

**EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
IN AMERICA**

Church Council

MINUTES

August 14, 2011

**Prepared by the
Office of the Secretary**

**EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
CHURCH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES
August 14, 2011
Orlando World Center Marriott
Orlando, Florida**

The seventy-second meeting of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) was convened on Sunday, August 14, 2011, in the Marcos Island and Harbor Beach Rooms of the Orlando World Center Marriott at Orlando, Florida. Prior to the meeting, council members gathered in the Vinoy Room for a Service of Holy Communion with the Conference of Bishops, synodical vice presidents of the ELCA, and regional coordinators. The Rev. Allan C. Bjornberg, chair of the Conference of Bishops and bishop of the Rocky Mountain Synod, preached and the Rev. Susan Langhauser presided. The Conference of Bishops and synodical vice presidents attended the first plenary session of the council meeting.

ORGANIZATION OF MEETING

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

Voting Members

Officers:

Bp. Mark S. Hanson, presiding bishop
Mr. Carlos E. Peña, vice president
Mr. David D. Swartling, secretary
Ms. Christina Jackson-Skelton, treasurer

Church Council:

Pr. David P. Anderson
Mr. Baron Blanchard
Ms. Rebecca Jo Brakke
Ms. Rebecca D. Carlson
Ms. Deborah L. Chenoweth
Pr. Rachel L. Connelly
Mr. John R. Emery
Pr. Amsalu T. Geleta
Ms. Karin Lynn Graddy
Mr. Mark S. Helmke
Ms. Louise A. Hemstead
Mr. William B. Horne II
Pr. Keith A. Hunsinger
Mr. Mark E. Johnson
Pr. Susan Langhauser
Pr. Steven P. Loy
Pr. Heather S. Lubold

Pr. Yvonne I. Marshall
Ms. Susan W. McArver
Pr. Raymond A. Miller
Mr. John S. Munday
Mr. Mark W. Myers
Ms. Ann F. Niedringhaus
Pr. J. Pablo Obregon
Mr. Iván A. Pérez (*excused*)
Ms. Feronika A. Raming
Ms. Lynette M. Reitz
Ms. Sandra Schlesinger
Mr. Blaire P. Smith
Pr. Jeffrey "Jeff" B. Sorenson
Pr. Kathryn A. Tiede
Mr. David Truland
Pr. Philip R. Wold

Representatives of the Conference of Bishops

Bp. Allan C. Bjornberg
Bp. Wm. Chris Boerger
Bp. Michael L. Burk
Bp. Elizabeth Eaton
Bp. Murray D. Finck

Bp. Ralph E. Jones
Bp. Gerald L. Mansholt
Bp. Margaret G. Payne
Bp. Harold L. Usgaard
Bp. Martin D. Wells
Bp. Herman R. Yoos III

Resource People

Office of the Presiding Bishop:

Pr. M. Wyvetta Bullock, executive for administration
Mr. Kenneth W. Inskip, executive for research and evaluation
Pr. Marcus R. Kunz, executive for discernment of contextual and theological issues
Pr. Walter S. May, executive for synodical and constituent relations
Pr. Donald J. McCoid, executive for ecumenical and inter-religious relations
Pr. Darrell D. Morton, assistant to the presiding bishop for federal chaplaincy ministries
Ms. Myrna J. Sheie, executive for governance and institutional relations
Ms. Else B. Thompson, executive for human resources

Office of the Secretary:

Pr. Ruth E. Hamilton, assistant secretary
Mr. Phillip H. Harris, general counsel
Mr. Frank F. Imhoff, director for official documentation
Mr. David A. Ullrich, associate general counsel

Unit Executives:

Pr. Stephen P. Bouman, executive director, Congregational and Synodical Mission
Pr. Rafael Malpica Padilla, executive director, Global Mission

Separately Incorporated Ministries:

Ms. Linda Post Bushkofsky, executive director, Women of the ELCA
Mr. Douglas Haugen, director, Lutheran Men in Mission
Mr. John G. Kapanke, president and chief executive officer, Board of Pensions
Ms. Beth A. Lewis, president and chief executive officer, Augsburg Fortress, Publishers
Ms. Eva M. Roby, president-elect, Mission Investment Fund

Press:

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

Guests:

Pr. Linda O. Norman, treasurer-elect
Ms. Jodi L. Slattery, executive for governance and institutional relations, Office of the Presiding Bishop
(effective September 1, 2011)
Pr. Jeffrey D. Thiemann, president-elect of the Board of Pensions

**Sunday, August 14, 2011
Plenary Session I**

**CALL TO ORDER AND ADOPTION OF AGENDA
(Agenda I.A.)**

Background:

Agenda items had been distributed by mail and electronically.

Church Council Action:

Mr. Carlos E. Peña, vice president of the ELCA and chair of the Church Council, called the August 14, 2011, meeting of the council to order at 10:29 A.M. Eastern Daylight Time (EDT). At the invitation of the chair, the Rev. Allan C. Bjornberg, bishop of the Rocky Mountain Synod and chair of the Conference of Bishops, opened the meeting with prayer.

Vice President Peña welcomed the members of the Conference of Bishops and the synodical vice presidents in attendance for the first plenary session of the meeting. He stated that the Church Council would enter into a closed session at the conclusion of the second plenary session. He also made several announcements regarding logistics of the 2011 Churchwide Assembly.

Vice President Peña introduced the following action, which was moved and seconded by Church Council members.

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, Vice President Peña called for a vote.

VOTED:

CC11.08.47 To adopt the agenda and to permit the chair to call for consideration of agenda items in the order the chair deems most appropriate.

The chair declared the motion had been approved.

REPORTS OF THE OFFICERS

PRESIDING BISHOP MARK S. HANSON

(Agenda I.B.1)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on the Rev. Mark S. Hanson, presiding bishop of the ELCA, who reported:

“I begin today with that refrain that we hear in the Pauline letters: ‘I thank my God for you.’ There is a way the Churchwide Assemblies mark time for us, particularly the marking of the time since 2009. I want to thank God for you, particularly you in synodical leadership—bishops and vice presidents—for the way that you have accompanied congregations, rostered leaders, and members in their discernment about the implications of our 2009 Churchwide Assembly decisions, for their life, for their ministries, for our witness in the world. You have done that with great attentiveness to the Gospel, great care for relationships, grounded always in a commitment to who we are as a confessional, evangelical, ecumenical church—the ELCA—and you have done that faithfully and consistently. So, hear our gratitude.

“I have a deep prayer that this Churchwide Assembly will be like I experienced your synod assemblies and my colleagues in the churchwide organization experienced them this spring. Every time we came back from a weekend, well, we were jazzed. I guess that is a difficult image to imagine of some of us, but we just came back, and over coffee and

in the halls, we began to say, 'Wow, the Spirit was moving at this assembly.' We heard it in the preaching; we witnessed it in the worship; we sensed it in the mission focus; we were so caught up in the new synodical authorized worshipping communities that are being formed out of those who want to remain in the ELCA. It is my prayer, and you will hear a little later more specifically, that that sense of the Spirit's presence, moving us, will be part of this assembly.

"A lot of attention has gone, in the past two years, to those who have sought to define us for us. At the same time, I think we as a church body have consistently, prayerfully, thoughtfully been engaged in a process of saying, 'This is who we discern that God has called us to be as a part of God's kingdom called the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.' And our identity is inseparable from the work to which God calls us and the Spirit gives us. You will hear in a little while that this assembly really is a celebration of that shared identity and vocation. It is much more liberating for me to lead a church that is defining itself rather than reacting to those who seek to define us for us. I believe that has been the process of these two years, and that will be the work of this assembly. I think, when we leave this assembly Friday, we will be thanking God for one another but also thanking God for the work of the Spirit in us and through us.

"This spring and summer has also been a time of transition in leadership. A little later in our agenda this morning you will meet some of those elected leaders that some of you on Church Council have been a part of electing. The board of trustees of the Board of Pensions has been involved and also MIF [the Mission Investment Fund of the ELCA]. I am delighted to introduce them to you later. We will also have time to recognize those who have left positions of leadership in the course of this day and this evening.

"The summer has also been a busy time of various groups in this church getting together. Women of the ELCA had a great triennial gathering in Spokane [Washington]. It also had that great sense of being connected not only to women all over the world but to God's work through women in the world, bringing peace and proclaiming the good news of Jesus. The next week, Lutheran Men in Mission gathered in Denver [Colorado], and there was that same sense of longing to have full engagement of men in the worshipping life of congregations, the leadership of synods and the churchwide organization. We have had several 'glocal' events, previously known as Global Mission Events. You will sense, in the mission encounter on Tuesday, we are really bringing together local and global mission experientially, because they are increasingly inseparable for us not only organizationally but how we live God's mission in the world. Those have been great renewing events.

"So, I look forward to giving you a little opening to the Churchwide Assembly in a little bit, but I want to thank colleagues in the churchwide organization for the way that we have now positioned this new design for the sake of mission, and we are well into living in that new design. I thank each of you for your shared leadership and continue to pray for this assembly that it may honor God's gift to us in Christ and the Spirit's work."

Vice President Peña thanked Presiding Bishop Hanson for his report.

SECRETARY DAVID D. SWARTLING
(Agenda I.B.2)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña asked Mr. David D. Swartling, secretary of the ELCA, to provide an update.

Secretary Swartling noted that specifics about the Churchwide Assembly would be provided later in this meeting. He drew attention to the assembly's theme, Freed in Christ to Serve, and related it to the work of this church's assembled leadership. The secretary recalled serving as parliamentarian for the 2005 Churchwide Assembly, which was also held at the Orlando World Center Marriott, and he introduced Mr. John Sleasman, who was serving as parliamentarian for the 2011 Churchwide Assembly.

Vice President Peña thanked Secretary Swartling for his comments.

TREASURER CHRISTINA JACKSON-SKELTON
(Agenda I.B.3; Exhibit F)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on Ms. Christina Jackson-Skelton, treasurer of the ELCA, who asked those present to turn to the five-month financial report for the period ending June 30, 2011, which was in Exhibit F of the meeting's materials. She expressed confidence in the income projections and spending plans for the current fiscal year.

Treasurer Jackson-Skelton reviewed the financial report, which she said she would also present to the 2011 Churchwide Assembly. She discussed mission-support plans, adjustments, and actual income. The treasurer also assessed other sources of income for the churchwide organization.

Vice President Peña thanked the officers for their reports, and those present responded with applause.

CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY ORIENTATION AND PREVIEW

(Agenda I.C)

Background:

The Conference of Bishops and synodical vice presidents joined the Church Council for an overview of Churchwide Assembly business and procedures by Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson and Secretary David D. Swartling. The Program booklet and Order of Business of the Churchwide Assembly served as resources for the discussion.

PRESIDING BISHOP MARK S. HANSON

(Agenda I.C.1)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson, who expanded on the theme of the 2011 Churchwide Assembly and his earlier comments about this assembly focusing on the identity of the ELCA. He outlined many of the non-legislative elements of the gathering. He also summarized some of the issues the assembly would discuss in legislative sessions.

