

**EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
IN AMERICA**

Church Council

MINUTES

April 5–7, 2013

**Prepared by the
Office of the Secretary**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Organization of Meeting	1
Voting Members	1
Representatives of the Conference of Bishops	1
Youth and Young Adult Advisors	1
Resource Persons	2
Guests	2
 Plenary Session I	 3
Call to Order and Adoption of the Agenda	3
Approval of Minutes	3
Report of the Presiding Bishop	4
Report of the Vice President	10
Report of the Executive Committee	10
Church Council Committees for the 2013–2016 Triennium	10
Proposal on Theological Education	11
Book of Faith Initiative	12
 Plenary Session II	 14
Bible Study	14
Report of the Executive for Administration	14
Report of the Planning and Evaluation Committee	15
Update from Portico Benefit Services	15
ELCA Philosophy of Benefits and Development of Health Care Plan Design Options	15
Report of the Conference of Bishops	18
 Plenary Session III	 19
Report of the Treasurer	19
Report of the Budget and Finance Committee	19
Guidelines for ELCA World Hunger Program Activities	19
Revised 2013 Income Estimate and Expenditure Authorization	20
Proposed 2014–2016 Triennium Budget	21
25th Anniversary Campaign for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America	22
 Plenary Session IV	 24
Dwelling in the Word	24
Report of the Secretary	24
E-Binder Update	24
Report of the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee	24
Proposed Merger of California Lutheran University and Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary	24
Report of the Executive Committee	26
Lutheran Medical Center	26
Proposal on Theological Education	32
25th Anniversary Campaign for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America	35
Church Council Designated Funds	36
Revisions to 2013 Synodical Mission Support Plans	37
Synodical Mission Support Plans for 2014	38
Executive Session	40

Plenary Session V	41
Greeting from the ELCIC National Bishop Susan Johnson	41
Report of the Program and Services Committee	41
Update on 500th Anniversary	41
Addressing Social Concerns Review Task Force	42
Social Statement on Criminal Justice	44
Women and Justice: One in Christ	47
Update on Word and Service Task Force	48
Process Observation	48
 Plenary Session VI	 49
Leadership Tables Conversation	49
Report of Board Development Committee	49
Church Council Retreat	49
New Business	50
Site for the 2016 Churchwide Assembly	50
Board Orientation: Role of the Church Council at the Churchwide Assembly	51
Consideration of Unfinished and Additional Agenda Items	52
Women and Justice: One in Christ	52
Consideration of Items Removed from <i>En Bloc</i>	53
Confirmation Resources	53
<i>En Bloc</i> Approval of Certain Items	54
Responses to Synodical Resolutions	55
Responses to Churchwide Assembly Actions	56
Actions Recommended by Committee	58
Meeting Evaluation and Debriefing	59
Closing Prayer	59
Adjournment	59
 Appendix: Restated Certificate of Incorporation of Lutheran Medical Center	 61
 List of Actions	 71
 Topical Index	 72

**EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
CHURCH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES
April 5-7, 2013
Chicago, Illinois**

The seventy-eighth meeting of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) was convened in the Council Room of the Lutheran Center at Chicago, Illinois.

The Executive Committee of the Church Council met Friday, April 5, 2013, followed by meetings of the Budget and Finance, Legal and Constitutional Review, Planning and Evaluation, and Program and Services Committees.

ORGANIZATION OF MEETING

The following persons were present for all or part of the meeting:

Voting Members

Officers:

Pr. Mark S. Hanson, presiding bishop
Mr. Carlos E. Peña, vice president
Mr. David D. Swartling, secretary
Pr. Linda O. Norman, treasurer

Chair of the Conference of Bishops:

Pr. Jessica R. Crist, bishop of the Montana Synod

Church Council:

Mr. Paul G. Archer
Mr. Nicholas A. Barber
Ms. Rebecca Jo Brakke
Ms. Rebecca D. Carlson
Ms. Deborah L. Chenoweth
Ms. Christine P. Connell
Pr. Rachel L. Connelly
Pr. Elizabeth E. Ekdale
Ms. Marjorie B. Ellis
Mr. John R. Emery
Mr. Gary D. Gabrielson
Pr. Vicki T. Garber
Pr. Amsalu T. Geleta (*excused*)
Ms. Karin Lynn Graddy
Pr. Joyce M. Graue
Ms. Louise A. Hemstead

Pr. Stephen R. Herr
Mr. William B. Horne II
Mr. Mark E. Johnson
Pr. Susan Langhauser
Pr. Yvonne I. Marshall
Ms. Susan W. McArver
Pr. Raymond A. Miller
Pr. Robert G. Moore
Mr. John S. Munday
Mr. Mark W. Myers
Mr. John M. Pederson
Ms. Pamela E. Pritt
Ms. Feronika A. Raming
Pr. Laurie F. Skow-Anderson
Pr. Kathryn A. Tiede
Pr. Philip R. Wold

Representatives of the Conference of Bishops

Bp. Wm Chris Boerger
Bp. Michael L. Burk
Bp. Elizabeth Eaton
Bp. Ralph E. Jones
Bp. Wilma S. Kucharek

Bp. Gerald L. Mansholt
Bp. Stephen S. Talmage
Bp. Harold L. Usgaard
Bp. Herman R. Yoos III (*excused*)

Youth and Young Adult Advisors

Ms. Amanda A. Briggs
Mr. Jacob R. Halsor (*excused*)
Mr. Anthony (Tony) Rhodes

Resource Persons

Office of the Presiding Bishop:

Pr. M. Wyvetta Bullock, executive for administration
Mr. Kenneth W. Inskeep, executive for research and evaluation
Pr. Marcus R. Kunz, assistant to the presiding bishop for theological discernment
Ms. Kathryn M. Lohre, director for ecumenical and inter-religious relations (*excused*)
Pr. Walter S. May, assistant to the presiding bishop for the Conference of Bishops
Pr. Donald J. McCoid, assistant to the presiding bishop for ecumenical and inter-religious relations
Ms. Jodi L. Slattery, assistant to the presiding bishop for governance
Ms. Else B. Thompson, executive for human resources

Office of the Secretary:

Mr. Phillip H. Harris, general counsel
Mr. Frank F. Imhoff, manager for official documentation
Ms. Sue E. Rothmeyer, executive for Office of the Secretary administration
Mr. David A. Ullrich, associate general counsel

Unit Staff:

Pr. Cherlyne V. Beck, program director for disability ministries and support of lay rostered leaders
Pr. Stephen P. Bouman, executive director of the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit
Ms. Antoinette “Toni” J. Daniels, director for relationships and operations of the Global Mission unit
Ms. Christina Jackson-Skelton, executive director of the Mission Advancement unit
Pr. Rafael Malpica Padilla, executive director of the Global Mission unit
Pr. Peter J. L. Perella, director for worship formation and liturgical resources
Ms. Evelyn B. Soto, director for operations and programs of the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit
Pr. Jonathan P. Strandjord, program director for seminaries
Pr. Gregory J. Villalón, director for leadership for mission/candidacy

Separately Incorporated Ministries:

Ms. Linda Post Bushkofsky, executive director, Women of the ELCA (*excused*)
represented by Ms. Deborah Calvert, associate executive director, Women of the ELCA
Mr. Doug Haugen, executive director, Lutheran Men in Mission
Ms. Beth A. Lewis, president, Augsburg Fortress, Publishers
Ms. Eva M. Roby, president, Mission Investment Fund
Pr. Martin A. Seltz, publisher, worship and music, Augsburg Fortress, Publishers
Pr. Jeffrey D. Thiemann, president, Portico Benefit Services

Press:

Ms. Candice Hill Buchbinder, Mission Advancement
Ms. Melissa Ramirez Cooper, Mission Advancement
Ms. Elizabeth M. Hunter, *The Lutheran* magazine
Mr. Daniel J. Lehmann, editor, *The Lutheran* magazine

Ecumenical Guests:

Pr. Scott D. Anderson, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Ms. Stephanie Cheney, The Episcopal Church (*excused*)
Pr. Mary Ann Neevel, United Church of Christ
Bp. Sharon Zimmerman Rader, United Methodist Church
Pr. Christopher C. Thore, Moravian Church in America
Pr. Lisa Vander Wal, The Reformed Church in America

Registered Guests

Pr. Kim L. Beckmann, legislative team, Goodsoil
Mr. Tim Fisher, legislative assistant, ReconcilingWorks
Ms. Amalia Vagts, executive director, Extraordinary Lutheran Ministries

**Friday, April 5, 2013
Plenary Session I**

CALL TO ORDER AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

(Agenda I.A.)

Background:

Agenda items had been distributed electronically and by mail. Additional items were distributed at the meeting to the members of the Church Council and invited resource people.

Church Council Action:

Mr. Carlos E. Peña, vice president of the ELCA and chair of the Church Council, called the meeting to order at 3:31 P.M., welcomed those present, and noted those excused. He announced that Mr. Iván A. Pérez had resigned from the Church Council and that the Metropolitan Chicago Synod would be nominating someone at a later meeting to complete the term that expires in 2015. The chair reviewed several details of the schedule and agenda for this meeting.

Mr. David D. Swartling, secretary of the ELCA, moved adoption of the agenda.

Moved;

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

There being no discussion, the chair called for the vote.

VOTED:

CC13.04.01 To adopt the agenda and to permit the chair to call for consideration of agenda items in the order the chair deems most appropriate.

Vice President Peña declared the motion was adopted.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

(Agenda I.B.)

Background:

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

The minutes of the council's Executive Committee meetings on November 8–9, 2012, December 18, 2012, January 25, 2013, and February 20, 2013, were distributed electronically to members. Minutes for meetings held in executive session were added to the protocol file in the Office of the Secretary.

Opportunity was provided for Church Council members to submit in writing any corrections for the distributed text of the minutes to the Office of the Secretary. Proper corrections were entered into the protocol copies of the minutes. Such corrections did not need to be raised in the plenary session in connection with the approval of the minutes.

Church Council Action:

Ms. Susan W. McArver made the following motion.

Moved;

Seconded: To approve the minutes of the November 9–11, 2012, meeting of the Church Council; and

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

There being no discussion, the chair called for the vote.

VOTED:

**CC13.04.02 To approve the minutes of the November 9–11, 2012, meeting of the Church Council; and
To ratify actions of the council's Executive Committee as indicated in the minutes of the November 8–9, 2012, December 18, 2012, January 25, 2013, and February 20, 2013, meetings.**

Vice President Peña declared the motion was adopted.

**REPORT OF THE PRESIDING BISHOP
(Agenda I.C.; Exhibit A, Part 1)**

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on the Rev. Mark S. Hanson, presiding bishop of the ELCA, for his report.

Presiding Bishop Hanson said:

"I have been thinking a lot about January 1, 1988, the beginning of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and what preceded that day. Three church bodies, none very old, had been engaged in prayer, conversation, and negotiations, trying to imagine what God could do in creating a new church body out of their respective histories, ministries, strengths, and limitations.

"Each of those three church bodies believed that for the sake of the Gospel, for the sake of participating in God's expanding mission of reconciliation throughout the whole world, they could be better stewards and proclaimers of the Gospel together than apart.

"There was a willingness to relinquish for the sake of what was being born—relinquish their identities, which were often woven into the cultural traditions of a particular immigrant people, relinquish the comfort of relationships and the patterns of governance and institutions. It was not relinquishment for the sake of creating a hierarchical church or even for the greater efficiencies, though attentiveness to efficiency was a concern.

"It was the conviction that together—coordinating ministries, sharing and differentiating decision making, planting new congregations, sending out missionaries, preparing leaders, serving our neighbors—together we will be more faithful in our stewardship of the Gospel and more fruitful in our witness and in doing God's work in the world.

"That foundational premise is reflected in our polity to this day of one church in three expressions. It is woven throughout our governing documents as the principle of interdependence, referenced again and again. It has come to be reflected in the metaphor of our self-understanding being an ecology of interdependent ecosystems, set within the larger ecology of the one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

"Now 25 years later, we need to ask, 'Do the assumptions of our founders still hold? Is this way—not the only way—but is this way of being church together still our way as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America?' Is our driving question the question that I believe led to the new Lutheran church, 'Why not? Why are we still separate?' They asked, 'What are we saying to the world about our understanding of the Gospel when we remain separate? What keeps us apart? Are we willing to move through the losses that come with change, to allow change to move us into a space of discovering new possibilities for serving the gospel together?'

"Think about the changes of the past 25 years and the even greater possibilities we have for being joined together today in serving the Gospel. We have only barely begun to imagine the possibilities for being a church together, serving the Gospel, that come through technology and social media. Think about how members, congregations, synods, institutions, and the churchwide organization are today connected globally compared to 1988. Think of how we are

joined ecumenically. What are the possibilities for synods, the churchwide organization, and the Church Council to increasingly see our role as convening and facilitating conversations and ministry in such an interconnected world?

“In this our 25th anniversary year, will evangelical imagination about new possibilities for serving the Gospel and being engaged in God’s mission in the world be the prevailing question with which we all wrestle? Or will the losses of the past 25 years—losses in membership, resources, and congregations—will the painful conversations and separations that led to divisions deplete our energies? Will we as a church succumb to a culture of distrust that is so pervasive—distrust in institutions and their leaders that lead to disengagement from one another rather than a renewed commitment to build a culture of trust throughout this church? There are some very powerful and real factors in this church that can cause us to turn inward, preoccupied with the survival of the parts rather than the well-being and the thriving of the whole. I believe this 25th anniversary year is a time to recommit to being this church together in mission and to greater imagination about what that means for the sake of the Gospel.

“In this 25th anniversary year, let us together recommit to being a church that supports all the baptized as we live out our varied callings as disciples of Jesus Christ in daily life.

“When the constitution for the new ELCA was being drafted, the question was: How shall we define the membership of the ELCA? Shall it be the congregations? Shall it be the clergy? Shall it be the congregations and the clergy? Well, the answer is in Chapter 6: ‘The members of this church shall be the baptized members of its congregations.’

“It is understandable that we, who are called into leadership, will focus our attention on the future of congregations, synods, the churchwide organization, institutions, and agencies. But let not those energies be at the expense of the priority given to the more than four million baptized members of this church who are the ELCA, wherever they are, and whatever they are doing Monday mornings at 10:00, Wednesday evenings at 8:00, Saturday afternoons, or Sunday mornings in their congregational settings.

“Worship is where we are nurtured, freed, and formed for such lives of discipleship in daily vocation. Let us renew ourselves as a Book of Faith church, practicing what we say when we say the Scripture is the mother tongue of our faith.

“The story of God’s promises to God’s people and the Paschal Mystery of Jesus’ suffering, death, and resurrection is the narrative that frames our individual lives of faith and the ministries of congregations, synods, and churchwide expressions. That narrative is rehearsed in the liturgy and lived out in daily life. We can give no more precious gift to the members of this church as they live out their faith in a complex, ever-changing world of competing narratives than the assurance that each day God is faithful to God’s baptismal promise, when God said, ‘You are my beloved child. I will forgive you for Jesus’ sake. I will love you steadfastly. I raise you to new life in Christ and gather you into my living body, the church. In the power of the Holy Spirit, I will send you into the world to share in word and deed the good news of Jesus Christ and to serve your neighbor.’

“What an opportunity we have in this anniversary year to come together as ELCA members on Sunday, September 8, following worship, when we are inviting all ELCA members in all congregations, noting a few exceptions because of schedules, to go out into their communities and to engage in a variety of acts of service as ELCA members and congregations are doing all the time. But on this ‘God’s work. Our hands. Sunday’ and in this our 25th anniversary year, we have a great opportunity to say publicly together we are a church freed in Christ to serve.

“Let us continue to be a church that together is committed to strong, vibrant congregational ministries that serve the Gospel and are responsive to our ever-changing communities. Every congregation is in a mission field where opportunities to proclaim the good news of Jesus and to serve the neighbor abound.

“Every ELCA congregation has been called by the Churchwide Assembly to be engaged in prayer, conversation, and holy imagination about its future, how it is sharing God’s word of love and forgiveness in Christ with those now present, and how its ministries are responsive to changing communities, neighbors in need, near and far. Now, that is easier said than done when the congregation has over recent years experienced diminishment of membership, aging of membership, declining resources, and depleted energies; when the questions are how do we pay a pastor, keep our property, have any kind of programs that nurture the faith of members and reach out to others. It is difficult to find a way to imagine a new and different future.

“That is why we said no congregation should be expected to do that alone. That is why the invitation of the Churchwide Assembly and the response of bishops and directors for evangelical mission are to convene congregations at mission tables, to bring partners in ministry and ecumenical congregations into that deliberation that includes prayer

and reflection on Scripture and the gifts of the Spirit and deep listening to the changing context. It is the commitment of synods. It is the commitment and priority of the churchwide organization. That commitment is reflected in the bold and wise decision, even when we were reducing the churchwide budget by \$20 million and laying off 100 people, to invest in directors for evangelical mission as a sign of our shared partnership between the churchwide organization and synods for the revitalization, renewal, and planting of congregations thriving in ministry and mission.

“A challenge is to give attentiveness to the centrality of congregations but not make the survival of individual congregations the end. Rather, the end is that the gathered baptized serve the free course of the Gospel in local communities. In other words, how does a congregation discern the gifts of the Spirit and the strengths of its rootedness in mission and ministry in its context and have the freedom and the courage to ask what must change? What must we relinquish for the sake of the Gospel in response to this changing community?

“It is encouraging to see what happens when ELCA congregations experience such evangelical imagination. A congregation in Texas said, ‘We need to get outside of ourselves. Let us engage in some acts of service with the local public elementary school made up largely of Mandarin-speaking students.’ That began a relationship that deepened with the community and the families and the schools that led that congregation to call a Mandarin-speaking pastor and developer to birth a Mandarin-speaking congregation within the context of the ministry of that congregation.

