Bishops will join the Church Council for an executive session to receive an update from the Board of Pensions. At 3:00 p.m., synodical vice presidents will join the group 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.

Please also note the following Churchwide Assembly events and activities:

1. Members of the Church Council and their guests are invited to dinner on Sunday, August 16 at 6:00 p.m. in the Seasons room of the Minneapolis Convention Center.
2. The Church Council will gather at 9:30 a.m. on Monday, August 17 for a group photo prior to the orientation to the Churchwide Assembly. Specific information about time and location will be provided. Dress is casual.
3. Orientation to the Churchwide Assembly for Church Council members is scheduled on Monday, August 17 at 9:45 a.m. in Hall E at the Minneapolis Convention Center. Please bring Exhibit D, which details Churchwide Assembly assignments for Church Council members.

CC INFORMATION

B. Discussion with the Church Council Class of 2009

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. The Class of 2009 is: Judith Bunker; Norma Hirsch; David Jensen; William Lloyd; Paul Rajashekar; John Richter; Norene Smith; Richard Wahl; Phyllis Wallace; Gary Wiperman. The discussion, facilitated by Kenneth Inskeep, director of the Research and Evaluation section, is scheduled on Sunday, August 16 from 4:45 - 5:30 p.m.

In preparation for the conversation, members have responded to a series of questions posed by Dr. Inskeep.

The Class of 2009 will be honored during the final plenary session of the 2009 Churchwide Assembly.

CC INFORMATION

C. Information about the November 2009 Church Council Meeting

The November 2009 meeting of the ELCA Church Council will be held November 13-15, 2009. The Executive Committee and Audit Committee will meet on Thursday, November 12. Orientation for newly elected members of the Church Council will be Friday morning, November 13 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 14. The meeting will conclude on Sunday, November 15 at 3:00 p.m.

CC INFORMATION