

**EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
IN AMERICA**

Church Council

MINUTES

February 29, 2012

**Prepared by the
Office of the Secretary**

**EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
CHURCH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES
February 29, 2012
Chicago, Illinois**

The seventy-fourth meeting of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) was convened Wednesday, February 29, 2012, in the Council Room of the Lutheran Center at Chicago, Illinois, and by conference call.

ORGANIZATION OF MEETING

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

Voting Members

Officers:

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

Chair of the Conference of Bishops:

Pr. Jessica R. Crist, bishop of the Montana Synod (*excused*)

Church Council:

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

Mr. Mark E. Johnson
Pr. Susan Langhauser
Pr. Yvonne I. Marshall
Ms. Susan W. McArver (*excused*)
Pr. Raymond A. Miller
Pr. Robert G. Moore
Mr. John S. Munday
Mr. Mark W. Myers
Mr. John M. Pederson
Mr. Iván A. Pérez
Ms. Pamela E. Pritt (*excused*)
Ms. Feronika A. Raming (*excused*)
Pr. Laurie F. Skow-Anderson
Mr. Blaire P. Smith
Pr. Kathryn A. Tiede
Pr. Philip R. Wold (*excused*)

Representatives of the Conference of Bishops

Bp. Wm. Chris Boerger
Bp. Michael L. Burk
Bp. Elizabeth Eaton
Bp. Ralph E. Jones (*excused*)
Bp. Gerald L. Mansholt (*excused*)

Bp. Margaret G. Payne
Bp. Stephen S. Talmage (*excused*)
Bp. Harold L. Usgaard (*excused*)
Bp. Herman R. Yoos III (*excused*)

Youth and Young Adult Advisors

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

Resource Persons

Office of the Presiding Bishop:

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

Office of the Secretary:

Pr. Ruth E. Hamilton, executive for Office of the Secretary administration (*excused*)
Mr. Phillip H. Harris, general counsel
Mr. Frank F. Imhoff, manager for official documentation
Mr. David A. Ullrich, associate general counsel

Unit Executives:

Pr. Stephen P. Bouman, executive director, Congregational and Synodical Mission
Ms. Christina Jackson-Skelton, executive director, Mission Advancement
Pr. Rafael Malpica Padilla, executive director, Global Mission (*excused*)

Separately Incorporated Ministries:

Ms. Linda Post Bushkofsky, executive director, Women of the ELCA
Mr. Doug Haugen, executive director, Lutheran Men in Mission
Ms. Beth A. Lewis, president, Augsburg Fortress, Publishers (*excused*)
Ms. Eva M. Roby, president, Mission Investment Fund
Pr. Jeffrey D. Thiemann, president, Board of Pensions

Press:

Mr. Daniel J. Lehmann, editor, *The Lutheran* magazine

CALL TO ORDER AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

(Agenda I.A.)

Mr. Carlos E. Peña, vice president of the ELCA and chair of the Church Council, called the meeting to order at 1:32 P.M. (Central Standard Time). At the invitation of the chair, the Rev. Mark S. Hanson, presiding bishop of the ELCA, read Psalm 77:11–20, reflected on the Psalm, and opened the meeting with prayer.

Vice President Peña welcomed everyone to the meeting, called the roll, and reminded those present of the protocols for conducting the meeting using WebEx technology.

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

Moved;

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

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

VOTED:

CC12.02.01 To adopt the agenda and to permit the chair to call for consideration of agenda items in the order the chair deems most appropriate.

Vice President Peña declared the motion was approved.

UPDATES FROM THE OFFICERS

PRESIDING BISHOP MARK S. HANSON

(Agenda I.B.1.)

For the first of the updates from the officers, Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson, who said:

“There is much to report, but I will do it in a very summary fashion and hope that, at our April council meeting, we will have time for deeper conversations. I hope that you have been attentive to many of these through our news service.

“These have been six weeks of very intense tending to relationships—relationships that are important to our life as the ELCA. We had the first meeting with four representatives of the ELCA and four representatives of the North American Lutheran Church. The next day, the leadership of The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod (LCMS) and the ELCA met under the rubric of the Committee on Lutheran Cooperation. Shortly thereafter, leadership from The Episcopal Church was here, looking at new ways that we can partner in ministry and mission. Bishop Jessica R. Crist, Bishop Robert D. Hofstad, Pastor Donald McCoid, and I went to The Vatican for a very intense and important two days of conversation, continuing the strong relationship we have with the leadership of the Catholic Church there. On Monday, the United Methodist and ELCA coordinating committee met. All of those meetings are ways that we tend to relationships for the sake of unity and for the sake of mission.

“In these last six weeks—and I will miss some of these—we have also exercised our convening role as the churchwide organization, networking people with particular passions and gifts for parts of our ministry and mission. So, a number of World Hunger leaders gathered in Fort Myers, Fla., after several of them had been to Haiti. Five hundred to 600 youth leaders from congregations met as a network in New Orleans for a weekend. The ELCA has continued to hold global events, which bring together the resources of Global Mission and Congregational and Synodical Mission. Last weekend 64 of the 65 synods were represented here by the presidents of their synodical chapters of Women of the ELCA. And, intermittent throughout the past six weeks, there have been meetings of task forces.”

