



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Office of the Presiding Bishop
8765 West Higgins Road • Chicago, Illinois 60631-4101 • e-mail: bishop@elca.org
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March 16, 2009

TO: ELCA Church Council

FROM: Myrna J. Sheie
Executive Assistant to the Presiding Bishop

RE: Agenda packet for March 2009 Church Council Meeting

Attached is the sole agenda packet for the March 2009 meeting of the ELCA Church Council. For those utilizing Net Community, the following have been uploaded. All other documents will be uploaded to Net Community as they are ready. Hard copies will be distributed at Church Council for those receiving paper copies. Included in this mailing are:

- ▶ The agenda for the meeting (“white pages”)
 - Revised pages and additional information will be distributed at the meeting
- ▶ Unit summaries (Exhibit A, Parts 1a and 4a, Exhibit J, Part 1); others to be provided
- ▶ Reports from the Vice President and Treasurer (Exhibit A, Parts 2 and 4); others to be provided
- ▶ Synod resolutions for referral and responses to synod resolutions (Exhibit B, 1a and 1b)
- ▶ Reports on Ethnic Ministries, Justice for Women, and Plan for Mission reports (Exhibit H, Parts 2, 3, and 4)
- ▶ Digest of board actions (Exhibit J, Part 1a); others to be provided
- ▶ Social Statement on Human Sexuality and associated documents (Exhibit K, Parts 1a-1d)
- ▶ Report and Recommendation on Ministry Policies and associated documents (Exhibit K, Parts 2a-2c)
- ▶ HIV and AIDS strategy (Exhibit K, Part 4)
- ▶ Evangelical Lutheran Worship: Ministry Rites (Exhibit Q, Part 1a)
- ▶ A provisional schedule for the meeting
 - Detailed schedule will be distributed at the meeting
- ▶ Unit lunch memo
 - NOTE: Six units will host unit lunches at each meeting
- ▶ Other exhibits, including reports and updates
- ▶ A set of lettered dividers (A-R)

Please note that minutes from previous meetings, both Executive Committee and Church Council, are distributed *only electronically*. Hard copies may be requested from Ruth Hamilton of the Office of the Secretary.

God's blessings to you as you prepare for this meeting!

cc: Advisory Members
Resource People



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Office of the
Presiding Bishop

Date: January 20, 2009
To: ELCA Church Council and Advisors
CC: Unit Executives and Administrative Assistants
From: Carlos Peña, Vice President
Subject: Unit lunches, Saturday, March 28, 2009

As we have done in the past, small groups of council members, bishop liaisons and advisors will share a meal with unit directors and staff. Units will be assigned to a specific location in the Lutheran Center for lunch. Meals will be picked up on the 11th floor. Assignments are as follows:

Group 1: Women of the ELCA

David Anderson
Jonathan Linman
Ann Niedringhaus
J. Pablo Obregon
Norene Smith
Bp. Rogness
Michael Bash
Elizabeth Gaskins
Kristin Kvam
Beth Wrenn

Group 2: Communication

Services
Baron Blanchard
John Emery
Norma Hirsch
William Lloyd
Jeff Sorenson
Bp. Bolick
Bp. Stumme-Diers
Fuad Nijim
Kai Swanson
Roger Thompson

Group 3: *The Lutheran*

Deborah Chenoweth
Karin Graddy
Keith Hunsinger
Steve Loy
Carlos Peña
David Truland
Bp. Finck
Bp. Wells
Nelson Rabell-Gonzalez
Suzanne Wise

Group 4: Development
Services

Mark Helmke
David Jensen
John Munday
Lynette Reitz
Richard Wahl
Bp. Holloway
Arielle Mastellar
O. Dennis Mims
Sarah Lee-Faulkner

Group 5: Mission Investment
Fund

Rebecca Jo Brakke
Mark Johnson
Mark Myers
John Richter
Phyllis Wallace
Bp. Bjornborg
Bp. Jerge
Chi-Shih Chen
Khader El-Yateem
Samuel Schlouch

Group 6: Board of Pensions

Judith Bunker
Rachel Connelly
Susan Langhauser
Sandra Schlesinger
Gary Wipperman
Bp. Knoche
Bp. Mansholt
Michael Cooper-White
Kent Henning
Fred Strickert

* *italics = advisor related to
work of unit*

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
CHURCH COUNCIL
March 27-30, 2009
PROVISIONAL SCHEDULE

Thursday, March 26, 2009

- 8:00 a.m. Breakfast for Program and Services Committee and advisors, 11th floor serving area
- 9:00 a.m. Program and Services Committee, Pentecost
- 12:00 noon Lunch for Program and Services Committee and advisors, Epiphany
- 1:00 p.m. Program and Services Committee, Pentecost
Dinner on own (or ordered)
- 1:00 p.m. Church Council Process Observation Pilot Training, Lent
Dinner provided

Friday, March 27, 2009

- 8:00 a.m. **BREAKFAST**
- 8:30 a.m. Committees meet
Budget and Finance Committee, HR training room, 10th floor
Planning and Evaluation, Training Room, 6th floor
Program and Services Committee, Lent (as needed)
- 10:30 a.m. Executive Committee, Pentecost
- 12:30 noon **LUNCH**, Epiphany Room, 11th floor
- 1:00 p.m. Committees meet
Budget and Finance Committee, HR training room, 10th floor
Legal and Constitutional Review, Advent
Program and Services, Pentecost
Planning and Evaluation, Training Room, 6th Floor
- 3:00 p.m. Break
- 5:30 p.m. **EVENING PRAYER**, 1st Floor Chapel
- 6:00 p.m. Dinner, Epiphany Room

Saturday, March 28, 2009

- 7:00 a.m. **BREAKFAST**, Epiphany Room
- 7:00 a.m. Board Development Committee, Advent
- 8:00 a.m. **WORSHIP**, Church Council Room
- 8:15 a.m. Reading and preparation time

- 8:45 a.m. **PLENARY SESSION ONE**, Church Council Room
- 10:30 a.m. Break
- 10:45 a.m. **PLENARY SESSION TWO**, Church Council Room
- 12:00 p.m. *Deadline for Removal of Items from En Bloc*
Deadline for New Business
- 12:00 p.m. **UNIT LUNCHESES**
Group 1: Women of the ELCA, 10th floor, Women of the ELCA area
Group 2: Communication Services, 5th floor, CO screening room
Group 3: The Lutheran, 5th floor, east side of building
Group 4: Development Services, 8th floor, DS conference room
Group 5: Mission Investment Fund, 8th floor, conference room 8C
Group 6: Board of Pensions, Pentecost
- 1:30 p.m. **PLENARY SESSION THREE**, Church Council Room
- 2:45 p.m. Health and Wellness break
“Stretch and Pray” with Bishop Murray Finck
- 3:00 p.m. **PLENARY SESSION FOUR**, Church Council Room
- 3:30 p.m. **Committee of the Whole: small group discussions** [location to be determined]—*Closed and off the record*
- 4:45 p.m. **PLENARY SESSION FIVE**, Church Council Room
- 6:30 p.m. Dinner (on own)

Sunday, March 29, 2009

- 7:00 a.m. **BREAKFAST**, Epiphany Room
- 8:00 a.m. **HOLY COMMUNION**, 1st Floor Chapel
- 9:00 a.m. Break
- 9:15 a.m. **PLENARY SESSION SIX**, Church Council Room
- 12:00 noon **LUNCH**, Epiphany Room
Executive Committee meets with officers
With Bishop Hanson, 11A
With Treasurer Jackson-Skelton, Advent
With Secretary Swartling, OS Conference Room
- 1:00 p.m. **PLENARY SESSION SEVEN**, Church Council Room
- 2:30 p.m. **Committee of the Whole: small group discussions** [location to be determined]—*Closed and off the record*
- 3:15 p.m. Health and Wellness Break
Brisk walk with Bishop Hanson and Secretary Swartling

- 4:00 p.m. **PLENARY SESSION EIGHT**, Church Council Room
- 5:30 p.m. Adjourn
- 5:30 p.m. Blue Ribbon Committee on Mission Support: One-on-One Stewardship Conversations
- 6:30 p.m. Class of 2009 dinner at Secretary Swartling's home
Dinner (on own)

Monday, March 30, 2009

- 7:00 a.m. **BREAKFAST**, Epiphany Room
- 8:00 a.m. **MORNING PRAYER**, 1st Floor Chapel
- 8:30 a.m. **PLENARY SESSION NINE**, Church Council Room
- 10:00 a.m. Break
- 10:15 a.m. **PLENARY SESSION TEN**, Church Council Room
- 12:00 noon Adjournment

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Ms. Katherine Long, president, European American Association
Pr. O. Dennis Mims, president, African-American Association,
Mr. Fuad Nijim, president, Arab and Middle Eastern Association (*excused*)
Pr. Nelson H. Rabell-Gonzalez, president, Latino Community Association
Pr. Sarah M. Lee-Faulkner, chair, Evangelical Outreach and Congregational
Mission Program Committee
Pr. Frederick Strickert, chair, Global Mission Program Committee
Mr. Kai Swanson, chair, Vocation and Education Program Committee
Pr. Roger Thompson, chair, Church in Society Program Committee
Ms. Suzanne Wise, Lutheran Social Ministries
Ms. Beth Wrenn, president, Women of the ELCA (*excused*)

D. 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. Inskip, Executive for Research and Evaluation (*excused*)
Represented by Ms. Victoria Flood, Associate Director for 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 (*excused*)
Represented by Ms. Deborah Powell, Associate 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

Revised March 27, 2009 8:00 PM

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

E. 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

F. Ecumenical Guests

Canon Victoria L. Garvey, The Episcopal Church

Pr. Teresita Valeriano, North American Representative, Lutheran World Federation

Pr. Mary Ann Neevel, United Church of Christ

Moravian Church [position vacant]

Presbyterian Church U.S.A. [position vacant]

Reformed Church [position vacant]

G. Adoption of 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.

H. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the November 14-17, 2008, meeting of the Church Council have been distributed to council members electronically on Net Community.

The minutes of the council's Executive Committee meetings on January 27, 2009, and February 26, 2009, have been distributed electronically to members.

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

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To approve the minutes of the November 14 - 17, 2008, meeting of the Church Council; and

To ratify actions of the council's Executive Committee as indicated in the minutes of the November 14, 2008, January 27, 2009, and February 26, 2009, meetings.

II. WRITTEN REPORTS

A. Reports of the Officers

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

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

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

D. Reports of the Churchwide Units

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

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

E. Reports of Church Council Committees

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

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

III. ITEMS FOR ACTION

A. Nominations, Appointments, and Elections

Between meetings of the Churchwide Assembly, the Church Council has the responsibility of electing people to fill unexpired terms on churchwide boards, steering committees of churchwide commissions, and certain advisory committees.

1. Nominating Committee

In preparation for each Churchwide Assembly, the Church Council places in nomination the names of two people for each position on the Nominating Committee to be elected by the Churchwide Assembly.

The list of nominees follows. Biographical information is provided in Exhibit C, Part 2.

Revised March 28, 2009 10:20 AM

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To recommend that the Church Council receive the written report of the Executive Committee on nominees to fill a vacancy on the Church Council; and

To transmit the nominations to the Church Council as provided in Exhibit C, Parts 1 and 2.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To receive the written report of the Executive Committee on nominees for the churchwide Nominating Committee;

To note that bylaw 19.21.01. states in regard to the Nominating Committee: "The Church Council shall place in nomination the names of two persons for each position. The committee shall consist of at least one member but no more than three members from any region.

Nominations from the floor shall be permitted, but each floor nomination shall be presented as an alternative to a specific category named by the Church Council and shall therefore meet the same criteria as the persons against whom the nominee is nominated. In the materials provided in advance to each member of the assembly, the Church Council shall set forth the criteria applicable to each category that must be met by persons nominated from the floor";

To request, therefore, that the Church Council restrict the tickets to the following: Clergy, male, Region 2; Clergy, female; Lay Female; Lay Female (PC/L); Lay Male; and Lay Male (under 30);

To request, therefore, that the Church Council allow no floor nominations from Regions 3, 4, 6, or 7; and

To request that the Church Council transmit the following slate of nominees to the 2009 Churchwide Assembly:

CHURCHWIDE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Clergy (restricted to Region 2) [Term 2015]

Pr. Richard D. Ajer, Santa Ana, Calif. (2C)

Pr. Herbert E. Anderson, Berkeley, Calif. (2A)

Clergy [Term 2015]

Pr. Kathie Bender Schwich, Park Ridge, Ill. (5A)

Pr. Joy Mortensen-Wiebe, Oshkosh, Wisc. (5I)

Lay Female [Term 2015]

Ms. Linda J. Gjere, Omaha, Neb. (4A)

Ms. Kathy J. Magnus, Edina, Minn. (3G)

Lay Female (PC/L) [Term 2015]

Ms. Emma G. Porter, Jamaica, N.Y. (7C)

Ms. Judith A. Tutt-Starr, Los Angeles, Calif. (2B)

Lay Male [Term 2015]

Mr. Ken F. Aicher, Tampa, Fla. (9E)

Mr. David R. Poppe, Fremont, Neb. (4A)

Lay Male (under 30) [Term 2015]

Mr. Brandon W. Huston, Hamilton, Ohio (6F)

Mr. Jeremy Marburger, Broomfield, Colo. (2E)

B. Board Development Committee

Action items related to meetings of the Board Development Committee, including its March 28, 2009 meeting are detailed below. Additional items or revised actions will be distributed following the committee's meeting.

C. Budget and Finance

Action items related to the March 27, 2009 meeting of the Budget and Finance Committee are detailed below. Additional items or revised actions will be distributed following the committee's meeting.

1. 2009 Current Fund and World Hunger

Over the past month, the churchwide organization has been in the process of closing the books for the 2008 fiscal year, receiving adjusted mission support plans from synods for 2009, and adjusting the 2009 income budget to reflect both the 2008 financial results and the adjusted plans from synods. At the time of preparing the adjusted income estimates, 35 synods had adjusted their mission support plans for a total decrease of over \$2.3 million from their prior plans. As a result, the churchwide organization must adjust its spending plans. Exhibit F, Part 2a shows the revised 2009 income estimates and the identified adjustments.

The Office of the Presiding Bishop has worked closely with unit and section executives to prepare a revised 2009 spending plan, found in Exhibit F, Part 2b.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To approve a revised current fund spending authorization of \$76,808,900 for fiscal year 2009; and

To approve a revised World Hunger spending authorization of \$18,700,000 for fiscal year 2009.