“Throughout the ELCA, we are learning that a different future, a different level of energy, a different imagination emerges when the question moves from ‘How do we survive as a congregation?’ to ‘How do we engage in God’s mission and proclamation of Jesus Christ?’ Yes, the questions are inextricably tied. Yet something changes when we agree on which question takes priority.

“We have only begun to imagine what can happen because of our full communion relationships when it comes to new ministries and renewed congregations.

“We have only begun to experience new models for planting the church, using community organizing as the first entry into a community, learning from the emergent church movement and now some 12 ministries among and with those who are homeless. A few weeks ago, I listened to the stories of those engaged in ministry with the homeless. One woman said, ‘In my community, when a homeless person dies and has no identification on their body, no passport or credit card or driver’s license, and they come to the morgue and the medical examiner sees around their neck a wooden cross, he knows to call me because he knows our ministry is to give every homeless person a cross to remind them that they are a child of God. In their death, they may not be known by the medical examiner, but that cross reminded him they are known to a loving God.

“With change there will always be both sadness and joy. The first congregation I served is closed. We lived in the parsonage attached to the church. Now we drive by, it is an empty lot. We stopped and told stories; we only had two children then. As a former pastor, I still agonize about how the decision came to be, but when the City of Minneapolis leveled that public housing community, ‘the projects,’ the decision was made to sell the property, end the ministry, and tear down the building. I still have sadness and marvelous memories. But I also see the revitalization that has come to the ELCA congregation only a few blocks away, vibrant in ministry, gathering up some of those folks from Prince of Glory. In the wonder of God’s grace, next year our daughter will be the congregation’s president and our granddaughter will be in confirmation.

“Trusting God’s promise that in Christ we are always being made new is both consoling and liberating for individuals and congregations in the midst of change.

“Let us continue together to be a global and ecumenical church. Just think about how much more connected we are with global companions and ecumenical partners now than 25 years ago. In 1988, the companion synod program did not exist. Now the 65 synods have a total of 120 global companions with another 26 global companion synods waiting in the queue. Twenty-five years later, countless ELCA congregations have one or more congregations or projects globally that they consider theirs. I wonder how many ELCA members in these 25 years have traveled on a global mission trip and how many of our youth, now young adults, have had those similar emersion experiences.

“As we celebrate and thank God for these marvelous relationships, we must continue to ask the question: ‘How does this growing web of synodical, personal, and congregational relationships deepen and extend our church-to-church relationships and the communion we share with 142 member churches as the Lutheran World Federation? And how do those church-to-church relationships serve the free course of the Gospel and God’s mission for the life of the world?’

And how do we keep local and global mission in their intersections as we celebrate them in glocal events all over this church?’

“For many reasons, the decision of Evangelical Ethiopian Church Mekane Yesus to sever all ties with the ELCA and the Church of Sweden is so very troubling. It was not the outcome we desired when adopting the social statement on human sexuality and the changes in ministry policies—a social statement that acknowledges that we in the ELCA are not of one mind on homosexuality and that ELCA members with bound consciences can be fully engaged in ministry in this church, holding diverse and even divergent positions. We have always said to our global companions that we will honor your policies, your practices, and your teachings in the territory of your churches and in our relationships with you.

“ELCA relationships with Lutherans in North America and Lutherans in Ethiopia go back more than a century. Together we have accompanied one another through immense times of political turmoil and persecution in our countries and conflicts and division in our churches. For ELCA companion synods, their relationships with sisters and brothers in the Mekane Yesus Church have become some of the most treasured partners in all of their lives.

“But finally, this is about more than companion synod relationships and even church-to-church relationships. It is about what it means to be a communion of churches as the Lutheran World Federation (LWF). I am grateful that the Mekane Yesus Church, the Church of Sweden, and the ELCA have accepted the invitation of the Rev. Martin Junge, LWF general secretary, who has offered to facilitate conversations among the three churches regarding the implications and implementation of the decisions of the Mekane Yesus Church. The June 2013 meeting of the LWF Council will call for much prayer and attentive listening to the Holy Spirit and to one another.

“It was very encouraging to meet with the leaders of the Malagasy Lutheran Church in Madagascar, the Evangelical Lutheran Churches in Malawi, Southern Africa, and Zimbabwe on our recent trip. Because we have these deep church-to-church relationships, we could speak publicly and honestly about our differences and challenges, but each of those leaders also spoke openly and honestly that our unity in Christ and in God’s mission is stronger than our differences. We were modeling accompaniment as we held each other accountable, worshiping and praying together, and witnessing publicly to the unity in Jesus Christ that is God’s gift to us in baptism as together we engage in serving the Gospel and are about God’s work of restoring community.

“This is who we are as the ELCA—a church that together works faithfully, tirelessly, enthusiastically, and humbly to steward and make visible the unity that is God’s gift to us in Christ, a unity that is enriched by the diversity of Christ’s body, the Church. That commitment was firmly made at the 1991 Churchwide Assembly with the adoption of the policy statement *Ecumenism: The Vision of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*. It has led to our now having six full communion partners, some of whom are represented here and with whom we have only begun to imagine the possibilities for witness and service that come by virtue of these relationships. Because of that commitment, the ELCA is vitally involved in imagining new futures for the National Council of Churches and Christian Churches Together.

“As we now move into the next chapter of the ELCA’s life, I believe we need similar commitments and resolve when it comes to interreligious relationships. As I travel throughout the ELCA, especially as I meet with youth and young adults and have question-and-answer time, the most prevailing question I am asked is, ‘What does it mean to be a Christian in relationship to my roommate who is Buddhist, my sister who is married to a Jew, my neighbor who is Muslim, and most of my friends who say “none” when asked their religious affiliation?’

“No matter how great are the challenges we may face as a denomination, let us resolve not to let them turn us inward, preoccupied only with ourselves. Let us always be turned by the Spirit—that is, a repentant church—turned toward the neighbor, turned toward the other, enriched by our diversity, witnessing to our faith, finding ways to work together to build community, caring for creation, and striving for justice and peace. This is who we are—together. Let us together be a church that embodies what Peter proclaimed, ‘I truly understand that God shows no partiality’ (Acts 10:28).

“‘No partiality.’ Think about what that means for the witness of every ELCA member and every ELCA congregation. In a cultural context where the dominant religious voices are those that are polarizing and partisan, we are called to make a radically evangelical witness: ‘All are welcome into this community of faith.’ Let us be a church that believes God’s words of love and forgiveness in Christ will not be deterred by the barriers we erect, by our attitudes and actions, by our policies and practices that too often exclude the many and privilege the few.

“But to extend such hospitality takes more than words of welcome and an evangelism committee. It takes greater intentionality and attentive listening to the voices of those not present. Opening our doors and waiting with open arms

to extend hospitality to any who have the courage to walk in is not adequate. It will take more soul searching than that, more willingness to lay down our lives and traditions for the sake of the Gospel and the neighbors than that.

“It will take soul searching, asking: ‘How do the songs, language, and rhythms of our liturgies reflect the diverse Pentecost church the Spirit is calling and renewing us to be?’

“How does the way we prepare, call, and elect leaders create a path to leadership so that the ELCA in the future reflects in our leadership our belief in a God who shows no partiality, a God who in fact blesses the Church with rich diversity?

“In an increasingly and richly pluralistic culture, the good news that ‘you are a beloved child of God’ is simply too good and too deserved of hearing for it to be trapped in the confines of a mono-cultural, monolingual church. Oh yes, even as other Christians and persons of other religions seek to sort, divide, categorize, and exclude, let us be a church together that goes with arms wide open to meet the neighbor—the one whom we so often call ‘other.’ For that is how God, in loving arms of mercy, welcomes you and the ‘other’ and joins us together in one community.

“To be such a welcoming church means we will be front and center in the current movement toward fair and just immigration reform. Let us, in every part of this church, every leader, and member, be joined in supporting immigration reform that will provide an earned pathway to lawful permanent residence and eventual citizenship for undocumented immigrants and their families, that will ensure humane and just enforcement of U.S. immigration laws, that will protect families from separation, and that will ensure protection for all citizens and immigrant workers in the United States.

“Let us be a church that is renewed by the witness of Pope Francis, now in the early days of his papacy. Through his humility and words, where he has chosen to be, and whose feet he has washed, he has reminded us that to be the Church is to be with those who live in poverty, with those who are immigrants and sojourners, the imprisoned and the forgotten.

“Let us be a church whose members advocate for public policies and priorities that reflect the commitments made in our social statement, *Sufficient, Sustainable Livelihood for All*. Let us continue to be a church whose members give generously so that no child will die of malaria, so that communities can be rebuilt after natural disasters, and so that everyone on the face of this Earth who prays ‘give us today our daily bread’ will have that prayer answered.

“It is our global companion churches who teach us that God’s mission is holistic. Traveling over treacherous roads deep into rural Zimbabwe, we arrived at Burure, way out in what Africans call the ‘bush.’ There Christ is present in and through the congregation that gathers for worship. There you are present through your support of the new medical clinic that is ready to open as soon as government permission is received. With a new clinic and three residences for medical staff, the people are in the season of Advent hopefulness. In Burure, the ELCA is present through power lines paid for by the people of Ascension Lutheran Church in Thousand Oaks, California. Together with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Zimbabwe, the ELCA is engaged in God’s holistic mission through an elementary school for a thousand students and a high school of 200 students—most of them having walked up to two or three hours to get to school. Together, we are present in the ‘Info Hut,’ a container converted into a marvelous classroom, where students will learn computer skills and the life skills to be an HIV-and-AIDS-free generation.

“It is so heartening to see how ELCA members, congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization have together responded so generously and enthusiastically to the ELCA Malaria Campaign. Our baptismal commitment to serving and loving our neighbor, near and far, is planted deep within us and continues to bear much fruit.

“Perhaps some of the most pressing questions that we must face together concern leadership for this church now and in the future. The commitment of the ELCA is to share leadership with differentiated roles and responsibilities in a church that is neither hierarchical nor congregationalist.

“There are encouraging signs of growing collaboration and there are continuing questions. The joint work of the three leadership tables—the Executive Committee of the Church Council, the Executive Committee of the Conference of Bishops, and the Administrative Team of the churchwide organization—is one very hopeful sign that when leadership is shared, we can be a stronger church engaged in God’s mission. The meetings of the Executive Committee of the Conference of Bishops and the Administrative Team have been helpful for addressing tensions, clarifying issues, and renewing the commitment to collaboration. The meeting of ELCA college and university presidents in February brought to a deeper level their resolve to work together, creating two task forces, one of which is developing a statement on what it means to be a college or university of this church. Last week, churchwide colleagues and I met with the ELCA

seminary presidents on our annual retreat. It was a very open and honest conversation about the challenges each school is facing and new opportunities each is exploring. We spent considerable time getting their feedback on the proposal for a Theological Education Advisory Council that the Church Council will be considering.

“Yet in a culture that I think often fosters distrust in leaders and institutions and encourages a hermeneutic of suspicion as our first response to leaders, we need to be working at how we build trust in one another as those called and elected to leadership in this church. If we do not trust one another, how do we expect others to trust us? Transparency in decision making, open and honest communication with, rather than about, each other are first steps in creating such a culture of trust. We also have marvelous opportunities to invite more of this church into conversation about its future and the decisions it must make. The capacity for lively conversation through various social media has only begun to be explored. The recommendations of the Communal Discernment and Addressing Social Concerns Review Task Forces must be taken seriously, lived into, and lived by.

“As connected as we are, there is also a great tendency for people to feel disconnected from decisions and decision makers. How shall the Church Council exercise its governance responsibility? This is a question we have only begun to explore. What is the advisory role of the Conference of Bishops and the role of churchwide officers and staff in decisions? How are decisions made and carried out?

“Questions about how we should lead now are inseparable from questions about who will be the future leaders of this church. There are lively conversations taking place regarding what the marks of missional leadership are and how this church prepares evangelical leaders who will serve the Gospel and God’s mission in a rapidly changing world.

“I believe we should develop a way of identifying, mentoring, and praying for those with gifts for leadership in church and society. We should have as many people and resources engaged in that process as are involved in the candidacy process and are involved in theological education with those who have discerned the call to ministry. I am talking about beginning in junior and senior high.

“Let us give thanks to God for the creative, collaborative leadership being given by young adults in this church. Get to know the 32 young adults serving in the churchwide organization. They are amazingly imaginative, insightful, and collaborative. Get to know Young Adults in Global Mission. I listened to six Young Adults in Global Mission serving in Madagascar as they talked about what they were learning, what they were teaching, and how they were accompanying people in building sustainable, healthy communities.

“How are we identifying, preparing, mentoring, and creating space for leaders who reflect the diverse church we are committed to become?

“Today, I give thanks for the leadership of the class of 2013 as it completes its service this summer on the Church Council. You have led this church through tumultuous times, you have made difficult decisions, you have prayed for and accompanied bishops and synod staffs as they have lived with the implications of difficult decisions, you have rejoiced with congregations that have seen new possibilities for ministry and leadership because of those decisions, and you have deepened and extended the ELCA’s ecumenical and global relationships.

“One final question with which perhaps I should have begun. During the next 25 years, will it matter that we are Lutheran? Another way of framing the question: Will 2017 mark the commemoration of 500 years of a reforming movement in the Church Catholic that is drawing to a close? Will we see an intensified conflict over who are the true stewards of this Lutheran confessional movement? Or might this become the time when in everything we do, we are attentive to building upon, representing, re-learning, or discovering for the first time, the strong theological foundation that undergirds and shapes our lives of faith, our ministry, and our witness in the world?

“I pray that the ELCA will be committed to the latter. People deserve to hear a faithful, evangelical Lutheran witness to the Gospel. I say that not out of arrogance but confidence in what happens in people’s lives when the Gospel has free course.

“We have something to say to people weary from trying to prove their worth, whether that proving be to employers, creditors, teachers, administrators of government programs, their friends, themselves, or to God. It is the Good News that you are a beloved child of God. In Christ, you are forgiven, and we are reconciled. You are freed from the shackles of sin, death, and having to prove your worth for a life of faith and service to your neighbor, a life that is a living daring confidence in God’s grace.

“I often ask gatherings the question that one reporter in Tennessee asked me, ‘So bishop, what is distinctive about being Lutheran?’ The answer I hear most often and gave myself is [pausing to allow several present to say together] ‘grace.’ No, grace is not our possession as Lutherans. It is the giftedness of life, the wonder of life, the promise that we stand before God only on account of Christ, through whom we are always being made new. Grace is at the heart of our proclamation, our faith, and our lives of service.

“We have something to say to people who cannot figure out where God is in the midst of so much suffering. It is the story of a God, who on the cross took on our suffering, sin, and death, and who is present in the midst of suffering, laboring to bring forth life, forgiving, freeing, and reconciling.

“We have something to say to people who feel life has no purpose. It is the story of a God who calls each one through baptismal waters and words of promise, gathers us into the community of faith, the living body of Christ, and sends us forth in so many varied callings in daily life to love and serve the neighbor, to care for family and friends and God’s creation, to strive for justice and peace, and, in word and deed, to share the good news of Jesus Christ.

“Douglas John Hall’s latest book is entitled *Waiting for Gospel: An Appeal to the Dispirited Remnants of Protestant Establishment*. In the introduction he writes, ‘And if I had not heard (the Gospel) and heard it again and again, I would certainly not have become—and remained—what I gladly confess I am—a Christian.’

Oh, sisters and brothers in Christ, we are in the great 50 days of Easter. Easter is about more than an open tomb. The risen Christ is opening your life, your daily work, our passions, and our imaginations. Christ is opening us into a community that can bear even suffering with confidence and service with hope. The risen Christ opens the scriptures, opens us to God’s work of reconciliation and forgiveness. The risen Christ opens us to God’s promised future. What a cause for thanksgiving! What a great reason for us to go into the next 25 years together as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. We must ask what the ELCA’s founders asked themselves: What is holding us back? The risen Christ has gone ahead of us to meet us. The power of the Holy Spirit is at work in us and through us. What are we waiting for?”

There being no questions or comments, Vice President Peña thanked the presiding bishop for his report.

REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT (Agenda I.D.; Exhibit A, Part 2)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña relinquished the chair to Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson.

Presiding Bishop Hanson called on Mr. Peña for the report of the vice president.

Vice President Peña invited the Church Council to view a video of a worship service in Zambia. He read and reflected on 1 Kings 6:37–38, speaking of being in Vatican City at Saint Peter’s Square to hear the first address of Pope Francis and noting that the people and not the buildings make up the Church. He gave an account of travels through Southern Africa to witness some of the fruits of the ELCA Malaria Campaign. The vice president also highlighted Church Council members attending Synod Assemblies and a summit Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service was planning to host in Washington, D.C.

Presiding Bishop Hanson thanked the vice president for his report and returned the chair to Mr. Peña.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE **CHURCH COUNCIL COMMITTEES FOR THE 2013–2016 TRIENNIUM** (Agenda I.E.1.; Exhibit L, Part 3)

Background:

In accordance with Church Council practice, the Executive Committee recommends and the council ratifies committee assignments for continuing members at its meeting in the August meeting of a Churchwide Assembly year. This ensures efficiency as the council prepares for its November meeting and ensures that there are continuing members assigned to committees prior to the meeting. Members elected at the Churchwide Assembly will indicate their preferences prior to the November meeting for ratification at that meeting.

Each member of the Church Council serves on one of four committees—Budget and Finance, Legal and Constitutional Review, Planning and Evaluation, and Program and Services—and has the option to indicate interest in others. The committees review various aspects of churchwide work and develop recommendations in their areas of responsibility for consideration by the council.

Most continuing Church Council members choose to continue serving on their current committees. For those who indicate a wish to serve on a different committee, the Executive Committee tries to align the member's experience and interests with the needs of the committee for expertise, experience, and balance among members. The Executive Committee does not guarantee that members will be assigned their top preferences. Continuing members will be informed of their committee assignments at the August 2013 meeting of the Church Council.

