

**EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
IN AMERICA**

Church Council

MINUTES

July 11, 2013

**Prepared by the
Office of the Secretary**

**EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
CHURCH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES
July 11, 2013
Chicago, Illinois**

The seventy-ninth meeting of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) was convened on Thursday, July 11, 2013, in the Council Room of the Lutheran Center at Chicago, Illinois, and by conference call. The council's Executive Committee had met prior to the Church Council meeting.

ORGANIZATION OF MEETING

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

Voting Members

Officers:

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

Chair of the Conference of Bishops:

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

Church Council:

Mr. Paul G. Archer	Pr. Stephen R. Herr (<i>excused</i>)
Mr. Nicholas A. Barber	Mr. William B. Horne II
Ms. Rebecca Jo Brakke	Mr. Mark E. Johnson
Ms. Deborah L. Chenoweth	Pr. Susan Langhauser
Ms. Christine P. Connell	Pr. Yvonne I. Marshall
Pr. Rachel L. Connelly	Ms. Susan W. McArver
Pr. Elizabeth E. Ekdale (<i>excused</i>)	Pr. Raymond A. Miller
Ms. Marjorie B. Ellis	Pr. Robert G. Moore (<i>excused</i>)
Mr. John R. Emery	Mr. John S. Munday
Mr. Gary D. Gabrielson	Mr. Mark W. Myers
Pr. Vicki T. Garber	Mr. John M. Pederson
Pr. Amsalu T. Geleta	Ms. Pamela E. Pritt
Ms. Karin Lynn Graddy (<i>excused</i>)	Ms. Feronika A. Raming (<i>excused</i>)
Pr. Joyce M. Graue	Pr. Laurie F. Skow-Anderson (<i>excused</i>)
Ms. Louise A. Hemstead	Pr. Kathryn A. Tiede (<i>excused</i>)
	Pr. Philip R. Wold (<i>excused</i>)

Representatives of the Conference of Bishops

Bp. Wm Chris Boerger	Bp. Gerald L. Mansholt (<i>excused</i>)
Bp. Michael L. Burk	Bp. Stephen S. Talmage (<i>excused</i>)
Bp. Elizabeth A. Eaton	Bp. Harold L. Usgaard (<i>excused</i>)
Bp. Ralph E. Jones (<i>excused</i>)	Bp. Herman R. Yoos III (<i>excused</i>)
Bp. Wilma S. Kucharek	

Youth and Young Adult Advisors

Ms. Amanda A. Briggs (*excused*)
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
Ms. Kathryn M. Lohre, director for ecumenical and inter-religious relations
Pr. Walter S. May, assistant to the presiding bishop for the Conference of Bishops
Ms. Jodi L. Slattery, assistant to the presiding bishop for governance
Ms. Else B. Thompson, executive for human resources

Office of the Secretary:

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

Unit Staff:

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

Congregational and Synodical Mission Staff:

Pr. Jonathan P. Strandjord, program director for seminaries
Pr. Mark Wilhelm, program director for schools

Separately Incorporated Ministries:

Ms. Linda Post Bushkofsky, executive director of Women of the ELCA
Mr. Doug Haugen, executive director of Lutheran Men in Mission
Ms. Eva M. Roby, president of Mission Investment Fund
Pr. Jeffrey D. Thiemann, president of Portico Benefit Services

Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary:

Pr. Phyllis B. Anderson, president

Press:

Ms. Candice Hill Buchbinder, Mission Advancement
Ms. Melissa Ramirez Cooper, Mission Advancement

Guests:

Ms. Marit L. Bakken
Mr. Forrest Meyer, Mission Advancement

CALL TO ORDER AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

(Agenda I.A.)

Background:

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

Church Council Action:

Mr. Carlos E. Peña, vice president of the ELCA and chair of the Church Council, called the meeting to order at 2:02 P.M.

At the invitation of the chair, the Rev. Mark S. Hanson, presiding bishop of the ELCA, read Ephesians 3:16–19 and opened the meeting with prayer.

The vice president called the roll and discovered that technical difficulties with the Internet in Chicago had delayed many members from joining the meeting.

Once a quorum was present, Mr. David D. Swartling, secretary of the ELCA, moved adoption of the agenda.

Moved;

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

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

VOTED:

CC13.07.28 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 agenda was adopted.

UPDATE FROM PRESIDING BISHOP MARK HANSON

(Agenda I.B.1.)