2. 2010-11 BIENNIUM BUDGET

Current Fund and World Hunger

Exhibit F, Part 3a is the income proposal. Exhibit F, Part 3b is the expense proposal.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To recommend to the 2009 Churchwide Assembly the following:

2010 Budget Proposal

To approve a 2010 current fund income proposal of \$76,692,000; and

To approve a 2010 World Hunger income proposal of \$18,700,000; and

2011 Budget Proposal

To approve a 2011 current fund income proposal of \$76,778,000;

To approve a 2011 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.

3. Revisions to 2009 Synod Mission Support Plans

The report of the director for mission support is found in Exhibit F, Part 5a. The ELCA Church Council has responsibility for reviewing and approving or withholding approval for synods regarding mission support plans. Exhibit F, Part 5b shows the actual mission support received from each synod for fiscal years 2006, 2007 and 2008 with plans and any revisions for the 2009 and 2010 fiscal years.

Since the November 2008 Church Council meeting, revisions for 2009 mission support plans have been received from 35 synods.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To affirm with sincere appreciation the increases in the percentage for the sharing of 2009 mission support contributions by congregations for synodical and churchwide ministries of the following synods: Western North Dakota synod;

To affirm the revised 2009 mission support dollar estimates for the sharing of mission support contributions by congregations for synodical and churchwide ministries of the following synods: Alaska, Eastern Washington-Idaho, Grand Canyon, Rocky Mountain, South Dakota, Northwestern Minnesota, Northeastern Minnesota, Saint Paul Area, Southeastern Minnesota, Central States, Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana, Northern Illinois, Southeastern Iowa, Western Iowa, Northern Great Lakes, East-Central Synod of Wisconsin, Greater Milwaukee, La Crosse Area, Northwestern Ohio, New Jersey, New England, Southeastern Pennsylvania, West Virginia-Western Maryland, Virginia, South Carolina, and Florida-Bahamas synods; and

To acknowledge the decision of the following synods to request a reduction of their previously established percentage for the sharing of mission support contributions by congregations for synodical and churchwide ministries; to affirm their prayerful efforts in continuing to be strong partners; to encourage them to restore their percentage to their previous level in the future; and to commit to supporting them in this process through continuing conversation and collaboration on behalf of our shared ministries: Oregon, Southwest California, Pacifica, Eastern North Dakota, East-Central Synod of Wisconsin, Upstate New York, and Northeastern Pennsylvania synods.

4. 2010 Synod Mission Support Plans

Mission support plans from 54 synods have been received.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To affirm with sincere appreciation the increases in the percentage for the sharing of 2010 mission support contributions by congregations for synodical and churchwide ministries of the following synods: Alaska, Southwestern Washington, Eastern Washington-Idaho Oregon, Montana, Sierra Pacific, Western North Dakota, South Dakota, Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana, Western Iowa, Metropolitan New York, Northwestern Pennsylvania, West Virginia-Western Maryland, South Carolina, and Caribbean synods;

To affirm the 2010 mission support dollar estimates for the sharing of mission

support contributions by congregations for synodical and churchwide ministries of the following synods: Northwest Washington, Southwest California, Pacifica, Grand Canyon, Rocky Mountain, Northwestern Minnesota, Northeastern Minnesota, Southwestern Minnesota, Minneapolis Area, Saint Paul Area, Southeastern Minnesota, Nebraska, Arkansas-Oklahoma, Southwestern Texas, Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast, Central/Southern Illinois, Southeastern Iowa, Northeastern Iowa, East-Central Synod of Wisconsin, La Crosse Area, North/West Lower Michigan, Northwestern Ohio, Southern Ohio, New Jersey, Northeastern Pennsylvania, Southeastern Pennsylvania, Slovak Zion, Southwestern Pennsylvania, Lower Susquehanna, Upper Susquehanna, Delaware-Maryland, Metropolitan Washington, D.C., Virginia, Southeastern, and Florida-Bahamas synods; and

To acknowledge the decision of the following synods to request a reduction of their previously established percentage for the sharing of mission support contributions by congregations for synodical and churchwide ministries; to affirm their prayerful efforts in continuing to be strong partners; to encourage them to restore their percentage to their previous level in the future; and to commit to supporting them in this process through continuing conversation and collaboration on behalf of our shared ministries: Northern Great Lakes, Northwest Synod of Wisconsin, South-Central Synod of Wisconsin, Northeastern Ohio, and North Carolina synods.

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EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
CHURCH COUNCIL
March 27-30, 2009
Agenda, Page 10

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EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
CHURCH COUNCIL
March 27-30, 2009
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D. Executive Committee

Action items related to the March 27, 2009, meeting of the Executive Committee are detailed below. Additional items or revised actions will be distributed following the committee's meeting.

1. Church Council Agenda: Protocol for Suggested Items

The Executive Committee has worked to provide clarity about how a Church Council member may place new business on the council's agenda consistent with *Robert's Rules of Order*. The final draft of the document, following review at the Executive Committee meetings in November 2008 and January and February 2009, is printed below. When approved, the document will be added to the end of Section 6, "Church Council Basics," in the Church Council Orientation Manual.

Placing Matters on the Church Council Agenda

There are multiple ways that business can be proposed for consideration on the agenda of Church Council meetings, consistent with the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* and fiduciary responsibilities of Church Council members under not-for-profit law. They are as follows:

1. Through the presiding bishop who, in collaboration with the officers of this church and staff, is responsible for the preparation of the agenda of Church Council meetings.
2. Through the action of Synod Councils and Synod Assemblies by means of resolutions and memorials. (Resolutions are processed for action by the Executive Committee, which reports to the Church Council; memorials are processed through the Memorials Committee and transmitted to the Churchwide Assembly, which can recommend that action be taken or evaluated by the Church Council.)
3. Through committees of the Church Council. (If issues have been assigned to a committee or if issues are consistent with the responsibilities of a committee as reflected in its charter, matters relating to these issues may be raised to the Church Council as part of a committee report).
4. Through the Executive Committee. (Because the Executive Committee is composed of the officers and chairs of the other standing committees of the Church Council, council members may ask officers or committee chairs to bring issues or concerns to the Executive Committee, which can recommend their placement on the council's agenda).
5. Through "New Business" on the Church Council agenda. (The agenda will contain a deadline for submission of new business. New business that is proposed by the deadline will be discussed in plenary, as time permits, and normally assigned to an appropriate committee or task force for future consideration and a report to the full council. Action on any matter of new business that is proposed by the deadline will be in order only upon the vote of two-thirds of the voting members present and voting in support of such action. Discussion of and action on any matter of new business that is proposed after the deadline will be in order only upon the vote of two-thirds of the voting members present and voting in support of such discussion and action.

Regardless of the method, requests to place matters on the Church Council agenda shall be made in writing in a timely manner. Recommended actions must be stated with clarity.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To add “Placing Matters on the Church Council Agenda” to the end of Section 6 of the Church Council Orientation Manual.

2. Review and Approval of Committee Charters

At its July 2008 meeting, the Executive Committee established a process for approval of the charters of Church Council committees [EC08.07.14]: “To establish that the process for approval of the charters of the committees of the Church Council include review by the Executive Committee, committee response (if necessary), editing for consistency of style and format by the Office of the Secretary, a second review by the Executive Committee of the amended and edited charter, and transmittal to the Church Council with recommendations for action.”

Prior to the November 2008 meeting, Secretary David D. Swartling reviewed the charters and provided committees with a memorandum regarding suggestions for additions and edits. At the November 2008 meeting, the Church Council approved the charter of the Executive Committee [CC08.11.61]. Thereafter, Secretary Swartling edited the charters for format and consistency, provided them to the committee chairs, and conferred with them telephonically. The Executive Committee received an update at its February 2009 meeting. It is anticipated that committees will finalize their charters in their committee meetings, and that the Church Council will approve them at the March 2009 meeting.

The charters are distributed in Exhibit D, Part 2.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To approve the charters for the following committees of the Church Council as printed in Exhibit D, Part 2: Audit Committee; Board Development Committee; Budget and Finance Committee; Legal and Constitutional Review Committee; Planning and Evaluation Committee; and Program and Services Committee.

3. Process to Study the “Ecology” of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

In 1982, the American Lutheran Church, the Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches, and the Lutheran Church in America committed themselves to joining to form a “new Lutheran church” so that the new church would glorify God and faithfully serve Christ’s mission in the world. In order to implement this commitment, a Commission for a New Lutheran Church (CNLC) was formed. For five years, the Commission faithfully and diligently engaged in study, reflection, and counsel regarding the myriad aspects involved with the merger of predecessor church bodies and the formation and organization of this new church. The recommendations from the CNLC incorporated a bold vision for mission and ministry that were grounded in underlying theological and organizational principles, including the interdependence of the three “expressions” (e.g., congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization) of the new Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and its numerous partners in ministry.

The world and this church have changed since the ELCA came into existence in January 1988. After 20 years, expected growth in membership and mission support in the ELCA have

not met expectations. Indeed, the churchwide organization income has remained essentially flat during its history, meaning that fewer dollars, adjusted for inflation, currently exist for ministry than was available in mission support in the first years of its existence. In addition, giving patterns to this church and general philanthropic giving patterns have changed over time. These trends have meant that some parts of the interdependent ecosystems of the ELCA and its partners have thrived, while others have not.

Despite several efforts at restructuring, the underlying ecology of the ELCA and its partners has not changed materially. The current global financial crisis has placed stress upon the interdependent ecosystems that make up this church. The churchwide organization, synods, and congregations are addressing contingency planning as they face an uncertain economic future. Questions abound whether traditional patterns of interrelationships can be sustained and whether they represent the most effective and missional approaches to cooperative ministry.

In this environment, it is critical to be proactive in evaluating the ways that interdependent partners support and accompany one another in their common missional efforts. Such an evaluation must not be myopic and limited only to the churchwide organization, but must consider the ecology of all the interdependent ecosystems. At the same time, with current budget limitations, an extensive study of the magnitude of the Commission for the New Lutheran Church would not be financially feasible in the present financial environment.

It is proposed that a study group be formed to begin the assessment process. The study group would be comprised of key leaders and representative partners of this church and would be asked to make recommendations regarding such an evaluation, its scope, cost, and timeline. It is anticipated that such a group would form in the near future, begin its work, and bring a report and recommendations to the Church Council in April 2010. It is anticipated that a comprehensive report and recommendations would be brought to the 2011 Churchwide Assembly.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To acknowledge that the principles of organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America call us to be one church consisting of "interdependent partners sharing responsibly in God's mission" in which this church is called to be in relationship with institutions and agencies, including seminaries, colleges, and universities, as well as other partners, so that together we can build capacity for evangelical witness and service in the world;

To recognize that more than 20 years have passed since the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America came into existence, that the relationships among this church and partner institutions and agencies have evolved substantially, and that assumptions that undergirded the original organization, governance, and interrelationships of this church may no longer apply or apply in a different way in the 21st century;

To recognize further that significant societal and economic changes have taken place that raise profound issues regarding the organization and governance of this church, its interrelationships with partner institutions and agencies, and the ways in which ministry can be accomplished most effectively;

To acknowledge the desire by this Church Council to address these difficult and

complex issues by beginning a process to evaluate the organization and governance of this church and the interrelationships among its expressions and partner agencies and institutions for the purpose of bringing a comprehensive report and recommendations to the 2011 Churchwide Assembly;

To authorize the Presiding Bishop, in collaboration with the Executive Committee of the Church Council and the Conference of Bishops, to appoint a study group for the purpose of formulating a plan to undertake such an evaluation; and

To request that the study group bring a report and possible recommendations through the Executive Committee in consultation with the Planning and Evaluation Committee for the April 2010 meeting of the ELCA Church Council and such report include the membership of a task force to conduct the evaluation, an outline of potential topics to address, a timetable, budget implications, and such other issues as the study group believes will facilitate the evaluation.

4. Capital Fund Appeal: Summary of Readiness Assessment and Feasibility Study Project

At the 2005 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, a Blue Ribbon Committee on Mission Funding was formed to study ELCA current development and stewardship programs, and to develop recommendations regarding future ELCA resource development initiatives to fund new ministries.

The Blue Ribbon Committee completed its work in April 2007 with a recommendation to test the feasibility and readiness of a churchwide funding initiative intended to reflect this church's philosophy of mission funding as one church in three expressions where each expression carries out various parts of this church's work.

In order to meet the charge from the Churchwide Assembly, a feasibility study oversight committee selected from key internal and external ELCA constituencies was formed to manage the readiness assessment and feasibility study process.

The primary objectives of the feasibility and readiness assessment project were to:

1. Design, plan and implement a comprehensive assessment of the feasibility and readiness of the ELCA churchwide organization to conduct a successful major churchwide fundraising campaign to coincide with the 25th anniversary of the ELCA; and
2. Conduct research and make specific recommendations regarding: campaign goal; programmatic case for support including specifically the integration of the Lutheran Malaria Initiative and funding of ELCA HIV and AIDS strategy; volunteer leadership; major gifts prospects; structure and infrastructure; budget, and the external environment.

This feasibility and readiness assessment study process was initiated to deliver a report to the ELCA Church Council in March 2009 with recommendations to the 2009 ELCA Assembly regarding a major churchwide funding initiative for mission.

In May 2008, Growth Design Corporation (GDC) of Milwaukee, Wisc, was retained as counsel to design and implement a feasibility study and readiness assessment process. The key deliverables expected from GDC's work included:

1. Design and implementation of a comprehensive assessment process (feasibility study and campaign readiness).
2. Oversight Team and volunteer leadership identification, engagement; and communication strategies.
3. Framing of ELCA programmatic initiatives (i.e., prioritization, financial assumptions, and financial goals) to inform development of case(s) for support.
4. Development of ELCA programmatic case package(s) for testing.

5. Assessment of ELCA Development Services' current capacity (structure/infrastructure) and campaign readiness (including Development Services' financial model and capacity building scenarios).
6. Development of an initial ELCA major donor prospect list.
7. Feasibility interview process (i.e., selection of interview candidates, interview guide, and interviews).
8. Feasibility interview analysis (interview themes and findings).
9. Development and processing of a feasibility study and readiness assessment report with appropriate ELCA leadership, including feasibility study findings with recommendations regarding campaign goals, readiness, packages, and organization and Development Services' capacity building scenarios and strategies in relation to campaign positioning and launch.

Key Project Methodologies

1. Formative Interview Candidate Selection: A matrix was created to frame key ELCA support constituency categories and to identify individuals within those categories who would provide perspective to the framing of churchwide initiative thinking and planning.
2. Formative Interview Candidate Interviews: Formative interview guides for internal and external ELCA constituencies were created to frame formative interviews.
3. Feasibility Interview Candidate Selection: A matrix was created to identify and target key ELCA support constituency categories based on the following broad criteria: gender; diversity, pastors, and congregations; churchwide leadership; synod leadership; leaders from ELCA institutions and agencies; and major donors.