ASSEMBLY-RELATED MATTERS

(Agenda I.C.2)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña asked Secretary David D. Swartling to present other assembly-related items.

Secretary Swartling provided detailed information about the schedule, agenda, logistics, and organization of the Churchwide Assembly. He made several points about parliamentary procedure and the rules of the assembly.

Vice President Peña asked those present whether they had questions for either Secretary Swartling or Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson.

One person expressed gratitude for the pilot paperless project in which a number of synods will use iPads to access documents at the assembly.

The Rev. Bruce H. Burnside, bishop of the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin, asked for the topics, times, and locations for the hearings of the Churchwide Assembly.

Secretary Swartling drew attention to that information on page 8 of the assembly's Program.

Vice President Peña thanked Presiding Bishop Hanson and Secretary Swartling for the assembly orientation and preview.

OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED BYLAW AMENDMENTS

(Agenda I.D; Exhibit D)

At the request of Vice President Carlos E. Peña, Secretary David D. Swartling provided an overview of proposed amendments to the bylaws of 8.31. and 8.32. that would allow an ELCA seminary to be within an ELCA college or university. The proposed revisions are provided below under agenda item II.D.1. and in Exhibit D of the meeting's materials.

Secretary Swartling noted that conversations between Lenoir-Rhyne University (LRU), Hickory, N.C., and Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary (LTSS), Columbia, S.C., necessitated proposing that the 2011 Churchwide Assembly amend the bylaws. He introduced the Rev. Jonathan P. Strandjord, director for educational partnerships, and the Rev. Mark N. Wilhelm, associate executive director for educational partnerships of the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit, and he asked the chair that they be permitted to address the gathering.

Pr. Wilhelm described this church's Study of Theological Education, adopted by the 1995 Churchwide Assembly, and its groundwork for a network of theological education that could adapt to a variety of scenarios. Informal talks between the presidents of LRU and LTSS had evolved into initiation of a feasibility study of the seminary's becoming a graduate school of the university. The boards of both institutions approved implementing the findings of the study by the summer of 2012, he reported, if such barriers as the related bylaws of the ELCA could be overcome. Current bylaws require seminaries of this church to be separately incorporated.

Pr. Strandjord drew the gathering's attention to provisions 8.31. and 8.32. and their intent that seminaries of this church be accountable to this church and that this church "sponsor, support, and provide for oversight of" its seminaries. He said the proposed bylaw revisions maintain that interrelationship whether the seminary is separately incorporated or not.

Secretary Swartling announced that the Church Council would act on the proposed bylaw amendments during the second plenary session of the meeting and that the proposal had been reviewed by the council's Legal and Constitutional Review Committee.

Vice President Peña asked that the proposal be discussed during the second plenary session.

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, bishop of the Northeastern Ohio Synod, observed that the interrelationships of several colleges and universities of the ELCA with this church were waning. She expressed caution that a seminary within such a university may experience a similar move away from the ELCA.

Pr. Strandjord suggested that the proposed bylaw amendments require an interrelationship with this church that would draw the seminary's university closer to the ELCA.

Vice President Peña asked that the proposal be discussed further during the second plenary session.

NOMINATIONS, APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS

(Agenda I.E)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña commented on the transition in leadership that Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson had mentioned in his report. The chair invited the presiding bishop to make related introductions.

Presiding Bishop Hanson noted that Ms. Christina Jackson-Skelton continued as treasurer through the end of August 2011. He introduced the Rev. Linda O. Norman as treasurer-elect of the ELCA and described her background.

Pr. Norman expressed her gratitude for the leaders of this church.

BOARD OF PENSIONS

(Agenda I.E.1)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on Mr. John G. Kapanke, president of the Board of Pensions.

Mr. Kapanke announced that the Rev. Jeffrey D. Thiemann would become president and chief executive officer of the Board of Pensions on October 1, 2011. Mr. Kapanke presented Pr. Thiemann's background.

Pr. Thiemann said he looked forward to continuing promotion of the physical and emotional health of this church's leaders.

MISSION INVESTMENT FUND

(Agenda I.E.2)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña asked Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson to continue the introductions.

Presiding Bishop Hanson noted that Treasurer Christina Jackson-Skelton had served as president of the Mission Investment Fund of the ELCA (MIF) and that she also would be leaving that position to become executive director of the Mission Advancement unit.

The presiding bishop introduced Ms. Eva M. Roby as president-elect of the MIF and outlined her background.

Ms. Roby expressed her interest in talking individually at some time with each person in attendance.

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDING BISHOP

Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson mentioned that Ms. Myrna J. Sheie planned to retire on August 31, 2011, as executive for governance and institutional relations in the Office of the Presiding Bishop.

The presiding bishop introduced as Ms. Sheie's successor, Ms. Jodi L. Slattery, who had served as program director for grassroots advocacy and communication in the ELCA Washington, D.C., office.

Ms. Slattery expressed gratitude for her opportunity to serve this church and for Ms. Sheie's example of leadership.

Presiding Bishop Hanson announced that Ms. Kathryn Lohre had accepted the position of director for ecumenical and inter-religious relations of the ELCA, effective October 2011. Ms. Lohre also will be installed in November 2011 as president of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A.

Vice President Peña congratulated those who had been elected or appointed to new positions.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on Secretary David D. Swartling to make some announcements.

Secretary Swartling gave instructions regarding lunch and a photo of the Church Council members to be taken before Plenary Session II. He also described the locations for the afternoon sessions.

RECESS

The August 14, 2011, meeting of the Church Council recessed at 12:06 P.M. EDT.

**Sunday, August 14, 2011
Plenary Session II**

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called the second plenary session of the August 14, 2011, meeting to order at 1:31 P.M. EDT in the Key West Ballroom of the of the Orlando World Center Marriott at Orlando, Florida.

DWELLING IN THE WORD
(Agenda II.B)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña asked Mr. Mark S. Helmke to share his reflections on “dwelling in the Word.” Mr. Helmke recalled the death of his brother while touring Europe together and relying on his pocket Bible to summon the words of Romans 8: “For I am convinced that neither death, nor life . . . will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

REVISIONS TO ELCA GOVERNING DOCUMENTS
CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY RECOMMENDATIONS: GOVERNING DOCUMENTS
(Agenda II.D.1;Exhibit D)

Background:

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

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

Proposed bylaws had been recommended to the Church Council by its Legal and Constitutional Review Committee to facilitate a merger between Lenoir-Rhyne University (LRU), Hickory, N.C., and Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary (LTSS), Columbia, S.C.

Background information from the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit:

Over the past several years the ELCA’s seminaries have been working with each other and with other partners to organize their educational and administrative work in ways that advance a strong, wide-reaching, and sustainable theological education network that meets the leadership needs of a church in mission. In this work, ELCA colleges and universities have emerged as particularly important partners. In conversations over the past several months, LTSS and LRU have come to the conviction, in consultation with synod bishops, the ELCA seminary presidents, and churchwide leaders, that the two schools can best serve the ELCA’s work of theological education by moving toward merger, with LTSS becoming part of LRU.

In their current form, ELCA bylaws relating to seminaries require them to be separately incorporated. During the past several months, the Office of the Secretary has worked with the leadership of LTSS, LRU, and staff of the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit to enable a seminary to be part of an ELCA college or university. The proposed revisions were crafted to allow these seminaries within colleges or universities to have the same close connections with the rest of this church that separately incorporated seminaries enjoy.

New proposed bylaw 8.31.01. would authorize a seminary of this church to be an unincorporated “school, department, or unit of a college or university of this church.” Such an unincorporated seminary would have an advisory council or governing board distinct from the board of directors of the college or university (8.31.04.), as well as a chief administrative officer instead of a president (8.31.06.). As with incorporated seminaries, changes to governing

documents of unincorporated seminaries affiliated with a college or university would require approval by the ELCA Church Council (8.31.02.), and such seminaries would remain subject to ELCA constitutional provision 8.31. with respect to sponsorship, support, and oversight. New proposed bylaw 8.32.06. would require a college or university of this church that includes a seminary to comply with provision 8.31. and its associated bylaws. Finally, some language in bylaws relating to separately incorporated seminaries has been proposed to better reflect current standard practices in higher education.

The Conference of Bishops, presidents of seminaries, and presidents of colleges and universities have reviewed the proposed bylaws.

Church Council Action:

Vice President Carlos E. Peña reminded the Church Council of the discussion on this topic that had begun during the first plenary session of this meeting. He called on Secretary David D. Swartling to provide further background information.

Secretary Swartling noted that the Rev. Jonathan P. Strandjord and the Rev. Mark N. Wilhelm were available to answer any additional questions. The secretary described the review process that the proposed amendments had gone through, mindful of the precedent it may set for theological education in this church.

The Rev. Philip R. Wold asked whether there are other examples of two seminary board members elected “by the bishops of the supporting synods from among their number.”

Pr. Strandjord replied that it was the current practice for seminary boards.

Pr. Wilhelm also responded that the proposed board structure would carry over from the current policy.

Ms. Rebecca Jo Brakke raised a series of questions about the logistics and possible fundraising coordination of LRU and LTSS.

Pr. Strandjord remarked that many of the fundraising efforts of the seminary had already been contracted through the university.

Pr. Wilhelm added that, as a graduate school of the university, the university would assume responsibility for many of the seminary’s donor and alumni operations.

Ms. Sandra Schlesinger asked whether other church bodies were doing anything similar.

Pr. Wilhelm replied that other Christian denominations in the United States have seminaries that are graduate schools within universities. He added that ELCA seminaries have the distinction of being more closely related to their church. He mentioned as well that, if the ELCA amends its bylaws, the board of LRU will need to amend the university’s bylaws to conform to them.

Ms. Susan W. McArver asked whether colleges would agree to this relationship while many are loosening their ties with this church.

Pr. Wilhelm indicated that, compared with other church bodies, the ELCA’s colleges and universities are more closely related to their church. He added that the proposed opportunity to incorporate a seminary into the college or university would likely strengthen the relationship between that college or university and this church.

The Rev. Jeffrey “Jeff” B. Sorenson asked whether the proposed bylaw amendments would make it possible for a college or university of the ELCA to develop a school of theology with another church body.

Pr. Strandjord responded that it would be possible; however, the decision would not be made unilaterally by the college or university; the Church Council would have to agree.

Secretary Swartling pointed out that seminaries are required to be participants in the Board of Pensions plans while the colleges and universities are not. Retirement and benefit negotiations are involved in the merger.

The Rev. Steven P. Loy envisioned theological education consolidating into a small number of institutions across the United States in the next 50 years.

Pr. Wilhelm commented on the relationships of seminaries and universities. He added that the broad variety of structures for seminaries did not lend themselves to consolidation.

The Rev. Heather S. Lubold asked what it would mean for a seminary to become unincorporated.