The committee assignments, including those of newly elected members, will be reported in the first Church Council electronic mailing for the November 2013 meeting. The committees normally convene the day before the Church Council begins its plenary sessions. For the initial organizing meeting of the triennium, however, the committees will meet the morning of Saturday, November 9, 2013.

Church Council Discussion:

Vice President Carlos E. Peña presented the background information. He directed continuing Church Council members to complete and return the form provided among the exhibits, indicating their committee preferences for the 2013–2016 triennium.

PROPOSAL ON THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION

(Agenda I.E.2.; Exhibit G)

Background:

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

At its November 2012 meeting, the Church Council received the report of the Mission Funding Task Force, and it voted [CC12.11.34]:

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

The Office of the Presiding Bishop prepared a proposal on theological education, outlining a strategy for the ELCA's churchwide organization, synods, and seminaries to work together in renewing this church's theological education network.

Church Council Discussion:

Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson provided the background information, pointed out that action would be taken on the proposal later in the meeting, and presented the proposal. He framed the discussion in a broad explanation of theological education, its purposes, and how it is carried out and engaged throughout this church.

The Rev. Jonathan P. Strandjord, program director for seminaries in the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit, outlined the recommendations of the proposal. He talked of changes in academia and among the educational institutions of the ELCA. He emphasized that much of this church's leadership would change in the next 10 years, especially because at least 40 percent of the rostered leadership would become of retirement age. He spoke of the specific two-year work of the proposed advisory council on theological education to address those changes, of providing theological

education for lay leaders, and of the leadership needs of the future ELCA. He described work already being done to energize this church's theological education network and the role of the proposed advisory council to build on that energy.

Church Council members asked questions about and commented on the data provided, student debt relief, the missional needs of the ELCA, the relationships of seminaries with this church, collaboration among the seminaries, and the academic standards of seminaries.

Vice President Peña restated that action would be taken on the proposal later in the meeting.

BOOK OF FAITH INITIATIVE

(Agenda I.E.3.)

Background:

The 2007 Churchwide Assembly voted [CA07.02.06]:

1. To invite and encourage all members, expressions, institutions, and partners of this church to commit themselves regularly and increasingly to hearing, reading, studying, sharing, and being formed by God's Word;
2. To call members, congregations, synods, churchwide ministries, and institutions and agencies of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to engage in a five-year collaborative initiative—identified as “Book of Faith: Lutherans Read the Bible”—with the goal of raising to a new level this church's individual and collective engagement with the Bible and its teaching, yielding greater biblical fluency, deeper worship and devotion, and a more profound appreciation of Lutheran principles and approaches for the use of Scripture;
3. To call members, congregations, synods, churchwide ministries, and institutions and agencies of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to explore ways to reform culture and customs in this church that will open it to a new level of valuing and being shaped by the power of the Word;
4. To urge that this initiative be designed and carried out in ways that affirm the Bible's power through the work of the Holy Spirit to speak in all settings and to all ages, with attention to individual and corporate use of the Bible by members and leaders in worship, devotion, study, proclamation, teaching, moral formation, addressing social issues, and evangelizing;
5. To commit the churchwide organization to substantial engagement in this initiative in extensive collaboration with synods and congregations;
6. To request that the presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America—who “as its pastor, shall be a teacher of the faith of this church and shall provide leadership for the life and witness of this church” (provision 13.21.)—lead this initiative personally and through collaborative programmatic work with the Vocation and Education unit in partnership with Augsburg Fortress, Publishers, as the publishing ministry of this church, and many others;
7. To anticipate the wide availability and use of a rich constellation of existing and new resources as well as the creative use of new means of communication, mindful of the global and ecumenical context, in exploration of the nature and authority of Scripture in the life of individuals and the whole Church;
8. To affirm funding of the churchwide organization's share of this “Book of Faith” initiative primarily through the regular operating budget in recognition not only that this initiative is of foundational and ongoing importance, but also in confidence that support for mission will grow from congregations through synods for churchwide ministries; and
9. To look beyond the time and scope of the “Book of Faith” initiative to what can be built on that work and to other ways in which God's Word will continually renew this church.

The Book of Faith initiative completed its five-year commitment, encouraging ELCA members, congregations, and synods to become fluent in the language of faith—Scripture. The grassroots initiative was credited with helping this church address realities directly and to experience more fully the power of the Word.

Church Council Action:

Vice President Carlos E. Peña introduced the background information.

Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson noted the energy generated by the Book of Faith initiative.

The Rev. Stephen P. Bouman, executive director of the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit, spoke of the grassroots initiative and its significance in keeping this church grounded in Scripture.

Secretary David D. Swartling made the following motion on behalf of the Executive Committee.

Moved;

Seconded:

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

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

There being no further discussion, Vice President Peña called for the vote.

VOTED:

CC13.04.03

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

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

Vice President Peña declared the motion was adopted.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Agenda I.F.)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on Secretary David D. Swartling, who made announcements regarding the schedule for the remainder of the day, the next morning, and deadlines.

RECESS

The April 2013 meeting of the Church Council recessed at 5:18 P.M. Council members assembled in the Lutheran Center Chapel at 5:45 P.M. for Evening Prayer. After dinner in the Augsburg Room of the Lutheran Center, they participated in an off-the-record Café Conversation.

**Saturday, April 6, 2013
Plenary Session II**

The Church Council's Board Development Committee met over breakfast. Members of the council gathered in the Church Council Room at 8:00 A.M. for Bible study.

BIBLE STUDY

The Rev. Lisa Vander Wal, the ecumenical guest from the Reformed Church in America, led the Church Council in a study of Acts 4:1–22. She invited those present to form small groups to consider three questions:

1. What are the greatest threats or challenges facing the ELCA today? What are we, as leaders, doing to address them?
2. Leadership in this passage included the titled and educated as well as the "uneducated and ordinary." Leadership involves listening. Are there voices to whom we need to pay closer attention?
3. The presenting issue in this passage is the good deed or "kindness," accompanied by preaching, which brought many to belief. What are new opportunities for kindness and healing into which the ELCA can venture?

She closed the study with prayer.

CALL TO ORDER

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called the second plenary session to order at 8:34 A.M.

Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson introduced Bishop Gerhard Ulrich of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Northern Germany, who brought greetings from the United Evangelical Lutheran Church in Germany.

Presiding Bishop Hanson also introduced Bishop Sharon Zimmerman Rader, who represented The United Methodist Church as an ecumenical guest.

The Rev. Kathryn A. Tiede reported on the Board Development Committee meeting and plans to present process observations of Church Council meetings.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE FOR ADMINISTRATION

(Agenda II.A.; Exhibit A, Part 5)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña asked the Rev. M. Wyvetta Bullock, executive for administration, to present her report.

Pr. Bullock provided a progress report on the operational plan of the churchwide organization and drew attention to the reports of the units and separately incorporated ministries of this church. She described the work of the Planning and Evaluation Committee in reviewing the activities of the units and offices of the churchwide organization. She introduced Mr. Kenneth W. Inskeep, executive for research and evaluation.

Mr. Inskeep laid out data gathered since 1990 about Lutherans and other religious groups in the United States, with those of no religious affiliation forming the fastest growing group. The data included numbers of those who attended worship, Sunday school, and vacation Bible school, as well as the sizes and numbers of congregations. He gave results from the U.S. Congregational Life Survey of 420 congregations in 2000 and 2008 that showed activity waning among almost all religious groups. He explained how the Living into the Future Together: Renewing the Ecology of the ELCA (LIFT) recommendations and the work of directors for evangelical mission address a need for missional vitality in congregations, using traditional Lutheran theology to help the ELCA become the church God calls it to become.

Pr. Bullock asked those present to discuss two questions in small groups:

1. What are the implications for the Church Council?
2. What should we be and do as synods and the churchwide organization working with congregations?

A plenary discussion followed about the types of statistics provided and how they were collected and analyzed.

REPORT OF THE PLANNING AND EVALUATION COMMITTEE

(Agenda II.B.; Exhibit I)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on the Rev. Susan Langhauser, chair of the Planning and Evaluation Committee, who presented the committee's report.

Pr. Langhauser described updates the committee had received from the Communal Discernment Task Force and from LIFT II Committee, which was doing the ongoing work of the Living into the Future Together: Renewing the Ecology of the ELCA (LIFT) task force. She outlined several ways that the task forces had affected the practices of the Church Council and the churchwide organization.

Pr. Langhauser announced that Mr. William B. Horne II would chair the Planning and Evaluation Committee in the coming term.

UPDATE FROM PORTICO BENEFIT SERVICES

(Agenda II.C.; Exhibit Q, Parts 2 and 3)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña asked the Rev. Jeffrey D. Thiemann, president of Portico Benefit Services, to report on revisions to the ELCA Philosophy of Benefits and on a preliminary design for the ELCA Health Care Plan in preparation for major health care reform in the United States.

ELCA PHILOSOPHY OF BENEFITS AND DEVELOPMENT OF HEALTH CARE PLAN DESIGN OPTIONS

(Agenda II.D.)

Background:

The Church Council received periodic reports from Portico Benefit Services (Portico) about a preliminary plan design for the ELCA Medical and Dental Plan due to the implementation of the Health Care Reform (HCR) and about revising the ELCA Philosophy of Benefits.

To bring consistency to the design and delivery of the ELCA benefit programs, Portico began in 2003 to undertake a review of the history and evolution of benefit plans and the governing documents of this church. This process resulted in the 2004 Philosophy of Benefits Report that identified five supporting principles, discussed their application in different plans, provided the views of church leaders, and proposed interpretations to achieve greater flexibility.

A variety of factors, such as the anticipation of health care reform and the impacts of economic and other changes inside and outside of this church, have prompted a revision of the ELCA Philosophy of Benefits Report. Portico convened a task force to address possible revisions and updating of the ELCA Philosophy of Benefits. Originally, the hope had been to provide a report to the Church Council at its meeting in November 2012. However, that schedule became unrealistic in light of continued uncertainties regarding the implementation of health care reform and the appropriate response of Portico.

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

Portico presented the Church Council with an interim report in November 2012, and the council authorized that a report and recommendations of the philosophy of benefits task force be deferred until the Church Council meeting in April 2013 or August 2013.

Portico provided the April 2013 meeting a draft ELCA Philosophy of Benefits and the framework for potential plan designs and pricing options in the interest of providing such information in a timely manner at Synod Assemblies and in other venues. The report clarifies that further review is needed before final decisions can be made and implemented in accordance with the timetable for health care reform. This timetable necessitates endorsement in concept of the ELCA Philosophy of Benefits and the preliminary plan designs and pricing proposals.

Church Council Action:

The Rev. Jeffrey D. Thiemann reported that research done in preparation for implementing health care reform on Jan. 1, 2014, showed that Portico should continue to provide the ELCA with a health plan for economic and missional reasons. He presented the seventh guiding principle of the ELCA Philosophy of Benefits (“Plan design and features should provide flexibility and options which recognize both the needs of the employer and plan members.”) and how it informed the development of four plan options. The sixth guiding principle (“Employers and plan members should share the cost of retirement, health, and other benefits.”) directed the development of a different cost-sharing formula for employers and plan members for each plan option. He explained how the eighth guiding principle (“Pricing for health, disability, death, and other benefits should reflect both the community nature of the plans as well as risk variation among plan members.”) influenced proposed changes to rate benefits by region and by age. He outlined remaining steps to be taken to prepare for health care reforms in 2014.

Pr. Thiemann responded to questions regarding how other church bodies provide health care, the proposed rates for premiums in 2014, and communicating the proposed plan changes with ELCA congregations, their leaders, call committees, and seminarians.

Secretary David D. Swartling made the following motion.

Moved;

Seconded:

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

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

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

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

There being no further discussion, the chair called for the vote.

VOTED:

CC13.04.04

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

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

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

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

Vice President Peña declared the motion was adopted.
Secretary Swartling made the following motion.

**Moved;
Seconded:**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

There was discussion of providing health care for leaders serving financially struggling congregations.
The chair called for the vote.

**VOTED:
CC13.04.05**

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

To recognize that development of plan design options and pricing alternatives is necessary if Portico is to continue to provide financially viable, self-supporting,

wellness-focused health plans that can serve the needs of this church and related organizations and their plan members;

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

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

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

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

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

Vice President Peña declared the motion was adopted.

Secretary Swartling pointed out that the action called for another report in August 2013.

REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE OF BISHOPS

(Agenda II.F.; Exhibit A, Part 6)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña invited the Rev. Jessica R. Crist, bishop of the Montana Synod and chair of the Conference of Bishops, to present the conference's report.

Bp. Crist drew the council's attention to the written report and spoke of the relationships of the Church Council and the Conference of Bishops. She highlighted consideration the conference gave at its March 2013 meeting to theological education, communal discernment, a pastoral letter on violence, and synods with similar demographics.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Agenda II.G.)

The Church Council paused for prayer concerns.

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on Secretary David D. Swartling, who announced the deadlines for new business and for removing items from the *en bloc* resolutions for separate consideration.

RECESS

The April 2013 meeting of the Church Council recessed at 10:25 A.M.

**Saturday, April 6, 2013
Plenary Session III**

CALL TO ORDER

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called the third plenary session to order at 10:46 A.M.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

(Agenda III.A.; Exhibit A, Part 4, and Exhibit F)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on the Rev. Linda O. Norman, treasurer of the ELCA, for her report.

Treasurer Norman drew attention to financial summaries provided among the exhibits for fiscal year 2012, which ended Jan. 31, 2013. She stated that results for the past year were positive throughout this church. She said that trends, especially regarding Mission Support, showed financial stabilization or improvement for the churchwide organization. She noted that such healthy trends allowed the Church Council to authorize current fund and ELCA World Hunger spending in excess of their income goals. She described the asset management practices of the churchwide organization. She provided details about this church's investments and gift programs.

The treasurer answered questions regarding asset management and ELCA World Hunger spending. Treasurer Norman explained that ELCA World Hunger distributions internationally and domestically were reported with fundraising expenses included in the domestic allocation.

Vice President Peña thanked the treasurer for her report.

REPORT OF THE BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

(Agenda III.B.; Exhibit D and Exhibit F)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on Mr. John R. Emery, chair of the Budget and Finance Committee, who presented the committee's report. Mr. Emery reviewed the reports of Portico Benefit Services and the Mission Advancement unit as well as budget items in the *en bloc* resolution.

GUIDELINES FOR ELCA WORLD HUNGER PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

Background:

In 1988, an inter-unit task force on World Hunger comprised of churchwide organization staff adopted "Guidelines for ELCA World Hunger Program Activities" to direct implementation of the program.

The 1991 Churchwide Assembly decided that ELCA World Hunger funds would be expended 25 percent to 30 percent within the territorial jurisdiction of this church and 70 percent to 75 percent in other parts of the world. The 2013 spending authorization reflects \$13.3 million or 70.1 percent for international spending and \$5.7 million or 29.9 percent for domestic spending.

The guidelines were revised in 2006 to stipulate that "fundraising, administration, and communication costs related to the World Hunger Program and Appeal will be covered from those funds available for use within the territorial jurisdiction of this church" (Section 5.c.).

The current World Hunger expense proposal anticipated revisions to the "Guidelines for ELCA World Hunger Program Activities" recommended by the World Hunger Steering Committee that fundraising costs be counted as 50 percent from domestic funds and 50 percent from international funds. This scenario was to provide flexibility for building capacity for the entire program while also supporting the current methodology for determining unit spending authorizations.

Church Council Action:

Mr. John R. Emery presented the background information and the recommendation of the World Hunger Steering Committee regarding the "Guidelines for ELCA World Hunger Program Activities."

Pr. M. Wyvetta Bullock and Treasurer Linda O. Norman spoke about the rationale for the proposal.

Mr. Emery made the following motion on behalf of the committee.

Moved;

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

There being no further discussion, Vice President Carlos E. Peña called for the vote.

VOTED:

CC13.04.06 To endorse the World Hunger Steering Committee proposal to revise the "Guidelines for ELCA World Hunger Program Activities" to reflect that, for the purpose of determining compliance with ELCA World Hunger spending restrictions, 50 percent of fund-raising costs will be counted toward the domestic percentage and 50 percent will be counted toward the international percentage.

The chair declared the motion was adopted.

REVISED 2013 INCOME ESTIMATE AND EXPENDITURE AUTHORIZATION

(Agenda III.B.2.; Exhibit)

Background:

The Office of the Treasurer provided revised income estimates for 2013 and revised expense authorizations by unit. The 2013 revised current fund income projection totaled \$70,731,675, an increase of \$1,725,370 from the November 2012 estimate.

There was no change in the \$19 million income estimate for ELCA World Hunger, and the 2013 expense proposal reflected full spending of the 2013 goal of \$19 million as well as allocations from existing fund balances.

Church Council Action:

Mr. John R. Emery made the following motion on behalf of the Budget and Finance Committee.

Moved;

Seconded: To approve a revised current fund spending authorization for fiscal year 2013 of \$70,731,675; and
To approve a revised total World Hunger spending authorization for fiscal year 2013 of \$20,195,415, subject to endorsement of the World Hunger Steering Committee's revision of the "Guidelines for ELCA World Hunger Program Activities."

There being no discussion, Vice President Carlos E. Peña called for the vote.

VOTED:

CC13.04.07 To approve a revised current fund spending authorization for fiscal year 2013 of \$70,731,675; and

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

The chair declared the motion was adopted.