Key Project Processes

1. Counsel met with key ELCA leaders for discovery, framing, and languaging all parts of the feasibility study process (July 2008).
2. Formative interviews (32) were conducted with selected ELCA internal and external leaders to test ideas, reflect on climate, determine any issues, and define opportunities in relation to churchwide resource development initiative (July – early September 2008).
3. A readiness assessment of ELCA fundraising capacity was undertaken in order to develop recommendations on the investment of human and financial resources in capacity building for a potential churchwide initiative (July – October 2008).
4. Development of an initial case for giving (“Imagine”) with prioritized funding areas was undertaken in partnership with key ELCA mission departments as well as the Communications Services section (September 2008).
5. Development of initial major donor prospect lists was undertaken in partnership with Development Services and ELCA Foundation staff (September – October 2008).
6. Seventy four feasibility (summative) interviews (two-tier process) and report with recommendations on churchwide initiative potential and strategies were developed (November 2008 – February 2009).
7. Processing of readiness assessment and feasibility study process and report with ELCA leadership groups was undertaken (September 2008 – March 2009).

Findings and recommendations

There is no question about support for a churchwide initiative. This finding holds across all interviews in terms of regions, categories, and levels of the interviews. The ELCA as an organization is valued by most of those we interviewed and goes well beyond its financial role. Once it was understood that a churchwide initiative would begin in 2010 and be completed by the end of 2014, there was strong support for connecting ELCA members and the three expressions.

While there was variation of interest in the initiative priorities presented under the theme of “Imagine,” two priorities did emerge as primary in the minds of donors:

1. The first and most attractive initiative for many donors interviewed in the feasibility study process was in the areas of church renewal and leadership development. Many of those interviewed believe that the current church is broken and in decline, and that without new leaders and congregational renewal, there will be little likelihood of future mission and ministry fulfillment.
2. The second important initiative priority is global mission through support for hunger, malaria, and HIV and AIDS. Coordination and support for these efforts are perceived as an appropriate role for the ELCA to play and have both current and historical gifting appeal, especially at the member and congregational level.

The remaining priorities, outreach and witness (branding), were perceived as vitally important, but should be undertaken through ELCA organization budgeting and sponsorships from major donors and other leaders. At the same time, these communication and awareness- building strategies were perceived as important to the success of any churchwide initiative, for renewal, and for inviting broad participation in the ELCA’s current and future missions.

Annual giving support was less attractive in terms of major gifts among a majority of those interviewed in the feasibility study. However, annual giving was seen as important and many of those interviewed suggested it be tied to endowment building and planned giving to ensure a strong churchwide expression into the future.

Several consistent themes emerged in relation to future churchwide initiative strategies and campaign execution that should be noted:

1. A churchwide initiative must be as much about listening, engaging, and thanking as it is about asking in relation to donors and volunteers.
2. The initiatives presented as part of a churchwide fundraising initiative must be integrated, not only with the three expressions, but also with programs of church-related organizations that have common concerns and interests in relation to the future of the church (e.g., ELCA colleges and universities, seminaries, social service organizations, and other recognized ministries).
3. The laity and clergy (donors) both must lead and own any churchwide initiative and believe that their hard-earned resources will have impact and results if gifted to the ELCA. Therefore, a structure and a process for a churchwide initiative must be built and connected to the church leadership (lay and clergy), who will oversee and manage its multiple components, including a campaign.

The recommendations presented take into consideration the interest in a 25th anniversary celebration and a churchwide initiative, the perceived and identified lack of capacity to undertake it, and strategies and tactics critical to succeeding.

The feasibility study process occurred during a period of worsening, chaotic, and volatile economic conditions. To date the timing, outcome, and conditions of the next five years in

relationship to giving or the environment of need that would be important for a church body to address are unknown.

In addition, major donors interviewed in the feasibility study who are capable of \$1 million plus gifts were unwilling to commit to a specific level of giving, even while they committed to giving to a churchwide initiative. Therefore, the scale of giving models and tools were not appropriate to the current study although they would normally be utilized in traditional feasibility interviews.

Recommendations from Readiness Assessment and Feasibility Study Findings

1. Based on the level of support expressed in feasibility interviews, planning, positioning, and resourcing for a churchwide fundraising initiative is recommended tied to the ELCA 25th anniversary celebration in 2012. The potential start for the initiative is 2010 with completion in 2014.
2. Given the level of concern shown in feasibility interviews in relation to the \$268 million comprehensive goal presented, it is recommended that a minimum goal of \$110 million in current gifts for an ELCA churchwide initiative be confirmed and approved by the Church Council. The \$110 million goal in current gifts reflects the support shown in feasibility interviews for the “new money” targets associated with the individual initiatives (\$100 million) plus \$10 million to capitalize the fundraising initiative.
3. Based on the projected budget numbers for Development Services capacity building from the readiness assessment findings, it is recommended that an additional expenditure of \$10 million be made over the next five years to build ELCA resource development capacity (e.g., infrastructure, staffing, and systems) for raising \$110 million of new money for mission funding. [Note: The capacity investment would need to be initially capitalized for a minimum of two years from ELCA reserves with the remainder to be raised as part of a churchwide initiative. These up front money would be considered a loan to be repaid to ELCA reserves from initiative giving.]
4. In terms of the need for strategies to involve and connect synods to a churchwide initiative expressed in both formative and feasibility interviews, it is recommended that some synod goals (based on an assessment of their respective gift capacity potential) be considered in relation to the \$110 million goal of new money.
5. Based on the above discussion of strategies to connect synods and congregations to a churchwide initiative, it is recommended that a challenge to synods and congregations be considered to develop and offer plans, resources, and projects that are synergistic with the churchwide initiative priorities. The money raised from these plans would be considered current gifts over and above the \$110 million goal.
6. Given the comments made in feasibility interviews in relation to developing direct gift benefits back to congregations and synods, it is recommended that synod bishops and councils be challenged to integrate their own synod fundraising plans with the churchwide initiative, and to endorse, lead, and participate in mega-gift requests while overseeing synod and congregational goal-setting and implementation. The challenge to connect synod plans to ELCA churchwide initiative plans potentially could result in a wider palette of funding opportunities for major donors at all levels.
7. Based on the concern expressed in feasibility study interviews regarding the ability for donors to make current gifts, it is recommended that a planned giving component be developed

related to a churchwide initiative to leverage the 25th anniversary celebration with every adult ELCA member asked to make a planned gift that includes a churchwide designated gift. Money from a planned giving challenge (with a goal to be determined) would be considered gifts above and beyond the \$110 million goal. The planned giving component would provide every congregation member with the opportunity to participate in the churchwide initiative, even if they could not make a cash gift.

8. In terms of framing a churchwide initiative, it is recommended that the ELCA Foundation develop appropriate policies and guidelines with regard to churchwide gifts (e.g., cash and deferred gifts). The investment in Development Services capacity to secure current gifts will need to be complemented by consideration of how to handle a variety of potential current giving strategies and instruments on the part of major donors.
9. In the context of developing the opportunity to engage new donors through a 25th anniversary celebration initiative, it is recommended that a continuum of giving channels for the churchwide initiative—from Website to mega-gifts—be developed as a critical strategy to attract younger donors and new members to the ELCA.
10. Based upon feasibility interview findings with regard to support for a churchwide initiative, “Imagine” as the theme of the churchwide initiative is recommended and is driven by the vision of church growth and renewal, leadership development, and global programs. (“Imagine the difference we can make for the sake of the Gospel by building new and revitalized congregations, preparing faithful, wise and courageous leaders for this church, and investing in new opportunities to care for the suffering in our world” - Bishop Hanson’s letter in Imagine case book).
11. Given the low levels of information and understanding of the ELCA as an organization expressed among major donors in feasibility interviews, it is recommended that a communication strategy for clarifying and communicating the role and importance of the churchwide expression within the ELCA be developed as part of churchwide initiative planning. The opportunity exists to develop focused messaging about the role of the churchwide organization in relation to global initiatives, leadership development, and congregational renewal, thus strengthening to enhance the case for churchwide giving.
12. In terms of developing engagement strategies at the congregation level, it is recommended that two churchwide and congregational special offerings be considered (i.e., one late 2009-early 2010 and one late 2011) for current gifts for global and local hunger, HIV and AIDS, and malaria.
13. Based upon the concerns expressed in feasibility interviews related to the leadership capacity of the ELCA to undertake and manage a churchwide initiative, it is recommended that an executive team of 8–10 high level ELCA leadership and volunteers (as well as new professional fundraising staff) be recruited and led by Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson to oversee, manage, and execute all parts of the churchwide initiative.
14. In the context of leadership development strategies contained in the readiness assessment recommendations, it is recommend that a national commission comprised of high level ELCA leaders (i.e., up to 100 lay, clergy, bishops, ELCA institutions, organization leaders, and major donors) be identified and recruited to position and initiate the churchwide initiative.
15. Based upon input from synods as well as an emphasis on geographic regions in terms of structure and focus, an initial core group of 20-25 ELCA leaders could be recruited in the near

term to begin to plan an overall commission process and charge in relation to a churchwide initiative prior to 2009 ELCA Assembly.

16. In the context of the leadership commitment mentioned above, it is recommended that the presiding bishop co-chair the national commission with 2-3 co-chairs and preside at its national meetings from 2009-2014.
17. Based upon the desire expressed in feasibility interviews to connect churchwide initiative benefits to all parts of the church, it is recommended that the commission, in partnership with synod bishops and councils, focus in its planning and positioning on integrating the churchwide initiative and its priorities with synod and ELCA related institutions' plans and programs (e.g., colleges and universities, seminaries, social service organizations, and other related institutions and agencies).
18. In order to address the need for relationship building with potential major donors that was expressed in both feasibility interviews and readiness assessment recommendations, it is recommended that a small-group awareness initiative—complemented by a branding-communication initiative—be developed for the purposes of outreach, witness, and education related to ELCA churchwide purpose. This relationship building also would build capacity for future fundraising with major donors as well as service on related commissions. Planning for the small group awareness building communication strategy could begin immediately, with implementation following the 2009 ELCA Assembly.
19. In relation to questions raised in feasibility interviews regarding long-term resource development strategies for the ELCA beyond the churchwide initiative, it is recommended that consideration be given to recruiting selected commission leaders for the ELCA Foundation board during the implementation of the churchwide initiative in order to transform the Foundation into a fundraising as well as an asset management entity.

Summary

Subsequent to the completion of the readiness assessment and feasibility study, it was recommended by the steering committee, Development Services staff, and the Administrative Team that this church grow in its readiness for a churchwide resource development initiative to be considered by the 2011 ELCA Churchwide Assembly. Factors considered in the recommendation include: the perceived and identified lack of fundraising capacity and the current chaotic and volatile economic conditions.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To receive the summary of “The Report of the Readiness Assessment and Feasibility Study Project: Finding and Recommendations in Relation to a Churchwide Resource Development Initiative”;

To thank the members of the Feasibility Study Steering Committee for their oversight of the study process: Ms. Kristi Bangert; Pr. M. Wyvetta Bullock; Bp. Allan Bjornberg; Mr. John Emery; Ms. Carol Erickson; Ms. Christine Grumm; Ms. Cynthia Halverson; Mr. David Novak; Ms. Ann Sponberg Peterson; Bp. Peter Rogness; Pr. John Sabatelli; Pr. Craig Settlage; Mr. Robert Shafis; Ms. Christina Jackson-Skelton; Pr. Larry Westfield;

To express appreciation to the 106 churchwide staff, bishops, rostered leaders, donors, and friends for their willingness to receive the draft case statement and share their response and counsel;

To encourage Development Services and the ELCA Foundation to move towards implementation of capacity building recommendations in the next biennium (2009 – 2011); and

To request that a report and recommendations for a possible churchwide campaign be brought to the April 2011 meeting of the ELCA Church Council for possible consideration by the 2011 ELCA Churchwide Assembly with the request that the report address an affirmation of readiness, an assessment of capacity, including staffing implications, and a proposed budget.

Revised March 27, 2009 8:15 PM

March 27-30, 2009

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E. Legal and Constitutional Review Committee

Action items related to the March 27, 2009 meeting of the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee are detailed below. Additional items or revised actions will be distributed following the committee's meeting.

1. Response to Synodical Resolutions

At its November meeting, the Church Council voted to strike the following draft provision in Part Ten of the proposed *Rules of Organization and Procedure* for the 2009 Churchwide Assembly:

Vote to Adopt Certain Recommendations or Resolutions from a Social Statement Task Force

A two-thirds vote of the voting members of the Churchwide Assembly present and voting shall be required to adopt recommendations or resolutions originating from or relating to the subject of a social statement task force report or amendments or substitute motions related to such recommendations or resolutions.

The Church Council also voted against another proposed amendment in Part Ten to require a two-thirds vote on proposals that would change ELCA policies.

As a result of the November 2008 action of the Church Council, under the proposed Rules of Organization and Procedure, the social statement will require a two-thirds vote to pass pursuant to ELCA bylaw 12.12.01, but any other implementing resolutions or ministry policy recommendations will require a majority vote for passage under Robert's Rules of Order.

Prior to the February 2009 meeting of the Executive Committee, the Office of the Secretary received five synodical resolutions addressing the vote required in the proposed Rules of Organization and Procedure for the Churchwide Assembly relating to the social statement, its implementing resolutions, and/or the ministry policy recommendation and its resolutions. Although the resolutions varied somewhat, all seek a two-thirds vote on some or all of the issues addressed in the social statement and/or ministry policy recommendation.

At its February 2008 meeting, the Executive Committee voted (EC09.02.07):

To receive the resolutions of the Central/Southern Illinois, Allegheny, Northeastern Iowa, Southwestern Texas, and Lower Susquehanna synods related to the Rules of Organization and Procedure for the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly;

To refer the resolutions to the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee of the Church Council and to request that a report and possible recommendations be brought to the March 2009 meeting of the Church Council;

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

Following its March 2009 meeting, the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee will report its consideration of these resolutions and may bring a proposed action to the Church Council.

At its meeting on March 27, 2009, the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee discussed ways to respond to the synodical resolutions that the Executive Committee referred to it and to present language for Part Ten of the Rules for purposes of discussion. The following comes to the Church Council without recommendation by the committee:

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To amend the action previously taken by the Church Council with respect to Part Ten of the Rules of Organization and Procedure for the 2009 Churchwide Assembly [CC08.11.37] by addition of the following paragraph:

Vote to Adopt Certain Recommendations, Resolutions, Memorials, or Other Motions Originating From, or Relating to a Social Statement Task Force Report

A two-thirds vote of the voting members of the Churchwide Assembly present and voting shall be required to adopt recommendations, resolutions, memorials, or any other motions (including motions to amend or substitute motions) originating from, or relating to the subject of, a social statement task force report presented to this assembly.