Mr. Phillip H. Harris, general counsel of the ELCA, replied that an unincorporated seminary could not own property and would no longer completely govern itself. The seminary could not be sued, and the university would bear the

consequences of the seminary's decisions. He suggested thinking of an incorporated seminary as a person and an unincorporated seminary as a member of a family.

Pr. Lubold asked whether there was any risk in the university dissolving the seminary.

Pr. Strandjord responded that dissolution would mean taking the assets of the seminary and reassigning them. The assets of LTSS are restricted for the purpose of providing Lutheran theological education. He added that the greatest asset of LTSS is its array of relationships as a Lutheran seminary.

The Rev. Keith A. Hunsinger asked whether the seminary would become "unincorporated" or "no longer separately incorporated."

Mr. Harris replied that "no longer separately incorporated" implied that the seminary would be incorporated in some other way.

Mr. David A. Ullrich, associate general counsel of the ELCA, noted that this church's regions are unincorporated. They function independently, but their budgets and staffing are part of the churchwide organization.

Pr. Hunsinger mentioned that LTSS would have corporate protections under LRU.

Pr. Loy asked whether LRU had plans to liquidate the property of LTSS in Columbia, S.C.

Pr. Wilhelm responded that LRU would be the sole surviving entity of the agreement, the capital assesses of LTSS are part of the negotiations, and it was conceivable that the real estate in Columbia could be liquidated. He added that it was LRU's immediate intention to develop graduate programs in addition to the seminary on the Columbia campus.

Mr. Mark W. Myers asked whether control of the seminary curriculum would be at risk.

Pr. Strandjord replied that the curriculum would be protected in much the same way as it is at separately incorporated seminaries of the ELCA.

Pr. Wilhelm said the seminary faculty takes leadership in protecting the curriculum.

The Rev. Kathryn A. Tiede asked whether Ms. McArver, who is on the faculty of LTSS as a professor of Church history and educational ministry, had any thoughts on the matter of the seminary's becoming part of LRU.

Ms. McArver replied that the seminary faculty was considering the advantages and disadvantages of becoming a graduate school of LRU.

Mr. Harris reminded the council that it was not being asked to approve the merger of a seminary and university; it was making such a merger possible if the two institutions agree to merge.

Secretary Swartling made the following motion on behalf of the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee.

Moved;

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

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

8.30. Relationship with Institutions and Agencies

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

8.31.01. Each seminary ~~shall be a seminary~~ of this church; shall be separately incorporated, and or, if unincorporated, shall be a school, department or unit of a college or university of this church. Whether separately incorporated or not, seminaries of this church shall be governed by its board of directors consistent with policies established by the Church Council upon recommendation of the appropriate unit of the churchwide organization. Seminaries may be organized into groupings, known as clusters, for the purposes of cooperation, interaction and support.

- 8.31.02. Amendments to the governing documents of each separately incorporated seminary and each seminary cluster shall be submitted, upon recommendation of the appropriate unit of the churchwide organization, to the Church Council for approval. Amendments to the governing documents of a college or university of this church that affect the authority or integrity of an unincorporated seminary of this church associated with that college or university shall be submitted, upon recommendation of the appropriate unit of the churchwide organization, to the Church Council for approval.
- 8.31.03. The board of directors of each separately incorporated seminary shall be nominated and elected to terms as specified in the governing documents of the respective seminaries, and shall consist of 20 to 30 members, as follows:
- At least one-fifth nominated, in consultation with the seminaries, by the appropriate churchwide unit and elected by the Church Council;
 - Two members elected by the bishops of the supporting synods from among their number; and
 - The remaining members elected by the supporting synods, in consultation with the seminaries, with the number to be elected by each synod set forth in the governing documents of the seminary.
- Elections shall be so arranged that the terms of all directors of any given seminary elected in any year shall commence simultaneously.
- 8.31.04. Each unincorporated seminary shall have an advisory council or governing board distinct from the board of directors of the college or university of which the seminary is a school, department or unit. The seminary advisory council or governing board shall relate to the Church Council through the appropriate churchwide unit. The members of the unincorporated seminary's advisory council or governing board shall be elected as specified in the governing documents of the related college or university, and shall consist of 12 to 30 members, as follows:
- At least one-fifth nominated by the Church Council upon recommendation of the appropriate churchwide unit after consultation with the seminary's advisory council or governing board;
 - Two members nominated by the bishops of the supporting synods from among their number;
 - One member, who shall serve as chair of the advisory council or governing board and as a voting member of the board of directors of the college or university, nominated by the Church Council, upon recommendation of the appropriate churchwide unit after consultation with the seminary's advisory council or governing board; and
 - The remaining members to be from the supporting synods, nominated by the seminary's advisory council or governing board in consultation with the supporting synods.
- 8.31.05. In accordance with the governing documents of each separately incorporated seminary, the board of directors shall elect the president of the seminary in consultation with the presiding bishop of this church and the appropriate ~~churchwide unit of the churchwide organization as designated by the Church Council, elect and retain faculty and administrative officers, and approve educational policies and programs for persons preparing for public ministry.~~ The board shall exercise all other normal governance functions, including the ~~granting of degrees, holding title to and managing all seminary~~

~~property and assets, receiving gifts and bequests, establishing salaries for faculty and administrative officers, providing for the financial resources and fiscal contracts required to operate the seminary, appointment of tenured faculty, and shall have authority to recruit students throughout this church.~~

- ~~8.31.0406.~~ Each unincorporated seminary shall have a chief administrative officer, such as an academic dean, seminary provost, or vice president, who is on the roster of ordained ministers of this church. In the appointment or election of the chief administrative officer of the seminary, the college or university shall consult with the seminary advisory council or governing board, the presiding bishop of this church, and the appropriate churchwide unit. The college or university board shall exercise all other normal governance functions, including the appointment of tenured faculty, in consultation with the seminary's advisory council or governing board, and shall have authority to recruit students throughout this church.
- 8.31.07. The seminaries shall receive churchwide and synodical financial support. The amount of such support shall be determined through a consultation process involving seminaries, synods, and the appropriate churchwide unit of the churchwide organization as designated by the Church Council. ~~¶8.31.05:~~ To implement financial support by this church, synods shall be assigned to specific seminaries in such manner as to attain equitable distribution of synods. Normally, all synods in a given region will be assigned to one seminary. Churchwide funds shall be distributed according to a formula developed by the appropriate churchwide unit and approved by the Church Council. ~~¶8.31.06:~~ Seminaries shall provide for their remaining financial requirements through tuition, fees, endowment income, and fund-raising programs. Fund-raising in the congregations of supporting synods, however, shall be conducted only upon approval of the synods.
- ~~8.31.0708.~~ Aid to students preparing for the ministries of this church shall be administered by the seminaries under guidelines developed by the appropriate churchwide units in consultation with the presidents of the seminaries and adopted by the Church Council.
- 8.32. Colleges and Universities. This church shall express its responsibility for higher education through its colleges and universities, the appropriate churchwide unit as determined by the Church Council, and its synods. While variation is possible in college or university relationships across this church, this church recognizes the desirability of some degree of uniformity of relationship for colleges and universities within the same region.
- 8.32.01. The relationship of this church to its colleges and universities shall be guided by policies fostering educational institutions dedicated to the Lutheran tradition wherein such institutions are an essential part of God's mission in the world; faithful to the will of God as institutions providing quality instruction in religion and a lively ministry of worship, outreach, and service; diligent in their preparation of leaders committed to truth, excellence, and ethical values; and pledged to the well-being of students in the development of mind, body, and spirit.
- 8.32.02. Colleges and universities of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America may relate to this church in various ways, including relationship with the Churchwide Assembly, a

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

- 8.32.03. Primary responsibility for recruiting members for its board belongs to each college or university of this church. This responsibility is best exercised when appropriate structures of this church are substantially involved. The college or university and the appropriate synods shall determine how many of the college or university board members are to be elected or ratified by the approved form of relationship as provided in 8.32.02.
- 8.32.04. The responsibility for initiating changes in constitutional documents rests with each college or university of this church. Each college or university will reach agreement with the appropriate structures of this church as identified in 8.32.02. regarding changes in constitutional documents. This church's participation may range from prior consultation to final approval.
- 8.32.05. Representation of members of this church on college or university boards, limitation of terms for board members, whether or not college or university presidents shall be members of this church, and representation of bishops of synods on college or university boards shall be determined by each institution and the appropriate synods.
- 8.32.06. In addition to and consistent with the above provision 8.32. and bylaws 8.32.01. through 8.32.05., colleges and universities of this church where a school, department or unit of that institution is a seminary of this church must comply with all requirements, policies, procedures and standards specified in provision 8.31. and bylaws 8.31.01. through 8.31.08.

Secretary Swartling said that constitutional amendments were being recommended to the Churchwide Assembly in three categories and these proposed amendments would be included in the *en bloc* consideration of general amendments to the constitution.

Pr. Sorenson observed that Lutheran theological education in the United States is benefitting by the presence of non-Lutherans and non-Christians on the same campus.

Pr. Tiede cited an article by the Rev. Marcus J. Miller, president of LTSS, in which he espoused the seminary being in a more populated context to advance the seminary's mission of reaching more people with the Gospel.

Pr. Rachel L. Connelly asked whether the bylaw amendments would make it possible for the seminary of a full-communion partner church body to be incorporated into an ELCA institution.

Pr. Wilhelm replied that this bylaw change does not address two seminaries seeking institutional merger.

Pr. Strandjord responded that church-to-church agreements would have to be made first, but such mergers may be possible in the future.

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

VOTED:

CC11.08.48

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

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

8.30. Relationship with Institutions and Agencies

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

8.31.01. Each seminary ~~shall be a seminary of this church, shall be separately incorporated, and or, if unincorporated, shall be a school, department or unit of a college or university of this church.~~ Whether separately incorporated or not, seminaries of this church shall be governed by its board of directors consistent with policies established by the Church Council upon recommendation of the appropriate unit of the churchwide organization. Seminaries may be organized into groupings, known as clusters, for the purposes of cooperation, interaction and support.