PROPOSED 2014–2016 TRIENNIUM BUDGET

(Agenda III.B.3.; Exhibit)

Background:

Based in part on positive trends in Mission Support, stabilization of Mission Investment Fund support, and negative trends in support from investment income and grants received from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, the Office of the Treasurer prepared budget proposals for the 2013 Churchwide Assembly for the following three years. The proposal included spending authorizations by units of the churchwide organization. Changes in current fund allocations reflected an expanded Young Adults in Global Mission program, increased building and infrastructure costs, and planned use of the Strategic Initiative Fund.

ELCA World Hunger income was projected to remain at \$19 million for each of the three years. The World Hunger spending authorization did not anticipate allocations of fund balance. It reflected spending at an amount equal to the income proposal.

Church Council Action:

Mr. John R. Emery presented the background information on the proposed 2014–2016 triennium budget to be recommended for the approval of the 2013 Churchwide Assembly. He made the following motion on behalf of the Budget and Finance Committee.

Moved;

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

2014 Budget Proposal

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

2015 Budget Proposal

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

2016 Budget Proposal

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

The Rev. M. Wyvetta Bullock, the Rev. Jonathan P. Strandjord, Treasurer Linda O. Norman, and the Rev. Stephen P. Bouman responded to several questions about how the proposed spending authorizations related to the ongoing conversations about theological education and its funding. The council discussed the financial challenges of the ELCA and its seminaries in the context of the proposal on theological education that the Church Council was considering.

There being no further discussion, Vice President Carlos E. Peña called for the vote.

VOTED:

CC13.04.08 *To recommend the following for adoption by the 2013 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:*

2014 Budget Proposal

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

2015 Budget Proposal

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

2016 Budget Proposal

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

The chair declared the motion was adopted.

25TH ANNIVERSARY CAMPAIGN FOR THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

(Agenda III.B.7.)

Background:

The American Lutheran Church, Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches, and Lutheran Church in America merged to form the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America on January 1, 1988. In recognition of its 25th anniversary, the churchwide organization began planning for a comprehensive capital campaign both to reflect on the people and events that shaped the life of this church and to seek new opportunities to expand its mission and ministry.

In October 2012, staff of the Mission Advancement unit presented a proposal for a campaign to the Conference of Bishops and synodical vice presidents. Further analysis of the proposal and consultation were undertaken and included ongoing dialogue with the Conference of Bishops, as well as other partners, leaders, and ELCA members.

At its November 2012 meeting, the Church Council endorsed the campaign in concept and authorized further work in anticipation of action at its April 2013 meeting to forward a recommendation to the 2013 Churchwide Assembly. ELCA bylaw 11.41.06. states that a churchwide appeal must be approved by the assembly.

Based on the November endorsement, the Mission Advancement unit, Office of the Treasurer, and Office of the Presiding Bishop developed a campaign budget for Church Council consideration.

Church Council Action:

Mr. John R. Emery presented the background information and made the following motion on behalf of the Budget and Finance Committee.

Moved;

Seconded:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on Ms. Christina Jackson-Skelton, executive director of the Mission Advancement unit, to report on work done to develop the campaign since November 2012, when the Church Council endorsed the campaign in concept.

Ms. Jackson-Skelton reviewed the purposes of the proposed campaign and changes in the proposal that had been made since November 2012, in consultation with the Conference of Bishops.

Vice President Peña received the consensus of the Church Council to postpone further discussion and action on this motion until later in the meeting and to extend this plenary session an additional five minutes.

DWELLING IN THE WORD

(Agenda III.C.)

Mr. Mark W. Myers reflected on Matthew 28:18–20 and led the Church Council in table grace.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Agenda III.D.)

Secretary David D. Swartling reminded those present of plans for lunch and of deadlines to remove items from *en bloc* consideration and to introduce new business.

RECESS

The April 2013 meeting of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America recessed for lunch at 12:04 P.M.

**Saturday, April 6, 2013
Plenary Session IV**

CALL TO ORDER

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called the fourth plenary session to order at 12:59 P.M.

DWELLING IN THE WORD

(Agenda IV.A.)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on the Rev. Susan Langhauser, who read Philippians 1:27 and 2:5–11 and led the Church Council in small-group reflection of the reading through communal discernment.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

(Agenda IV.B.; Exhibit A, Part 3)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on Secretary David D. Swartling, who presented his report.

Secretary Swartling described preparations in the Office of the Secretary for Synod Assemblies and the Churchwide Assembly. He updated statistics given to the Church Council regarding congregations disaffiliating from the ELCA. He shared images from the ELCA Archives and discussed changes in crime insurance coverage and the availability of the Synodical Online Digital Archive (SODA).

Vice President Peña thanked the secretary for his report, noting it would be his last report to the Church Council.

E-BINDER UPDATE

Mr. Jonathan H. Beyer, executive for information technology, provided estimates of the environmental impact that the use of electronic binders will have on the 2013 Churchwide Assembly in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He reviewed how the e-binder may be downloaded and used. He gave a demonstration of the ELCA Guidebook application that will be used to provide voting members with the e-binder and other assembly information.

REPORT OF THE LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL REVIEW COMMITTEE

(Agenda IV.C.)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña asked Mr. Mark E. Johnson, chair of the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee, to present the committee's report.

Mr. Johnson reviewed the work of the committee and announced that the committee had selected the Rev. Raymond A. Miller to chair the committee in the next term.

PROPOSED MERGER OF CALIFORNIA LUTHERAN UNIVERSITY AND PACIFIC LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

(Agenda IV.C.1.)

Background:

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

Over the past several years the ELCA seminaries have been working with each other and with other partners to organize their educational and administrative work in ways that advance a strong, wide-reaching, and sustainable

theological education network that meets the leadership needs of a church in mission. In this work, ELCA colleges and universities have emerged as particularly important partners.

California Lutheran University (CLU), Thousand Oaks, Calif., and Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary (PLTS), Berkeley, Calif., have come to an agreement that the two schools can best serve the ELCA's work of theological education by moving toward merger, with PLTS becoming part of CLU. In accordance with ELCA bylaw 8.31.02., amendments to governing documents of each separately incorporated seminary, as well as amendments to the governing documents of a college or university of this church, need approval by the Church Council.

Church Council Action:

Mr. Mark E. Johnson called on the Rev. Jonathan P. Strandjord, who provided background information on a proposed merger of California Lutheran University (CLU), Thousand Oaks, Calif., and Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary (PLTS), Berkeley, Calif.

Pr. Strandjord noted similar action already taken by Lenoir-Rhyne University, Hickory, N.C., and Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, Columbia, S.C., and enabling amendments to the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* approved by the 2011 Churchwide Assembly. He described the academic and administrative purposes and principles behind merging CLU and PLTS.

Mr. Johnson made the following motion on behalf of the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee.

Moved;

Seconded:

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

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

To acknowledge that the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is the sole corporate member of PLTS and that merger actions involving these schools must comply with the requirements in the Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of this church;

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

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

There being no further discussion, Vice President Carlos E. Peña called for the vote.

VOTED:

CC13.04.09

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

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

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

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

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

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

The chair declared that the motion was adopted.

Mr. Johnson concluded the committee's report.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (CONTINUED)

LUTHERAN MEDICAL CENTER

(Agenda IV.D.1.)

Background:

Lutheran Medical Center (LMC) of Brooklyn, New York, is an ELCA-affiliated social ministry organization incorporated under the New York not-for-profit corporation law. The ELCA was the sole voting member of the corporation. As sole voting member, only the ELCA was authorized to adopt and amend LMC's governing documents, including its Certificate of Incorporation and constitution. LMC proposed changing its formal corporate relationship with the ELCA to preserve and extend its unique healthcare ministry and to provide LMC maximum flexibility in managing the challenges it faced due to a rapidly changing healthcare environment locally and nationally.

LMC charged a Mission Affirmation Task Force with several tasks to assist in the proposed transition. The task force recommended and LMC approved a new mission statement and a covenantal commitment in support of ELCA social ministry. LMC also proposed amendments to its Constitution and Restated Certificate of Incorporation to substitute LMC Health System, Inc., a not-for-profit, tax exempt, 501(c)(3) corporation, as the sole voting member of LMC. The corporation's board reserves a seat for the bishop of the ELCA Metropolitan New York Synod.

Church Council Action:

The Rev. Stephen P. Bouman introduced Ms. Emma Graeber Porter, chair of the board of trustees, Ms. Barbara Katz Arky, executive vice president and general counsel, and the Rev. Donald A. Stiger, senior vice president for mission and spiritual care, all from the Lutheran Medical Center (LMC), Brooklyn, N.Y.

Ms. Porter presented the Lutheran mission and history of the medical center and how it had developed into a comprehensive healthcare system.

Ms. Arky described the background information and the challenges the LMC had confronted to achieve financial stability, especially with the governance structure of the ELCA as sole corporate member.

Pr. Stiger discussed the mission statement and covenantal commitment that the LMC had adopted, clarifying that, while the medical center needed a sole voting member that was more local and available to address the rapidly changing healthcare environment in New York, it did not intend to ignore its mission, history, and commitment as a social ministry organization of the ELCA.

Secretary David D. Swartling made the following motion on behalf of the Executive Committee.

Moved;
Seconded:

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, LMC has therefore requested that the ELCA formally adopt the LMC Constitution as amended and the Restated and Amended Certificate of Incorporation attached hereto; therefore, be it

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

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

There being no further discussion, the chair called for the vote.

VOTED:
CC13.04.10

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

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

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

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

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

Whereas, LMC has therefore requested that the ELCA formally adopt the LMC Constitution as amended and the Restated and Amended Certificate of Incorporation attached hereto; therefore, be it

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

RESOLVED, that the Church Council, on behalf of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, hereby approves and adopts the amended Restated Certificate of Incorporation of Lutheran Medical Center as indicated below.

Vice President Peña declared the motion was adopted.

**Lutheran Medical Center
Brooklyn, New York**

CONSTITUTION

Wendy Z. Goldstein, President
Emma Graeber Porter, Chair, Board of Trustees

**ARTICLE I
NAME**

Section 1. Name

The name and title of said Corporation shall be LUTHERAN MEDICAL CENTER.

Section 2. Place of main office

The main office of this Corporation shall be 150 55th Street, in the Borough of Brooklyn, or at such other places as shall hereafter be designated by the Board of Trustees.

**ARTICLE II
OBJECTIVES**

Section 1. Objects~~Mission~~

~~The objects of this church-related Corporation shall be:~~

~~—To give expression to a Christian ministry of mercy for the establishment and maintenance of one or more general hospitals and homes for the care of the sick, infirm, convalescent or other persons in need of any care and such other matters as pertain to health and welfare service, including the right to maintain a Deaconate.~~

~~—To carry on any educational and recreational activities related to rendering care to the sick and injured or the promotion of health, which in the opinion of the Corporation may be justified by the facilities, personnel, funds or other requirements that are or can be made available.~~

~~—To promote and carry on scientific research related to the care of the sick and injured insofar as, in the opinion of the Corporation, such research can be carried on in or in connection with the medical center operated by the Corporation (the "Medical Center").~~

~~—To participate, so far as circumstances may warrant, in any activity designed and carried on to promote the general health of the community.~~

The Corporation exists to serve its neighbors. It is dedicated to caring for whole persons throughout whole communities. As a stabilizing foundation for these communities, the Corporation is committed to meeting its neighbors' changing physical, emotional, spiritual, intellectual and social needs.

Section 2. Tax-Exempt Purpose

This Corporation is organized exclusively for charitable, scientific and educational purposes as a not-for-profit corporation and its activities shall be conducted for the aforesaid purposes in such a manner that no part of its net earnings will inure to the benefit of any member, director, officer or individual. It shall not be its purpose to engage in carrying on propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation. This Corporation shall conform with the regulations of the Internal Revenue Code under which it is granted tax-exempt status.

~~Section 2.~~**Section 3. Church Relationships**

(a) To be faithful to the Christian tradition of its founding and its historic relationships with the Lutheran churches, it is the intent of the Corporation to be affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America ~~in accordance with criteria and provisions for affiliation established by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and to maintain meaningful and effective relationships with the jurisdictional units and congregations of the Lutheran churches throughout the Metropolitan New York area.~~

~~(a)~~(b) This Corporation shall be fully responsible for the management and fiscal affairs of the Corporation and fully responsible for any debts and liabilities it may incur.

~~(b)~~(c) Church affiliate status shall not cause the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, any synod, nor any Lutheran church to incur or be subject to the liabilities or debts of this Corporation.

ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP

Section 1.

The sole voting member having voting rights shall be ~~The Evangelical Church in America~~ LMC Health System, Inc., a ~~Minnesota~~ New York not-for-profit corporation.

Section 2.

The Board of Trustees of the Corporation may establish procedures by which individuals, congregations and organizations may participate in and support the programs of the Corporation. No voting rights shall be conferred thereby.

ARTICLE IV MEMBER MEETINGS

Section 1.

The Annual Meeting of the Corporation shall be held each year during a regular meeting of ~~the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America or the sole voting member at such other time, at the day, hour and place~~ designated by the Secretary of the sole voting member. The ~~Vice President~~ Chairperson of the sole voting member or an authorized representative shall preside.

Section 2.

Special meetings of the Corporation may be held at the call of the Chair of the Board of Trustees or six or more members of the Board of Trustees or by the sole voting member. Such call shall be sent by mail not less than ten (10) days in advance of the date for which the meeting is called unless such notice is otherwise waived.

Section 3.

~~A quorum for the transaction of business at the Annual Meeting or at Special Meetings shall consist of the authorized representative or the duly certified proxy of the sole voting member.~~

~~Section 4.~~

~~The sole voting member may, by written consent without a meeting, take any action required or permitted to be taken at any Annual or Special Meeting.~~

ARTICLE V TRUSTEES AND THEIR ELECTION

Section 1.

(a) A Board of Trustees shall consist of not less than twelve nor more than thirty-four persons, approximately one-third (1/3) of whom shall be elected at each Annual Meeting. They shall hold office for three years and until their successors have been elected. The Trustees serving at the time this amendment is adopted shall be divided at the designation of the Nominations Committee into three groups approximately equal in size. The first group shall serve an initial term of one year; the remaining groups shall serve initial terms expiring at successive one-year intervals after the first year. Thereafter, at its Annual Meeting, or Special Meeting, the sole voting member of the Corporation shall elect individuals to fill the then-existing vacancies on the Board. Each elected Trustee shall hold office for a term of three years and until a successor is duly elected, unless the Trustee sooner resigns or is removed pursuant to Article V., Section 2 of this Constitution.

(b) At least 25% of the membership of the Board of Trustees shall be members of a congregation of a Lutheran Church, including the bishop of the Metropolitan New York Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America who shall be an *ex officio* voting member of the Board; ~~with the understanding that the Nominations Committee and the Board shall make all reasonable efforts to maintain the Lutheran percentage as close to 50% as feasible, recognizing the need to also reflect the diversity of the community on the Board and to recruit Trustees with the skills and resources to support the Corporation.~~ Three members of the Board shall be comprised of members of the board of directors of ~~Sunset Park Health Council, Inc.~~ Lutheran Family Health Centers (“SPHCLFHC”), as follows. Following each annual meeting of SPHCLFHC for the election of its directors and officers, the President of SPHCLFHC, who shall be an *ex officio* voting member of the Board of Trustees, shall nominate for election to the Board of Trustees two additional SPHCLFHC directors. Following approval of such nominations by the Board, the SPHCLFHC members shall be presented to the sole voting member for election.

(c) To be eligible for Board membership, a trustee candidate shall (a) exemplify basic qualities of honesty, integrity, justice, and sound moral character; (b) be committed to uphold the purposes, philosophy and general policy of the Corporation as stated in the Constitution and By Laws and have the willingness and ability to devote necessary time to Board activities and be able to apply realistically experience and expertise to make decisions objectively, and (c) recognize the confidential character of information discussed at Board meetings and strive to avoid the appearance of any conflict of interest. The individuals holding the following offices shall be ex officio voting members of the Board: the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation; the President and Chief Executive Officer of the sole voting member and the Chairperson of the Board of Directors of Lutheran Augustana Center Forfor Extended Care and Rehabilitation ~~shall be an ex officio voting member of the Board.~~

Section 2. Removal of Trustee

Any person elected to the Board of Trustees may be removed for or without cause at any time by the sole voting member or for cause by a two-thirds majority vote of the Trustees.

Section 3. Power of the Board of Trustees

The administrative powers of the Corporation shall be vested in the Board of Trustees who shall have charge, control and management of the property, affairs and funds of the Corporation and which shall have the power and authority to do and perform all acts and functions not inconsistent with the Constitution and By-laws or with any action taken by the Corporation.

Section 4. Nominations Committee

Prior to each Annual Meeting of the Corporation, the Board of Trustees, having received the recommendations of the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, shall appoint three members of the Board of Trustees whose terms do not expire to serve as a Nominations Committee. At least one of the members of the Nominations Committee shall be a member of a congregation of a Lutheran church.

Section 5. Vacancies on the Board of Trustees

Vacancies on the Board of Trustees may be filled by the sole voting member at any meeting of the sole voting member.

Section 6. Fiscal Year

The Board of Trustees shall maintain the Corporation’s financial books, statements and affairs on a fiscal year ending December 31st.

Section 7. By-laws

After consultation with the sole voting member, the Board of Trustees at a Regular or Special meeting may adopt By-laws not inconsistent with the provisions of this Constitution, ~~provided that, at least one fourth of the members in attendance are Lutheran members.~~

**ARTICLE VI
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Section 1. Regular Meetings

The Board of Trustees shall hold regular meetings at such time, frequency and place as it shall determine. Trustees must attend a minimum of one-half of regularly scheduled meetings, and may not miss two consecutive regular meetings without leave of the Chair of the Board of Trustees. The President, accompanied by the Senior Vice President for Mission and Spiritual Care, shall be required to attend meetings, except Executive Sessions of the Board. Other Administrators may attend meetings at the invitation of the Board.

Section 2. Special Meetings

Special meetings of the Board may be held at any time at the call of the Chair of the Board of Trustees or at the request of any eight members of the Board of Trustees.