2. Proposed Rules of Organization and Procedure for the 2009 Churchwide Assembly

Background:

At its November meeting, the Church Council adopted an action [CC08.11.36] to recommend adoption of proposed “Rules of Organization and Procedure” to the 2009 Churchwide Assembly. The action included the following provision:

To authorize the presiding bishop and secretary of this church to prepare revisions that may be found necessary for the rules prior to their publication in the *Pre-Assembly Report* and to recommend any changes to the Church Council at its March 2009 meeting.

The secretary has made minor editorial and scheduling changes to the proposed Rules. These are detailed in Exhibit G, Part 2.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

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.

F. Planning and Evaluation Committee

Action items related to the March 27, 2009 meeting of the Planning and Evaluation Committee are detailed below. Additional items or revised actions will be distributed following the committee's meeting.

1. Report on Multicultural Ministries

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

The report is printed in Exhibit H, Part 2.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

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

In response to actions of the 2005 Churchwide Assembly, to transmit the biennial report on Multicultural Ministries to the 2009 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, commending the content of the report for study, reflection, and response throughout this church.

2. Report on Justice for Women

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

The report is printed in Exhibit H, Part 3

CC ACTION

Recommended:

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

In response to actions of the 2005 Churchwide Assembly, to transmit the biennial report on Justice for Women to the 2009 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, commending the content of the report for study, reflection, and response throughout this church.

3. Report on ELCA Plan for Mission

The Plan for Mission in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America was adopted by the ELCA Churchwide Assembly in 2003. Related changes to structure, governance, and budget

were adopted in 2005. Subsequently, the units of the churchwide organization have developed unit plans based on the Plan for Mission and their prioritization of specific unit responsibilities enumerated in the ELCA's governing documents.

The report printed in Exhibit H, Part 4 will be distributed as information in the 2009 Churchwide Assembly *Pre-Assembly Report*.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To receive the report on the Plan for Mission in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and to request that the report be provided as information to the 2009 Churchwide Assembly.

G. Program and Services Committee

Action items related to the March 26-27, 2009, meeting of the Program and Services Committee are detailed below. Additional items or revised actions will be distributed following the committee's meeting.

1a. Social Statement on Human Sexuality

"Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust" is the text of the proposed social statement on human sexuality for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Work on this statement was authorized at the 2001 ELCA Churchwide Assembly. If approved by the 2009 Churchwide Assembly, it will be the tenth social statement of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

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

Work on this social statement began in 2002 with the appointment by the board of the Division for Church in Society of a task force to oversee development of study materials, a first draft, and a final draft on the topic of human sexuality. Current members of the task force include Peter Strommen (chair); Erin Clark; Julio A. Fonseca; Carol S. Hendrix; Corinne Johnson; Gary J. Liedtke; Peter O'Malia; Kevin R. Maly; Susan Salomone; Scott Suskovic; Connie D. Thomas; David Tiede; Marit Trelstad; Timothy J. Wengert; Diane Yeager. Current advisory members include Murray D. Finck; Sarah Korbel; Norma Hirsch; Myrna Sheie; Stan Olson; Rebecca Larson; Leslie Weber; Roger Willer; Kaari Reiersen; Roger Thompson; James Childs; Richard Crossman. Previous members of the task force included Terence Fretheim; Lou Hesse; Lucy Kolin; Margaret G. Payne; John Prabhakar. Previous advisory members included Judy Biffle; A. Craig Settlege; Patricia W. Savage; James Brandt.

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

The first draft of the social statement was distributed in the early in 2008. In response, the task force received approximately 800 pieces of correspondence or statements and 2,100 response forms. In addition, synods hosted 111 hearings.

The proposed social statement, "Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust," was reviewed by the program committee for the Church in Society unit in March 2009 and referred to the Church Council for consideration by Dr. Rebecca Larson, executive director for the Church in Society unit.

In accordance with these policies and procedures, the ELCA Church Council is receiving "Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust" at its March 2009 meeting, and will vote to transmit the document for consideration by the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly.

Revised March 18, 2009

The Church Council "...shall review and act upon the recommendations of the executive director of the Church in Society unit (ELCA 14.21.01., 14.21.03.). The Church Council shall approve the text of proposed social statements and recommend the text to the Churchwide Assembly (ELCA 12.12.01.). Prior to a published deadline before a meeting of the Church Council, any voting member of the council who wishes to suggest an amendment to the proposed social statement shall submit it to the chair of the Program and Services Committee. The Program and Services Committee will make a recommendation concerning the proposed amendments to the Church Council, which will act upon that recommendation." (*Policies and Procedures of the ELCA for Addressing Social Concerns*, page 15). The deadline for suggested amendments from members of the Church Council was March 3, 2009, at 8:00 a.m.

The text of the social statement is printed in Exhibit K, Part 1c. Other information provided includes a cover letter from the Task Force for the ELCA Studies on Sexuality (Exhibit K, Part 1a); an executive summary of the social statement (Exhibit K, Part 1b); "A Pastoral Word to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America from the Conference of Bishops" (Exhibit K, Part 1d); and recommendations from the executive director of the Church in Society program unit (Exhibit K, Part 1e). Any specific recommendations related to the text will be distributed following the meeting of the Program and Services Committee in Exhibit K, Part 1f.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To transmit the following information to the 2009 Churchwide Assembly:

To adopt "Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust" 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" (2006).

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To transmit the following action to the 2009 Churchwide Assembly:

- 1. To embrace as a church our legacy of a rich theological tradition that proclaims God's gracious love expressed in Jesus Christ as the basis of our salvation, hope, and unity, and to call upon members of this church on this basis to commit themselves to finding ways to live together faithfully in the midst of disagreements;**
- 2. To call upon this church to affirm the various studies created for the Journey Together Faithfully series as resources for ongoing deliberation and discernment, and to direct the program unit for Church in Society to maintain their availability as long as demand continues;**
- 3. To request the Office of the Presiding Bishop to explore the feasibility of developing liturgical resources for use by rostered leaders, individuals, and families at the time of divorce;**
- 4. To encourage Augsburg Fortress, Publishers to consider developing education curricula with particular attention to the needs of children, middle school, high**

- school youth, and their parents for understanding Christian values and making responsible choices;
5. To recognize that organizations like Women of the ELCA, Lutheran Men in Mission, Lutheran Youth Organization, and campus ministries foster and support friendships; to encourage them to lift up and celebrate the value of strong friendships and to support the formation of voluntary associations for nurturing them;
 6. To call upon all congregations, pastors, and other rostered leaders to reach out in welcome to all in accord with previous Churchwide Assembly actions as reaffirmed by the 2005 Churchwide Assembly (CA05.05.18), and to assist members to understand what it means to be hospitable to all in the name of Christ regardless of sexual orientation;
 7. To call upon the ELCA to amend the eligibility provisions of the ELCA Pension and Other Benefits Program to include individuals in same-gender marriages, civil unions, and domestic partnerships, consistent with applicable state and federal laws;
 8. To call upon this church to encourage the availability and funding of comprehensive sex education programs in public schools, as well as in Lutheran private schools;
 9. To affirm the 2001 ELCA Message, *Commercial Sexual Exploitation*¹ and its continuing value for the mission and ministry of the ELCA;
 10. To call upon this church's advocacy and corporate social responsibility ministries to support and advocate measures consistent with this social statement;
 11. To express appreciation for the work being done by the churchwide organization, synods, institutions, and congregations to prevent sexual harassment and misconduct; to encourage strengthening these efforts by all expressions and ministries of this church, and to ensure the availability of effective resources for dealing with sexual misconduct and sexual harassment within this church.
 12. To call upon teaching theologians, bishops, pastors, diaconal ministers, associates in ministry, deaconesses, educators, and others to continue to extend theological and biblical reflection as well as theoretical and practical understanding of human sexuality through intellectual discourse, moral deliberation, continued research, discussion, and writing;
 13. To recognize that the ELCA [has adopted]² a strategy that will guide its response to the HIV and AIDS epidemic, and to call upon all units and expressions of this church to support that strategy;
 14. To call upon all congregations, synods, early childhood education centers, elementary and secondary schools, colleges and universities, seminaries, campus ministries, outdoor ministries, social ministry organizations, public policy advocacy ministries, and all churchwide units to carry out the substance and spirit of this statement; and
 15. To call upon Church in Society and other appropriate churchwide units to oversee a process of implementation and accountability for this social statement and to report on implementation to the Church Council in early 2012.

¹ The ELCA message on "Commercial Sexual Exploitation" (Chicago: ELCA, 2001).

² The ELCA Church Council will consider the adoption of this strategy at its March 2009 meeting.

1b. Amendments to Social Statement on Human Sexuality

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

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To approve the amendments to the social statement on human sexuality as printed in Exhibit K, Part 1f.; and

To acknowledge the additional recommended amendments as information.

2. Report and Recommendation on Ministry Policies

The Report and Recommendation on Ministry Policies was requested by the 2007 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, which requested that the Task Force for ELCA Studies on Sexuality “address and make recommendations on changes to any policies that preclude practicing homosexual persons from the rosters of this church” (CA07.06.27).

The document was released by the task force in February 2009 along with the proposed social statement, Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust, which was requested by the 2001 ELCA Churchwide Assembly.

The report will be reported to the Church Council and the Churchwide Assembly as information. The recommendation will be reviewed and may be amended by the Church Council before it is transmitted to the Churchwide Assembly for consideration.

The ELCA Church Council was invited to submit proposed amendments to the recommendation to the chair of the Program and Services Committee by March 3, 2009 at 8:00 a.m. The Program and Services Committee will make a recommendation concerning the proposed amendments to the Church Council, which will act upon that recommendation. The

The text of the report and recommendation is printed in Exhibit K, Part 2c. Other information provided includes a cover letter from the Task Force for the ELCA Studies on Sexuality (Exhibit K, Part 2a); an executive summary of the social statement (Exhibit K, Part 2b); “A Pastoral Word to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America from the Conference of Bishops” (Exhibit K, Part 1d); and recommendations from the executive director of the Church in Society program unit (Exhibit K, Part 1e).

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To transmit the following actions to the 2009 Churchwide Assembly:

Revised March 26, 2009

1. **RESOLVED, that the ELCA commit itself to finding ways to allow congregations and synods that choose to do so to recognize, support, and hold publicly accountable life-long, monogamous, same-gender relationships.**
2. **RESOLVED, that the ELCA commit itself to finding a way for people in such publicly accountable, lifelong, monogamous, same-gender relationships to serve as rostered leaders of this church.**
3. **RESOLVED, that in the implementation of these resolutions, the ELCA commits itself to bear one another's burdens, love the neighbor, and respect the bound consciences of all.**
4. WHEREAS, guided by the Holy Spirit, this church raises up, calls, supports, and maintains rosters of ordained ministers, associates in ministry, deaconesses, and diaconal ministers for public ministry in service of the mission of Christ and seeks faithfully to discern in each situation what will best serve that mission; and
WHEREAS, this church maintains these four rosters according to policies and procedures that are developed and applied according to the specifications of chapters 7 and 20 of its *Constitution, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions*; and
WHEREAS, this church has a polity, processes, and procedures that trust designated individuals and bodies to use churchwide standards to make decisions about fitness for rostered ministry in general and for call to a specific ELCA ministry; and
WHEREAS, some members, congregations, candidacy committees, and synods of the ELCA have discerned gifts and skills for rostered ministry in some people who are or contemplate being in publicly accountable, lifelong, monogamous, same-gender relationships and have indicated their conviction that rostering and calling such people would serve the mission and ministry of this church; and
WHEREAS, other members, congregations, candidacy committees, and synods of the ELCA acknowledge those gifts and skills for ministry, but believe that this church must maintain an expectation of celibacy for any gay or lesbian person, whether or not that person is in a publicly accountable, lifelong, monogamous, same-gender relationship, and thus believe that this church cannot call or roster people in such relationships; and
WHEREAS, the Church of Christ sometimes has been surprised by the actions of the Spirit, as is reported in the book of Acts when the inclusion of Gentiles was affirmed; and
WHEREAS, public accountability of rostered leaders in the ELCA is essential to nurturing the trust that is necessary for effective ministry; and
WHEREAS, although there is no generally recognized civil or ecclesial status that corresponds to heterosexual marriage for publicly accountable, lifelong, monogamous, same-gender relationships, this assembly has committed itself to find ways to recognize, support, and hold publicly accountable lifelong, monogamous, same-gender relationships; and
WHEREAS, present ELCA policies prohibit the rostered service of any and all people in publicly accountable, lifelong, monogamous, same-gender relationships, but this assembly has committed itself to find a way for people in publicly accountable, lifelong, monogamous,

same-gender relationships to serve as rostered leaders of this church; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America commit themselves to respect the bound consciences of those with whom they disagree regarding decisions on the call and rostering of individuals in publicly accountable, lifelong, monogamous, same-gender relationships, in this church and with churches ecumenically and globally; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this church, because of its commitment to respect the bound consciences of all, declares its intent to incorporate structured flexibility in decision-making into its policies and procedures so that synods, bishops, congregations, candidacy committees, and others involved in the candidacy process and in the process of extending calls will be free to act according to their convictions regarding both the approving or disapproving in candidacy and the extending or not extending of a call to rostered service of a person who is otherwise qualified and who is living or contemplates living in a publicly accountable, lifelong, monogamous, same-gender relationship; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America make provision in its policies to eliminate the prohibition of rostered service by members who are in publicly accountable, lifelong, monogamous, same-gender relationships; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the appropriate churchwide unit(s) are directed to develop, in consultation with the Conference of Bishops, and the Church Council is directed to approve, appropriate guidelines for a process by which congregations and synods that choose to do so could hold people publicly accountable in their relationships who are in or contemplate being in lifelong, monogamous, same-gender relationships and who seek to be on the rosters of this church; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Committee on Appeals is directed to develop, in consultation with the Conference of Bishops, and the Church Council is directed to approve, appropriate amendments to "Definition and Guidelines for Discipline" and the Vocation and Education program unit is directed to draft, in consultation with the Conference of Bishops, and the Church Council is directed to approve, appropriate amendments to the *Vision and Expectations* documents and the *Candidacy Manual* to accomplish the intent of this resolution; and be it further

RESOLVED, that additional policies be developed, as necessary, so that those whom this church holds responsible for making decisions about fitness for rostered ministry in general and for call to a particular specific ELCA ministry may discern, and have guidance in discerning, the fitness for ministry of a member living in a publicly accountable, lifelong, monogamous, same-gender relationship; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that this church continue to trust its established processes and those to whom it has given the responsibility to discern who should and should not be rostered or called to public ministry in this church.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

3. HIV and AIDS Strategy

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, including its predecessor church bodies, has a long history of work related to HIV and AIDS. Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson and several representatives from this church have participated in the International AIDS Conference and ecumenical pre-conference event in both 2006 and 2008. Following the conference in 2006, Bishop Hanson encouraged consideration by the Church Council and the 2007 Churchwide Assembly of a request to develop a comprehensive churchwide strategy on HIV and AIDS.