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

Presiding Bishop Hanson said:

“We debriefed Synod Assemblies yesterday with the churchwide representatives and the bishops on the line. The consensus was that there was a very positive spirit at the assemblies. The theme, ‘Always being made new,’ was developed creatively and consistently. The video was appreciated by all. There were 25 bishop elections; we welcomed 12 new colleagues here to orientation and formation that was largely shaped by the Conference of Bishops and its Bishop Formation Committee. There is a consensus that we continue to build on very positive Synod Assemblies that look forward both to the mission that calls us into the future but also a sense of partnership that we share with lay members, congregations, synods, the churchwide organization, and partner institutions and agencies. For that we give thanks and pray that spirit will continue to carry us through the Churchwide Assembly.

“The Churchwide Assembly is taking very good shape. I am excited by the overall theme, ‘Always being made new.’ Clearly the focus of each day, as it unfolds, reflects what over the past 25 years we have said are our commitments to each other and are imperative for our future—that is the renewing of congregations, the planting of new congregations, developing leadership across this church, the connectedness we have to the global church, and our relief and development work—all brought to culmination on the last day when we act on the recommendation the Church Council has made to adopt our first comprehensive campaign. I hope that each of you is networking with voting members from your synod and others to interpret that campaign and to engender support, because it does come as a recommendation from the Church Council. It will give us a great opportunity to move forward into the next chapter of this church’s life.

“The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) Council in June spent time talking about the implications of the decision of the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus to sever all altar and pulpit relationships with The Church of Sweden and the ELCA. It was a very important conversation, without any decisions taken, but if you read the news release you know we unanimously accepted the communiqué that came out of that. Attached is a very helpful framing document developed by the general secretary, the Rev. Martin Junge, that takes the issue deeper and broader simply than among three churches. We are committed to meeting with the Mekane Yesus Church in the future as convened by the LWF Council.

“In Washington, D.C., I had the opportunity to meet with ELCA members who come out of the Mekane Yesus Church—[the Rev.] Amsalu [T. Geleta] being one of them—and that was a rich conversation.

“Last week was the first ever joint assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada and the Anglican Church of Canada. It was a wonderful first-time event to have full communion partner churches in their assemblies.

“At the Executive Committee meeting today, immediately preceding this, we approved the first eight members of the Advisory Council on Theological Education. If there is time at the end, I can return to that. We still will be adding two to four additional members. That work is going to begin in October, and it will be very important work.

“I had the opportunity to visit Oklahoma recently to see the generosity of ELCA members giving to Lutheran Disaster Response being utilized in response to rebuilding lives after the tornado. It is always good to have multiple partners in that process.”

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

UPDATE FROM VICE PRESIDENT CARLOS PEÑA

(Agenda I.B.2.)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña announced that the Rev. Amsalu T. Geleta would be excused from attending the 2013 Churchwide Assembly because Pr. Geleta’s wife was expecting a child in August.

UPDATE FROM SECRETARY DAVID SWARTLING

(Agenda I.B.3.)

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

Secretary Swartling described preparations underway for the 2013 Churchwide Assembly. He stated that July 15, 2013, would be the last official day for voting members to register. He advised council members that there would be no Internet access in the Pittsburgh, Pa., hotel where the Church Council, Executive Committee, Conference of Bishops, and synodical vice presidents would meeting in advance of the Churchwide Assembly. He invited council members to participate in a webcast on July 15, 2013, to introduce the ELCA Guidebook application that would be used to provide assembly materials online.

The secretary responded to questions about accessing the assembly materials prior to the Churchwide Assembly.

Vice President Peña thanked the secretary for his update.

UPDATE FROM TREASURER LINDA NORMAN

(Agenda I.B.4.)

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

Treasurer Norman stated that financial results were available for the fiscal year through May 31, 2013. Expenses for the churchwide organization were greater than revenue, which was budgeted for the four-month period. She noted that Mission Support for the year was on budget; bequests and trusts were favorable to budget; and investment income was less than anticipated. She recapped contributions to ELCA World Hunger, the ELCA Malaria Campaign, and designated and undesignated funds for ELCA Disaster Response.