**ARTICLE VII
DISSOLUTION**

In order to assure the operation in perpetuity of the Medical Center, all properties, real, personal and whatsoever kind and type, belonging thereto, shall be turned over to and/or revert to ~~the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America~~ LMC Health System, Inc. or its successor in the event that circumstances financial or otherwise, shall make it necessary for the Corporation to cease or dissolve its operations.

**ARTICLE VIII
AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION**

This constitution may be amended at any Annual or Special Meeting by the sole voting member of the Corporation. However, no amendment shall ever eliminate the word "LUTHERAN" from the name of the Corporation, nor may Article VII ever be amended except with the approval of ~~The Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America~~ the sole voting member.

Adopted: October 14, 1965	Amended: June 14, 1978	Amended: September 1989
Amended: September 12, 1967	Amended: April 1981	Amended: August 2004
Amended: November 29, 1967	Amended: September 1983	Amended: April 2007
Amended: March 27, 1968	Amended: May 1985	Amended: April 2008
Amended: March 18, 1975	Amended: March 1987	Amended: November 2008
Amended: September 22, 1976	Amended: June 1988	Amended: November 2011

The amended Restated Certificate of Incorporation of Lutheran Medical Center is affixed as an appendix to these minutes as indicated in Exhibit H, Part 1a.

**CERTIFICATE OF AMENDMENT
OF THE CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION OF
LUTHERAN MEDICAL CENTER**

Under Section 803 of the New York Not-for-Profit Corporation Law

I, the undersigned, being the President and Chief Executive Officer of Lutheran Medical Center (hereinafter the "Corporation") do hereby certify:

1. The name of the Corporation is Lutheran Medical Center.

2. The Corporation's Certificate of Incorporation was filed by the New York State Department of State on December 30, 1963 in the form of a Certificate of Consolidation of Lutheran Medical Center and Kallman Home for Children.

3. The Corporation is a corporation as defined in subparagraph (a)(5) of Section 102 of the Not-For-Profit Corporation Law ("N-PCL") and is a Type B corporation under Section 201 of the N-PCL.

4. The Certificate of Incorporation of the Corporation is amended to effect the following amendments authorized by the N-PCL:

a. Paragraph 6, subparagraphs (a) through (d) which provides in subparagraph (a) that the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America shall be the sole voting member of the Corporation; in subparagraph (b) for the removal without cause of members of the Board of Trustees by the sole member; in subparagraph (c) for amendment of the Constitution of the Corporation by vote of the sole member; and in subparagraph (d) that certain actions of the Corporation shall require the prior approval of the sole member are deleted in their entirety.

b. Paragraph 7 is renumbered Paragraph 6 and subparagraph (e) thereof, which sets forth provisions regarding the distribution of the Corporation's assets in the event of its dissolution is hereby amended to read as follows:

"(e) In the event that circumstances, financial or otherwise, shall make it necessary for Lutheran Medical Center to cease or dissolve its operations, no distribution of property or assets of Lutheran Medical Center shall be made to any trustee, director or officer of Lutheran Medical Center or to any other private individual. All of the remaining assets and properties of Lutheran Medical Center, of whatsoever kind and type, shall be turned over and/or revert to LMC Health System, Inc. or its successor, so long as LMC Health System, Inc. or its successor is then an organization described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Code, so that the same may be applied to support and promote the mission of Lutheran Medical Center as outline in Article II of its Constitution; provided, however, that Lutheran Medical Center shall, in connection with a dissolution, have the power to convey any or all of its property to the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development for a public purpose, or his/her nominee, for a public purpose; and provided further if LMC Health System, Inc. or its successor is not then an organization described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Code, Lutheran Medical Center shall distribute its assets to an organization that is then described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Code that is chosen by the LMC Health System, Inc. or its successor."

c. Paragraph 8 is renumbered Paragraph 7 and Paragraph 9 is renumbered Paragraph 8.

5. This amendment of the Corporation's Certificate of Incorporation was authorized by vote of the sole member of the Corporation, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, a Minnesota nonprofit corporation ("ELCA"), acting by its governing Church Council at a meeting duly called and held on _____, 2013.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned has subscribed this certificate and hereby affirms it as true under penalties of perjury this __ day of ____ 2013.

Wendy Z. Goldstein
President and Chief Executive Officer

PROPOSAL ON THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION (CONTINUED)
(Agenda IV.D.2.; Exhibit G, Part 1)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña noted that the proposal on theological education had been introduced during the first plenary session of the meeting.

Secretary David D. Swartling made the following motion on behalf of the Executive Committee.

**Moved;
Seconded:**

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

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

To affirm the work of the seminaries, colleges and universities, and other theological education providers in creating a strong and increasingly flexible and efficient network that prepares a wide variety of leaders grounded in Scripture and the Lutheran confessional tradition and equipped for God's mission in a rapidly changing environment.

There being no further discussion on this motion, the chair called for the vote.

**VOTED:
CC13.04.11**

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

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

To affirm the work of the seminaries, colleges and universities, and other theological education providers in creating a strong and increasingly flexible and efficient network that prepares a wide variety of leaders grounded in Scripture and the Lutheran confessional tradition and equipped for God's mission in a rapidly changing environment.

Vice President Peña declared the motion was adopted.

Secretary Swartling made the following motion on behalf of the Executive Committee.

**Moved;
Seconded:**

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

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

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

To authorize the Theological Education Advisory Council to convene presidents of ELCA universities with embedded seminaries, seminary presidents, board chairs, a bishop from each seminary's board, and others to share counsel on priorities and strategic plans, current collaboration

initiatives, new collaborative possibilities, and degree program design innovations, and to examine implications for our leadership identification and preparation systems;

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

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

Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson responded to a question about the size and expertise of the proposed advisory council on theological education.

At the invitation of Vice President Peña, the Rev. Raymond A. Miller led the council in prayer.

There being no further discussion, the chair called for the vote.

VOTED:

CC13.04.12

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

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

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

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

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

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

Vice President Peña declared the motion was adopted.

Secretary David D. Swartling made the following motion on behalf of the Executive Committee.

Moved;

Seconded:

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

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

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

A discussion ensued about how the Conference of Bishops had been consulted regarding the support of synods for theological education.

There being no further discussion, the chair called for the vote.

VOTED:

CC13.04.13

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

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

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

Vice President Peña declared the motion was adopted.

25TH ANNIVERSARY CAMPAIGN FOR THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA (CONTINUED)

(Agenda III.B.7.; Exhibit F, Part 8)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña asked Mr. John R. Emery to continue the report of the Budget and Finance Committee. The chair noted that the motion on the 25th anniversary campaign had been placed on the floor at the end of the previous plenary session, and the Church Council had consented to postpone further discussion and action on the motion. Vice President Peña called on the Rev. Harold L. Usgaard, bishop of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod, to report the results of a poll the representatives of the Conference of Bishops had conducted among the bishops regarding the 25th Anniversary Campaign.

Bp. Usgaard described a variety of reactions among the synodical bishops, from concerns about how the campaign will be accepted in certain synods to eager anticipation. He listed several questions and concerns the poll gathered. Several other synodical bishops present also raised concerns.

Vice President Peña mentioned that he had asked for and received the unanimous sense of the Executive Committee that this church is ready for a campaign.

A discussion ensued about the highlighted programs and the dollar goals of the campaign and how they had been selected. Questions were raised about how money the campaign raises would be distributed within current systems of Mission Support and disbursements. Church Council members discussed how the campaign might be presented to the

Churchwide Assembly and received in the congregations and synods. One member suggested including ways to participate in the anniversary celebration other than donating money, such as donating 25 hours of community service.

At the invitation of Vice President Peña, the Rev. Robert G. Moore led the council in prayer.

There being no further discussion, the chair called for the vote.

VOTED:

CC13.04.14

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Vice President Peña declared the motion was adopted.

CHURCH COUNCIL DESIGNATED FUNDS

(Agenda III.B.4.; Exhibit F, Part 4)

Background:

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

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

The first way designated funds are managed is through investment in the ELCA Endowment Fund Pooled Trust (Pooled Trust) as Church Council designated funds “functioning as endowment.” They are reported annually to the

Church Council in the spring through the Church Council Budget and Finance Committee. One of the funds invested in the Pooled Trust is the Mission Development Fund.

The second way designated funds are managed is through the ELCA treasury as designated funds to be used for a specific activity within a given time frame.

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

Church Council Action:

Mr. John R. Emery provided the background information on funding the 25th Anniversary Campaign and made the following motion on behalf of the Budget and Finance Committee.

Moved;

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

Ms. Christina Jackson-Skelton responded to questions about how the campaign would be staffed.

Treasurer Linda O. Norman answered a question about alternative funding sources for the campaign.

There being no further discussion, the chair called for the vote.

VOTED:

CC13.04.15 To approve Church Council designated funds for the preparation and for the support of the 25th Anniversary Campaign of the ELCA in an amount of \$5,000,000 for expenses already incurred and for anticipated expenses which will be incurred subject to the approval of the campaign.

Vice President Peña declared the motion was adopted.

REVISIONS TO 2013 SYNODICAL MISSION SUPPORT PLANS

(Agenda III.B.5.; Exhibit F, Part 5b)

Background:

The Church Council responds to revisions in synodical Mission Support plans.

Church Council Action:

Mr. John R. Emery made the following motion on behalf of the Budget and Finance Committee.

Moved;

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

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

evangelical mission, to deepen their partnership in efforts to strengthen financial support for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

There being no discussion, the chair called for the vote.

VOTED:

CC13.04.16

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

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

Vice President Peña declared the motion was adopted.

SYNODICAL MISSION SUPPORT PLANS FOR 2014

(Agenda III.B.6.)

Background:

The Church Council acknowledges synodical Mission Support plans.

Church Council Action:

Mr. John R. Emery made the following motion on behalf of the Budget and Finance Committee.

Moved;

Seconded:

To acknowledge that circumstances in the following synods have led to decisions to seek a decrease from prior levels in the percentage of sharing of 2014 Mission Support contributions by congregations for synodical and churchwide ministries; to encourage each synod to continue to work to grow Mission Support in the synod; and to request that each synod develop a plan, in consultation with the churchwide organization, to restore or surpass the previous level of Mission Support sharing: Sierra Pacific; Southeast Michigan; New England; Virginia; and North Carolina synods;

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

To acknowledge the decision of the following synods to maintain the percentage of sharing of 2014 Mission Support contributions by congregations for synodical and churchwide ministries: Alaska; Southwestern Washington; Oregon; Pacifica; Grand Canyon; Rocky Mountain; South Dakota; Northwestern Minnesota; Northeastern Minnesota; Southwestern Minnesota; Nebraska; Central States; Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana; Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast; Central/Southern Illinois; Northeastern Iowa; Northwest Synod of Wisconsin; East-Central Synod of Wisconsin; Greater

Milwaukee; South-Central Synod of Wisconsin; La Crosse Area; North/West Lower Michigan; Northeastern Ohio; New Jersey; Upstate New York; Northeastern Pennsylvania; Northwestern Pennsylvania; Southwestern Pennsylvania; Metropolitan Washington, D.C.; and Southeastern synods;

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

To request that all synods submit their 2014 Mission Support plans prior to their 2013 Synod Assemblies.

There being no discussion, the chair called for the vote.

VOTED:

CC13.04.17

To acknowledge that circumstances in the following synods have led to decisions to seek a decrease from prior levels in the percentage of sharing of 2014 Mission Support contributions by congregations for synodical and churchwide ministries; to encourage each synod to continue to work to grow Mission Support in the synod; and to request that each synod develop a plan, in consultation with the churchwide organization, to restore or surpass the previous level of Mission Support sharing: Sierra Pacific; Southeast Michigan; New England; Virginia; and North Carolina synods;

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

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

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

To request that all synods submit their 2014 Mission Support plans prior to their 2013 Synod Assemblies.

Vice President Peña declared the motion was adopted.

Mr. Emery announced that the Budget and Finance Committee had selected Ms. Louise A. Hemstead to be its chair in the next term and concluded the committee's report.

Vice President Peña requested and received consensus to extend the plenary session by 15 minutes.

CHURCH COUNCIL JOYS AND CONCERNS

(Agenda IV.E.)

Several Church Council members and a guest shared their joys and concerns.

At the invitation of the chair, the Rev. Philip R. Wold led the council in prayer.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Agenda IV.G.)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on Secretary David D. Swartling, who shared plans for the break and the start of the meeting's fifth plenary session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

(Agenda IV.F.)

The Church Council recessed at 3:28 P.M. and entered into executive session at 3:29 P.M. to receive a legal briefing from Mr. Phillip H. Harris, general counsel. Minutes for meetings held in executive session are added to the protocol file in the Office of the Secretary.

RECESS

The April 2013 meeting of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America recessed at 3:47 P.M.

**Saturday, April 6, 2013
Plenary Session V**

CALL TO ORDER

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called the fifth plenary session to order at 4:16 P.M.

GREETING FROM THE ELCIC NATIONAL BISHOP SUSAN JOHNSON

(Agenda V.A.)

The Rev. Susan C. Johnson, national bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC), brought a greeting to the Church Council. She spoke of the ELCIC developing a new strategic plan and preparing for its National Convention in cooperation with the Anglican Church in Canada. She thanked the ELCA for its partnerships in global mission and the LWF.

REPORT OF THE PROGRAM AND SERVICES COMMITTEE

(Agenda V.B.; Exhibits D and J)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on Ms. Susan W. McArver, chair of the Program and Services Committee, to present the committee's report.

UPDATE ON 500TH ANNIVERSARY

(Agenda V.B.2.; Exhibit D)

Background:

The November 2012 meeting of the Church Council received [CC12.11.37] and endorsed a proposal from the staff of the churchwide organization to observe the 500th anniversary of the evangelical (Lutheran) Reformation. The council authorized its Executive Committee to appoint a steering committee, in consultation with the Conference of Bishops, to continue planning and to prepare a report for the April 2013 meeting of the Church Council.

Church Council Action:

Ms. Susan W. McArver presented the background information. The Program and Services Committee had asked to remove action on the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation from *en bloc* consideration. She said the committee discussed the challenges and opportunities associated with the upcoming observance. It recommended that the Church Council also authorize hiring additional staff to implement the proposal. She made the following motion on behalf of the committee.

Moved;

Seconded: To request that a progress report be brought to the Conference of Bishops and the Church Council at their August 2013 meeting.

After a presentation on the Reformation's significance, the chair called for the vote.

VOTED:

CC13.04.18 To request that a progress report be brought to the Conference of Bishops and the Church Council at their August 2013 meeting.

Vice President Peña declared the motion was adopted.

Ms. McArver made the following motion on behalf of the Program and Services Committee.

Moved;

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

The council discussed the importance and opportunity of the observation as well as the possible ways to fund an additional staff position.

There being no further discussion, the chair called for the vote.

VOTED:

CC13.04.19 To request funding for staff to guide the ELCA in observance of the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation.

Vice President Peña declared the motion was adopted.

ADDRESSING SOCIAL CONCERNS REVIEW TASK FORCE

(Agenda V.B.3.; Exhibit J, Part 3)

Background:

The 2011 Churchwide Assembly authorized [CA11.04.14] the Church Council, in consultation with the Conference of Bishops and the Communal Discernment Task Force, to establish a review process of current procedures for the development and adoption of instruments to address social concerns. The Addressing Social Concerns Review Task Force prepared a report and recommendations.

The recommendations of the task force were as follows:

1. Expand its communication efforts, including the use of new and emerging media, in order to distribute information to members and congregations, to receive feedback from members and congregations, and to facilitate conversation among members, congregations, and the communities of which they are part.
2. Devote increased attention to forming communities of moral deliberation within this church by producing resources for moral deliberation, by training and equipping leaders who can model moral deliberation, and by connecting diverse communities.
3. Identify and equip resource persons for this church's ministry of addressing particular social concerns.
4. Identify, provide, and make available a variety of enhanced resources for individual and congregational engagement with social concerns (including resources developed by others).
5. Regularly review existing social statements and social messages, including the possibility of adopting new implementing resolutions or policy resolutions when appropriate.
6. Adopt a new process for determining how best to address a social concern.
7. When the decision is made to proceed with the development of a social statement, the task force recommends that:
 - a. The comment period for responding to a draft be lengthened.
 - b. Two distinct types of hearings be identified and held. The intent of the initial hearings would be to introduce members both to the issues and to the draft. The purpose of the additional hearings would be to gather feedback from members who have studied the draft statement.
 - c. The task force charged with development of the social statement consider developing multiple products, in different formats and for different audiences and purposes, rather than considering itself bound to create a single lengthy document.
8. To revise the "Policies and Procedures" document to reflect the new process and to emphasize the three commitments of "The Church in Society."

9. To provide sufficient funding and personnel to interpret and help equip this church for responding to social issues, in word and deed, as part of its evangelical mission in the world.

Church Council Action:

Ms. Susan W. McArver presented the report and recommendations of the Addressing Social Concerns Review Task Force with the help of Ms. Rebecca Jo Brakke, who served on the task force.

Ms. McArver stated that the task force had asked that its report be transmitted to the 2013 Churchwide Assembly. She made the following motion on behalf of the Program and Services Committee.

Moved;

Seconded:

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

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

To request that the Office of the Presiding Bishop, in consultation with the Office of the Secretary and the Conference of Bishops, prepare a written proposal that addresses implementing the recommendations for procedural changes in the processes for addressing social concerns in this church, including proposed revisions to “Policies and Procedures of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for Addressing Social Concerns” (2011), and to report on the progress of this work to the Church Council beginning in November 2013 (recommendations 6–8); and

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

The Rev. Wm Chris Boerger, bishop of the Northwest Washington Synod and a member of the Addressing Social Concerns Review Task Force, spoke of alternatives to social statements for this church to address social concerns.