A planning group was organized, which included representatives from the Church in Society unit, the Global Mission unit, the Communications section, and the Office of the Presiding Bishop. In September 2007, a consultation was convened involving members of an existing interunit staff working group on HIV and AIDS, missionaries, advocacy staff, and others. Prior to the meeting, staff conducted an inventory of existing work, policies, and funds that support AIDS ministries in this church. The meeting consisted of an asset-mapping process designed to lead to the development of a comprehensive strategy on AIDS ministries in this church.

The 2007 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) called for a churchwide strategy for responding to HIV and AIDS to build on and deepen current denominational engagement with the pandemic in the U.S. and around the world. The assembly voted [CA07.03.12]:

1. To commit the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to a deeper engagement in addressing the AIDS pandemic through the development of a churchwide strategy for action in the coming decade, which will:
 - a. build on the experience and commitments of the past and the strength of ELCA congregations, synods, churchwide structures, institutions, and agencies;
 - b. utilize the best thinking of ELCA experts, practitioners, congregational leaders, related institutions and agencies, and people living with HIV and AIDS, as well as ecumenical and global companions, in the development of this strategy;
 - c. express the ELCA's commitment to work in cooperation with the Lutheran World Federation and in tandem with ecumenical partners both in this country and throughout the world;
 - d. express the ELCA's commitment to engage proactively with others of good will in civil society and in government as they respond to the AIDS crisis; and
 - e. continue to move from crisis management to a more integrated, effective, and sustainable long-term response to the AIDS pandemic;
2. To express the solidarity of the ELCA with all people who are living with HIV and AIDS and with their families, both in this country and throughout the world:
 - a. recognizing and giving thanks for the gifts, skills, and experience that people living with HIV and AIDS bring to addressing the pandemic and committing this church to work closely with them in its response;
 - b. rejecting categorically the stigma and discrimination that are at times associated with HIV and AIDS;
 - c. working to ensure universal access both to compassionate care and to effective treatment and prevention;
 - d. engaging in education to prevent the further spread of HIV and AIDS; and
 - e. providing a welcome in all aspects of church and congregational life to people living with or affected by HIV and AIDS;
3. To encourage ELCA members, congregations, agencies and institutions, synods,

- and the churchwide organization, at the same time this strategy is being developed, to:
- a. continue and extend their ministries among and with people living with HIV and AIDS;
 - b. pray for people directly affected by HIV and AIDS and for churches, communities, and governments that they may have both the will and the wisdom to act boldly and effectively to address this crisis;
 - c. intensify their support for the second-mile “Stand with Africa” campaign as well as the broader World Hunger Appeal, which enable this church to assist companions throughout the world as they respond to the AIDS crisis; and
 - d. advocate with the U.S. government, urging it to:
 - (1) demonstrate global leadership to achieve agreed upon international goals, including universal access to treatment, care, and prevention by 2010;
 - (2) contribute its proportionate share to fund fully the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria; and
 - (3) abolish the extraordinary requirements that make it difficult and painful for people living with HIV to receive a visa to enter the United States for any purpose, and prohibit discrimination against people living with HIV and AIDS;
4. To convey the deep appreciation of this church:
- a. to all those who provide care and support for those living with HIV and AIDS and those who seek a cure for this disease, in particular those members of this church who live out their Christian vocation as nurses, doctors, health researchers, and care providers;
 - b. to ELCA pastors and congregations actively engaged in ministry with people living with HIV and AIDS as they support, counsel, and advocate with them for just and compassionate action in this church and in the wider society;
 - c. to all those who have provided financial support to HIV and AIDS research and care, both in this country and throughout the world;
 - d. to all those ELCA members whose financial gifts have enabled the ELCA to walk with companion churches in their response to the AIDS crisis, in particular through their “second-mile” giving to the World Hunger Appeal’s “Stand with Africa” campaign and companion synod action;
 - e. to Lutheran social ministry organizations, hospitals, health facilities, and voluntary organizations, including the Lutheran AIDS Network (LANET), that provide assistance to people living with HIV and AIDS as well as leadership in church and society on this issue;
 - f. to the Lutheran World Federation, Lutheran World Relief, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, ecumenical agencies (both domestic and global), and others with which the ELCA partners to provide care, address the impact of HIV and AIDS in communities, prevent the further spread of the disease, and advocate with governments to step up their action in addressing this pandemic; and
 - g. to companion churches in other countries, with which the ELCA is privileged to walk in ministry, as they respond to often overwhelming human need resulting from the spread of HIV; and
5. To request that the Church in Society and Global Mission program units take the lead in developing this strategy, which will be brought to the Church Council for adoption in 2008 and reported to the 2009 Churchwide Assembly.

The 2007 Churchwide Assembly took an additional 2007 action (CA07.06.35), “...to instruct the Church Council to take steps to develop a plan to provide up to an additional \$1 million in funding to implement the HIV and AIDS strategy.” The action was referred to the Church Council, the Office of the Treasurer, and the Office of the Presiding Bishop not only

to encourage its continued support of the development and funding of this church's strategy on HIV and AIDS, but also to defer action related to funding requirements for the implementation of the HIV and AIDS strategy until a strategy with funding requirements is adopted by the Church Council. The "additional \$1 million" referred to in the CWA action is now understood to be included in the \$10 million goal for funding the strategy.

Since the 1980s, the ELCA has worked with partners in Africa to address HIV and AIDS. In 2001, at the urging of companion churches, the ELCA launched the World Hunger Appeal's "Stand with Africa" campaign, which supports education, advocacy, and fund-raising that enable ELCA members to walk faithfully with companions in Africa as they address the devastating interrelated dynamics of HIV and AIDS, civil strife, poverty, and food security issues. "Stand with Africa" addresses HIV and AIDS not just as in medical terms, but as a disease of poverty.

Beginning in 2007 and 2008, the ELCA considered the wisdom of engaging in a possible malaria initiative at the same time it lives out its commitment to intensify its HIV and AIDS response and develops a comprehensive churchwide HIV and AIDS strategy, as mandated by the 2007 Churchwide Assembly. From the beginning of the conversations, ELCA staff emphasized with partners in the Lutheran Malaria Initiative (LMI)—Lutheran World Relief, the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and the United Nations Foundation—that engagement in malaria work would not come at the expense of its HIV and AIDS commitment. Rather, the two would need to be held together strategically in the ELCA, both in interpretation and in work with companions. Developing synergy with existing health-related and HIV and AIDS efforts would need to be a high priority in the ELCA's engagement with malaria work.

By the fall of 2008, the ELCA's HIV and AIDS efforts and the multi-partnered LMI were separated as far as the other LMI partners and the financial campaign component were concerned. The ELCA views its work with HIV and AIDS as a priority for this church, evidenced by the call for this strategy. In addition to this important focus, the ELCA at its 2009 Churchwide Assembly also will consider the proposed Lutheran Malaria Initiative. Combating these two diseases of poverty with parallel and complementary efforts is the thrust of the proposed action to be considered by the Church Council in March 2009 for referral to the 2009 Churchwide Assembly for action.

At its November 2008 meeting, the Church Council and its advisors had the opportunity to review and respond to the draft strategy document, which is available as Exhibit K, Part 4.

In addition to regular review by Church Council, staff and other previously participating review groups, the HIV and AIDS strategy has been shared with many groups in an effort to gain perspectives on the strategy from varying viewpoints. Groups and individuals include the ELCA Conference of Bishops; ELCA clergy of color; Lutherans Concerned; Lutheran AIDS Network (LANET); the Lutheran World Federation (LWF); and people living with HIV or AIDS. Additionally, there was continuing review by the domestic and international staff of the ELCA as well as rostered and lay leaders, some of whom work with ministries and organizations related to HIV and AIDS. Ecumenical feedback also was received, including responses from the United Church of Christ and the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

Revised March 27, 2009 8:00 PM

The Program and Services Committee, at its March 27, 2009, meeting, recommended the following amendments to the HIV and AIDS strategy. Rationale for each follows:

1. The characterization of the acronym "SAVE" prevention model too narrowly defines the 'S.' The writing team has been informed that the 'S' refers to safer practices including all the modes of HIV transmission, not only safer sexual practices.
2. The Board of Pensions is part of this church and is therefore not to be identified separately.
3. The ELCA health plan does not discriminate in any way based on medical condition. The plan encourages and pays for annual preventative screenings, including blood tests. A test for HIV as part of the blood test, although not necessarily performed in all cases, would be paid for as part of the routine screening benefit if the member so requested. The plan also covers medically necessary care for individuals who are HIV positive or who have AIDS in the same manner as it covers any other medically necessary expense as long as it is provided by a qualified and licensed care provider.

The Board of Pensions' plans and communications already are fully aligned with the draft strategy. Existing policies cover the way in which the Board of Pensions reports on its plan. Furthermore, the footnote states that, "People living with or affected by HIV and AIDS should be involved and/or consulted in this review." Under current Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) rules, this would not be possible. As noted, the ELCA health plan does not discriminate based on medical condition. To differentiate HIV and AIDS from all other medical conditions for special reporting would be inconsistent with the non-discriminatory philosophy of the plan.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To approve the following amendments to the HIV and AIDS Strategy as printed in Exhibit K, Part 4:

1. **Line 664** Amend to read "...which stands for Safer sexual practices...."
2. **Lines 843-844** Amend to read "c. are integrated with ongoing health and wellness activities, including the Board of Pensions' wellness program of this church."
3. **Lines 1193-1196** Delete lines 1193 - 1196 and footnote 119; renumber the remaining items: "Call upon the ELCA Board of Pensions to include, as part of its regular review of all health care and pension plans, their response to this church's commitment to non-discrimination based on HIV status, and to include this information in their regular reports at least annually to the ELCA Church Council."
119 — Specific attention in this review should be given to provisions made for HIV testing and anti-retroviral. People living with or affected by HIV and AIDS should be involved and/or consulted in this review.

Revised March 27, 2009

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To adopt the ELCA Strategy on HIV and AIDS;

To add the voice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to that of the Lutheran World Federation and the World Council of Churches in recognizing one of the most important lessons the church has learned in the past 25 years: “the body of Christ has AIDS”;

To call on the ELCA—its members, congregations, synods, churchwide organization, and related agencies and institutions—to implement this strategy, thereby embracing the goal of becoming an HIV and AIDS-competent church and contributing to the efforts of the wider global community:

- 1. To halt the spread of HIV through effective prevention, treatment, and care;**
- 2. To eliminate the stigma and discrimination experienced by those who are HIV-positive; and**
- 3. To reduce the conditions of poverty and marginalization that contribute to the spread of HIV;**

To express thanks for the many individuals, groups, and global companions who have contributed to the development of this strategy and have encouraged and assisted this church as it prepares to embrace HIV and AIDS work on a larger scale, both domestically and internationally;

To commend the ELCA Conference of Bishops for its engagement of the spirit of the HIV and AIDS strategy by being tested at its March 2009 meeting;

To acknowledge the new threshold of domestic ministry among people living with HIV and AIDS in the United States that is represented by this strategy;

To commend the Lutheran World Federation for its leadership within the Lutheran communion—in particular its “Breaking the Silence” initiative and its call for all member churches to develop an HIV and AIDS strategy that reflects their particular context and that grows out of shared Lutheran theology and experience;

To pledge to join the Lutheran World Federation in an intensified global campaign that will focus attention and resources on those regions most affect by HIV and AIDS, in particular, sub-Saharan Africa;

To express appreciation for the partnership of companion churches, ecumenical and interfaith partners, and international and domestic organizations in the ELCA’s past global engagement and as the ELCA seeks to live out this new strategy internationally and domestically;

To encourage synods and congregations to embrace this strategy, both on their own territory and through their global companion synod relationships, coordinating their efforts with each other and with the Global Mission program unit;

To celebrate the significant HIV and AIDS work that was carried out through the World Hunger Appeal’s second-mile initiative, “Stand With Africa: A Campaign of Hope” and to commit to continue that work through this new HIV and AIDS strategy;

To thank World Hunger donors for their faithful giving to the Stand with Africa campaign and to invite them and others into continuing this work through the generous funding of this strategy;

To anticipate synergies in addressing global health issues—in particular,

diseases that are intensified by poverty—as a possible Lutheran Malaria Initiative is developed in the 2009-2011 biennium;

To forward the HIV and AIDS strategy to the 2009 Churchwide Assembly for information and affirmation; and

To request the 2009 Churchwide Assembly to approve the raising of \$10 million to begin and build over the next three years (2009-2012) to support the HIV and AIDS strategy through additional designated gifts within the World Hunger Appeal, acknowledging that the \$1 million goal encouraged by the 2007 Churchwide Assembly is to be included in the \$10 million goal.

4. Lutheran Malaria Initiative

A unique opportunity for engagement by Lutheran partners to address “diseases of poverty,” including malaria, came to Lutheran World Relief (LWR) in 2007, when LWR staff members were approached by the United Nations Foundation (UNF). UNF encouraged LWR to explore the possibility of embarking on a unique partnership to mobilize the “Lutheran constituency” in this country against malaria. The specific opportunity involved a possible multimillion-dollar grant from the United Nations Foundation, which had received funds to combat malaria from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. These funds could assist LWR to develop its capacity to mobilize Lutherans to combat malaria. The campaign would include both a significant educational component and a major fundraising component.

When approached by UNF, Lutheran World Relief staff understood that the goal of mobilizing U.S. Lutherans and engaging in international program work on malaria would require the full engagement of both the ELCA and the LCMS. Since July 2007, LWR and ELCA churchwide staff from a number of units, including the Office of the Presiding Bishop, Church in Society, Global Mission, Communication Services, and Development Services, have engaged in intensive conversation about what such a proposal might look like and whether to participate. At various stages, but with increasing intentionality, these conversations included The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod. LCMS leadership has affirmed that LCMS is a full partner in LMI, with LWR and the ELCA, and is committed to the joint partnership goals of education, advocacy, and raising funds to contain malaria. The LCMS meets in convention in 2010.