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

8.31.0203. The board of directors of each separately incorporated seminary shall be nominated and elected to terms as specified in the governing documents of the respective seminaries, and shall consist of ~~20~~ 20 to 30 members, as follows:

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

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

-
- 8.31.0304.** **Each unincorporated seminary shall have an advisory council or governing board distinct from the board of directors of the college or university of which the seminary is a school, department or unit. The seminary advisory council or governing board shall relate to the Church Council through the appropriate churchwide unit. The members of the unincorporated seminary's advisory council or governing board shall be elected as specified in the governing documents of the related college or university, and shall consist of 12 to 30 members, as follows:**
- a. At least one-fifth nominated by the Church Council upon recommendation of the appropriate churchwide unit after consultation with the seminary's advisory council or governing board;**
 - b. Two members nominated by the bishops of the supporting synods from among their number;**
 - c. One member, who shall serve as chair of the advisory council or governing board and as a voting member of the board of directors of the college or university, nominated by the Church Council, upon recommendation of the appropriate churchwide unit after consultation with the seminary's advisory council or governing board; and**
 - d. The remaining members to be from the supporting synods, nominated by the seminary's advisory council or governing board in consultation with the supporting synods.**
- 8.31.05.** **In accordance with the governing documents of each separately incorporated seminary, the board of directors shall elect the president of the seminary in consultation with the presiding bishop of this church and the appropriate churchwide unit of the churchwide organization as designated by the Church Council, elect and retain faculty and administrative officers, and approve educational policies and programs for persons preparing for public ministry. The board shall exercise all other normal governance functions, including the granting of degrees, holding title to and managing all seminary property and assets, receiving gifts and bequests, establishing salaries for faculty and administrative officers, providing for the financial resources and fiscal contracts required to operate the seminary, appointment of tenured faculty, and shall have authority to recruit students throughout this church.**
- 8.31.0406.** **Each unincorporated seminary shall have a chief administrative officer, such as an academic dean, seminary provost, or vice president, who is on the roster of ordained ministers of this church. In the appointment or election of the chief administrative officer of the seminary, the college or university shall consult with the seminary advisory council or governing board, the presiding bishop of this church, and the appropriate churchwide unit. The college or university board shall exercise all other normal governance functions, including the appointment of tenured**

faculty, in consultation with the seminary's advisory council or governing board, and shall have authority to recruit students throughout this church.

- 8.31.07.** The seminaries shall receive churchwide and synodical financial support. The amount of such support shall be determined through a consultation process involving seminaries, synods, and the appropriate churchwide unit ~~of the churchwide organization as designated by the Church Council.~~ ¶8.31.05: To implement financial support by this church, synods shall be assigned to specific seminaries in such manner as to attain equitable distribution of synods. Normally, all synods in a given region will be assigned to one seminary. Churchwide funds shall be distributed according to a formula developed by the appropriate churchwide unit and approved by the Church Council. ¶8.31.06: Seminaries shall provide for their remaining financial requirements through tuition, fees, endowment income, and fund-raising programs. Fund-raising in the congregations of supporting synods, however, shall be conducted only upon approval of the synods.
- 8.31.0708.** Aid to students preparing for the ministries of this church shall be administered by the seminaries under guidelines developed by the appropriate churchwide units in consultation with the presidents of the seminaries and adopted by the Church Council.
- 8.32.** Colleges and Universities. This church shall express its responsibility for higher education through its colleges and universities, the appropriate churchwide unit as determined by the Church Council, and its synods. While variation is possible in college or university relationships across this church, this church recognizes the desirability of some degree of uniformity of relationship for colleges and universities within the same region.
- 8.32.01.** The relationship of this church to its colleges and universities shall be guided by policies fostering educational institutions dedicated to the Lutheran tradition wherein such institutions are an essential part of God's mission in the world; faithful to the will of God as institutions providing quality instruction in religion and a lively ministry of worship, outreach, and service; diligent in their preparation of leaders committed to truth, excellence, and ethical values; and pledged to the well-being of students in the development of mind, body, and spirit.
- 8.32.02.** Colleges and universities of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America may relate to this church in various ways, including relationship with the Churchwide Assembly, a synodical assembly, or a corporation whose voting members are, or have been elected by, synodical assemblies, other organizational units (conferences, clusters, etc.), or congregations. Subject

to approval by the appropriate synods, a college or university may be owned by a not-for-profit corporation (1) that has voting members, at least 90 percent of whom shall consist of members of the Churchwide Assembly, and (2) that shall hold the meeting of such a corporation in conjunction with the Churchwide Assembly for the purpose of electing or ratifying members of the governing board and approving amendments to the governing documents. At least 60 percent of the members of the governing boards of the corporations that meet in conjunction with the Churchwide Assembly shall be members of this church.

- 8.32.03.** Primary responsibility for recruiting members for its board belongs to each college or university of this church. This responsibility is best exercised when appropriate structures of this church are substantially involved. The college or university and the appropriate synods shall determine how many of the college or university board members are to be elected or ratified by the approved form of relationship as provided in 8.32.02.
- 8.32.04.** The responsibility for initiating changes in constitutional documents rests with each college or university of this church. Each college or university will reach agreement with the appropriate structures of this church as identified in 8.32.02. regarding changes in constitutional documents. This church's participation may range from prior consultation to final approval.
- 8.32.05.** Representation of members of this church on college or university boards, limitation of terms for board members, whether or not college or university presidents shall be members of this church, and representation of bishops of synods on college or university boards shall be determined by each institution and the appropriate synods.
- 8.32.06.** In addition to and consistent with the above provision 8.32. and bylaws 8.32.01. through 8.32.05., colleges and universities of this church where a school, department or unit of that institution is a seminary of this church must comply with all requirements, policies, procedures and standards specified in provision 8.31. and bylaws 8.31.01. through 8.31.08.

Vice President Peña declared that the motion had been approved.

Secretary Swartling thanked Pr. Strandjord and Pr. Wilhelm for providing the council with background information.

EDITORIAL CHANGES TO CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

(Agenda II.D.2; Exhibit E)

Background:

The Legal and Constitutional Review Committee had reviewed and Secretary David D. Swartling had reported the editorial changes to constitutional amendments in accordance with the action adopted by the Church Council at its November 2010 meeting.

The following are the editorial changes reported to the August 2011 meeting of the Church Council in accordance with the action adopted at the council's November 2010 meeting:

Churchwide Organization Redesign

17.20.05.	Retain "and 16.12.14."
17.30.03.	Retain "and 16.12.14."
17.40.02	Retain "and 16.12.14."
17.50.03.	Retain "and 16.12.14."
17.70.A11	Delete
17.70.B11	Delete
17.70.C11	Delete
17.70.D11	Delete
17.60. (proposed)	Renumber to 15.15.
17.60.01. (proposed)	Renumber to 15.15.01.
17.60.02. (proposed)	Renumber to 15.15.02.
17.60.03. (proposed)	Renumber to 15.15.03.
17.60.04. (proposed)	Renumber to 15.15.04.

General

8.40.	Withdrawn from motion
8.41.	Withdrawn from motion
8.41.01.	Withdrawn from motion.
*C6.05.g., h., i.	Substitute "*C6.05." for "9.62."
*C17.04.	Typographical corrections.

The last three sentences should read: "Upon the request of ____ voting members of the congregation, the Congregation Council shall submit such notice and call a meeting. Following the adoption of an amendment, the secretary of the congregation shall submit a copy thereof to the synod. Such provisions shall become effective immediately following a vote of approval."

Church Council Information:

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on Secretary David D. Swartling, who explained that the Church Council had approved a recommendation to the Churchwide Assembly in November 2010 to amend the ELCA constitutions. It had also asked that editorial revisions to the recommendation be reported to the council. The secretary reported the revisions listed above, noting that the withdrawn changes may be considered substantive revisions. The recommendation to eliminate coalitions and special interest groups received feedback prompting reconsideration of the proposal. He suggested the council may recommend elimination of special interest groups to the 2013 Churchwide Assembly after further review.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW COUNCIL MEMBER

Vice President Carlos E. Peña noted that the Church Council had elected [CC11.04.19] the Rev. Yvonne I. Marshall to complete an unexpired term on the council and that she had attended conference call meetings of the Church Council, but this was the first meeting of the council that she had physically attended. He introduced Pr. Marshall.

Pr. Marshall described her background.

SYNOD MISSION-SUPPORT PLANS

REVISIONS TO 2011 SYNOD MISSION-SUPPORT PLANS

(Agenda II.E.1; Exhibit F)

Background:

The Church Council has responsibility for reviewing and taking action on synod mission-support plans as an interdependent partner with congregations and synods in implementing and strengthening the financial support for the work of this church (ELCA Constitution, 8.15. and 10.71.). Since the Budget and Finance Committee, which usually makes recommendations to the Church Council for action on synod mission-support plans, had not met prior to this council meeting, the Office of the Presiding Bishop and the Office of the Treasurer recommended the following actions on revisions to 2011 synod mission-support plans and on 2012 synod mission-support plans.

Exhibit F, Part 2 showed the actual mission support received from each synod for 2010 with plans and any revisions for the 2011 and 2012 fiscal years.

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

Church Council Action:

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on Secretary David D. Swartling, who made the following motion.

Moved;

Seconded:

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

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

To acknowledge with thanksgiving the decision of the following synods to maintain the percentage of sharing of 2011 mission-support contributions by congregations for synodical and churchwide ministries but estimating an adjustment in the estimated amount to be shared: Northwest Washington; Southwestern Washington; Pacifica; Northeastern Minnesota; Southwestern Minnesota; Nebraska; Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast; Central/Southern Illinois; South-Central Synod of Wisconsin; New England; and Southeastern Pennsylvania synods; and

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

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

VOTED:

CC11.08.49

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

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

To acknowledge with thanksgiving the decision of the following synods to maintain the percentage of sharing of 2011 mission-support contributions by congregations for synodical and churchwide ministries but estimating an adjustment in the estimated amount to be shared: Northwest Washington; Southwestern Washington; Pacifica; Northeastern Minnesota; Southwestern Minnesota; Nebraska; Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast; Central/Southern Illinois; South-Central Synod of Wisconsin; New England; and Southeastern Pennsylvania synods; and

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

Vice President Peña declared that the motion had been approved.

2012 SYNOD MISSION-SUPPORT PLANS

(Agenda II.E.2)

Background:

Notification of mission-support plans for 2012 had not been received from four synods. Since the April 2011 Church Council meeting, notification of original plans or revisions to previously submitted plans had been received from 34 synods.

Church Council Action:

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on Secretary David D. Swartling, who made the following motion.

Moved;

Seconded:

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

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

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

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

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

Vice President Peña invited the Rev. A. Craig Settlage, director for mission support, to address the council.

Pr. Settlage noted that the previous action had acknowledged a decrease in mission support from some synods in 2011. He reported that mission-support plans for 2012 were more encouraging. Since the April 2011 meeting of the Church Council, three synods had indicated their need to decrease their mission-support percentage, 10 synods had increased their mission-support percentage, and 22 had maintain their mission support at their 2012 percentage.

Treasurer Christina Jackson-Skelton noted that changes to mission-support plans are usually reported to the Church Council at its spring meeting. The economic situation had made it difficult for synods to plan their budgets and mission support prior to that meeting, she said, and four synods had not yet reported their plans.

The Rev. Jeffrey "Jeff" B. Sorenson pointed out that the motion included "to direct synod and churchwide staff," and he asked whether the Church Council had the authority to direct synod staff.

Secretary Swartling replied that directors for evangelical mission are both synod and churchwide staff.

Treasurer Jackson-Skelton responded that the wording had been recommended by the liaison bishops to the council.

The Rev. Amsalu T. Geleta asked how synods respond to the council's request for their plans.

Pr. Settlage replied that the council's action was part of a continuing conversation with the synods.

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

VOTED:

CC11.08.50

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

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

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

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

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

Vice President Peña declared that the motion had been approved.