Vice President Peña thanked the treasurer for her report.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

ELECTION OF CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBER

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

Background:

The 2009 Churchwide Assembly elected [CA09.05.25] Ms. Rebecca D. Carlson, Cumberland, Wis., to a six-year term on the Church Council as a lay female under the age of 28 from the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin (5H). After transferring her congregational membership out of the synod, Ms. Carlson resigned from the council. In accordance with ELCA constitutional provision 14.15., Secretary David D. Swartling declared a vacancy on the Church Council. The Northwest Synod of Wisconsin nominated Ms. Marit L. Bakken, Black River Falls, Wis., to complete the term ending in 2015. The nomination was in keeping with the representational principle of this church in the specified category of a young adult.

Church Council Action:

Vice President Carlos E. Peña introduced the background information and Ms. Marit L. Bakken's biographical data. Secretary David D. Swartling made the following motion on behalf of the Executive Committee.

Moved;

Seconded: To elect Ms. Marit L. Bakken, Black River Falls, Wis., (5H) to the Church Council for a term ending in 2015.

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

VOTED:

CC13.07.29 To elect Ms. Marit L. Bakken, Black River Falls, Wis., (5H) to the Church Council for a term ending in 2015.

Vice President Peña declared the motion was adopted.

BOOK OF FAITH INITIATIVE

(Agenda I.C.2.)

Background:

The Book of Faith initiative grew from a 2005 memorial from the North Carolina Synod, calling on the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) to renew its engagement with Scripture and teaching of Lutheran approaches to reading the Bible. The 2007 Churchwide Assembly voted [CA07.02.06]:

1. To invite and encourage all members, expressions, institutions, and partners of this church to commit themselves regularly and increasingly to hearing, reading, studying, sharing, and being formed by God's Word;
2. To call members, congregations, synods, churchwide ministries, and institutions and agencies of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to engage in a five-year collaborative initiative—identified as “Book of Faith: Lutherans Read the Bible”—with the goal of raising to a new level this church's individual and collective engagement with the Bible and its teaching, yielding greater biblical fluency, deeper worship and devotion, and a more profound appreciation of Lutheran principles and approaches for the use of Scripture;
3. To call members, congregations, synods, churchwide ministries, and institutions and agencies of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to explore ways to reform culture and customs in this church that will open it to a new level of valuing and being shaped by the power of the Word;
4. To urge that this initiative be designed and carried out in ways that affirm the Bible's power through the work of the Holy Spirit to speak in all settings and to all ages, with attention to

- individual and corporate use of the Bible by members and leaders in worship, devotion, study, proclamation, teaching, moral formation, addressing social issues, and evangelizing;
5. To commit the churchwide organization to substantial engagement in this initiative in extensive collaboration with synods and congregations;
 6. To request that the presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America—who “as its pastor, shall be a teacher of the faith of this church and shall provide leadership for the life and witness of this church” (provision 13.21.)—lead this initiative personally and through collaborative programmatic work with the Vocation and Education unit in partnership with Augsburg Fortress, Publishers, as the publishing ministry of this church, and many others;
 7. To anticipate the wide availability and use of a rich constellation of existing and new resources as well as the creative use of new means of communication, mindful of the global and ecumenical context, in exploration of the nature and authority of Scripture in the life of individuals and the whole Church;
 8. To affirm funding of the churchwide organization’s share of this “Book of Faith” initiative primarily through the regular operating budget in recognition not only that this initiative is of foundational and ongoing importance, but also in confidence that support for mission will grow from congregations through synods for churchwide ministries; and
 9. To look beyond the time and scope of the “Book of Faith” initiative to what can be built on that work and to other ways in which God’s Word will continually renew this church.

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

In April 2013, the Church Council asked [CC13.04.03] “the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit, in consultation with Augsburg Fortress, Publishers, to review and engage in further discussions on the work of the Book of Faith initiative and consider how this church can build upon that work and engage in other ways in which God’s Word will continually renew this church” and to bring a report with possible recommendations for the 2013 Churchwide Assembly regarding the Book of Faith initiative.

Response of the Congregational and Synodical Mission Unit

The Book of Faith initiative began life in response to a memorial from the North Carolina Synod in 2005 and many other voices calling on the ELCA to renew its engagement with Scripture and to renew teaching and use of Lutheran approaches to the Bible. The 2007 Churchwide Assembly action, which formally established the Book of Faith initiative, both called on the ELCA to acknowledge that we are joyfully and intentionally subject to God’s Word and invited the whole of the ELCA into broad and deep engagement with the Bible. From the beginning, the goal of the initiative has been to meet the continuing challenge of widespread biblical illiteracy by inviting people across this church to be more deeply engaged with Scripture for the sake of the world.