In the summer of 2007, an initial feasibility study was conducted by Community Counseling Services (CCS) on behalf of LWR. CCS recommended that a campaign goal of \$75 million over five years is realistic. An initial suggested breakdown of this goal was: LWR, \$30 million; ELCA, \$25 million; and LCMS, \$20 million. Money raised in this campaign would be channeled through:

- Church-or church-related entities, specifically: (1) LWR, as it builds its capacity to provide malaria-related services in Africa (particularly in West and East Africa); (2) the ELCA, as it engages companion churches in all regions of Africa and within the wider context of the Lutheran World Federation; and (3) LCMS, as it develops projects in eight African countries; and

- The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria¹, a partnership between governments, civil society, the private sector, and affected communities.

For the ELCA, the core LMI case for support is to articulate LMI as a priority among priorities of the ELCA. From the beginning, the case must integrate the opportunity in a way that allows this church's LMI efforts to flow out of the World Hunger Appeal and Stand with Africa and integrate with other strategic priorities, including the HIV and AIDS strategy (see Exhibit K, Part 4), which was mandated by the 2007 Churchwide Assembly.

The ELCA will engage companion churches in other countries, seeking their leadership and guidance as anti-malaria activities are developed in those countries and as the malaria initiative is interpreted in the United States. This will be done within the context of the ELCA's relationships within the Lutheran World Federation and its bilateral relationships with companion churches. Developing synergy with existing health-related and HIV and AIDS efforts will be a high priority.

At this time, the ELCA has given a minimum commitment to raise \$20 million for malaria and \$10 million to support the ELCA's HIV and AIDS strategy. In addition, in 2008, the ELCA completed a feasibility study for a comprehensive churchwide campaign in conjunction with its 25th anniversary in 2012. If recommended, such a campaign would incorporate LMI and the HIV and AIDS strategy into a larger effort. A positive recommendation to move forward with a comprehensive campaign would need approval by the churchwide assembly in 2009.

All three potential LMI partners agreed that, given their history and mission commitments, any common inter-Lutheran campaign on malaria would need to reflect the understanding that malaria is a disease of and is intensified by poverty. They agreed that Lutheran engagement in malaria projects would be deficient if it were based on simplistic approaches to malaria eradication (i.e., handing out nets). LMI partners also agreed that a malaria response, to be effective in the field, would need to be carried out within the context of comprehensive and sustainable community development. Education about malaria in this country similarly would need to avoid simplistic or purely medical approaches; it would need to show clearly and convincingly the connections between poverty and malaria.

The ELCA, therefore, considered the wisdom of engaging in a possible malaria initiative at the same time it lives out its commitment to intensify its HIV and AIDS response and develops a comprehensive churchwide HIV and AIDS strategy, as mandated by the 2007 Churchwide Assembly. ELCA staff emphasized from the beginning of the conversations with LWR, LCMS, and the United Nations Foundation that engagement in malaria work would not come at the expense of its HIV and AIDS commitment. Rather,

¹ From the Global Fund's Website: "The Global Fund's purpose is to attract, manage, and disburse resources to fight AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria. [The fund] does not implement programs directly, relying instead on the knowledge of local experts. As a financing mechanism, the Global Fund works closely with other multilateral and bilateral organizations involved in health and development issues to ensure that newly funded programs are coordinated with existing ones. In many cases, these partners participate in local Country Coordinating Mechanisms, providing important technical assistance during the development of proposals and implementation of programs."

the two would need to be held together strategically, both in interpretation and in work with companions.

The ELCA Church Council has taken two actions related to the Lutheran Malaria Initiative. In November 2007 the Church Council voted (CC07.11.80):

To authorize staff of Development Services, Global Mission, and Church in Society, under the coordination of the Office of the Presiding Bishop:

To develop, in partnership with Lutheran World Relief, The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod, and the United Nations Foundation, a proposal for a possible Lutheran Malaria Initiative, which would support the work of companion churches in the Lutheran World Federation and other international partners in ministry as well as the Global Fund to Combat AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria; and

To develop plans for integrating and coordinating such an effort with the ELCA's longstanding commitment to walk with those affected by HIV and AIDS and companion churches that are responding to this crisis, within the context of the integrated churchwide HIV and AIDS strategy that was called for by the 2007 Churchwide Assembly;

To request Development Services, Global Mission, and Church in Society to bring through the Office of the Presiding Bishop a report and possible recommendations on this initiative to the April 2008 meeting of the Church Council;

To authorize the Executive Committee, between meetings of the Church Council, to monitor and take appropriate action relating to the development of a possible malaria appeal and program, including the possible receipt of funding from the UN Foundation;

To request that the Office of the Presiding Bishop seek input from the Cabinet of Executives and that any information relating to the development of a possible malaria appeal and program be posted to the Church Council's online listserv for input to the Executive Committee prior to any decision; and

To authorize staff of Development Services and Global Mission to include in the World Hunger program's "Stand with Africa" campaign pilot efforts in anti-malaria fundraising, education, and international programming in 2008-2009 as proposals for action by the 2009 Churchwide Assembly on a possible churchwide appeal are developed during that period.

At its April 2008 meeting, the Church Council voted (CC08.04.12):

To affirm the work of the Church in Society, Communication Services, Development Services, and Global Mission units and the Office of the Presiding Bishop in developing a proposed Lutheran Malaria Initiative;

To acknowledge that the proposed initiative also will include an HIV and AIDS emphasis and will be integrated with the churchwide strategy on HIV and AIDS and any churchwide appeal;

To authorize receipt of funds and their utilization for the purposes of preparation for a potential Lutheran Malaria Initiative educational and fundraising campaign in accordance with the United Nations Foundation grant proposal;

To authorize continued Lutheran Malaria Initiative work until the 2009 Churchwide Assembly under the auspices of the World Hunger Appeal and Program ;

To stipulate that, as specifically designated monies, United Nations Foundation grant funds for the Lutheran Malaria Initiative are not subject to the allocation between World Hunger domestic and international projects; and

To request that an update on the initiative be brought to the November 2008 meeting of the Church Council and that a report and recommendations to the Churchwide Assembly be brought to the April 2009 meeting of the Church Council.

Revised March 19, 2009

The ELCA Church Council will consider both the HIV and AIDS strategy and the Lutheran Malaria Initiative at its March 2009 meeting. Related to these actions will be approval of a fundraising campaign under the World Hunger Appeal to under gird the HIV and AIDS strategy with a minimum goal of \$10 million over three years (2009-2012) and the Lutheran Malaria Initiative with a minimum goal of \$20 million over five years (2009-2014).

Engagement in the Lutheran Malaria Initiative includes, but is not limited to, the following categories:

Framework:

- Strengthened relationships with the U.S. partners in LMI: Lutheran World Relief (LWR), The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod (LCMS), and the United Nations Foundation (UNF);
- Strengthened relationships with global partners, particularly this church’s companion churches in Africa;
- Commitment to participate in LMI for up to five years, beginning in 2009;
- Clear communication among LMI partners;
- Clear reporting and supervision of LMI work within the ELCA by the Church Council on a regular basis, with a progress report to the 2011 and 2013 Churchwide Assemblies;
- Collaboration across appropriate units of the churchwide organization so that the work related to LMI provides synergy and energy for the broader mission as a church, both internationally and domestically; and
- Particular attention will be given to the proposed HIV and AIDS strategy, and its education and fundraising goals, so that these two important efforts are done as cooperatively as possible within this church

Education and awareness:

Education emphasizing malaria as a disease of poverty would:

- Be carried out globally within the context of comprehensive and sustainable community development, in close cooperation and partnership with ELCA companion churches in Africa.
- Understand this disease within the larger cycle of poverty and acknowledge the capacity of global companion churches to address this pandemic.
- Reflect a broad spectrum of approaches to combating malaria (i.e., medical, faith community, government and community organizations and structure).
- Show clearly and convincingly the connections between poverty and malaria and the relationship of this effort to the broader World Hunger Appeal and Program.
- Be coordinated within the LMI partnership whenever possible, with a goal of every aspect of this church’s ministry, as well as every age group, having opportunity to engage this LMI.

Fundraising:

- Approach congregations, synods, all related ministries of the ELCA, and individuals for education and awareness-raising (following the 2009 Churchwide Assembly) and fundraising (in synods and congregations following the 2011 Churchwide Assembly).

- Work closely with the fundraising consultant for LMI, Community Counseling Service (CCS), to provide a comprehensive and clear approach to donors, congregations, synods, and others.
- Receive donations through the World Hunger Appeal, designated for LMI, while encouraging continued strong support for the WHA and new support for the HIV and AIDS strategy
- Receive grant monies from UNF to enable start-up of fundraising efforts.
- Share in the LMI partners fundraising goal of \$75 million over five years (2009-2014).

Timeline:

- 2009: Approval of continued development of and involvement in by ELCA Church Council and Churchwide Assembly.
- 2009-2011: Development of resources for education; planning for implementation of LMI in synods and congregations; quiet fundraising stage.
- 2010: The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod meets in convention.
- 2010-2011: Roll out of materials and educational resources through programs and organizations of the LMI partnership.
- 2011: Approval of official LMI engagement by ELCA Church Council and Churchwide Assembly.
- 2011-2014: Fundraising campaign across all LMI partners.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To recommend adoption of the following resolution by the voting members of the 2009 Churchwide Assembly:

To approve continued development of the Lutheran Malaria Initiative (LMI) by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in partnership with Lutheran World Relief (LWR), The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod (LCMS), and the United Nations Foundation (UNF);

To join with domestic and global partners to address malaria as a disease intensified by poverty within the context of comprehensive and sustainable community development and in close cooperation and partnership with this church's companion churches in Africa and the Lutheran World Federation;

To begin work related to LMI in the next biennium (2009-2011), specifically involving preparation of resources, pilot projects at sites to be determined, solicitation of individual donors, and collaboration with synods and congregations for anticipated LMI fundraising engagement following the 2011 ELCA Churchwide Assembly;

To develop the Lutheran Malaria Initiative in ways that reinforce efforts by the World Hunger Appeal to both achieve its \$25 million annual goal and continue to raise designated funds to address another disease intensified by poverty: HIV and AIDS;

To authorize continued receipt of designated LMI gifts under the auspices of the World Hunger Appeal, with such funds to be allocated through a specific budget for this initiative;

Revised March 27, 2009

To request that a report and possible recommendations for a possible churchwide campaign for the Lutheran Malaria Initiative be brought to the 2011 ELCA Churchwide Assembly; and

To anticipate that this whole church—members of every age, congregations, synods, the churchwide organization, agencies and institutions, the Women of the ELCA, Lutheran Men in Mission, the Lutheran Youth Organization, colleges and universities, seminaries, social ministry organizations, camping ministries, and all others will learn about malaria and other diseases intensified by poverty and prayerfully support the Lutheran Malaria Initiative as it grows into readiness for a possible major fundraising campaign in synods and congregations following authorizing action by the 2011 ELCA Churchwide Assembly.

6. *Evangelical Lutheran Worship: Occasional Services for the Assembly*

Background

Of the worship materials that constitute the family of resources unfolding around the primary worship resource *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, at least two publications merit a level of liturgical review that requires action by the Church Council. *Evangelical Lutheran Worship Pastoral Care*, the first of two titles related to occasional services, was commended for use at the March 2008 Church Council meeting.

The second title related to occasional services is *Evangelical Lutheran Worship Occasional Services for the Assembly (ELW-OSA)*, due to be published in the fall of 2009. The contents of this volume have received the following levels of review:

1. The services related to rostered ministry in the ELCA received review from designated reviewers—including synodical bishops, pastors, lay rostered leaders, and teaching theologians—in the summer of 2008. This review informed the strategies for revision of these materials, and these strategies were reported to the Conference of Bishops and the Church Council in the fall of 2008.
2. The rest of the proposed content for *ELW-OSA* received review from designated reviewers—including synodical bishops, pastors, lay rostered leaders, and teaching theologians—in December 2008 and January 2009. At the same time all the proposed contents of *ELW-OSA*, including the ministry rites, were available on the ELCA Web site for general comment by individuals and groups who chose to respond. These reviews informed the strategies for final decision-making that are summarized in Exhibit Q, Part 1, and that are incorporated in the final content proposal.

As reported to the November 2008 Church Council meeting, the services related to rostered ministries are considered “authorized materials” under the Statement of Policy and Procedures for Review of Liturgical Materials Prepared by ELCA Churchwide Units, which states: “[Authorized materials are] resources that have been deemed to be in accordance with the governing documents of this church and that have been designated as the appropriate form, to be used in this church as presented. . . . Materials are authorized upon recommendation by the Office of the Presiding Bishop, review by the Conference of Bishops, and approval by the Church Council.”

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To commend *Evangelical Lutheran Worship Occasional Services for the Assembly* to synods and congregations for use as an enriching addition to the worship patterns of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America;

To express gratitude for the conscientious efforts of the reviewers and the insights and observations by the many people who helped to shape and refine the content of *Evangelical Lutheran Worship Occasional Services for the Assembly*; and

To authorize the following services within *Evangelical Lutheran Worship Occasional Services for the Assembly* as the appropriate forms to be used in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, effective June 1, 2009: Ordination; Consecration of Deaconesses and Diaconal Ministers; Commissioning of Associates in Ministry; Installation of a Pastor; Installation of a Deaconess or Diaconal Minister; Installation of an Associate in Ministry; Invitation to Extended Service; and Installation of a Bishop.

7. Revision to Personnel Policies

In accordance with ELCA continuing resolution 15.11.D05., the Human Resources section of the Office of the Presiding Bishop has recommended changes to two of the personnel policies of the churchwide organization:

- a. Policy 5.12, *Consideration of Board, Program Committee and Advisory Committee Members as Candidates*, clarifies the policy. The change reflects past and current practice rather than a change in practice; and
- b. Policy 10.7, *Accident Insurance*, eliminates the first paragraph of the policy for the following reasons:
 - 1). A policy is not needed if this church decides to continue some form of this benefit;
 - 2). The benefit as described is not accurate;
 - 3). The benefit as described is very unusual for an organization of the churchwide organization's size and type;
 - 4). The ELCA risk manager has ascertained that this benefit is costly and has not been used for at least five years; and
 - 5). Employees are covered by other benefits, including worker's compensation and Board of Pensions and ELCA death benefits.

The revisions have been reviewed by ELCA legal counsel. In addition, the executive for human resources has consulted with the Cabinet of Executives and the Administrative Team regarding the elimination the business accident paragraph of policy 10.7.

Please note: Deleted language is ~~struck out~~; added language is underlined.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To approve the revisions to the following ELCA Churchwide Personnel Policies:

1. **5.12 *Consideration of Church Council, Board, Program Committee and Advisory Committee Members as Candidates***

Any church council member or any board of trustees member, program committee member or advisory committee member who is to be interviewed for a position within that unit or section of the churchwide organization must relinquish his or her council, board or committee membership in order to be considered as a candidate.