There being no further discussion, the chair called for the vote.

VOTED:

CC13.04.20

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

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

To request that the Office of the Presiding Bishop, in consultation with the Office of the Secretary and the Conference of Bishops, prepare a written proposal that addresses implementing the recommendations for procedural changes in the processes for addressing social concerns in this church, including proposed revisions to “Policies and Procedures of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for Addressing Social

Concerns” (2011), and to report on the progress of this work to the Church Council beginning in November 2013 (Recommendations 6-8); and

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

Vice President Peña declared the motion was adopted.

SOCIAL STATEMENT ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE

(Agenda V.B.5.; Exhibit J, Part 2)

Background:

The initial request for a social statement on criminal justice came as memorials from the Rocky Mountain, South Dakota, and La Crosse Area Synods, citing concerns to address issues of mass incarceration and the impacts on the people incarcerated, their families, workers in the system, and the broader society. Work on the statement was authorized [CA07.02.09] by the 2007 Churchwide Assembly.

The Task Force on Criminal Justice presented “The Church and Criminal Justice: Hearing the Cries” as the text of a proposed social statement on criminal justice for the ELCA. If approved by the 2013 Churchwide Assembly, it would become the twelfth social statement of this church.

Church Council Action:

Ms. Susan W. McArver provided background information about the proposed social statement on criminal justice.

Mr. John S. Munday, who served on the task force that helped develop the statement, commented on the purpose of the statement to hear the “cries” of everyone involved in criminal justice.

Ms. McArver made the following motion on behalf of the Program and Services Committee.

Moved;

Seconded:

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

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

The Rev. Michael L. Burk, bishop of the Southeastern Iowa Synod, spoke of the consideration the Conference of Bishops had given the document.

The council discussed how the text was informed by responses the task force received from the draft documents.

There being no further discussion, the chair called for the vote.

VOTED:

CC13.04.21

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

To adopt the text of the proposed social statement “The Church and Criminal Justice: Hearing the Cries” as a social statement of the Evangelical Lutheran Church

in America in accordance with the “Policies and Procedures of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for Addressing Social Concerns” (2011).

Vice President Peña declared the motion was adopted.

Ms. McArver thanked the members of the task force and made the following motion on behalf of the Program and Services Committee.

**Moved;
Seconded:**

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

1. To call upon members of this church through steadfast prayer, discernment, ministry efforts, and public action to hear the cries, offer hospitality, accompany, and advocate on behalf of those whose lives are caught up in or committed in service to the criminal justice system;
2. To call upon members, congregations, synods, social ministry organizations, and churchwide ministries to advocate intentionally and creatively for system reform consistent with the principles and recommendations set forth in this social statement;
3. To encourage ELCA congregations to work with victims, victim advocates, and victim support organizations, to grow in sensitivity and response to the harm caused by crime, and to grow in awareness of restorative justice practices;
4. To encourage ELCA congregations to consider becoming sites of ministry and action for the incarcerated and their families, possibly in ecumenical collaboration, with special attention to re-entry ministries and to preferential hiring for ex-offenders, as appropriate;
5. To hold in prayer the ministry of ELCA chaplains and pastors serving in all correctional facilities, or serving with law enforcement agencies around the country, and to encourage all expressions of the ELCA and its affiliated institutions to provide greater support to prison ministry;
6. To request the ELCA’s Congregational and Synodical Mission unit to enlist the aid of leaders in conferences, synods, social ministry organizations or other appropriate groups in creating and maintaining a resource database, to which members, pastors, or other professionals can turn for information about activities, models, and training modules that support ministry to people and action toward reform of the criminal justice system;
7. To call upon the ELCA’s Worship and Liturgical Resources Team to develop additional liturgical resources for those involved in the criminal justice system, such as services and prayers for victims and their families, for those incarcerated, for those employed in the system, or rites of blessing for those engaging in visitation ministries;
8. To direct the staff of the ELCA’s advocacy ministries to coordinate efforts to develop on behalf of this church a social investment screen on private prison operations, along with developing education materials to use within the ELCA for understanding these actions;
9. To direct the ELCA’s Theological Discernment Team in the fall of 2015 to bring to the ELCA Church Council an assessment of the feasibility of developing a social message on U.S. national drug policy, in accordance with “Policies and Procedures of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for Addressing Social Concerns” (Chicago: ELCA, 1997, revised 2006, 2011);
10. To encourage the three expressions of this church to utilize the recommendations of the Addressing Social Concerns Review Task Force in the process of disseminating and implementing this social statement; and
11. To call upon appropriate staff in the ELCA’s Congregational and Synodical Mission unit and the Office of the Presiding Bishop to establish and oversee a process of implementation and accountability for this social statement that provides a report on implementation to the ELCA Church Council in the fall of 2017.

There being no discussion, the chair called for the vote.

VOTED:

CC13.04.22

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

1. To call upon members of this church through steadfast prayer, discernment, ministry efforts, and public action to hear the cries, offer hospitality, accompany, and advocate on behalf of those whose lives are caught up in or committed in service to the criminal justice system;

2. To call upon members, congregations, synods, social ministry organizations, and churchwide ministries to advocate intentionally and creatively for system reform consistent with the principles and recommendations set forth in this social statement;

3. To encourage ELCA congregations to work with victims, victim advocates, and victim support organizations, to grow in sensitivity and response to the harm caused by crime, and to grow in awareness of restorative justice practices;

4. To encourage ELCA congregations to consider becoming sites of ministry and action for the incarcerated and their families, possibly in ecumenical collaboration, with special attention to re-entry ministries and to preferential hiring for ex-offenders, as appropriate;

5. To hold in prayer the ministry of ELCA chaplains and pastors serving in all correctional facilities, or serving with law enforcement agencies around the country, and to encourage all expressions of the ELCA and its affiliated institutions to provide greater support to prison ministry;

6. To request the ELCA's Congregational and Synodical Mission unit to enlist the aid of leaders in conferences, synods, social ministry organizations or other appropriate groups in creating and maintaining a resource database, to which members, pastors, or other professionals can turn for information about activities, models, and training modules that support ministry to people and action toward reform of the criminal justice system;

7. To call upon the ELCA's Worship and Liturgical Resources Team to develop additional liturgical resources for those involved in the criminal justice system, such as services and prayers for victims and their families, for those incarcerated, for those employed in the system, or rites of blessing for those engaging in visitation ministries;

8. To direct the staff of the ELCA's advocacy ministries to coordinate efforts to develop on behalf of this church a social investment screen on private prison operations, along with developing education materials to use within the ELCA for understanding these actions;

9. To direct the ELCA's Theological Discernment Team in the fall of 2015 to bring to the ELCA Church Council an assessment of the feasibility of developing a social message on U.S. national drug policy, in accordance with "Policies and Procedures of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for Addressing Social Concerns" (Chicago: ELCA, 1997, revised 2006, 2011);

10. To encourage the three expressions of this church to utilize the recommendations of the Addressing Social Concerns Review Task Force in the process of disseminating and implementing this social statement; and

11. To call upon appropriate staff in the ELCA’s Congregational and Synodical Mission unit and the Office of the Presiding Bishop to establish and oversee a process of implementation and accountability for this social statement that provides a report on implementation to the ELCA Church Council in the fall of 2017.

Vice President Peña declared the motion was adopted.

Ms. McArver announced that the Program and Services Committee had appointed an *ad hoc* committee, including the Rev. Yvonne I. Marshall, Mr. Munday, and Ms. Pamela E. Pritt, to shepherd the recommended social statement and implementing resolutions through the processes of the Churchwide Assembly.

WOMEN AND JUSTICE: ONE IN CHRIST

(Agenda V.B.4.)

Background:

The 2009 Churchwide Assembly asked [CA09.06.31] this church to “develop a social statement on the topic of justice for women in church and society to be received by the Churchwide Assembly for approval in 2015.” The 2011 Churchwide Assembly adopted [CA11.03.08] a triennial schedule for Churchwide Assemblies, which would adjust the target date of the social statement to the 2016 Churchwide Assembly.

The Task Force on Women and Justice, which has the responsibility of developing the social statement, requested an extension for its work with the goal of presenting *Women and Justice: One in Christ* for consideration by the 2019 Churchwide Assembly. The request was based on four major factors:

- Seating of task force was delayed, primarily for staffing reasons;
- Importance of broad participation and engagement;
- Study resource development; and
- Recommended protocol changes proposed by the Addressing Social Concerns Review Task Force.

Church Council Action:

Ms. Susan W. McArver provided the background information, mentioning that the Rev. Robert G. Moore and Ms. Pamela E. Pritt serve on the Task Force on Women and Justice.

Ms. Pritt described the work of the task force and gave its rationale for requesting an extension.

Ms. McArver made the following motion on behalf of the Program and Services Committee.

Moved;

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

The Church Council members and bishops discussed the reasons for needing more time, the disappointment of many regarding a possible delay, the range of topics the statement may address, the possible role recommendations of the Addressing Social Concerns Review Task Force may play in addressing some of the issues as the statement is being developed, communicating the delay, and alternative wording for the motion.

Vice President Peña requested and received consent to postpone this motion so that the motion could possibly be redrafted.

UPDATE ON WORD AND SERVICE TASK FORCE

(Agenda V.B.1.; Exhibit J, Part 1)

Ms. Susan W. McArver reviewed the progress report from the Word and Service Task Force, noting that the Conference of Bishops had given its general affirmation while raising several questions.

The Rev. Ralph E. Jones, bishop of the Northwestern Pennsylvania Synod, spoke of the issue of ordaining those on a roster of Word and Service. He referred to “Baptism, Eucharist, and Ministry,” which the Faith and Order Commission of the World Council of Churches adopted in 1982 at a meeting in Lima, Peru, and provided a rationale for ordination for a threefold office of ministry—bishop, presbyter, and deacon.

A discussion ensued about ecumenical issues addressed by the task force.

DWELLING IN THE WORD

(Agenda V.D.)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on Ms. Pamela E. Pritt, who reflected on Psalm 121:1.

PROCESS OBSERVATION

(Agenda V.E.)

Ms. Rebecca D. Carlson, the Rev. Yvonne I. Marshall, and Mr. Anthony (Tony) Rhodes provided their observations about the processes of the meeting.

CHURCH COUNCIL JOYS AND CONCERNS

(Agenda V.C.)

The Church Council paused to hear the joys and concerns of those present.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Agenda V.F.)

The Rev. Kathryn A. Tiede gave optional plan details for the evening. Secretary David D. Swartling presented the morning schedule.

RECESS

At the invitation of Vice President Carlos E. Peña, the Rev. Vicki T. Garber closed the plenary session with prayer. The April 2013 meeting of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America recessed at 5:43 P.M.

**Sunday, April 7, 2013
Plenary Session VI**

Members of the Church Council gathered at 8:30 A.M. for a service of Holy Communion in the Lutheran Center Chapel. Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson presided; the Rev. Laurie F. Skow-Anderson preached; Ms. Deborah L. Chenoweth served as assisting minister; Mr. Jacob Halsor was lector; and Ms. Caryn Archer led the choir.

LEADERSHIP TABLES CONVERSATION

(Exhibit Q, Part 4)

Church Council meeting participants gathered at 9:45 A.M. in the Augsburg Room of the Lutheran Center. Vice President Carlos E. Peña introduced Ms. Christine Grumm, owner of the Chris Grumm Consulting Group, who had facilitated combined meetings of the Executive Committee of the Church Council, the Executive Committee of the Conference of Bishops, and the Administrative Team of the churchwide organization.

Ms. Grumm led the Church Council members and other meeting participants in conversations similar to those she moderated for the three leadership groups on August 20, 2012, and December 3, 2012, at the Lutheran Center in Chicago, Illinois. She reviewed the substance of those combined meetings. Small group and plenary discussions centered around preparing a narrative for the ELCA as the church God had called it to be in the year 2020.

CALL TO ORDER

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called the sixth plenary session to order at 1:42 P.M. He thanked those who participated in worship. He announced that the offering of \$2,297 had been designated [EC13.01.02] for Vision for Mission. He stated that Secretary David D. Swartling was absent for the day due to illness.

REPORT OF BOARD DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

(Agenda VI.A.)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña asked the Rev. Kathryn A. Tiede, chair of the Board Development Committee, to present the committee's report.

Pr. Tiede thanked the Church Council members whose terms end in 2013 for informal conversations, reviewing their work and sharing advice for the other members.

CHURCH COUNCIL RETREAT

(Agenda VI.A.1.)

Background:

In November 2012, the Church Council voted [CC12.11.43]:

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

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

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

The purpose for the retreat would be to engage Living into the Future Together: Renewing the Ecology of the ELCA (LIFT) recommendations, interact, and examine the roles of the Church Council.

Church Council Action:

The Rev. Kathryn A. Tiede made the following motion on behalf of the Board Development Committee.

Moved;

Seconded: To designate the Carol Joy Holling Camp and Retreat Center, [Ashland, Nebraska,] subject to the satisfactory completion of negotiations in the judgment of the secretary of this church, as the site for the Church Council retreat to be held August 15–17, 2014.

There being no discussion, the chair called for the vote.

VOTED:

CC13.04.23 To designate the Carol Joy Holling Camp and Retreat Center, [Ashland, Nebraska,] subject to the satisfactory completion of negotiations in the judgment of the secretary of this church, as the site for the Church Council retreat to be held August 15–17, 2014.

Vice President Peña declared the motion was adopted.

Pr. Tiede described planning that the committee had already done for the retreat. She reported on a meeting of the social justice working group, announcing that Mr. Gary D. Gabrielson will lead future process observations. She outlined plans for continuing Church Council members to serve as mentors for those the 2013 Churchwide Assembly elects to the council.

DWELLING IN THE WORD

(Agenda VI.B.)

Mr. Paul G. Archer reflected on the Magnificat recorded in Luke 1:46–55.

NEW BUSINESS

(Agenda VI.C.; Exhibit A, Part 3, Appendix 1)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on the Rev. Philip R. Wold.

Pr. Wold drew the council's attention to the November 1, 2012, memorandum to the Church Council from Secretary David D. Swartling regarding "Elections and the transition to a triennial Churchwide Assembly." Pr. Wold expressed the concern that the Church Council had voted [CC12.11.31] in November 2012 "to instruct the churchwide Nominating Committee to bring to the 2013 Churchwide Assembly nominations for 11 or 12 positions on the Church Council, in addition to positions nominated by synods" without greater discussion of the expanded size of the council.

A discussion ensued about the size of the Church Council, the reasons for expanding the council to deal with the transition to a three-year election cycle, and how the decision to endorse the recommendations in the secretary's memorandum was made.

SITE FOR THE 2016 CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY

(Agenda VI.D.)

Background:

ELCA bylaw 13.41.02.h. requires the Office of the Secretary to "arrange for and manage churchwide meetings, including the Churchwide Assembly . . ." The secretary recommends the site for a Churchwide Assembly to the Church Council for designation.

Church Council Action:

Vice President Carlos E. Peña invited the Church Council to view a video about New Orleans, Louisiana.
The Rev. Stephen R. Herr made the following motion.

Moved;

Seconded: To designate New Orleans, Louisiana—subject to the satisfactory completion of negotiations in the judgment of the secretary of this church—as the site for the Fourteenth Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, August 8–14, 2016.

Ms. Sue E. Rothmeyer, executive for Office of the Secretary administration, mentioned that the Rev. Michael W. Rinehart, bishop of the Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod, had extended an invitation for the 2016 Churchwide Assembly to be held within the territory of that synod.

Ms. Mary Beth Nowak, director for meeting management in the Office of the Secretary, presented the rationale for holding the 2016 Churchwide Assembly in New Orleans.

There being no further discussion, the chair called for the vote.

VOTED:

CC13.04.24 To designate New Orleans, Louisiana—subject to the satisfactory completion of negotiations in the judgment of the secretary of this church—as the site for the Fourteenth Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, August 8–14, 2016.

Vice President Peña declared the motion was adopted.
The Church Council paused for prayer concerns.

BOARD ORIENTATION: ROLE OF THE CHURCH COUNCIL AT THE CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY

(Agenda II.E.; Exhibit Q, Part 1)

Background:

The Board Development Committee of the Church Council had asked Secretary David D. Swartling and Ms. Jodi L. Slattery, assistant to the presiding bishop for governance, to provide a primer on the role council members would play at the Churchwide Assembly. Ms. Slattery chairs the Churchwide Assembly planning committee.

Provision 14.11. of the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* states, “The Church Council shall be the board of directors and shall serve as the interim legislative authority between meetings of the Churchwide Assembly.”

Constitutional bylaws indicate that the council reviews recommendations from churchwide units for consideration by the Churchwide Assembly, reports the council’s actions, arranges for appropriate elections, and submits a budget proposal for Churchwide Assembly action.

The Church Council appoints members of the Memorials Committee and the Reference and Counsel Committee. Members of the council chair these committees and make up a portion of their membership. Church Council members also provide leadership at the assembly by facilitating the hearings, participating as members of *ad hoc* committees, and leading prayer during plenary sessions. Members are notified by the vice president of any specific assignments in advance of the assembly.

Church Council members who are not voting members serve as advisory members of the assembly, with voice but not vote.

Church Council Discussion:

Ms. Jodi L. Slattery reviewed the background information, the draft schedule for the 2013 Churchwide Assembly, logistics for the assembly, and the Church Council's joint meeting with the Conference of Bishops.

Ms. Mary Beth Nowak explained plans to register voting and advisory members and to arrange their travel and housing. She described all meeting locations and accommodations at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Ms. Slattery and Ms. Nowak responded to questions about registration, orientation, and logistics.

CONSIDERATION OF UNFINISHED AND ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS

WOMEN AND JUSTICE: ONE IN CHRIST

(Agenda VI.F.)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña asked Ms. Susan W. McArver, chair of the Program and Services Committee, to continue the committee's report.