The Book of Faith initiative has operated using a decentralized, grassroots approach centered on a common vision in which all are invited to open Scripture and join the conversation. The initiative has emphasized that biblical engagement is greatly enriched by the use of “multiple methods” in conversation with the text and other persons. The suggested “methods” have centered on four different ways of reading the Bible and asking questions: devotional, historical, literary, and Lutheran theological reading. The initiative has also emphasized the many rich Lutheran insights that have been helpful in understanding the myriad ways that God engages us through the Bible.

Over the past five years, Book-of-Faith-sponsored activities have happened in a variety of venues:

Book of Faith in Congregations

The Book of Faith initiative has helped increase and enrich engagement with Scripture in a number of congregations. Although tracking congregational participation has proven difficult owing to changes in the churchwide ministries, more than 1,300 congregations have officially self-identified as Book of Faith congregations through the sign-up page on the Book of Faith website, and 2,962 congregations indicated that they had participated in the initiative (2009

Congregational Report Form C). These congregations and many others have reported such practices as adopting long-term initiative practices (e.g., *Dwelling in the Word* at meetings; new ways of engaging Scripture in homes and group studies) and hosting creative events. For example, St. Paul Lutheran Church in Wheaton, Ill., hosted in 2013 a Book of Faith Family Celebration that involved many people from both the congregation and its community.

Many congregations have centered adult Bible study on the excellent Book of Faith resources from Augsburg Fortress, Publishers. Approximately 3,000 congregations have purchased some Book of Faith resources including Lutheran Study Bibles.

Book of Faith Partnership with Augsburg Fortress

Since 2008, Augsburg Fortress has published more than 160 Book of Faith resources in seven categories: Foundational Courses, Seasonal Courses (Advent and Lenten Journeys), Books of Faith, Together in Faith, People of Faith, Making Sense of . . . Series, and the *Lutheran Study Bible*.

In addition, Augsburg Fortress publishes other Bible-centered resources under the Augsburg Fortress, sparkhouse, and Fortress Press imprints that were designed to align well with the Book of Faith initiative.

Book of Faith on the Web

The Book of Faith initiative has developed an ongoing Web presence. The *bookoffaith.org* site is regularly visited (12,993 unique visitors in the recent 12-month period) and updated. The Book of Faith initiative is active on Facebook and Twitter as people continue to share ideas, resources, and successes.

In 2010, the Book of Faith initiative launched a publicity campaign with a goal of giving people a non-threatening way to engage the Bible. The campaign featured a thoughtful Bible quiz that is still available on the Book of Faith website and on mobile devices. The latest report is that more than 70,000 visitors have engaged this site.

Book of Faith at Churchwide Events

The Book of Faith initiative has had a significant presence at various churchwide events. At the 2012 New Orleans ELCA Youth Gathering, the Book of Faith initiative partnered in the training of Bible study leaders, participated in the hot spot challenges, and sponsored a “Road to Shalom” room that explored the deeper meanings of the word “shalom” throughout the Bible. One young woman was so moved by the encounter that she started her own work in bringing peace to others. This script and supply list for Road to Shalom has now been made available for synods, congregations, and other gatherings.

“Dwelling in the Word” sessions have regularly been included in ELCA Conference of Bishops and Church Council meetings.

Under the leadership of the Book of Faith initiative, the 2011 Churchwide Assembly began the practice of inviting the whole assembly to engage in Bible studies through small group discussions, utilizing the fourfold method of asking questions. This pattern of studying the Bible has been picked up in other event venues and is being used again at the 2013 Churchwide Assembly. This year the wider church has been invited into these biblical conversations.

Book of Faith in Synods

Synods are vital partners in the Book of Faith initiative and provide significant leadership. Designated Book of Faith synod advocates have continued working within their synod ministries on behalf of the initiative. Some have hosted Book of Faith events, bringing in speakers and creating their own events. Many synods have a Book of Faith presence on their synodical website. See, for example, the Oregon Synod which features an invitation from advocate Ms. Tonia J. Linquist and some audio/visual Bible studies by Bishop David H. Brauer-Rieke. Synods have adopted regular “Dwelling in the Word” moments at council meetings, synodical assemblies, and elsewhere.

Book of Faith in Higher Education

ELCA colleges and universities and campus ministries have sponsored Book of Faith groups and events. At present there is a move to propose partnerships among colleges, lifelong learning programs, campus ministries, and synods to offer Congregational Leadership Training for Book of Faith and mission conversations.