EN BLOC APPROVAL OF CERTAIN ITEMS

(Agenda II.H; Exhibit B)

Background:

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

Each of the items had been noted as [*En Bloc*] in Exhibit B. At the beginning of the council meeting, the chair provided an opportunity for members to indicate whether they wished to discuss separately any of the items listed in the *en bloc* resolution; any such item would be removed from the *en bloc* resolution and discussed at the appropriate point in the agenda.

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

Church Council Action:

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on Secretary David D. Swartling, who noted that there had been no requests to remove any item from the *en bloc* resolution. The secretary made the following motion.

Moved;

Seconded: To take action *en bloc* on the following items [in Exhibit B]:

Vice President Peña called for the vote. After the vote, the chair declared that the motion had been approved.

VOTED:

CC11.08.51 To take action *en bloc* on the following items:

- VOTED:** *EN BLOC*
CC11.08.52 Authorization for Executive Committee service through the council's November 2011 meeting, p. 23;
- VOTED:** *EN BLOC*
CC11.08.53 Ratification of Church Council Committees for the 2011–2013 biennium, p. 23;
- VOTED:** *EN BLOC*
CC11.08.54 Approval of the 2011 revisions to the Church Council Orientation Manual, p. 24;
- VOTED:** *EN BLOC*
CC11.08.55 Appointment of lead director for the ELCA on the Board of Directors of Educational and Institutional Insurance Administrators, Inc., p. 24;
- VOTED:** *EN BLOC*
CC11.08.56 Election of members to the board of trustees of Lutheran Medical Center, p. 25;
- VOTED:** *EN BLOC*
CC11.08.57 Approval of appointments to the ELCA Audit Committee, p. 26;
- VOTED:** *EN BLOC*
CC11.08.58 Response to synod resolution on campus ministry, p. 26;
- VOTED:** *EN BLOC*
CC11.08.59 Response to and referral of synod resolution on the ELCA Health and Benefits program, p. 27;
- VOTED:** *EN BLOC*
CC11.08.60 Adoption of resolution approving signatories, p. 27;
- VOTED:** *EN BLOC*
CC11.08.61 Transmission of the slate of nominees for the churchwide Nominating Committee to the 2011 Churchwide Assembly, p. 28;
- VOTED:** *EN BLOC*
CC11.08.62 Ratification of certain amendments to synodical constitutions, p. 30;
- VOTED:** *EN BLOC*
CC11.08.63 Acknowledgment of an Independent Lutheran Organization, p. 37;

AUTHORIZATION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

(Agenda II.H.1)

Background:

At its meeting on August 13, 2011, the Executive Committee considered how the functions of the Executive Committee will be carried out between the Churchwide Assembly in August 2011 and the first regular meeting of the newly constituted Church Council in November 2011.

- VOTED:** *EN BLOC*
CC11.08.52 **To authorize the officers of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the continuing members of the Executive Committee to serve as the Executive Committee of the Church Council between the Churchwide Assembly and the November 2011 meeting of the Church Council.**

RATIFICATION OF CHURCH COUNCIL COMMITTEES FOR THE 2011–2013 BIENNIUM

(Agenda II.H.2)

Background:

In preparation for the August 2011 meeting of the Church Council, continuing members of the council were invited to indicate their preferences for service on one of the four standing committees of the Church Council—Budget and Finance, Legal and Constitutional Review, Planning and Evaluation, and Program and Services—plus the Board

Development Committee. At its August 2011 meeting, the Church Council was to ratify the provisional membership for the four standing committees.

Following the elections at the Churchwide Assembly and prior to the November 2011 Church Council meeting, newly elected council members will indicate their committee assignment preferences. A final listing of committee membership for the biennium will be ratified by the Church Council at its November 2011 meeting upon recommendation by the Executive Committee.

At its November 2011 meeting, the Church Council also will appoint members to related advisory committees for the biennium. Members of the Board Development Committee for the 2011–2013 biennium will be appointed by the Executive Committee in November 2011.

VOTED:

EN BLOC

CC11.08.53

To ratify the following appointments of continuing members of the Church Council to Church Council committees for the 2011–2013 biennium:

Budget and Finance Committee: Ms. Deborah L. Chenoweth; Mr. John R. Emery; Pr. Amsalu T. Geleta; Ms. Louise A. Hemstead; and Mr. Iván A. Pérez;

Legal and Constitutional Review Committee: Mr. Mark E. Johnson; Pr. Raymond A. Miller; and Mr. Blaire P. Smith;

Planning and Evaluation Committee: Ms. Rebecca D. Carlson; Ms. Karin Lynn Graddy; Mr. William B. Horne II; Pr. Susan Langhauser (*chair*); Pr. J. Pablo Obregon; and

Program and Services Committee: Ms. Rebecca Jo Brakke; Pr. Rachel L. Connelly; Pr. Yvonne I. Marshall; Ms. Susan W. McArver (*chair*); Mr. John S. Munday; Mr. Mark W. Myers; Ms. Feronika A. Raming; Pr. Kathryn A. Tiede; and Pr. Philip R. Wold.

REVISION OF CHURCH COUNCIL ORIENTATION MANUAL

(Agenda II.H.3; Exhibit G)

Background:

The Board Development Committee had requested that the Church Council Orientation Manual be revised. The revisions were completed by Wednesday, August 10, and the revised document uploaded to Net Community for review prior to the meeting. A hard copy of the revised manual was available for review at the meeting.

VOTED:

EN BLOC

CC11.08.54

To approve the 2011 revisions to the Church Council Orientation Manual as provided in Exhibit G.

NOMINATIONS, APPOINTMENTS, AND ELECTIONS

ELCA RISK MANAGEMENT, INC. AND EDUCATIONAL AND INSTITUTIONAL INSURANCE ADMINISTRATORS, INC.

(Agenda II.H.4; Exhibit B, Appendix 1)

Background:

Since 1988, the churchwide organization has provided risk management and insurance services to ELCA colleges, universities, and seminaries through ELCA Risk Management, Inc. (ELCARM), an Illinois not-for-profit corporation created specifically to provide these services to ELCA institutions of higher education. At present, 22 of 26 ELCA colleges and universities and all eight ELCA seminaries use ELCARM for these services. To make the services available, ELCARM has worked in concert with Education and Institutional Insurance Administrators, Inc. (EIIA), which

is a risk management corporation of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry of the United Methodist Church.

EIIA was formed for the purpose of providing similar insurance and risk management services to Methodist institutions of higher education. EIIA staff is composed of skilled insurance professionals and support staff, all of whom are full-time employees working solely on insurance affairs of ELCARM and three other consortia of denominational educational institutions, one related to the United Methodist Churches (UMC), one related to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) (PCUSA), and one related to the American Baptist Churches (ABC). Each denomination has worked with EIIA through its own separate corporation, similar to ELCARM, representing affiliated colleges, universities, and seminaries; these are referred to as the consortia. Collectively, these four consortia represent 138 church-related institutions of higher education, whose aggregate property, casualty, auto, general liability, and worker's compensation insurance premiums are the equivalent of the insurance premiums paid by a Fortune 200 corporation.

Under the existing corporate structure for ELCARM, the Church Council appointed five directors to the board of ELCARM, and the member institutions elected four directors to the board. This ELCARM board met July 19–21, 2011, in Chicago, Illinois, separately and in joint session with the directors of the UMC, PCUSA, and ABC consortia, to consider approving a plan to merge the consortia corporations, with EIIA as the surviving company. The proposal to merge was prompted primarily by a desire to relieve EIIA staff, participating church bodies, and member institutions of the administrative costs and inefficiencies attendant to managing multiple related consortia. The plan of merger was approved unanimously by ELCARM and by the other consortia.

The plan of merger now will be submitted to the membership of ELCARM and the other consortia for adoption. The members are the participating educational institutions in each consortia, and they have final authority to approve the merger. All member institutions of ELCARM automatically will become members of the new EIIA when the merger becomes effective. The new EIIA will continue the existing risk management and insurance services currently provided to ELCA institutions under ELCARM. After approval by the members, it is anticipated that the merger will become effective October 1, 2011.

Under the proposed merger, each denomination's participation in the new EIIA will be represented through a lead director. Together with lead directors of the other participating church bodies, the ELCA lead director will nominate and confirm the election of other directors for the board of the merged EIIA from the member institutions. The board of directors of the merged EIIA will have 22 or 23 members with the ELCA holding four seats, including that of the lead director. Only the UMC, which has the most member institutions, will have more directors than the ELCA. The ELCA lead director must be appointed by the Church Council, and the ELCARM board has unanimously endorsed the Rev. Mark N. Wilhelm, associate executive director for educational partnerships, Congregational and Synodical Mission.

Exhibit B, Appendix 1, describes the merger and reorganization in greater detail.

VOTED:

EN BLOC

CC11.08.55

To appoint the Rev. Mark N. Wilhelm as lead director for the ELCA on the Board of Directors of Educational and Institutional Insurance Administrators, Inc., effective upon the merger of ELCA Risk Management, Inc., with and into Educational and Institutional Insurance Administrators, Inc.

SOCIAL MINISTRY ORGANIZATIONS

(Agenda II.H.5)

Background:

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

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

VOTED:

EN BLOC

CC11.08.56 To elect to the board of trustees of Lutheran Medical Center to one-year terms expiring in 2012: Mr. John M. Nuzum and Dr. Gabriel Rincon; and To elect to the board of trustees of Lutheran Medical Center to a three-year term expiring in 2014: Mr. Randolph Peers.

BUDGET AND FINANCE ITEMS

AUDIT COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

(Agenda II.H.6)

Background:

The Audit Committee consists of six members. A minimum of two members should be members of the Church Council's Budget and Finance Committee, appointed by the Budget and Finance Committee, and forwarded to the Church Council for approval. Budget and Finance Committee members should be appointed for a two-year term with the possibility of reappointment up to their Church Council term. Non-Church Council members should be appointed for a two-year term, renewable for two additional terms. Terms need to be staggered in recognition of the need for continuity of committee membership from year to year.

VOTED:

EN BLOC

CC11.08.57 To approve the appointment of the following ELCA Audit Committee members to an additional two-year term, beginning August 2011: Ms. Deborah L. Chenoweth (chair), Ms. Louise A. Hemstead, Mr. Timothy L. Stephan, and Mr. Philip Bertram.