Ms. McArver recalled that action on a motion regarding the time line for a social statement on women and justice had been postponed to perfect the wording of the motion. She made the following motion.

Moved;

Seconded:

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

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

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

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

Ms. McArver explained the rationale for the wording of the motion.

Church Council members discussed the development of an adjusted time line for the work of the task force and asked that it be provided in advance of the Churchwide Assembly. They also discussed the name of the task force, which was not to be confused with the justice for women task force.

There being no further discussion, the chair called for the vote.

VOTED:

CC13.04.25

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

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

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

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

Vice President Peña declared the motion was adopted.

CONSIDERATION OF ITEMS REMOVED FROM *EN BLOC*

(Agenda VI.G.)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña announced that one item had been removed from *en bloc* consideration.

CONFIRMATION RESOURCES

(Agenda VI.G.1.; Exhibit D)

Background:

Southeastern Minnesota (3I)

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

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

WHEREAS, 56 percent of the youth in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America ages 13–17 make a personal commitment to living life with and for God (*Portraits of Protestant Teens: A Report on Teenagers in Major U.S. Denominations*, Phil Schwadel and Christian Smith, 2005);

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

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

WHEREAS, some in our Lutheran faith community are struggling with biblical literacy, faith articulation, and Christian identity; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Southeastern Minnesota Synod will continue innovative exploration of confirmation ministry; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Southeastern Minnesota Synod will share with other expressions of the church any resources that are discovered in this exploration; and be it further

RESOLVED, that synods and congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America be invited to re-imagine confirmation ministry in the 21st century; and be it further

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

RESOLVED, that the Southeastern Minnesota Synod Council requests that the Church Council direct the appropriate unit of the churchwide expression to update the resources available on the churchwide website to reflect the changes in faith formation ministry that are taking place within all expressions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Church Council Action:

Ms. Louise A. Hemstead explained that she had asked that the resolution of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod be removed from *en bloc* consideration to draw attention to its emphasis on confirmation ministry. She made the following motion.

Moved;

Seconded:

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

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

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

To further request that the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit, as part of the ongoing work of the Faith Formation Team (which includes unit staff and staff from Augsburg Fortress, Publishers, as well as Christian education teachers in ELCA colleges and seminaries and other

partners) take up the conversation about “re-imagining” confirmation ministry and resources, and to report progress to the Conference of Bishops and the Church Council; and

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

There being no further discussion, the chair called for the vote.

VOTED:

CC13.04.26 To thank the Southeastern Minnesota Synod for its resolution related to confirmation ministry;

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

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

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

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

Vice President Peña declared the motion was adopted.

EN BLOC APPROVAL OF CERTAIN ITEMS

(Agenda VI.H.; Exhibits B and D)

Background:

En bloc resolutions were supplied among the exhibits for the meeting and time was provided for Church Council members to remove any item or items they would like to consider separately. *En bloc* action reflects a judgment that these items may not require plenary discussion and a separate vote.

Church Council Action:

Mr. Paul G. Archer made the following motion.

Moved;

Seconded: To take action *en bloc* on the items listed in Exhibit B and Exhibit D.

There being no discussion, the chair called for the vote.

VOTED:

CC13.04.27 To take action *en bloc* on the items listed below.

Vice President Peña declared the motion was adopted.

RESPONSES TO SYNODICAL RESOLUTIONS

A. Food and Fuel

Eastern Washington-Idaho Synod (1D)

VOTED:

EN BLOC

CC13.04.27a

To receive the response from the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit on the resolution of the Eastern Washington-Idaho Synod related to the conversion of food crops for motor fuel;

To recognize the wide spectrum of perspectives throughout this church on the use and development of a food crop for motor fuel;

To affirm the recommendation of the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit to encourage conversation among all expressions of this church and with other appropriate stakeholders and to share perspectives and insights regarding this church's commitment to supporting rural communities, ending hunger, and caring for God's creation;

To request the ELCA Washington Office to continue its monitoring of this issue and supporting of policies that assist in the development of non-food-based biofuels and minimize the impact of biofuels on the food supply; and

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

B. Counseling Services for Rostered Leaders

Delaware-Maryland Synod Assembly (8F)

VOTED:

EN BLOC

CC13.04.27b

To receive the response from the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit, in consultation with the Office of the Secretary and Portico Benefit Services, on the resolution from the Delaware-Maryland Synod Assembly regarding counseling services for rostered leaders;

To encourage this church to use the social message on "The Body of Christ and Mental Illness" as appropriate for discussion and action;

To recognize with appreciation the comprehensive benefits that Portico Benefit Services has to support emotional well-being;

To commend the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit and Portico Benefit Services for developing resources that will encourage clergy and other rostered lay leaders to strengthen their mental health and to encourage congregations to work with their leaders in creating reasonable expectations and time for vacations and sabbaticals;

To encourage the consideration of a workshop that could raise awareness regarding the social message on "The Body of Christ and Mental Illness" for use across this church; and

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

**C. Witnessing against Capital Punishment
Sierra Pacific Synod (2A)**

VOTED: *EN BLOC*
CC13.04.27c **To receive the response and report from Congregational and Synodical Mission unit;**
 To express appreciation to the Sierra Pacific Synod for sharing the concern about the elimination of the death penalty; and
 To affirm the recommendation of the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit that the ELCA continue its advocacy based upon the 1991 Social Statement on the Death Penalty; and
 To request that the secretary of this church inform the synod of this action.

**D. Immigration Reform
Southeastern Synod (9D)**

VOTED: *EN BLOC*
CC13.04.27d **To receive the response of the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit, in partnership with Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, and express appreciation for the many ways the ELCA is working in support of fair and humane immigration reform and the DREAM Act; and**
 To request that the secretary of this church inform the synod of this action.

**E. In Support of the Montagnard People of Vietnam
North Carolina Synod (9B)**

VOTED: *EN BLOC*
CC13.04.27e **To receive the response of the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit;**
 To express appreciation for this church's continued advocacy in responding to violations of the human rights of freedom of thought, conscience, and religion in situations where churches are being denied these rights; and
 To request that the secretary of this church inform the synod of this action.

RESPONSES TO CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY ACTIONS

F. Motion J: Native Americans and Alaska Natives [CA11.04.18]

VOTED: *EN BLOC*
CC13.04.27f **To receive the report of the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit in response to Motion J: Native Americans and Alaska Natives;**
 To thank the Rev. Mark Allred (Inupiat Eskimo), Program Director for the ELCA American Indian and Alaska Native Ministries program (AIANMP); Elizabeth Gaskins (Muscogee-Creek), President of the American Indian Alaska Native Lutheran Association (AIAN); the Rev. Marlene "White Rabbit" Helgemo (Ho-Chunk),

Executive Director for the Council for American Indian Ministry (United Church of Christ) and Sr. Pastor at All Nations Indian Church in Minneapolis, Minnesota, for their attentive recommendations to raise awareness and honor America's First people;

To recommend the establishment of a working group of the ELCA American Indian and Alaska Native Ministries Program for the purpose of recommending guidelines for this church on ways to approach and offer invitations to the American Indian and Alaska Native community, guidelines for the American Indian and Alaska Native community on acceptable ways to provide greetings at ELCA events, suggestions for which events or opportunities might be most appropriate for greetings, a possible educational experience, and consideration of the costs and monies of funding such participation; and

To request that a report of the findings from the working group be brought to the Congregational and Synodical Mission (CSM) unit and a report from CSM be made to the ELCA Church Council at its November 2013 meeting.

G. Memorials Category A4: *Energy Stewardship [CA11.03.06a]*

VOTED:

EN BLOC

CC13.04.27g

To receive the report of the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit in response to the memorial on Energy Stewardship and in recognizing the efforts throughout this church to improve our care of God's creation;

To extend deep appreciation to all expressions and agencies of this church for the significant and diverse ways they improve their stewardship of energy resources and improve our care of God's creation;

To acknowledge the diminished financial resources to establish processes to track and assess the amount of energy saved and greenhouse gas emissions energy conservation efforts have avoided throughout our church;

To encourage all expressions and agencies of this church to continue to find ways to increase their energy efficiency and to share their efforts in caring for God's creation; and

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

H. Motion G: *Effect of U.S. Ethanol Policy on World Hunger [CA11.05.35]*

VOTED:

EN BLOC

CC13.04.27h

To receive the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit report on Motion G: Effect of U.S. Ethanol Policy on World Hunger;

To recognize the wide spectrum of perspectives throughout this church on the use and development of a food crop for transportation fuel; and

To affirm the recommendation of the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit to encourage conversation among all expressions of this church and with other appropriate stakeholders and to share perspectives and insights regarding this

church's commitment to supporting rural communities, ending hunger, and caring for God's creation.

I. Memorials Category D2: *Holy Communion* [CA11.03.06f]

VOTED: *EN BLOC*
CC13.04.27i **To receive the response from the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit;
To authorize a delay in the response of the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit to the memorial on Sacramental Obedience in Holy Communion;
To request that a report and possible recommendations be brought to the November 2013 meeting of the ELCA Church Council; and
To request that the secretary of this church inform the synod of this action.**

J. Motion B: *Perpetual Prayer Vigil* [CA11.05.30]

VOTED: *EN BLOC*
CC13.04.27j **To receive the response from the Office of the Presiding Bishop;
To authorize a delay in the response of the Office of the Presiding Bishop to Motion B: Perpetual Prayer Vigil; and
To request that a report and possible recommendations be brought to the November 2013 meeting of the ELCA Church Council.**

ACTIONS RECOMMENDED BY COMMITTEE

K. Resolution Regarding Use of Restricted Funds for Grace Matters/Lutheran Vespers

VOTED: *EN BLOC*
CC13.04.27k **To allow, where possible and appropriate, broader use of expenditures from The Lutheran Vespers Endowment Fund to support similar and complimentary communications utilizing current and future forms of digital media, including but not limited to preserving existing radio or television ministries, making available existing ministries in digital format, and other formats that reach out to share Christ's word and ministry for all; to extend this broader use concept to other, non-endowment, gifts restricted to Grace Matters or Lutheran Vespers; and
To request, in the case of restricted gifts to ELCA radio ministries where the gift agreement may be unclear regarding donee authority to interpret or modify the gift agreement, that the Mission Advancement unit, in consultation with the Office of the Secretary and the Office of the Treasurer, use reasonable interpretations of the gifts to support ministries similar to the radio and television ministries, supporting digital means of communication, in addition to traditional radio or television broadcasting, which may include consultations with donors, when possible, and appropriate consultations with internal and external legal resources to fulfill the spirit of the ministry.**

**L. Church Council Nominations and Elections
(Exhibit C)**

VOTED:

EN BLOC

CC13.04.271 To elect to the board of directors of The Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago to three-year terms expiring in 2016: Mr. Clarence J. Atwood, The Rev. Gordon A. Braatz Jr., Ms. Tina Glusenkamp Gould, Ms. Sarah M. Stegemoeller, and The Rev. Harvard W. Stephens Jr.;

To elect to the board of directors of Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary to a six-year term expiring in 2019: The Rev. Frank Espergren;

To elect to the board of directors of Trinity Lutheran Seminary to a four-year term expiring in 2017: Ms. Melissa Peper Firestone; and

To nominate to the advisory council of Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary as part of Lenoir-Rhyne University to three-year terms expiring in 2016: The Rev. Edward R. Benoway, The Rev. Bobbie J. Blackburn, The Rev. Susan R. Briebl, Mr. Kenneth L. Childs, The Rev. Sheila L. Elliott (United Methodist Church), Ms. Cinde Rinn, and Mr. Roy T. Wise.

CHURCH COUNCIL JOYS AND CONCERNS

(Agenda VI.I.)

Church Council members shared joys and concerns.

MEETING EVALUATION AND DEBRIEFING

(Agenda VI.J.)

At the invitation of Vice President Carlos E. Peña, meeting participants shared their thoughts about the meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Agenda VI.L.)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña thanked those present for a productive meeting.

Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson returned the thanks to the chair.

The chair reminded the Church Council members to complete and return their evaluation forms, committee preferences, and expense reports.

CLOSING PRAYER

(Agenda VI.M.)

At the invitation of Vice President Carlos E. Peña, the Rev. Kathryn A. Tiede closed the meeting with prayer.

ADJOURNMENT

The seventy-eighth meeting of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America adjourned Sunday, April 7, 2013, at 3:04 P.M.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

I hereby certify that the annexed copy has been compared with the original document in the custody of the Secretary of State and that the same is a true copy of said original.



WITNESS my hand and the official seal of the Department of State, at the City of Albany, on November 25, 2008.

Paul LaPointe

Paul LaPointe
Special Deputy Secretary of State

**RESTATED CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION
OF
LUTHERAN MEDICAL CENTER**

Under Section 805 of the New York Not-for-Profit Corporation Law

I, the undersigned, being the President and Chief Executive Officer of Lutheran Medical Center (hereinafter the "Corporation") do hereby certify:

1. The name of the Corporation is Lutheran Medical Center.
2. The Corporation's Certificate of Incorporation was filed by the New York State Department of State on December 30, 1963 in the form of a Certificate of Consolidation of Lutheran Medical Center and Kallman Home for Children. The Corporation is a corporation as defined in subparagraph (a)(5) of Section 102 of the N-PCL, and is a Type B corporation under Section 201 of the N-PCL.
3. The Certificate of Incorporation of the Corporation is amended to effect the following amendments authorized by the Not-For-Profit-Corporation Law:
 - (a) Paragraph 2, stating the name of the Corporation, is amended to remove the word "consolidated" and therefore as amended reads as follows:
 "2. The name of the Corporation is Lutheran Medical Center."
 - (c) Paragraph 3, stating the territory in which the Corporation's operations are to be principally conducted is deleted.
 - (d) Paragraph 4, stating the county in which the office of the Corporation is to be located is renumbered as Paragraph 3.
 - (e) Paragraph 5, stating the number of trustees of the Corporation is renumbered as Paragraph 4 and amended to read as follows:
 "4. The number of the Corporation's trustees shall be not less than twelve nor more than thirty-four."
 - (f) The names and residence addresses of the initial trustees are omitted from Paragraph 6, which is renumbered as Paragraph 5.
 - (g) Paragraph 7, which addresses the Corporation's purposes, is renumbered as Paragraph 6. In addition, Paragraph 7(a), which cross-references the corporate name, territory, office and initial trustees, is deleted so that Paragraph 7(b) becomes the only provision of this Paragraph. The words "The purposes of the Corporation are entirely charitable within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the

Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended and are as follows” are added at the beginning of existing Paragraph 7 to make it clear that this Paragraph addresses corporate purposes and the last sentence, referencing prior amendments to the Certificate of Incorporation, is deleted. As thus amended this Paragraph shall read as follows:

“6. The purposes of the Corporation are entirely charitable within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended and are as follows: To acquire, erect, build, alter, reconstruct, own, operate and maintain a hospital for the prevention, diagnosis or treatment of human disease, pain, injury, disability, deformity or physical condition, including but not limited to, a general hospital, public health center, diagnostic center, treatment center, dental clinic, dental dispensary, rehabilitation center, other than a facility used solely for vocational, rehabilitation, nursing home, tuberculosis hospital, chronic disease hospital, maternity hospital, lying-in-asylum, out-patient department, dispensary and a laboratory or central service facility serving one or more such institutions, and to be a service provider and a managed care contractor for Health Maintenance Organization and/or other managed care arrangements, and to provide management services to managed care organizations of any type or description.”

(h) Paragraph 8 is renumbered as Paragraph 7 and Paragraph 9 is renumbered as Paragraph 8.

(i) Paragraph 7(e), which addresses distribution of the Corporation’s assets upon its dissolution, is amended to clarify that the distributee must have Internal Revenue Code Section 501(3) status, and so shall read as follows:

“(e) In the event that circumstances, financial or otherwise, shall make it necessary for Lutheran Medical Center to cease or dissolve its operations, no distribution of property or assets of Lutheran Medical Center shall be made to any trustee, director or officer of Lutheran Medical Center or to any other private individual. All of the remaining assets and properties of Lutheran Medical Center, of whatsoever kind and type, shall be turned over and/or revert to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America or its successor, so long as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America or its successor is then an organization described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Code, so that the same may be applied to perpetuate the ministry of Lutheran Medical Center as outline in Article II of its Constitution; provided, however, that Lutheran Medical Center shall, in connection with a dissolution, have the power to convey any or all of its property to the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development or his/her nominee; and provided further if the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America or its successor is not then an organization described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Code, Lutheran Medical Center shall distribute its assets to an organization that is then described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Code that is chosen by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America or its successor.”

(j) A new Paragraph 9 providing for service of process against the Corporation is added as follows:

“9. The Secretary of State is designated as the agent of the Corporation upon whom process against it may be served. The address to which the Secretary of State shall forward copies of process accepted on behalf of the Corporation is:

Lutheran Medical Center
Office of the General Counsel
150 55th Street
Brooklyn, New York 11220”

(k) A new Paragraph 10 confirming the Type of the Corporation is added as follows:

“10. The Corporation is a Type B corporation under Section 201 of the Not-for-Profit Corporation Law.”

4. The text of the certificate of incorporation is hereby restated as amended to read herein set forth in full:

1. The name of the Corporation is Lutheran Medical Center.
2. The office of the Corporation shall be located in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of New York.
3. The number of the Corporation’s trustees shall be not less than twelve nor more than thirty-four.
4. The consolidated corporation is to be a new corporation.
5. The purposes of the Corporation are entirely charitable within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended and are as follows: To acquire, erect, build, alter, reconstruct, own, operate and maintain a hospital for the prevention, diagnosis or treatment of human disease, pain, injury, disability, deformity or physical condition, including but not limited to, a general hospital, public health center, diagnostic center, treatment center, dental clinic, dental dispensary, rehabilitation center, other than a facility used solely for vocational, rehabilitation, nursing home, tuberculosis hospital, chronic disease hospital, maternity hospital, lying-in-asylum, out-patient department, dispensary and a laboratory or central service facility serving one or more such institutions, and to be a service provider and a managed care contractor for Health Maintenance Organization and/or other managed care arrangements, and to provide management services to managed care organizations of any type or description.
6. (a) The Corporation has one voting member having voting rights. The sole voting member having voting rights is the Evangelical Lutheran Church in

America, a Minnesota non-profit corporation. New members may be elected only by vote of the member(s) having voting rights, which shall be evidenced by written certification confirming such vote.