Book of Faith in Lay Schools

Some lay schools have used Book of Faith initiative materials or centered their curriculum on exploring ways of engaging the initiative. For example, in 2012–2013 Northwest Synod of Wisconsin’s Lay School of Ministry took on the overall topic of *Book of Faith Meets Missional Church*.

Lifelong learning at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minn., partnered with area synods to sponsor two Book of Faith Jubilees.

Book of Faith with Other Churchwide Ministries

The Book of Faith initiative has collaborated with a variety of other partners to support programs and to help develop materials for use in various ELCA ministry settings.

In partnership with Faith Practices and Mission Development Leaders, a resource called *Story Matters: Claiming our Biblical Identity for the Sake of the World* was developed and is currently being piloted by a number of congregations. *Story Matters* is designed to help each congregation discover and articulate, in a deep and biblically based conversation, its unique identity and mission so that it might discern its congregational story, explore and live into its story, engage in missional planning, and be challenged by this engagement to live out its mission.

With Select Learning, several Book of Faith resources have been developed including: *How Lutherans Interpret the Bible, Teaching the Bible; Hosting the Conversation; Teaching the Bible with Children, Youth and Families: Equipping Households of Faith; and Teaching the Bible with Children, Youth and Families: Service and Learning*.

With stewardship leaders, a *Rediscovering Macedonia* resource was developed for congregational use using the fourfold method to study 2 Corinthians 7:16–8:7.

From the beginning, the Book of Faith initiative was envisioned to be more than a theme or emphasis that would be succeeded by other emphases. Rather, the intent was and is to form culture and customs in this church that will open it to a new level of valuing and being shaped by the power of the Word. While much has been accomplished, much work remains. Productive and lasting change in cultures and customs takes time. Old challenges have deepened, and new challenges have arisen.

Church Council Action:

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on the Rev. Stephen P. Bouman, executive director of the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit, who presented the unit’s report and the recommendation that this church continue its Book of Faith initiative.

The Rev. Mark Wilhelm, program director for schools, mentioned plans to expand the initiative in coming years. Secretary David D. Swartling made the following motion on behalf of the Executive Committee.

Moved;

Seconded:

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

To affirm the Book of Faith initiative as a continuing emphasis and priority in this church, and to request that the presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America—who ‘as its pastor, shall be a teacher of the faith of this church and shall provide leadership for the life and witness of this church’ (ELCA constitutional provision 13.21.)—continue to lead this initiative personally and in collaboration with the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit, other appropriate churchwide units, and the Conference of Bishops;

To reaffirm the overall goal of the Book of Faith initiative to help individuals and congregations throughout the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to open Scripture and join the conversation;

To call on congregations, synods, the churchwide organization, and other ministries of this church to continue to promote deep biblical engagement that approaches the Bible as the written Word of God, using “multiple methods” to engage persons individually and in community with others;

To call upon Augsburg Fortress, Publishers, as the publishing ministry of this church, to consult with all expressions of this church and its related institutions and agencies as appropriate to undergird and support the Book of Faith initiative in order to enhance the biblical literacy of all members of this church as well as those seeking a better understanding of the Gospel of Jesus Christ;

To encourage engagement of the Book of Faith initiative by colleges, universities, and seminaries of this church, recognizing the continuing challenge of assisting pastoral and lay leaders in taking up their roles as teachers of the Bible in ways that engage and inspire the current and future members and seekers in this church;

To encourage the Book of Faith initiative leadership in conversation with its many partners to continue implementation of the initiative so as to respond to such challenges as: biblical illiteracy, Bible and mission outreach, addressing the great variety of cultures that make up this church and world, appealing to the growing number of persons in society claiming to be “spiritual but not religious,” creative use of social media, and the importance of family and home as centers of faith development; and

To give thanks to God for all of the individuals, congregations, synods, and churchwide ministries for their deep and abiding commitment to the centrality of God’s transforming Word in Christ, in proclamation, and in Scripture.