At the request of Presiding Bishop Hanson, Mr. Doug Haugen, director for Lutheran Men in Mission, reported that the LMM board would meet in March 2012.

Presiding Bishop Hanson continued, “So, these are all very important ways that we convene and network for the sake of expanding ministry and mission.

“I am happy to report that we have signed a one-year memorandum of relationship with Lutheran World Relief. That has been a long process of conversation and negotiation, and that agreement has been signed.

“We await the Conference of Bishops which is gathering now for its March meeting. The meeting will have a particular focus on the recommendations of the Bishops’ Nine, looking at how the bishops could carry out the mandate of LIFT regarding the future and function of synods in this church. We will have the second joint meeting tomorrow of the Administrative Team and the Conference of Bishops’ Executive Committee. I think this is a very positive step toward the shared function of leadership. I look for similar conversations that include the Executive Committee of the Church Council as we go forward.

“I hope you followed the Minneapolis Area Synod Assembly. I would like to congratulate Pastor Ann Svennungsen, the bishop-elect. In those two days, I experienced a Synod Assembly that very prayerfully attended to the calling of a bishop, was engaged in the Word as Ms. Diane Jacobson led two Bible studies, and absorbed two keynote addresses by the Rev. Susan Briehl. It also wove together, visually and in interpretive ways, the story of our church together in mission, using the videos from the Churchwide Assembly and stories of local mission in their synod. I have rarely experienced a Synod Assembly that had such an integrated message of our life and ministry together as the ELCA in

congregations, synod, and churchwide expressions and our partners. It was just a very upbeat experience that I hope is a foretaste of all the rest of the 64 Synod Assemblies to come this spring.”

Mr. John S. Munday complimented the presiding bishop on his role as churchwide representative, overseeing the election of a bishop at the Minneapolis Area Synod Assembly.

There being no other comments, Vice President Peña thanked the Presiding Bishop Hanson for his update.

VICE PRESIDENT CARLOS E. PEÑA

(Agenda I.B.2.)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña mentioned several items the Executive Committee had discussed: next steps for stewardship conversations among Church Council members, possible live streaming of a portion of a Church Council meeting on the Internet, and the commitments of Church Council members related to upcoming Synod Assemblies.

Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson added that staff members of the churchwide organization were also discussing the capacity of possibly live streaming a Church Council session and the way it related to the communication strategies of this church.

SECRETARY DAVID D. SWARTLING

(Agenda I.B.3.)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña asked Secretary David D. Swartling for an update.

Secretary Swartling drew attention to the participation at this meeting of youth and young adult advisors to the council, who had been appointed by the Executive Committee; related preparations underway for the elections of bishops and the coordination of memorials and resolutions at upcoming Synod Assemblies; outlined planning that had begun for the 2013 Churchwide Assembly; and mentioned several developments concerning Portico Benefit Services, about which the Church Council would be hearing more.

There being no questions, Vice President Peña thanked the secretary for his report.

TREASURER LINDA O. NORMAN

(Agenda I.B.4.)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña asked Treasurer Linda O. Norman for a report.

Pr. Norman indicated that financial data on fiscal year 2011 was being finalized. She said the churchwide organization had finished the year \$4 million favorable to budget. With spending for 2011 slightly less than 100 percent of authorization for the churchwide organization, some additional year-end grants were to be awarded. Pr. Norman stated that ELCA World Hunger ended 2011 with more than \$19 million in donations. The ELCA Malaria Campaign received \$1.6 million, which was short of its \$2 million goal for 2011. She noted that her report to the Conference of Bishops the following week would include closing figures for fiscal year 2011. She said the Office of the Treasurer would be using the data to discern trends and determine future budget proposals.

There being no questions, Vice President Peña thanked the officers for their updates.

ELECTIONS FOR ELCA ENDOWMENT FUND BOARD OF TRUSTEES

(Agenda I.C.1.; Exhibit A)

Background

In accordance with bylaw 15.15.01.:

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

Biographical information on three nominees was provided in Exhibit A.

Church Council Action

Vice President Carlos E. Peña introduced the first item for action.
Secretary David D. Swartling made the following motion.

MOVED:

SECONDED: To elect as members of the board of trustees of the ELCA Endowment Fund for six-year terms: the Rev. Charles A. Berdahl, Cherry Hills Village, Colo. (2E); Ms. Kelly D. Brende, Lenexa, Kan. (4B); and Mr. David W. Heise, Flower Mound, Texas (4D).

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

VOTED:

CC12.02.02 To elect as members of the board of trustees of the ELCA Endowment Fund for six-year terms: the Rev. Charles A. Berdahl, Cherry Hills Village, Colo. (2E); Ms. Kelly D. Brende, Lenexa, Kan. (4B); and Mr. David W. Heise, Flower Mound, Texas (4D).