SYNODICAL RESOLUTIONS FOR REFERRAL

STABILITY IN FINANCIAL COMMITMENT TO CAMPUS MINISTRY

(Agenda II.H.7)

Metropolitan New York Synod (7C)

WHEREAS, young adults between the ages of 18 to 29 are among the most absent population in our worshiping communities, and Lutheran Ministries in Higher Education serves alongside the colleges and universities where large numbers of young adults are engaged in higher education; and

WHEREAS, a significant number of professional leaders in the ELCA cite Lutheran Ministries in Higher Education as instrumental in assisting them in their call to professional ministry in this church; and

WHEREAS, longitudinal research regarding the factors that encourage young adults to remain committed to ministry in this church, by Dr. Roland Martinson, includes campus ministries in higher education as one of the key factors in sustaining a young adult's faith; and

WHEREAS, in its social statement on education, Our Calling in Education (adopted as amended by the 2007 Churchwide Assembly by a vote of 949-35), this church recalls that Martin Luther "taught that education served the common good of Church and society: In a move unusual for his day, he taught that schools for all—both those who were wealthy and those who were poor, both boys and girls—were necessary so that the Church would have learned and faithful pastors and the civil community would have wise and good rulers;" and

WHEREAS, in Our Calling in Education, the ELCA states that "the calling in education belongs to this whole church. Individuals, families, congregations, early childhood education centers and schools, colleges and universities, seminaries, outdoor ministries,

campus ministries, lifelong learning centers, publishing ministry, social ministry organizations, synods, and the churchwide organization all participate in this calling;" and

WHEREAS, Our Calling in Education "calls the ELCA in light of our faith to engage, deliberate, and act with respect to four contexts: home and congregation, public education, this church's educational institutions, and public colleges and universities. Our calling in relationship to the fourth context in education is to support public higher education to serve the common good and rejoice in the faithful presence of campus ministry in public colleges and universities" (emphasis added); and

WHEREAS, the ELCA has announced a 38 percent reduction in support (from fiscal year 2011 to fiscal year 2012) for campus ministries and encouraged greater involvement and support from synods, congregations, and individuals; and

WHEREAS, local campus ministry sites and Lutheran Ministries in Higher Education are already actively engaged in raising additional funds to sustain these vital ministries; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Council recommend that the Church Council provide for a period of stability relative to its commitment to campus ministry in our church over a five-year period, with no further cuts from the fiscal year 2012 amounts already announced, while working with synods, state and regional campus ministry boards, local boards, and campus pastors to ensure and develop sustainable funding models.

VOTED:

EN BLOC

**CC11.08.58 To receive the resolution of the Metropolitan New York Synod calling for stability in the financial commitment to campus ministry;
To acknowledge the action of the 2011 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America related to Lutheran Campus Ministry as the response of the Church Council to the synod's resolution; and
To request the secretary of this church to inform the synod of this action.**

ELCA HEALTH AND BENEFITS PROGRAM

(Agenda II.H.8)

Southeastern Minnesota Synod (3I)

WHEREAS, both the North American Lutheran Church and Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ are encouraging congregations, clergy, and laity to leave the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA); and

WHEREAS, some clergy have violated the governing documents of the ELCA by encouraging their congregations to leave the ELCA; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the 2011 Southeastern Minnesota Synod in assembly request that the Church Council consider removing, from the health and benefits program of this church, clergy who have left the ELCA.

VOTED:

EN BLOC

**CC11.08.59 To receive with gratitude the resolution of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod related to ELCA Health and Benefits program;
To refer the resolution to the Board of Pensions in consultation with the Office of the Presiding Bishop, Office of the Secretary, and Office of the Treasurer;
To request that a report and possible recommendations be brought to the November 2011 meeting of the Church Council; and
To request that the secretary of this church inform the synod of this action.**

APPROVAL OF SIGNATORIES

(Agenda II.H.9)

Background:

In April 1990, the Church Council adopted a resolution [CC90.04.31] authorizing signatures by assistant vice presidents and assistant secretaries for the execution of documents on behalf of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:

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

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

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

Personnel changes have necessitated action to update that resolution.

VOTED:

EN BLOC

CC11.08.60 *To adopt the following resolution:*

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

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

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

RESOLVED, that the previous appointments of assistant vice presidents and assistant secretaries of this corporation (CC90.04.32, CC92.11.103, CC96.11.61b, CC03.11.85, CC07.11.90, CC08.11.52, CC09.03.39) be and are hereby rescinded; and be it further

RESOLVED, for the sole purpose of executing documents, as specified in CC90.04.31, that the following be and are hereby appointed as assistant vice presidents of this corporation: Pr. M. Wyvetta Bullock, Pr. Marcus R. Kunz, Pr. Walter S. May, and Ms. Jodi L. Slattery; and be it further

RESOLVED, for the sole purpose of executing documents, as specified in CC90.04.31, that the following be and are hereby appointed as assistant secretaries of this corporation: Pr. Ruth E. Hamilton, Mr. Phillip H. Harris, Ms. Laura L. Knitt, Ms. Mary Beth Nowak, and Mr. David A. Ullrich.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

(Agenda II.H.10; Exhibit A)

Background:

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

Biographical information was provided in Exhibit A.

VOTED:

EN BLOC

CC11.08.61

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

To note that bylaw 19.21.01. states in regard to the Nominating Committee: "The Church Council shall place in nomination the names of two persons for each position. The committee shall consist of at least one member but no more than three members from any region. Nominations from the floor shall be permitted, but each floor nomination shall be presented as an alternative to a specific category named by the Church Council and shall therefore meet the same criteria as the persons against whom the nominee is nominated. In the materials provided in advance to each member of the assembly, the Church Council shall set forth the criteria applicable to each category that must be met by persons nominated from the floor";

To request, therefore, that the Church Council restrict the tickets to the following: clergy [two positions]; lay female; lay female; lay female (youth or young adult); lay male; lay young adult [two-year term]; and

To request that the Church Council transmit the following slate of nominees to the 2011 Churchwide Assembly:

CHURCHWIDE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Clergy

- A. Pr. Cherlyne V. Beck, Detroit, Mich. (6A)
- B. Pr. Joy Mortensen-Wiebe, Oshkosh, Wis. (5J)

Clergy

- A. Pr. Theodore W. Asta, Worcester, Mass. (7B)
- B. Pr. Jonathan W. Linman, New York, N.Y. (7C)

Lay Female

- A. Ms. Susan M. Berg, Bothell, Wash. (1B)
- B. Ms. Lori J. Splinter, Palmdale, Calif. (2B)

Lay Female [Restricted to Region 4]

- A. Ms. Stephanie S. Varnum, Dallas, Texas (4D)
- B. Ms. Vernetta I. Wilson, Tulsa, Okla. (4C)

Lay Female [Restricted to Region 8]

- A. Ms. Linda M. Chinnia, Baltimore, Md. (8F) (PC/L)
- B. Ms. Jeannette Christensen, Monroeville, Penn. (8B)

Lay Male

- A. Mr. Baron Blanchard, Bismarck, N.D. (3A)
- B. Mr. Ronald C. Tvedt, Bottineau, N.D. (3A)

Lay Young Adult [Two-year term]

- A. Mr. Joe Beasley, Richmond, Va. (9A) (Y/YA)
- B. Ms. Emily Isensee, Vancouver, Wash. (1C) (Y/YA)

RATIFICATION OF SYNOD CONSTITUTIONS

(Agenda II.H.11)

Background:

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

VOTED:

EN BLOC

CC11.08.62 *To ratify the following amendments to synodical constitutions:*

Rocky Mountain Synod (2E)

Background from the Rocky Mountain Synod:

S9.03.a. lines 6 – 8 “~~(The first five conference members shall be elected for one year and five for two years, thereafter on a rotating basis.)~~”

Rationale: This sentence was needed for the first year of the ELCA; it is no longer necessary.

S11.18. Reference and Counsel Committee. See S7.32.11., S7.32.11.A06., and S7.32.11.B06.

Rationale: This committee functions as an Oversight Ministry Team, so it should be included in the list in S11.21.A10. and as a separate reference in the listing preceding S11.18. [The 2011 Rocky Mountain Synod Assembly added “Reference and Counsel Committee” to continuing resolution S11.21.A10., in accordance with †S18.31.]

S11.51.b. “The organizations for men and youth, ~~if and when established as synodical units~~ Lutheran Men in Mission and Lutheran Youth Organization (LYO);”

Rationale: These organizations are now established and named.

To ratify amendments to the constitution of the Rocky Mountain Synod as proposed by its Synod Council and adopted by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present and voting at the 2011 Rocky Mountain Synod Assembly:

S9.03. There shall be a Nominating Committee consisting of 12 members.

- a. **One member shall be elected from each of the ten conferences to serve for a two-year term, not eligible for reelection. In the absence of an election by the conference, the Synod Council, in consultation with the conference dean, shall appoint a person from that conference to serve on Nominating Committee.** ~~(The first five conference members shall be elected for one year and five for two years, thereafter on a rotating basis.)~~

S11.18. Reference and Counsel Committee. See S7.32.11., S7.32.11.A06., and S7.32.11.B06.

S11.51. To promote interdependent relations and to further the total mission of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and synodical units, this synod shall accord to the Churchwide units the privilege of presenting their causes through reports to the regular Synod Assemblies and shall accord the privilege of representation with voice but not vote at meetings of the Synod Council.

Such groups shall include but are not limited to:

- a. **The synodical women’s organization;**
- b. **The organizations for men and youth, ~~if and when established as synodical units~~ Lutheran Men in Mission and Lutheran Youth Organization (LYO);**

Saint Paul Area Synod (3H)

Background from the Saint Paul Area Synod:

S7.15. Change to reflect current practice

S7.29. To reflect the dissolution of LYO in this synod

- S8.55. To align the synod constitution with the ELCA model constitution for synods
- S9.03. Amend and move S9.03. to S9.03.01.
Addition of title to provide greater clarity to this section
- S9.04., which addresses changes in the re-election of the bishop, was presented in 2010 for plenary discussion.
To amend by eliminating the conference process in the re-election of a bishop
- S9.11. To delete to reflect changes in governance structure of regions
- S9.12. S9.14. To re-number the following because of the inclusion of the mandatory provision †S9.12.
- S9.13. S9.16. To re-number the following because of the inclusion of the mandatory provision †S9.12.
- S10.03. To amend because of current governance of regions and to re-number accordingly
- S11.05., S11.06., and S11.07. To change the following constitution provisions to bylaws, so that they align with the format of S10.01.04., S10.01.05., and S10.01.06, and to re-number accordingly
- S11.20. and S11.21. To delete provisions for leadership teams because they are no longer assigned program responsibility
- S11.40. and S11.41. To re-number

To ratify amendments to the constitution of the Saint Paul Area Synod as presented to the 2010 Saint Paul Area Synod Assembly and adopted by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present and voting at the 2011 Saint Paul Area Synod Assembly:

- S7.15. The Synod Council shall determine the time and place for each Synod Assembly, and be responsible for the preparation of its proposed agenda and program. The Bishop, in consultation with the Synod Council, shall determine the time and place for each Synod Assembly and be responsible for the preparation of its proposed agenda, and program.**
- ~~S7.29. Voting membership of the synod assembly shall include six youth representatives from the Lutheran Youth Organization Board. [In the Saint Paul Area Synod, the local expression of the Lutheran Youth Organization is Lutheran Youth Networking for Christ (LYNC).]~~
- S8.55. Should the vice president, secretary, or treasurer die, resign, or be unable to serve, the Synod Council shall appoint an interim officer to fill the vacancy for the duration of the term or until the officer is able to serve again. Such a person shall be eligible for regular election to the office by the Synod Assembly. Should the vice president, secretary, or treasurer die, resign, or be unable to serve, the bishop, with the approval of the Executive Committee of the Synod Council, shall arrange for the appropriate care of the responsibilities of the officer until an election of a new officer can be held or, in the case of temporary disability, until the officer is able to serve again. The term of the successor officer, elected by the next Synod Assembly, shall be four years.**

S9.03. Nominating Committee

- S9.03.01.** ~~There shall be a Nominating Committee consisting of seven members who shall be appointed by the Synod Council to serve for each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.~~ Additional nominations may be made from the floor for all elections for which nominations are made by the Nominating Committee.