2. ***10.7 Accidental Death and Dismemberment Insurance***

~~Business travel accident insurance is provided for all employees at this church's expense, and covers accidents involving death or dismemberment while traveling in the interest of this church. The principal sum of this coverage is five times the current annual salary of the respective employee (minimum of \$100,000, maximum of \$400,000).~~

An optional Accidental Death and Dismemberment plan is available for employees and their eligible family members, which covers accidents which happen during working and non-working hours and days. Detailed information on this voluntary plan is available in Human Resources.

IV. ITEMS FOR *EN BLOC* ACTION

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

Each of the items is noted as [*EN BLOC*] on pages 45-56. On the first day of the Council meeting, the chair will provide an opportunity for members to indicate whether they wish to discuss separately any of the items any of the items listed in the *en bloc* resolution; any such item will be removed from the *en bloc* resolution and discussed at the appropriate point in the agenda.

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

CC ACTION

Recommended:

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

IV.A	Synodical Resolutions and Churchwide Assembly Actions	45
IV.A.1	Synodical Resolutions Directed to the Church Council	45
IV.A.2	Churchwide Assembly Referrals Directed to Church Council	45
IV.B	ELCA Pension and Other Benefits Program	45
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Revised March 26, 2009

A. Synodical Resolutions and Churchwide Assembly Actions

1. Synodical Resolutions Directed to the Church Council

Synodical resolutions directed to the Church Council that have been received since the council's November 2008 meeting are printed in Exhibit B, Part 1a. The actions contained in Exhibit B, Part 1a will be voted *en bloc* unless indicated otherwise.

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

CC ACTION [EN BLOC]

Recommended:

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

2. Churchwide Assembly Referrals Directed to Church Council

Exhibit B, Part 2b contains proposed responses to referrals to the Church Council from the 2007 Churchwide Assembly. The actions contained in Exhibit B, Part 2b will be considered *en bloc* unless indicated otherwise.

CC ACTION [EN BLOC]

Recommended:

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

B. ELCA Pension and Other Benefits Program

The Board of Trustees of the Board of Pensions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America met February 26-March 1, 2009. There were no plan amendments to recommend to the Church Council for adoption.

C. Budget and Finance Committee

Action items recommended by the Budget and Finance Committee for *en bloc* approval will be distributed following the committee's March 27, 2009 meeting.

1. Cash Management

Exhibit F, Part 7 shows the actual and projected cash balances during 2008 compared to target balances in accordance with the cash management policy. Although balances are slightly lower than or on-target and have been slightly below or equal to the total designated and restricted fund balances, they remain above the minimum requirement.

The graph of cash and investment balances at the end of each month from January 1988 through January 2009 previously reviewed in Exhibit F, Part 1d, page 6, may also be useful in the review of cash management.

As reported at the November 2008 meeting, we have increased the line of credit with Harris Bank from \$5 million to \$20 million, with \$10 million on a committed basis.

The current cash management policy of the ELCA requires a minimum cash balance of two months' average disbursements less available lines of credit. The policy was adopted when the line of credit was \$5 million and average monthly disbursements were about \$12 million, resulting in a minimum cash balance requirement of about \$19 million. The recent increase in the total line of credit to \$20 million, of which \$10 million is committed, would result in an

unrealistically low minimum cash balance under the policy of about \$4 million.

We recommend adoption of an amendment to the cash management policy to recognize that only the committed portion of the total line of credit should be used to determine the minimum cash balance required under the policy. The proposed amended policy, with the proposed change highlighted, is attached as Exhibit F, Part 8.

CC ACTION [EN BLOC]

Recommended:

To approve the revised ELCA cash management policy as presented in Exhibit F, Part 8.

2. Audit Committee

a. Audit Committee Membership

The membership of the Audit Committee is defined by ELCA bylaw 14.41.E02. The Audit Committee is comprised of six members. A minimum of two members should be members of the Church Council's Budget and Finance Committee. Members are appointed by the Budget and Finance Committee and forwarded to the Church Council for approval. Budget and Finance Committee members are appointed for two-year terms with the possibility of reappointment throughout their Church Council term. Non-Church Council members are appointed for two-year terms, renewable for two additional terms. Terms are staggered to provide for continuity in committee membership from year to year.

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

Pr. John Richter (April 2009); Ms. Ann F. Niedringhaus (August 2009); Mr. John F. Timmer (August 2010); Mr. Timothy L. Stephan (August 2009); Ms. Deborah Chenoweth (April 2009); Mr. Philip Bertram (August 2009).

CC ACTION [EN BLOC]

Recommended:

To approve the appointment of the following ELCA Audit Committee members to an additional two-year term, beginning August 2009: Ann Niedringhaus, Deborah Chenoweth, Timothy Stephan, and Philip Bertram; and

To approve the extension of the term on the ELCA Audit Committee for John Richter through August 2009.

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D. Executive Committee

Action items recommended by the Executive Committee for *en bloc* approval are detailed below. Additional items or revised actions will be distributed following the committee's March 27, 2009 meeting.

E. Legal and Constitutional Review Committee

Action items recommended by the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee for *en bloc* approval will be distributed following the committee's March 27, 2009 meeting.

1. ELCA Risk Management (ELCARM) Bylaw Revisions

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. Presently, 23 of the 27 colleges and universities and all eight seminaries related to this church use ELCARM for these services. For these purposes, ELCARM utilizes the staff of Education and Institutional Insurance Administrators, Inc. (EIIA), a similar consortium of United Methodist Church educational institutions. This EIIA staff has skilled insurance professionals and support staff, all of whom are full-time employees working solely on the insurance affairs of ELCARM, EIIA, and two other consortia of denominational educational institutions, one related to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and the other to American Baptist churches. Collectively, these four consortia represent 138 church-related institutions of higher education, whose aggregate property, casualty, auto, general liability, and worker's compensation insurance premiums are the equivalent of the insurance premiums paid by a Fortune 200 corporation. In addition, the EIIA staff provides expert advice, support, and on-site visits to participating institution for risk management programs and assessments.

The ELCARM governing documents have been revised recently for two purposes: 1) to comply with the ELCA governance changes established after the 2005 reorganization of churchwide units and committees; and 2) to 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. The rights being conferred on the participating institutions include authority to elect four of the nine members of the ELCARM board of directors and to vote upon major corporate transactions that are not in the normal course of business. The risk retention group, which is now being formed by the four consortia as a Vermont non-profit and insurance corporation, will facilitate the placement of insurance for the participating institutions.

Previously the Division for Higher Education and Schools had the authority to approve changes in the ELCARM Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws. This authority has now been transferred to the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Until now, five of the nine directors had been appointed by the Vocation and Education unit, the Office of the Secretary, and the ELCA Council of College and University Presidents. Under the revised bylaws now being submitted for approval, these churchwide units and the Presidents Council, plus the Council of Seminary Presidents, will make nominations of individuals to serve on the ELCARM board of directors; these appointments must be approved by the Church Council.

The following exhibits are attached: the revised articles of incorporation of ELCA Risk Management, Inc. (Exhibit G, Part 1a) and the bylaws of ELCA Risk Management, Inc. (Exhibit G, Part 1b).

CC ACTION [EN BLOC]

Recommended:

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

RESOLVED, that the Church Council, on behalf of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, hereby approve the revisions to the restated articles of incorporation and bylaws of ELCA Risk Management, Inc., as presented in exhibits G, Part 1a and G, Part 1b attached hereto and incorporated herein; and

RESOLVED, that the Church Council, on behalf of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, hereby appoint the following individuals to serve on the Board of Directors of ELCA Risk Management, Inc., on the basis of nomination by the unit, office, or council indicated: Mr. Mark Wilhelm and Mr. David Hardy, nominated by the Vocation and Education unit; Mr. Phillip Harris, nominated by the Office of the Secretary; Mr. Jay Lemons, nominated by the Council of College and University Presidents; and [to be named], nominated by the Council of Seminary Presidents.

2. Authorization of Signatories

In April 1990, the Church Council adopted a resolution [CC90.4.31] authorizing signatures by assistant vice presidents and assistant secretaries for the execution of documents on behalf of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:

WHEREAS, the Minnesota nonprofit corporation act authorizes the board of directors of a corporation organized thereunder to designate two or more directors to form a committee that shall have authority to act for and on behalf of the board of directors; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that any two of the Bishop (President), Vice President, Secretary or Treasurer are hereby appointed as a committee having the authority of the Church Council in the management of the business or fiscal affairs of this corporation to authorize and approve, on behalf of this corporation, transactions to which it is a party; and be it further

RESOLVED, that any one of the Bishop (President), Vice President, Secretary or Treasurer or in the absence of all of the foregoing, any two of the assistant vice presidents may execute, and the Secretary or any assistant secretary may attest, any document required or desirable in connection with a commercial or fiscal transaction to which this corporation is a party, including but not limited to conveyances, assignments, mortgages, contracts, notes, leases, bills of sale, and financing statements.

Personnel changes necessitate action to update that resolution. Therefore, the following action is proposed.

CC ACTION [EN BLOC]

Recommended:

To adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, in the opinion of legal counsel (Faegre & Benson of Minneapolis), the Minnesota Nonprofit Corporation Act authorizes the Church Council as the board of directors of this corporation to appoint additional officers; and

WHEREAS, this corporation previously has authorized execution of various documents, when necessary, by two assistant vice presidents in the absence of the bishop, vice president, secretary, and treasurer (CC90.4.31*); and

WHEREAS, this corporation previously has appointed various persons to be assistant vice presidents and assistant secretaries of this corporation; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the previous appointments of assistant vice presidents and assistant secretaries of this corporation (CC90.4.32, CC92.11.103, CC96.11.61b, CC03.11.85) be and are hereby rescinded; and be it further

RESOLVED, for the sole purpose of executing documents, as specified in CC90.4.31, that the following be and are hereby appointed as assistant vice presidents of this corporation: M. Wyvetta Bullock, Walter S. May, and Myrna J. Sheie; and be it further

RESOLVED, for the sole purpose of executing documents, as specified in CC90.4.31, that the following be and are hereby appointed as assistant secretaries of this corporation: Ruth E. Hamilton, Phillip H. Harris, Mary Beth Nowak, and David A. Ullrich.

3. Amendments to Governing Documents

Background:

As part of the restructuring in 2005 of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the boards of trustees of the ELCA Foundation and the Mission Investment Fund were reduced to nine members. Experience has shown that this number is too small to ensure that the board meetings have enough persons with the requisite expertise and diversity in attendance. The absence of one or two trustees from a meeting with only nine trustees can create problems in decision-making. This issue can be addressed by increasing the size of the board. In addition, by providing a range in the number of trustees, potential problems with resignations can be reduced. Because the bylaws provide that one-third of the members be elected each biennium, the word "approximately" should be added to the applicable sentence.

In order to implement staggered terms as the boards expand in size, a continuing resolution for each board also is recommended.

CC ACTION [EN BLOC]

Recommended:

To amend ELCA bylaw 17.41.02 and to add continuing resolution 17.41.C09 as follows:

17.41.02. The Foundation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America shall have a board of trustees that shall be comprised of at least nine but not more than 12 ~~nine~~ persons elected to six-year terms by the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, with no consecutive reelection and with approximately one-third of the members elected each biennium. . . [with the rest unchanged]

Revised March 27, 2009 9:00 PM

17.41.C09. To implement staggered terms for board members, if more than four persons are elected in 2009, the fifth person elected will serve a four-year term, and the sixth person will serve a two-year term.

To amend ELCA bylaw 17.51.01 and to add continuing resolution 17.51.B09:

17.51.01. The Mission Investment Fund of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America shall have a board of trustees of at least nine but not more than ~~12~~^{nine} members, who shall be elected by the Churchwide Assembly for six-year terms with no consecutive reelection and with approximately one-third elected each biennium as provided in Chapter 19.

17.51.B09. To implement staggered terms for board members, if more than four persons are elected in 2009, the fifth person elected will serve a four-year term, and the sixth person will serve a two-year term.

F. Planning and Evaluation Committee

Action items recommended by the Planning and Evaluation Committee for *en bloc* approval will be distributed following the committee's March 27, 2009 meeting.

G. Program and Services Committee

Action items recommended by the Program and Services Committee for *en bloc* approval will be distributed following the committee's March 27, 2009 meeting.

1. Social Ministry Organization Affiliation

In 1997 the ELCA Church Council approved "A Social Ministry Partnership," which contained criteria for ELCA affiliation for social ministry organizations. This document presented a joint set of criteria with the Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod (LCMS), although they utilized the term "recognition" instead of affiliation. In 2007 LCMS began a churchwide process for revising recognition criteria for all organizations interested in becoming Recognized Service Organizations. The process resulted in a new set of requirements that have diverged considerably from those in the 1997 joint document; therefore, it was deemed impossible to continue to provide a pan-Lutheran document for social ministry organizations.

In addition, the several requirements that the ELCA had added in 1997 to allow for affiliating organizations that would be considered as Category II Organizations (defined as "An Organization with Lutheran and Other Christian, Other Faith, and/or Secular Not-for-Profit Participants without a Lutheran Majority") were deemed inadequate in one regard. Because the ELCA has insisted that no organization with a completely self-perpetuating board would qualify for affiliation, it became apparent that to hold Category II Organizations to that same standard, one additional requirement was needed for this category. That has now been added and is highlighted in the document attached.

Finally, language of expectations related to membership in Lutheran Services in America (LSA) has been modified slightly and LSA membership has been added to the list of affiliation requirements. In the 1997 document, the statement was labeled an "expectation" and read "participating in and supporting Lutheran Services in America through active participation and payment of annual dues." The new language is "agreeing to participate in LSA in which, by affiliating, the organization becomes a member, receiving the benefits accord to LSA members and fully supporting its mission, including paying annual dues."

The recommended amendments to "A Social Ministry Partnership" are printed in Exhibit K, Part 5.

CC ACTION [EN BLOC]

Recommended:

To approve the amendments to "A Social Ministry Partnership" as printed in Exhibit K, Part 5.

2. Amendments to Global Mission Personnel Policies

The ELCA Global Mission program unit (GM) has forwarded to the ELCA Church Council updated *Personnel Policies and Expectations* for ELCA mission personnel serving outside the United States. The GM program committee received a report on these changes at its March 13-14, 2009, meeting.

Most of the proposed revisions reflect changes in nomenclature relating to the internal reconfiguration of the Global Mission program unit (e.g., from the “international personnel” section to the “global service” section). Also included in these revisions are the following changes:

1. Section 3.0: deletion of paragraph related to outside employment, since this language is better suited in individual Letters of Agreement or in the Terms and Conditions of Support for long-term missionaries.
2. Section 6.3: Change "narcotics" to "illegal drugs" for clarity, since some narcotics are prescribed legally.
3. Section 9.0: Added clarification on personal safety/risk management. This language was taken from GM security policies and is included in this document for purposeful redundancy.