Vice President Peña declared the motion was approved.

ELECTION OF A CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBER

(Agenda I.C.2.; Exhibit A)

Background

Vice President Carlos E. Peña announced that the Rev. J. Pablo Obregon, Willmar, Minn., had resigned from the Church Council at its November 2011 meeting. In accordance with provision 14.15., Secretary David D. Swartling had declared a vacancy on the council. The Southwestern Minnesota Synod (3F) nominated the Rev. Dean E. Johnson to complete the term ending in 2013. Biographical information on Pr. Johnson was provided in Exhibit A.

Church Council Action

Vice President Carlos E. Peña introduced the next item for action.
Secretary David D. Swartling made the following motion.

MOVED:

SECONDED: To elect the Rev. Dean E. Johnson, Willmar, Minn. (3F), to the Church Council for a term ending in 2013.

Secretary Swartling commended the Southwestern Minnesota Synod for the thorough process it had used to nominate Pr. Johnson.

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

VOTED:

CC12.02.03 To elect the Rev. Dean E. Johnson, Willmar, Minn. (3F), to the Church Council for a term ending in 2013.

Vice President Peña declared the motion was approved.

REVISION OF CHURCH COUNCIL ORIENTATION MANUAL

(Agenda I.C.3.; Exhibit B)

Background

Recent amendments to the *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* and other governing documents made it necessary to update the *Orientation Manual for Church Council Members*. The proposed revised manual was provided in Exhibit B.

Church Council Action

Vice President Carlos E. Peña introduced the next item for action.
Secretary David D. Swartling made the following motion.

MOVED;

SECONDED: To approve the 2012 revisions to the *Orientation Manual for Church Council Members* as provided in Exhibit B.

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

VOTED:

CC12.02.04 To approve the 2012 revisions to the *Orientation Manual for Church Council Members* as provided in Exhibit B.

Vice President Peña declared the motion was approved.

INFORMATION ON ADDRESSING SOCIAL CONCERNS REVIEW TASK FORCE MEMBERS

(Agenda I.D.)

Background

The 2011 Churchwide Assembly [CA11.04.14] authorized “the Church Council, in consultation with the Conference of Bishops and Communal Discernment Task Force, to establish a review process of current procedures for the development and adoption of social statements.” At its November 2011 meeting, the Church Council voted [CC11.11.78] to establish an Addressing Social Concerns Review Task Force, asking its Executive Committee to appoint the task force members in consultation with the council’s Program and Services Committee.

The Executive Committee, in consultation with the Program and Services Committee, appointed several members to the Addressing Social Concerns Review Task Force. To fulfill some additional representational commitments, the Executive Committee asked the presiding bishop to name the remaining members. The following individuals were serving on the task force:

- Mr. Per M. Anderson, Moorhead, Minn.
- Mr. Paul G. Archer, Dearborn, Mich.
- Pr. Wm. Chris Boerger, bishop of the Northwest Washington Synod
- Ms. Rebecca Jo Brakke, Dallas, Texas
- Ms. Sylvia Bull, Great Falls, Mont.
- Pr. Margaret E. Herz-Lane, Baltimore, Md.
- Pr. Kathryn A. “Kit” Kleinhans, Waverly, Iowa (*chair*)
- Mr. Chris Meade, Geneva, Ill.
- Pr. Fred S. Opalinski, Reading, Pa.
- Ms. Rosemarie Stephens-Booker, Arlington, Va.
- Ms. Suzanne Gibson Wise, Siler City, N.C.
- Pr. David B. Zellmer, bishop of the South Dakota Synod

The first meeting of the task force was January 19–21, 2012, in Chicago. A second meeting was scheduled for March 6–8, 2012, in Chicago. Additional staff, advisors, consultants, and guests will be invited to future meetings as the task force deems appropriate.

Church Council Discussion

Vice President Carlos E. Peña presented the background information on the item for discussion. He announced that two additional members had been appointed to the task force: Ms. Linda D. Bobbitt, Thornton, Colo., and Mr. Arthur Norman, Mobile, Ala.

In response to a question, Ms. Christina Jackson-Skelton, executive director, Mission Advancement, said that Ms. Jessica S. Nipp (diaconal minister) was named coordinator for the ELCA Malaria Campaign.

Mr. John S. Munday provided an update on work toward a social statement on criminal justice.

Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson mentioned that a meeting with the Israeli ambassador that morning had focused on recognition of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land, a Jerusalem housing project, the implications of the Arab Spring, and the relationships of people of faith, especially with religious minorities.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Agenda I.E.)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña noted that this was the Church Council's first meeting to use WebEx technology. He asked members to email any comments or suggestions to Ms. Jodi L. Slattery, assistant to the presiding bishop for governance, or him.

ADJOURNMENT

(Agenda I.F.)

The seventy-fourth meeting of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) adjourned Wednesday, February 29, 2012, at 2:07 P.M.