S9.04. Election of a Bishop

The bishop shall be elected by ballot by the Synod Assembly. If there is not an incumbent bishop eligible for re-election, Each Conference Assembly shall nominate up to three persons for bishop. Those Conference Assemblies shall be held at least 60 days prior to the Synod Assembly. Each of the nominees shall be contacted by the Synod Vice President to determine willingness to be to be a candidate for bishop. All persons responding affirmatively shall submit background information using a uniform format to the synod office at least 45 days prior to the Synod Assembly. The background information shall be sent to all voting members at least 30 days prior to the Synod Assembly. The first ballot shall

be the candidates of the Conference Assemblies and the nominations from the floor of the Synod Assembly. Three-fourths of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election on the first ballot.

When the incumbent bishop is eligible and available to serve a second term, the election by the Synod Assembly for the next term shall be by ecclesiastical ballot, without a conference nominating process. Three-fourths of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election on the first ballot. If no one is elected, the first ballot shall be considered a nominating ballot.

The second ballot shall be limited to the seven persons (plus ties) who received the greatest number of legal votes on the first ballot, and three-fourths of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election.

The third ballot shall be limited to five persons (plus ties) who receive the greatest number of legal votes on the second ballot, and two-thirds of the legal votes shall be necessary for election.

The fourth ballot shall be limited to three persons (plus ties) who receive the greatest number of legal votes on the third ballot, and 60 percent of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election.

On subsequent ballots a majority of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election. These ballots shall be limited to the two persons (plus ties) who receive the greatest number of legal votes on the previous ballot.

Seconding speeches or statements by the candidates may be permitted before any ballot, according to the rules adopted by the Synod Assembly.

In the event of the death or resignation of the bishop of the synod, the Synod Council shall appoint an interim bishop for the length of the vacancy. This person shall be precluded from candidacy for election as bishop of the synod at the next election.

~~S9.11. The Synod Council shall elect or appoint representatives to the steering committee of its region.~~

~~S9.12: S9.14. Candidates for election by the Synod Council to the boards of agencies and institutions affiliated with this Synod shall be nominated by the Nominating Committee or by the agency or institution. The Nominating Committee shall nominate persons for election by the Synod Council to the boards of agencies and institutions affiliated with this synod.~~

~~S9.13: S9.16. The Nominating Committee shall nominate persons for election by the Synod Assembly to serve as the youth member of the Synod Council. A youth shall be someone who is 14–17 years of age or entering 10–12 grade at the time of his/her election.~~

S10.03. The functions of the Synod Council shall be to:

- a) Exercise trusteeship responsibilities on behalf of this synod.
- b) Recommend program goals and budgets to the regular meetings of the Synod Assembly.
- c) Carry out the resolutions of the Synod Assembly.
- d) Provide for an annual review of the roster of ordained ministers and of other official rosters, receive and act upon appropriate recommendations regarding those persons whose status is subject to reconsideration and action under the constitution and bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and make a report to the Synod Assembly of the Synod Council's actions in this regard.
- e) Issue letters of call to ordained ministers and letters of call to associates in ministry, deaconesses, and diaconal ministers as authorized by Chapter 7 of the constitution and bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- f) Fill vacancies until the next regular meeting of the Synod Assembly except as may otherwise be provided in the constitution or bylaws of this synod, and determine the fact of the incapacity of an officer of this synod.
- g) Report its actions to the regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.

- h) Perform such other functions as are set forth in the bylaws of this synod, or as may be delegated to it by the Synod Assembly.
- ~~f) Appoint members of the Region 3 Steering Committee according to the Region 3 Orders of Governance and the rotation for representation defined by the Steering Committee.~~
- ji) Appoint members to the boards of Partners in Ministry in accordance with the partner ministries' governing documents.

~~S11.05:~~ S11.01.02. Should a synod committee member elected by the Synod Assembly die, resign or be unable to serve, the Synod Council shall appoint a replacement until the next Synod Assembly at which time a person shall be elected to complete the term.

~~S11.06:~~ S11.01.03. Should a synod committee member elected by a conference die, resign or be unable to serve, the Synod Council shall appoint a replacement until the next Conference Assembly at which time a person shall be elected to complete the term.

~~S11.07:~~ S11.01.04. Should a synod committee member elected by the Synod Council die, resign or be unable to serve, the Synod Council shall appoint a replacement to complete the term.

~~S11.20: Synod Council Leadership Teams~~

~~S11.21: A Synod Council Leadership Team is a unit of the synod to which is assigned policy responsibility for an identified portion of the program of the synod. The description of such leadership teams and their functions shall be set forth in the bylaws. The leadership teams shall establish task forces as the Synod Council may from time to time determine.~~

~~S11.40:~~ S11.20. Task Force

~~S11.41:~~ S11.21. A task force is a temporary unit of the synod which is assigned responsibility for an identified portion of the program work of this synod. Such assignment may be made by the Synod Assembly or by the Synod Council. Normally its term of existence is defined by the unit which establishes it. It is subject to annual review by the initiating unit. Membership is determined by the initiating unit.

Southeastern Iowa Synod (5D)

To ratify amendments to the constitution of the Southeastern Iowa Synod as approved by a two-thirds votes at the 2010 Southeastern Iowa Synod Assembly and ratified at the 2011 Southeastern Iowa Synod Assembly:

~~S7.23. All ordained ministers on leave from call, all associates in ministry on leave from call, all deaconesses of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America on leave from call, and all diaconal ministers of this church on leave from call, all of whose names appear on the rosters of this synod, shall have the privilege of voice and vote at all meetings of the Synod Assembly. The presiding bishop of the Evangelical Church in America and such other official representatives of this church as may be designated from time to time by the Church Council shall have voice but not vote in the meeting of the Synod Assembly, unless the presiding bishop or other representative is already a voting member of the Synod Assembly under another provision of this constitution or bylaws. The privilege of voice but not vote shall be accorded to those additional persons whom the Synod Assembly or the Synod Council shall from time to time designate.~~

S7.42. This synod shall be responsible for assembly expenses for persons who are not serving as voting members sent by their congregations, agencies or institutions but whose participation is expected by the Synod Council, such as the four officers of this synod, synod staff, and members of Synod Council. This synod shall also be responsible for assembly expenses for members of this synod's organizational units boards, committees, ministry teams, and such others whose attendance the Synod Council specifically requests.

North/West Lower Michigan Synod (6B)

Background from the North/West Lower Michigan Synod

A current bylaw states:

S8.51.02. The normal terms of office of the Secretary and the Vice President shall not begin and end in the same calendar year. Therefore these terms shall not end at the same Synod Assembly.

To enable the continuation of an overlap in terms between the office of Secretary and Vice President, a change in the constitution under S8.55. is necessary. Notification was sent to all congregations on November 15, 2010, proposing the following amendment, which was adopted by a two-thirds vote at the 2011 Synod Assembly.

S8.55. Should the vice-president or secretary die, resign, or be unable to serve, the bishop, with the approval of the Executive Committee of the Synod Council shall arrange for the appropriate care of the responsibilities of the officer until an election of a new officer can be held or, in the case of temporary disability, until the officer is able to serve again. The term of the successor officer, elected by the next Synod Assembly, shall be ~~four years~~ the unfulfilled term of the previously elected officer.

South-Central Synod of Wisconsin (5K)

To ratify amendments to the constitution of the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin as approved by the 2011 Assembly of the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin :

S7.17. The synod bishop shall appoint a ~~resolutions reference and counsel~~ committee for each meeting of the Synod Assembly. All resolutions not previously received for inclusion on the meeting agenda shall be introduced to the Synod Assembly for inclusion on the agenda and referred to this committee. The committee shall put resolutions in proper form, eliminate duplication where similar resolutions are offered, and insure that all resolutions relating to a specific subject will be offered in logical sequence. The Synod Assembly shall approve these appointments.

S9.05. The Nominating Committee shall nominate at least ~~two persons~~ one person for vice-president; additional nominations may be made from the floor.

S9.06. The Synod Council shall nominate ~~two persons~~ at least one person for secretary; additional nominations may be made from the floor.

Southeastern Synod (9D)

Recommended by the Southeastern Synod Council and adopted by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present and voting at the 2011 Southeastern Synod Assembly.

S7.12.b. If the special meeting of the Synod Assembly is for the purpose of electing a successor bishop because of death, resignation, or inability to serve, the special meeting shall be called by the presiding bishop of this church in cooperation with the Synod Council.

S7.24. Ordained ministers under call on the roster of this synod shall remain as members of the Synod Assembly so long as they remain under call and so long as their names appear on the roster of ordained ministers of this synod. Associates in ministry, deaconesses of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and diaconal ministers of this church serving under call on the roster of this synod shall remain as members of the Synod Assembly so long as they remain under call and so long as their names appear on the official lay roster of this synod. Lay members of the Synod Assembly representing congregations shall continue as such until replaced

by the election of new members or until they have been disqualified by termination of membership. Normally, congregations will hold elections prior to each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.

S13.11. When ~~the~~ a pastor or when an associate in ministry, deaconess, or diaconal minister resigns, the Congregation Council shall receive the letter of resignation, report it to the congregation, and at once notify the bishop of this synod.

Oregon Synod (1E)

The 2011 Oregon Synod Assembly gave second approval for changing “Committee” to “Board of Trustees” in provisions S15.42. and S15.43. of the Oregon Synod Constitution.

S15.42. An Endowment Fund ~~Committee~~ Board of Trustees shall direct the activities of the Fund and shall have fiduciary responsibility for the Fund. ~~The Committee~~ Board of Trustees will consist of 9 members elected by the Synod Assembly to three-year, staggered terms. Members may be once reelected. The bishop and the treasurer of this synod will be members ex-officio.