The specific amendments are detailed below. A complete set of the documents, both with revisions and without, is available on the table behind Secretary Swartling's chair.

CC ACTION [En Bloc]

Recommended:

To adopt the following revisions to the *Personnel Policies and Expectations* of the ELCA Global Mission program unit:

1. **Section 3.0:**
Outside employment by mission personnel with a defined work assignment must be approved by the ELCA/GM. Employment by any member of the mission personnel family in the country of service must be compatible with Christian values and not detrimental to the mission of the church. For long-term mission personnel, additional information related to outside employment is stated in the *Terms and Conditions of Support*.
2. **Section 6.3:**
Personal use of alcohol or tobacco should be in moderation and respectful of local norms and customs. Use of narcotics illegal drugs is prohibited.
3. **Section 9.0:**
Mission personnel acknowledge that global mission service involves potential risk to their safety and well-being. Mission personnel assume personal responsibility for engaging in appropriate risk management in such matters as health, personal security, and safety, both at their location of service and when traveling.
The ELCA/GM takes seriously the risk to which mission personnel are exposed in the course of their service and seeks to support mission personnel in preventing and responding to risk management issues....
4. **Additional proposed revisions that reflect changes in nomenclature relating to the internal reconfiguration of the Global Mission program unit.**

Revised March 20, 2009

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3. Global Mission Cooperation with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

The Global Mission program unit (GM) has forwarded to the ELCA Church Council a framework for agreement between the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America through GM and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC). This agreement reflects a significant deepening of the operational relationship between the ELCA and the ELCIC in the full scope of global mission activities. ELCIC staff participated in the February 13-14, 2009, meeting of the Global Mission program committee and discussed the February 24, 2009, working paper, *Moving in a New Model for ELCIC Mission in the World*, found in Exhibit M, Part 1.

According to this plan, the ELCIC increasingly will utilize ELCA GM systems as it sends mission personnel and receives the gifts of companion churches through various formation and education activities. This new pattern of cooperation will be carried out within the context of the ELCIC's ongoing relationships and mission commitments. The ELCIC's governance body has affirmed this approach. ELCA staff are working closely with ELCIC staff to determine implementation steps and will be present at the June 2009 ELCIC convention in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

CC ACTION [EN BLOC]

Recommended:

To affirm the direction of closer cooperation in global mission between with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada and the ELCA through its Global Mission program unit, as described in Exhibit M, Part 1.

Revised March 20, 2009

H. Other 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 Lutheran Medical Center, Brooklyn, New York; the Evangelical Lutheran Good Samaritan Society, Sioux Falls, S.D.; Lutheran Services in America, Baltimore, Md.; Mosaic, Inc., Omaha, Neb.; and Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, Baltimore, Md. In the case of Lutheran Medical Center, Brooklyn, New York, the ELCA's annual election of board members complies with their constitutional requirement that this action constitute an annual meeting of the corporate member. The Church in Society program unit has forwarded to the Church Council the following nominations for positions on the boards of these organizations.

CC ACTION [EN BLOC]

Recommended:

To elect to the board of directors of Mosaic, Inc., to a three-year term expiring in 2012: Mr. Mark Klever;

To elect to the board of directors of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service: Ms. Kathi Anderson and the Rev. E. Roy Riley, Jr. to three-year terms expiring in December 2011; and

To elect to the board of trustees of Lutheran Medical Center: Ms Lynda Anderson to a two-year term expiring in 2011 and Mr. Darin P. McAtee to a three-year term expiring in 2012.

2. Boards of ELCA Seminaries

Bylaw 8.31.02. outlines basic parameters for the election of members to the boards of ELCA seminaries. Subsection 8.31.02.a. provides for churchwide representation: "At least one-fifth nominated, in consultation with the seminaries, by the appropriate churchwide unit and elected by the Church Council." This process of nomination and election is accomplished by these steps:

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

CC ACTION [EN BLOC]

Recommended:

To elect as a member of the board of directors of Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minn: the Rev. Gemechis Desta Buba, to a three-year term expiring in 2012;

To elect as a member of the board of directors of the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, Chicago, Ill.: Ms. Kathryn Hasselblad-Pascale, to a three-year term expiring in 2012;

To re-elect as members of the board of directors of the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, Chicago, Ill.: Mr. J. Arthur Gustafson and the Rev. Durk K. Peterson, to two-year terms expiring in 2011; and

To re-elect as members of the board of directors of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Penn.: Ms. Priscilla Kinney, Dr. Nelvin Vos, and Bishop E. Roy Riley, to three-year terms expiring in 2012.

V. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

A. Office of the Presiding Bishop

1. Appointment of Ecumenical Delegation

The eleventh Assembly of the Lutheran World Federation will be held in Stuttgart, Germany, July 20-27, 2010, under the theme, "Give Us Today Our Daily Bread." The ELCA has been allocated 15 delegates, of whom three are to be youth.

Prior to the April 1996 meeting of the Church Council, the Executive Committee engaged in extensive review and discussion of the process for nomination and election of ecumenical representatives. Specifically addressed at that time were matters related to the composition of representatives for forthcoming assemblies of the Lutheran World Federation, the World Council of Churches, and the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A.

Churchwide constitutional provision 13.21.b. stipulates that the presiding bishop of this church shall be "the chief ecumenical officer of this church and its primary representative in the national and international interchurch agencies in which this church holds membership."

In accord with that responsibility, the presiding bishop proposes periodically the names of people to represent this church in various capacities. This includes members of delegations for inter-church and ecumenical assemblies. There is no provision in the governing documents assigning to the Church Council a specific role in the selection process of assembly delegates, but this has been the practice in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, as it was in the predecessor church bodies. With each succeeding Lutheran World Federation and World Council of Churches assembly, the requested composition of the delegations from member churches has grown more specific and complex, for a variety of reasons.

In accordance with ELCA continuing resolution 13.22.A04.a, "the presiding bishop, in consultation with the Executive Committee of the Church Council, shall appoint members of delegations to national and international inter-church entities in which this church holds membership" and shall report such appointments as information to the Church Council.

Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson has appointed the following people to serve as the ecumenical representation from this church to the eleventh Assembly of the Lutheran World Federation in Stuttgart, Germany in 2010: Pr. Meghan Johnston Aelabouni, Elmhurst, Ill.; Mr. Robera Battal, Minneapolis, Minn.; Mr. Ralston Deffenbaugh, Columbia, Md.; Pr. Maria Erling, Gettysburg, Penn.; Mr. Matthew Guess, Berkeley, Calif. (youth); Pr. Abigail Zang Hoffman, Elmira, N.Y. (LWF Council); Ms. May Helen Jackson, Springfield, Ohio (youth); Ms. Staci Kitahata, Seattle, Wash.; Bp. Wilma Kucharek, Torrington, Conn. (Slovak-Zion Synod); Bp. James Mauney, Salem, Va. (Virginia Synod); Ms. Mikka McCracken, St. Peter, Minn. (youth); Pr. Marcus Miller, Columbia, S.C.; Pr. Craig Nessian, Dubuque, Iowa; Pr. Barbara Rossing, Chicago, Ill. (LWF Council); and Pr. Paul Rohrbacher, Albany, N.Y.

CC INFORMATION

B. Board Development Committee

Information items related to the March 27, 2009 meeting of the Board Development Committee will be distributed following the committee's meeting.

1. Racial Justice Process Observation

The Church Council received a report on anti-racism training for the Church Council at its April 2007 meeting. One of the recommendations included in the report related to racial justice monitoring. Following discussion, the Church Council voted (CC07.04.03):

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

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

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

Subsequent to this action, the Church Council has included anti-racism training sessions at its November 2007 and April 2008 meetings. In addition, the summer 2008 Church Council retreat focused on the "scandalous realities" of racism and sexism.

The Board Development Committee requested a proposal for a racial justice monitoring pilot to be undertaken by the Church Council at its regular meetings from April 2008 - April 2009. The committee appointed Judy Tutt-Starr, Lynette Reitz, and Shenandoah Gale (staff) as a design team. The committee approved the final proposal at its February 2008 meeting.

Pilot Method

Process observers observe three two-hour (or equivalent) plenary sessions. Identified categories for observation questions include:

- a. Process
- b. Who's in the room: who speaks or addresses the plenary; how often?
Whose voices are brought into the room?
- c. Climate: disconnect between advisors and council; comfort in sharing, speaking in plenary
 - Just before the end of a session, observers compile information into one report. Observers report to the plenary what they saw and heard.
 - A written report of observations is given to the chair of the Board Development Committee.
 - At the end of the third observation session, members and advisors complete and submit a pilot evaluation form.
 - Upon consideration of this report, the Board Development Committee may make corresponding recommendations to the Executive Committee for consideration.
 - Compiled pilot evaluation results are given to the Board Development Committee Chair and incorporated into the pilot design for the Fall 2008 implementation.

Mr. Chuck Wooldridge served as process observer for the Church Council meeting on Saturday, November 15, 2008. In preparation for the March 2009 meeting, five members of the Church Council were trained as process observers by Ms. Paula Cole Jones, who will be present for both the March 2009 and November 2009 meetings. The members are:

Lynette Reitz, Ann Niedringhaus, Pablo Obregon, Baron Blanchard, and Arielle Mastellar (youth advisor).

An introduction to process observation, including an introduction of the team, will be included in the first plenary session with observations shared at the end of each day.

CC INFORMATION

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C. Budget and Finance Committee

Information items related to the March 27, 2009 meeting of the Budget and Finance Committee will be distributed following the committee's meeting.

1. Current Fund and World Hunger

The report of the treasurer summarizing fiscal year 2008 financial results can be found in Exhibit F, Part 1a. The current operating fund financial results for the eight-month period are presented in Exhibit F, Part 1b. Operating results for the World Hunger program for the same period are in Exhibit F, Part 1c. The statements of financial position for the 2008 fiscal year are reflected in Exhibit F, Part 1d.

CC INFORMATION

2. Church Council Designated Funds

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

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

The first way designated funds are managed is through investment in the ELCA Foundation as Church Council designated funds "functioning as endowment." They are reported annually to the Church Council in the spring through the Church Council Budget and Finance Committee. Exhibit F, Part 4a details those funds.

The second way designated funds are managed is through the ELCA treasury as a designated fund to be used for a specific activity within a given time frame. Exhibit F, Part 4b is a summary exhibit of all active Church Council designated funds, exclusive of those "functioning as endowments." Exhibit F, Parts 4c-i includes reports for each of the active Church Council designated funds.

CC INFORMATION

3. The Audit Committee

At the November 2008 meeting, the Budget and Finance Committee suggested that the ELCA internal auditor, Michael McKillip, meet with the committee for purposes of introduction. He will meet with the committee at its March 2009 meeting to familiarize the whole committee with the process of developing audit plans and schedules and answer any questions the committee may have.

CC INFORMATION

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D. Executive Committee

Information items related to the March 27, 2009 meeting of the Executive Committee will be distributed following the committee's meeting.

CC INFORMATION

E. Legal and Constitutional Review Committee

Information items related to the March 27, 2009 meeting of the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee will be distributed following the committee's meeting.

CC INFORMATION

F. Planning and Evaluation Committee

Information items related to the March 27, 2009 meeting of the Planning and Evaluation Committee will be distributed following the committee's meeting.

CC INFORMATION

G. Program and Services Committee

Information items related to the March 26-27, 2009 meeting of the Program and Services Committee will be distributed following the committee's meeting.

CC INFORMATION

VI. OTHER CHURCHWIDE ITEMS

A. Recipient for Church Council Offering

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

The Executive Committee has recommended that the offering taken at the worship service on Sunday, March 29, 2009, support Vision for Mission, which supports the churchwide ministries of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

An offering envelope was distributed to Church Council members and advisors in the hanging folders. Please make checks payable to the ELCA with the notation "Vision for Mission."

CC INFORMATION

B. Reports on Synod Visits

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

At its November 2007 meeting, members of the Church Council prepared assignments for "Church Council contacts with synods: 2007-2009." Members are encouraged to report on synod visits regularly. A summary of the reports received since the November 2008 meeting of the Church Council are printed in Exhibit D, Part 1. Also included are previous reports not distributed at the November 2008 meeting. A notebook including the full texts of reports submitted is available on the materials distribution table.

CC INFORMATION

C. Board Development: Primer on Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Relations

The board development task force has requested that a primer on this church's ecumenical and inter-religious relations be presented at the Church Council's March 2009 meeting. The primer will be presented by Donald McCoid, executive for ecumenical and inter-religious relations, on Sunday afternoon, March 29, 2009.

CC INFORMATION

D. Board Development: Role of Church Council members 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 Myrna J. Sheie, executive assistant to the presiding bishop and chair of the Churchwide Assembly Planning Committee. The primer is scheduled on Monday morning, March 30, 2009. 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” committees, serving as hosts for nominees for presiding bishop and secretary, and leading prayer during plenary sessions. Members will be notified by the vice president of specific assignments early in the summer.

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

CC INFORMATION

E. Greeting from ELCIC 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.

The Rev. Susan Johnson, the National Bishop of the ELCIC, will be present for the March 2009 meeting of the Church Council and will bring a greeting to the Church Council on Saturday morning, March 26, 2009.

CC INFORMATION

F. Update on the Book of Faith Initiative

The Church Council will receive an update on the Book of Faith Initiative from Diane Jacobson, Professor of Old Testament at Luther Seminary and director of the Book of Faith Initiative. The update is scheduled on Sunday afternoon, March 29, 2009.

CC INFORMATION

G. “Addressing Social Issues Theologically: ELCA Policy Documents and Resources”

Revised March 24, 2009

The department for studies of the Church in Society program unit has created a CD to promote understanding of the process for development and substance of ELCA social policy. Titled “Addressing Social Issues Theologically: ELCA Policy Documents and Resources,” the CD includes all ELCA social statements, messages, and social policy resolutions through 2007, plus accompanying resources. Copies of the CD have been distributed to Church Council members in their hanging files.

CC INFORMATION

H. Church Council Meeting Dates (2009-2014)

Meetings of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America are scheduled through 2014:

2009: August 16-17 (Churchwide Assembly 17-23, Minneapolis); November 13-15

2010: April 9-11; August 13-15 (retreat for CC members only); November 12-15

2011: April 8-11; August 13-14 (Churchwide Assembly 14-20, Orlando); November 11-14

2012: April 13-16; July 28-29 (retreat for CC members only); November 9-12

2013: April 5-8; August X-X (Churchwide Assembly); November 8-11

2014: April 4-7; July 26-27 (retreat for CC members only); November 7-10

CC INFORMATION