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

VOTED:

CC13.07.30

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

To affirm the Book of Faith initiative as a continuing emphasis and priority in this church, and to request that the presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America—who ‘as its pastor, shall be a teacher of the faith of this church and shall provide leadership for the life and witness of this church’ (ELCA constitutional provision 13.21.)—continue to lead this initiative personally and in collaboration with the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit, other appropriate churchwide units, and the Conference of Bishops;

To reaffirm the overall goal of the Book of Faith initiative to help individuals and congregations throughout the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to open Scripture and join the conversation;

To call on congregations, synods, the churchwide organization, and other ministries of this church to continue to promote deep biblical engagement that approaches the Bible as the written Word of God, using “multiple methods” to engage persons individually and in community with others;

To call upon Augsburg Fortress, Publishers, as the publishing ministry of this church, to consult with all expressions of this church and its related institutions and agencies as appropriate to undergird and support the Book of Faith initiative in order to enhance the biblical literacy of all members of this church as well as those seeking a better understanding of the Gospel of Jesus Christ;

To encourage engagement of the Book of Faith initiative by colleges, universities, and seminaries of this church, recognizing the continuing challenge of assisting pastoral and lay leaders in taking up their roles as teachers of the Bible in ways that engage and inspire the current and future members and seekers in this church;

To encourage the Book of Faith initiative leadership in conversation with its many partners to continue implementation of the initiative so as to respond to such challenges as: biblical illiteracy, Bible and mission outreach, addressing the great variety of cultures that make up this church and world, appealing to the growing number of persons in society claiming to be “spiritual but not religious,” creative use of social media, and the importance of family and home as centers of faith development; and

To give thanks to God for all of the individuals, congregations, synods, and churchwide ministries for their deep and abiding commitment to the centrality of God’s transforming Word in Christ, in proclamation, and in Scripture.

Vice President Peña declared the motion was adopted.

REPORT OF THE LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL REVIEW COMMITTEE

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on Mr. Mark E. Johnson, chair of the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee, to give the committee’s report.

MERGER OF CALIFORNIA LUTHERAN UNIVERSITY AND PACIFIC LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY (Agenda I.D.1.; Exhibit C)

Background:

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

California Lutheran University, Thousand Oaks, Calif., and Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, Berkeley, Calif., had also engaged in conversations about a possible merger. In accordance with ELCA bylaw 8.31.02., amendments to the governing documents of the separately incorporated seminary as well as amendments to the governing documents of the university would need Church Council approval. The council’s Legal and Constitutional Review Committee and the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit worked with the two schools in review of this merger.

At its April 2013 meeting, the Church Council voted [CC13.04.09]:

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

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

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

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

To authorize the Executive Committee of the Church Council, in collaboration with the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee and the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit, to engage in further discussions and document review with CLU and with PLTS, as necessary, for the purpose of

finalizing the proposed merger and to bring a recommended action regarding the merger and the final documents to implement it at a special Church Council meeting at a time to be determined.

Church Council Action:

Mr. Mark E. Johnson presented the documents the committee had reviewed and approved in anticipation of a merger of California Lutheran University, Thousand Oaks, Calif., and Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, Berkeley, Calif.

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

Moved;

Seconded:

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

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

To state that merger actions involving these schools must comply with the requirements in the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* and that this merger is in compliance;

To acknowledge that the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is the sole corporate member of PLTS and the Church Council must pass resolutions approving the merger; and

To adopt the following resolutions that are in conformity with the resolutions of the PLTS board and the CLU board, approving the merger.

Mr. David A. Ullrich, associate general counsel, reviewed the constitutional requirements of a merger between a college or university of this church and a seminary.

The Rev. Phyllis B. Anderson, president of Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, responded to a question about the locations of the schools. She also discussed the process used to involve the faculty, students, donors, and boards of both schools and the related synods in planning to advance theological education through the proposed merger.

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

VOTED:

CC13.07.31

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

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

To state that merger actions involving these schools must comply with the requirements in the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* and that this merger is in compliance;

To acknowledge that the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is the sole corporate member of PLTS and the Church Council must pass resolutions approving the merger; and

To adopt the following resolutions that are in conformity with the resolutions of the PLTS board and the CLU board, approving the merger.