The 2011 Oregon Synod Assembly also gave second approval to the following other changes in the Oregon Synod Constitution regarding the Endowment Fund:

S15.41. The Oregon Synod Endowment Fund shall be maintained as a ~~restricted~~ clearly segregated fund of the Oregon Synod. *(Remainder is unchanged)*

S15.43. The Endowment Fund ~~Committee~~ Board of Trustees shall focus on ministry through major gifts and estate planning, working to enhance the practice of Christian stewardship to educate persons in the ministry needs of the Church, and to provide the opportunity to participate in the work and vision of the Church both now and for years to come. Further, the Endowment Fund ~~Committee~~ Board of Trustees shall:

(a.-b. unchanged)

- c. submit a budget recommendation annually to the ~~treasurer~~ Synod Council for inclusion ~~without change and clearly segregated from other synod activities~~ in this synod’s annual budget pursuant to S15.12.- Expenditure authorizations are subject to revision in light of changing conditions by the Endowment Fund ~~Committee~~,
- d. designate a Custodian and other persons, as necessary, to execute the instructions of the ~~Committee~~ Board of Trustees, and
- e. propose such constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolution changes to the Synod Council ~~for adoption by the assembly~~ and enact such operating guidelines, investment directions and other procedures as may be required for the preservation and orderly management of the Fund.

Eastern Washington-Idaho Synod (1D)

The 2011 Eastern Washington-Idaho Synod Assembly cited provision S7.32. of its constitution, adopted continuing resolution S9.04.a.A11., and voted to deleted paragraph S9.04.b. and re-letter the remaining paragraphs of that provision.

S7.32. *Robert’s Rules of Order*, latest edition, shall govern parliamentary procedure of the Synod Assembly.

S9.04.a.A11. *This continuing resolution shall be normative in the election of the bishop: No additional nominations may be made from the assembly floor.*

The following proposed amendment was adopted by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present and voting at the 2011 Eastern Washington-Idaho Synod Assembly.

- S9.04.** The bishop shall be elected by the Synod Assembly from among those nominated in the following manner:
- a. Each cluster may submit up to three names of those whom they wish to nominate for the office of bishop and shall submit written vitae for each nominee, said vitae to adhere to a format established by the elections committee; names of said nominees and their vitae shall then be published in the voting members' pre-assembly packet.
 - ~~b. Additional spoken nominations may later be made from the assembly floor, providing written vitae following the established format are then available to the voting members.~~
 - ~~e~~b. Three-fourths of the votes cast shall be necessary for election on the first ballot.
 - ~~d~~c. The second ballot shall be limited to the seven persons (plus ties) who received the greatest number of votes on the first ballot, and two-thirds of the votes cast shall be necessary for election.
 - ~~e~~d. The third ballot shall be limited to the three persons (plus ties) who received the greatest number of votes on the second ballot, and 60 percent of the votes cast shall be necessary for election.
 - ~~f~~e. Prior to the casting of the third ballot, the three or more persons to appear on the ballot, if they are present, shall be invited to address the Assembly.
 - ~~g~~f. On subsequent ballots a majority of the votes cast shall be necessary for election. These ballots shall be limited to the two persons (plus ties) who receive the greatest number of votes on the previous ballot.

Southwestern Minnesota (3F)

The 2011 Southwestern Minnesota Synod Assembly voted to delete S11.20. through S11.20.08. from the Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Southwestern Minnesota Synod of the ELCA. Deletion of bylaws S11.20.01. through S11.20.08. was reported to the secretary of this church in accordance with †S18.21. Deletion of the title provision, S11.20., shall become effective upon ratification by the Church Council, in accordance with †S18.13. The deleted bylaws are included below only as information.

~~S11.20. Conference Call Process Teams~~

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- ~~S11.20.01. Each conference shall have a call process team to assist congregations and other ministry agencies in the calling of ordained ministers and rostered lay ministers within the conference.~~
- ~~S11.20.02. Each team shall consist of one lay female, one lay male and one ordained minister from the conference. These three call process team members must represent three different parishes within the conference. The synod bishop, or a synod minister appointed by the bishop, shall also serve on each team. The call process team members may temporarily recruit members from adjacent conferences at their discretion.~~
- ~~S11.20.03. The members of each team (other than the synod bishop or synod minister) shall be elected by the conference assembly from a slate of nominees prepared by the conference nominating committee or conference officers.~~

- ~~S11.20.04. The term of office for team members elected by the conference assembly shall be three years. Such team members may be re-elected by the conference assembly to an additional three-year term. A conference may establish a process where the terms of its team members are staggered.~~
- ~~S11.20.05. Unexpired terms of team members from a conference may be filled by appointment by the conference dean in consultation with the conference chairperson.~~
- ~~S11.20.06. Each team shall meet as needed.~~
- ~~S11.20.07. Each team shall:~~
- ~~a) provide for exit interviews;~~
 - ~~b) provide guidance for self-study in the congregation or other ministry agency;~~
 - ~~c) recommend and present candidates for call to congregations and other ministry agencies;~~
 - ~~d) in consultation with the bishop provide for the installation of ordained ministers and rostered lay ministers in congregations and ministry agencies;~~
 - ~~e) make a concerted effort to become acquainted with the ordained ministers and rostered lay ministers of the synod as well as congregations and ministry agencies within their conference;~~
 - ~~f) maintain strictest confidentiality in all matters relating to the call process;~~
 - ~~g) in complex special circumstances when they recognize a need for assistance before the call process proceeds, request support from synod staff who may call in specialized teams to assist with the call process;~~
 - ~~h) perform such other duties as may be assigned by the synod assembly, the synod council or the bishop.~~
- ~~S11.20.08. All conference teams shall meet together in plenary session, as convened by the synod bishop, at least once a year to review and consider changes in the synod call process. Changes to the synod call process must be ratified by the synod council.~~

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF INDEPENDENT LUTHERAN ORGANIZATION (Agenda II.H.12)

Background:

Bylaw 14.21.16. in the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* states:

The Church Council shall establish the criteria and policies for the relationship between this church and independent, cooperative, and related Lutheran organizations. The policies adopted by the Church Council shall be administered by the appropriate unit of the churchwide organization. The determination of which organization shall relate to a specific unit of the churchwide organization shall be made by the Church Council.

At its April 2006 meeting, the Church Council voted [CC06.04.27] to approve a revised "Policy on Relationships of Churchwide Units with Independent Lutheran Organizations." The revision was made necessary by changes in structure, governance, and the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*.

In accordance with the revised policy, the Rev. Stephen P. Bouman, executive director of the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit, in consultation with the Office of the Treasurer, recommended that the Wartburg Foundation be acknowledged as an independent Lutheran organization in relationship to the ELCA through the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit.

VOTED:

CC11.08.63

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To acknowledge, in accordance with bylaw 14.21.16. of the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* and the "Policy on Relationships of Churchwide Units with Independent Lutheran Organizations," the Wartburg Foundation, which will relate to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America through the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit.

FEEDBACK FROM THE CLASS OF 2011 (Agenda II.I)

Background:

At its final meeting of the biennium, the Church Council invites its retiring members to reflect on their experiences as members of the council. In April 2011, members provided verbal reflections; at this meeting, a report on responses to a series of questions posed by the Board Development Committee in consultation with Mr. Kenneth W. Inskeep, executive for research and evaluation, was anticipated.

The Church Council Class of 2011: Pr. David P. Anderson, Mr. Baron Blanchard, Mr. Helmke, Pr. Steven P. Loy, Pr. Heather S. Lubold, Ms. Ann F. Niedringhaus, Ms. Lynette M. Reitz, Ms. Sandra Schlesinger, Pr. Jeffrey “Jeff” B. Sorenson, and Mr. David Truland. The class will be honored during the final plenary session of the 2011 Churchwide Assembly.

Church Council Discussion:

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on Ms. Lynette M. Reitz and Mr. Mark S. Helmke to introduce the topic.

Ms. Reitz said the Board Development Committee surveyed the 11 council members whose terms ended in 2011 to learn the strengths of the Church Council procedures and where improvement may be possible.

Mr. Helmke reported that the first part of the survey was a scaled response from “highly effective” through “not very effective” on seven topics. He drew the council’s attention to the survey results, which were provided in writing by Mr. Kenneth W. Inskeep. Mr. Helmke stated that the findings were very similar to the findings of a survey of the Class of 2009.

Ms. Reitz pointed out the strengths and challenges listed in the results.

Mr. Helmke noted the survey results of a specific question about the leadership role of the Church Council in the ELCA.

Ms. Susan W. McArver asked what would be done with the suggestions listed in the survey results.

Ms. Reitz replied that the Board Development Committee will use the suggestions to develop recommendations for the council to consider.

Mr. William B. Horne II asked whether the survey results regarding summer retreats meant that such settings help Church Council members who do not communicate as well in large group settings.

Ms. Reitz responded that Mr. Inskeep had collated survey data and did not weigh the responses, but she understood the statement was intended as Mr. Horne had indicated.

The Rev. Jeffrey “Jeff” B. Sorenson recalled Mr. Helmke’s statement that the findings on strengths and challenges were very similar to the findings of a survey of the Class of 2009, and he suggested that they should have changed.

Ms. Reitz replied that the issues had changed, but the comments of the council members were similar.

Ms. Ann F. Niedringhaus commented that it seemed that the similar comments dealt with process.

Mr. Helmke recommended that Mr. Inskeep process the survey results for the Church Council at a later meeting.

Vice President Peña thanked Mr. Helmke and Ms. Reitz for leading the discussion.

CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY CITATIONS (Agenda II.C)

Background:

Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson had requested that the Church Council consider and approve two citations to honor, at the 2011 Churchwide Assembly, Mr. John G. Kapanke, president of the Board of Pensions, and Treasurer Christina Jackson-Skelton.

IN HONOR OF MR. JOHN G. KAPANKE

(Agenda II.C.1)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on Secretary David D. Swartling, who read the following citation.

Moved;

Seconded:

To approve the following citation:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Church Council members responded to the reading of the citation with applause.

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

VOTED:

CC11.08.64

To approve the following citation:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Vice President Peña declared that the motion had been approved.

IN HONOR OF MS. CHRISTINA JACKSON-SKELTON
(Agenda II.C.2)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on Secretary David D. Swartling, who read the following citation.

Moved;

Seconded:

To approve the following citation:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Church Council members responded to the reading of the citation with applause.
There being no discussion, Vice President Peña called for the vote.

VOTED:
CC11.08.65

To approve the following citation:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Vice President Peña declared that the motion had been approved.

IN HONOR OF MS. MYRNA J. SHEIE

Vice President Carlos E. Peña credited Ms. Myrna J. Sheie with the organization and efficiency of Church Council meetings as executive for governance and institutional relations in the Office of the Presiding Bishop since 1998. He called on the Rev. Steven P. Loy, chair of the Program and Services Committee.

Pr. Loy honored Ms. Sheie for her dedicated service to this church, her poise, and her writing and editing skills.

Secretary David D. Swartling described several experiences that illustrated the abilities of Ms. Sheie.

Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson recalled first meeting Ms. Sheie in 1965 as classmates at Augsburg College in Minneapolis, Minn., and he recounted their shared experiences in this church.

Ms. Sheie reflected on the previous comments and expressed gratitude for all with whom she had worked.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Church Council entered into executive session at 3:07 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT

The seventy-second meeting of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America adjourned August 14, 2011, at 3:55 P.M.