(b) Any person elected to the Board of Trustees of the Corporation may be removed without cause by vote of the member of the Corporation having voting rights.

(c) The Constitution of the Corporation may be amended only by vote of the member of the Corporation having voting rights. The Constitution and By-Laws together constitute the Corporation's by-laws as the term "by-laws" is used under the New York Not-for-Profit Corporation Law. No provision of the By-Laws shall be inconsistent with the Constitution or the Certificate of Incorporation.

(d) The following actions shall require prior approval of the member of the corporation having voting rights: merger or consolidation; sale, assignment or transfer of all or substantially all of the assets of the Corporation; transfer of ownership or control of the Corporation to any other person, corporation or entity; or any form of joint venture or common operation with another entity.

7. (a) Lutheran Medical Center is authorized and empowered to provide, on a non-profit basis, hospital facilities and services for the care and treatment of persons who are acutely ill or who otherwise require medical care of the kind customarily furnished most effectively by hospitals, pursuant to Section 242 of the National Housing Act, as amended;

(b) Lutheran Medical Center is authorized and empowered to execute and deliver a note, mortgage and security agreement in order to secure a loan to be insured by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development ("HUD"), and to execute a regulatory agreement and such other documents as may be required by HUD in connection with such a loan (said note, mortgage, security agreement, regulatory agreement and other documents are hereinafter called the "HUD Loan Documents");

(c) If any of the provisions of this Certificate of Incorporation or of the Constitution and By-Laws of Lutheran Medical Center conflict with the terms of the HUD Loan Documents, the provisions of the HUD Loan Documents will control;

(d) This Certificate of Incorporation may not be amended without the prior approval of HUD, so long as HUD is the insurer or holder of the loan evidenced and secured by the HUD Loan Documents; and

(e) In the event that circumstances, financial or otherwise, shall make it necessary for Lutheran Medical Center to cease or dissolve its operations, no distribution of property or assets of Lutheran Medical Center shall be made to

any trustee, director or officer of Lutheran Medical Center or to any other private individual. All of the remaining assets and properties of Lutheran Medical Center, of whatsoever kind and type, shall be turned over and/or revert to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America or its successor, so long as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America or its successor is then an organization described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Code, so that the same may be applied to perpetuate the ministry of Lutheran Medical Center as outline in Article II of its Constitution; provided, however, that Lutheran Medical Center shall, in connection with a dissolution, have the power to convey any or all of its property to the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development for a public purpose, or his/her nominee, for a public purpose; and provided further if the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America or its successor is not then an organization described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Code, Lutheran Medical Center shall distribute its assets to an organization that is then described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Code that is chosen by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America or its successor.

8. The Secretary of State is designated as the agent of the Corporation upon whom process against it may be served. The address to which the Secretary of State shall forward copies of process accepted on behalf of the Corporation is:

Lutheran Medical Center
Office of the General Counsel
150 55th Street
Brooklyn, New York 11220

9. The Corporation is a Type B corporation under Section 201 of the Not-for-Profit Corporation Law.

5. This restatement of the Corporation's Certificate of Incorporation was authorized by vote of the sole member of the Corporation, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, a Minnesota nonprofit corporation (the "ELCA"), acting by its duly authorized Executive Committee of its governing Church Council at a meeting duly called and held on November 17, 2008.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned has subscribed this certificate and hereby affirms it as true under penalties of perjury this 17th day of November 2008.



Wendy Z. Goldstein
President and Chief Executive Officer



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
WASHINGTON, DC 20410-8000

OFFICE OF HOUSING

OCT 16 2008

Ms. Barbara Katz Arky
Executive Vice President and General Counsel
Lutheran Medical Center
150 55th Street
Brooklyn, NY 11220

Re: Lutheran Medical Center
FHA Project: 12-13065
Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation

Dear Ms. Arky:

This letter responds to your September 18, 2008 request on behalf of the Lutheran Medical Center ("LMC"), asking the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to approve the amendment and restatement of LMC's Certificate of Incorporation.

HUD has reviewed the proposed amendments and their compliance with the HUD Approval Covenants for HUD Section 242 Mortgage Insurance ("HUD Covenants") dated as of October 10, 2002, and the HUD Regulatory Agreement and Supplementary Agreement executed in connection with the HUD initial endorsement in March 27, 2003.

Based upon that review and the information you provided concerning this matter, HUD approves your request. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 314-539-6561.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Albert R. Mirarchi".

Albert R. Mirarchi
Account Executive
Office of Insured Health Care Facilities

cc: Charles Y. Davis, PhD, HUD/OIHCF
Francine Cunningham, HUD/OIHCF

NCR-26

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RESTATED CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION

OF

LUTHERAN MEDICAL CENTER

UNDER SECTION 805 OF THE
NOT-FOR-PROFIT CORPORATION LAW

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LIST OF ACTIONS

CC13.04.01	Adoption of the agenda	3
CC13.04.02	Approval of the Church Council and Executive Committee minutes	4
CC13.04.03	Request for a report and recommendations on the Book of Faith initiative	13
CC13.04.04	Request for a final version of the ELCA Philosophy of Benefits	16
CC13.04.05	Affirmation in concept of health care plan design options	17
CC13.04.06	Endorsement of proposal to revise “Guidelines for ELCA World Hunger Program Activities” . . .	20
CC13.04.07	Approval of revised current fund and World Hunger spending authorizations	20
CC13.04.08	Recommendation to adopt the proposed 2014–2016 budget	22
CC13.04.09	Endorsement in concept of a proposed merger of California Lutheran University and Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary	25
CC13.04.10	Adoption of amendments to the governing documents of the Lutheran Medical Center	27
CC13.04.11	Reception of a proposal on theological education	33
CC13.04.12	Authorization to create the Theological Education Advisory Council	34
CC13.04.13	Request for a budget proposal in support of theological education	35
CC13.04.14	Recommendation to approve the 25th Anniversary Campaign for the ELCA	36
CC13.04.15	Approval of funding for the 25th Anniversary Campaign for the ELCA	37
CC13.04.16	Acknowledgment of revisions to 2013 synodical Mission Support plans	38
CC13.04.17	Acknowledgment of 2014 synodical Mission Support plans	39
CC13.04.18	Request for a report on plans to observe the 500th anniversary of the Reformation	41
CC13.04.19	Request to fund a staff position for the observance of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation . .	42
CC13.04.20	Request to implement recommendations of the Addressing Social Concerns Review Task Force .	43
CC13.04.21	Recommendation to adopt “The Church and Criminal Justice: Hearing the Cries” as a social statement of this church	45
CC13.04.22	Recommendation to adopt implementing resolutions for the recommended social statement on criminal justice	46
CC13.04.23	Designation of Carol Joy Holling Camp, Ashland, Nebraska, as the site of an August 2014 retreat for the Church Council	50
CC13.04.24	Designation of New Orleans, Louisiana, as the site of the 2016 Churchwide Assembly	51
CC13.04.25	Extension of consideration of a social statement on women and justice until the 2019 Churchwide Assembly	52
CC13.04.26	Request for updates on confirmation ministry and resources	54
CC13.04.27	<i>En bloc</i> approval of the following items	54
CC13.04.27a	Response to synodical resolution on conversion of food crops for motor fuel	55
CC13.04.27b	Response to synodical resolution on counseling services for rostered leaders	55
CC13.04.27c	Response to synodical resolution on elimination of the death penalty	56
CC13.04.27d	Response to synodical resolution on immigration reform and the DREAM Act	56
CC13.04.27e	Response to synodical resolution in support of the Montagnard people of Vietnam	56
CC13.04.27f	Response to Churchwide Assembly action on Native Americans and Alaska Natives	56
CC13.04.27g	Response to Churchwide Assembly action on energy stewardship	57
CC13.04.27h	Response to Churchwide Assembly action on U.S. ethanol policy and world hunger	57
CC13.04.27i	Response to Churchwide Assembly action on Holy Communion	58
CC13.04.27j	Response to Churchwide Assembly action on a perpetual prayer vigil	58
CC13.04.27k	Utilization of gifts to ELCA radio ministries	58
CC13.04.27l	Elections and nominations to boards and councils of certain seminaries	59

TOPICAL INDEX

2013 Churchwide Assembly, E-Binder Update	24
2013 Income Estimate and Expenditure Authorization	
Revised	20
2013 Synodical Mission Support Plans	
Revisions to	37
2014–2016 Triennium Budget	
Proposed	21
2016 Churchwide Assembly	
Site for the	50
25th Anniversary Campaign	22, 35
Designated Funds	36
500th Anniversary, Update on	41
A	
Addressing Social Concerns Review Task Force	42
Agenda	
Adoption of the	3
Alaska Synod (1A)	
2014 Mission Support Plan	39
Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod (4C)	
2014 Mission Support Plan	39
B	
Bible Study	
The Rev. Lisa Vander Wal	14
Board Development Committee	
Report of	49
Book of Faith Initiative	12
Budget and Finance Committee	
Report of the	19
C	
California Lutheran University	
Proposed Merger with Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary	24
Canada, Evangelical Lutheran Church in	
National Bishop Susan C. Johnson	41
Caribbean Synod (9F)	
2014 Mission Support Plan	39
Central States Synod (4B)	
2014 Mission Support Plan	39
Central/Southern Illinois Synod (5C)	
2014 Mission Support Plan	39
Conference of Bishops	
Report of the	18
Representatives of the	1
Confirmation Resources	53
Consultation on Theological Education and Leadership Development	11
Counseling Services for Rostered Leaders	
Delaware-Maryland Synod Assembly (8F)	55
Criminal Justice	
Social Statement on	44
D	
Delaware-Maryland Synod Assembly (8F)	
Counseling Services for Rostered Leaders	55

Dwelling in the Word	
Mr. Paul G. Archer	50
Pr. Susan Langhauser	24
Mr. Mark W. Myers	23
Ms. Pamela E. Pritt	48
E	
East-Central Synod of Wisconsin (5I)	
2014 Mission Support Plan	39
Eastern Washington-Idaho Synod (1D)	
2014 Mission Support Plan	39
Food and Fuel	55
Ecumenical Guests	2
ELCIC National Bishop Susan C. Johnson	
Greeting from the	41
<i>En Bloc</i>	
Consideration of Items Removed from	53
<i>En Bloc</i> Approval of Certain Items	54
Energy Stewardship	
Response to Churchwide Assembly Actions	57
Evaluation and Debriefing	
Meeting	59
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Northern Germany	14
Executive Committee	
Report of the	10, 26
Executive for Administration	
Report of the	14
Executive Session	40
F	
Florida-Bahamas Synod (9E)	
2013 Mission Support Plan	38
2014 Mission Support Plan	39
Food and Fuel	
Eastern Washington-Idaho Synod (1D)	55
G	
Germany	
Bishop Gerhard Ulrich	14
United Evangelical Lutheran Church in	14
Grace Matters/Lutheran Vespers	
Use of Restricted Funds for	58
Grand Canyon Synod (2D)	
2014 Mission Support Plan	39
Greater Milwaukee Synod (5J)	
2014 Mission Support Plan	39
Greeting, ELCIC National Bishop Susan Johnson	41
H	
Health Care Plan Design Options	15
Holy Communion	
Response to Churchwide Assembly Actions	58

I

Immigration Reform	
Southeastern Synod (9D)	56
In Support of the Montagnard People of Vietnam	
North Carolina Synod (9B)	56

J

Joys and Concerns	40, 48, 59
-------------------	------------

L

La Crosse Area Synod (5L)	
2014 Mission Support Plan	39
Leadership Development	
Consultation on Theological Education and	11
Leadership Tables Conversation	49
Legal and Constitutional Review Committee	
Report of the	24
Lutheran Medical Center	26
Certificate of Amendment	31
Constitution	28
Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago	
Board Elections	59
Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary	
Council Nominations	59

M

Memorials Category A4: Energy Stewardship	57
Memorials Category D2: Holy Communion	58
Metropolitan New York Synod (7C)	
2014 Mission Support Plan	39
Metropolitan Washington, D.C., Synod (8G)	
2014 Mission Support Plan	39
Minutes	
Approval of	3
Montana Synod (1F)	
2014 Mission Support Plan	39
Motion B: Perpetual Prayer Vigil	58
Motion G: Effect of U.S. Ethanol Policy on World Hunger	57
Motion J: Native Americans and Alaska Natives	56

N

Native Americans and Alaska Natives	
Response to Churchwide Assembly Actions	56
Nebraska Synod (4A)	
2014 Mission Support Plan	39
New England Synod (7B)	
2014 Mission Support Plan	39
New Jersey Synod (7A)	
2014 Mission Support Plan	39
North Carolina Synod (9B)	
2014 Mission Support Plan	39
In Support of the Montagnard People of Vietnam	56

North/West Lower Michigan Synod (6B)	
2014 Mission Support Plan	39
Northeastern Iowa Synod (5F)	
2014 Mission Support Plan	39
Northeastern Minnesota Synod (3E)	
2014 Mission Support Plan	39
Northeastern Ohio Synod (6E)	
2014 Mission Support Plan	39
Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod (7E)	
2014 Mission Support Plan	39
Northern Great Lakes Synod (5G)	
2014 Mission Support Plan	39
Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Synod (4D)	
2013 Mission Support Plan	38
2014 Mission Support Plan	39
Northwest Synod of Wisconsin (5H)	
2013 Mission Support Plan	38
2014 Mission Support Plan	39
Northwest Washington Synod (1B)	
2014 Mission Support Plan	39
Northwestern Minnesota Synod (3D)	
2013 Mission Support Plan	38
2014 Mission Support Plan	39
Northwestern Pennsylvania Synod (8A)	
2014 Mission Support Plan	39
O	
Oregon Synod (1E)	
2013 Mission Support Plan	38
2014 Mission Support Plan	39
Orientation	
Role of the Church Council at the Churchwide Assembly	51
P	
Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary	
Board Election	59
Proposed Merger with California Lutheran University	24
Pacifica Synod (2C)	
2013 Mission Support Plan	38
2014 Mission Support Plan	39
Perpetual Prayer Vigil	
Response to Churchwide Assembly Actions	58
Philosophy of Benefits	15
Planning and Evaluation Committee	
Report of the	15
Portico Benefit Services, Update from	15
Presiding Bishop	
Report of the	4
Process Observation	48
Program and Services Committee	
Report of the	41, 52

R

Reports

Board Development Committee	49
Budget and Finance Committee	19
Conference of Bishops	18
Executive Committee	10, 26
Executive for Administration	14
Legal and Constitutional Review Committee	24
Planning and Evaluation Committee	15
Portico Benefit Services	15
Presiding Bishop	4
Program and Services Committee	41, 52
Secretary	24
Treasurer	19
Vice President	10
Resource Persons	2
Retreat	
Carol Joy Holling Camp and Retreat Center	49
Rocky Mountain Synod (2E)	
2014 Mission Support Plan	39

S

Secretary

Report of the	24
Sierra Pacific Synod (2A)	
2014 Mission Support Plan	39
Witnessing against Capital Punishment	56
Slovak Zion Synod (7G)	
2014 Mission Support Plan	39
Social Statement on Criminal Justice	44
Implementing Resolutions	46
Social Statement on Women and Justice: One in Christ	47, 52
South Carolina Synod (9C)	
2013 Mission Support Plan	38
2014 Mission Support Plan	39
South Dakota Synod (3C)	
2014 Mission Support Plan	39
South-Central Synod of Wisconsin (5K)	
2014 Mission Support Plan	39
Southeast Michigan Synod (6A)	
2014 Mission Support Plan	39
Southeastern Minnesota Synod (3I)	
2013 Mission Support Plan	38
2014 Mission Support Plan	39
Southeastern Synod (9D)	
2014 Mission Support Plan	39
Immigration Reform	56
Southwestern Minnesota Synod (3F)	
2014 Mission Support Plan	39

Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod (8B)	
2014 Mission Support Plan	39
Southwestern Texas Synod (4E)	
2014 Mission Support Plan	39
Southwestern Washington Synod (1C)	
2014 Mission Support Plan	39
Synodical Mission Support Plans	
Revisions to 2013	37
T	
Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod (4F)	
2014 Mission Support Plan	39
Theological Education	
Advisory Council	34
Mission Support	35
Proposal on	11, 32
Theological Education and Leadership Development	
Consultation on	11
Treasurer, Report of the	19
Trinity Lutheran Seminary	
Board Election	59
U	
Ulrich	
Bishop Gerhard, of Germany	14
Unfinished and Additional Agenda Items	
Consideration of	52
United Evangelical Lutheran Church in Germany	14
Upstate New York Synod (7D)	
2014 Mission Support Plan	39
V	
Vice President, Report of the	10
Virginia Synod (9A)	
2014 Mission Support Plan	39
Voting Members	1
W	
Western Iowa Synod (5E)	
2014 Mission Support Plan	39
Western North Dakota Synod (3A)	
2014 Mission Support Plan	39
Witnessing against Capital Punishment	
Sierra Pacific Synod (2A)	56
<i>Women and Justice: One in Christ</i>	
Social Statement on	47, 52
Word and Service Task Force, Update on	48
World Hunger Program Activities	
Guidelines for ELCA	19
Y	
Youth and Young Adult Advisors	1