Approval of Merger with California Lutheran University

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary ("PLTS") has determined that it is advisable and in the best interests of PLTS that

PLTS enter into an Agreement and Plan of Merger (the “Merger Agreement”), in substantially the form attached hereto as set forth in the background material, with California Lutheran University, a California nonprofit public benefit corporation (“CLU”), and consummate the business combination and other transactions provided for in the Merger Agreement; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the terms of the Merger Agreement, PLTS shall be merged with and into CLU (the “Merger”), and CLU shall continue as the surviving corporation (the “Surviving Corporation”); and

WHEREAS, the bylaws of the Surviving Corporation shall be amended in their entirety to read substantially in the form attached as set forth in the background material to the Merger Agreement, until thereafter amended in accordance with California law, the articles of incorporation of the Surviving Corporation, and such bylaws; and

WHEREAS, after the Merger, all the assets, property, rights, privileges, powers, and franchises of PLTS shall vest in the Surviving Corporation, all debts, liabilities and duties of PLTS shall become the debts, liabilities, and duties of the Surviving Corporation, and the separate existence of PLTS shall cease; and

WHEREAS, the Merger will become effective following the satisfaction of the conditions contemplated by the Merger Agreement at such time as an agreement of merger and officer’s certificates are filed with the Secretary of State of the State of California in accordance with the Merger Agreement and the California Nonprofit Corporation Law (the “CNCL”); and

WHEREAS, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, a Minnesota nonprofit corporation (the “ELCA”), is the sole member of PLTS; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the ELCA hereby determines that the Merger Agreement and the transactions contemplated thereby, including the Merger, are advisable and in the best interests of PLTS and the ELCA; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Merger Agreement (including all the terms, provisions, and exhibits thereto), substantially in the form delivered to the ELCA and approved by the Board of PLTS, and the Merger and the other transactions provided for in the Merger Agreement, are hereby approved and authorized in all respects, with such changes, additions, deletions, supplements, and amendments as the proper officers of PLTS may deem necessary or advisable with the advice of legal counsel, such determination to be conclusively evidenced by the President’s execution thereof; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the other agreements and certificates to be executed by PLTS pursuant to, or as contemplated by, the Merger Agreement (collectively, the “Ancillary Documents”) and approved by the Board of PLTS and the transactions contemplated thereby are hereby approved and authorized in all respects with such changes, additions, deletions, supplements and amendments thereto, as the proper officers of PLTS may deem necessary or advisable with the advice of legal counsel, such determination to be conclusively evidenced by such officer’s execution thereof.

Omnibus Resolutions

RESOLVED, that the omnibus resolution previously approved by the PLTS Board is approved and therefore that the proper officers of PLTS be, and each of them

hereby is, authorized and directed to execute and deliver to any person deemed appropriate by any such officer, any and all certificates, agreements, instruments, documents, or undertakings of any kind and nature whatsoever to evidence the obligations contemplated by the Merger Agreement and these resolutions, to establish, facilitate, or comply with the terms and conditions of the Merger Agreement, as may be amended from time to time, and these resolutions, such certificates, agreements, instruments, documents, or undertakings to be in such form and to contain the signature of such officers executing the same, the authorization and approval of PLTS to be conclusively evidenced by any such officer's execution thereof, and to do and perform or cause to be done and performed all acts, deeds, and things, in the name and on behalf of PLTS or otherwise as such officers may deem necessary or appropriate for the foregoing purposes; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the authority granted to the officers of PLTS under the foregoing resolutions shall be deemed to include, in the case of each such resolution, the authority to perform such further acts and deeds as may be necessary, convenient, or appropriate, in the good faith judgment of such officers, to carry out the transactions contemplated thereby and the purposes and intents of the foregoing resolutions, and that all acts and deeds previously performed by such officers or counsel for PLTS prior to the date of these resolutions are ratified, confirmed, and approved in all respects.

Vice President Peña declared the motion was adopted.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTIONS, BYLAWS, AND CONTINUING RESOLUTIONS OF THE ELCA

(Agenda I.D.2.)

Mr. Mark E. Johnson presented proposed amendments to the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* regarding the Nominating Committee, Committee on Discipline, and Committee on Appeals. He made the following motion on behalf of the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee.

Moved;

Seconded:

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

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

- 19.21.01.** ~~There shall be a Nominating Committee consisting of 18 members elected by the Churchwide Assembly. Each member shall be elected to one six-year term and shall not be eligible for consecutive re-election. Six members of the committee shall be elected each biennium. There shall be a Nominating Committee consisting of 12–18 members elected by the Churchwide Assembly. Each member shall be elected to one six-year term and shall serve until a successor is elected. Members of the Nominating Committee shall not be eligible for consecutive re-election. 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 also 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.

- 20.21.11.** ~~The churchwide Committee on Discipline shall consist of 36 persons, 19 of whom shall be laypersons and 17 of whom shall be ordained ministers, elected by the Churchwide Assembly for a term of six years, each without consecutive re-election, to~~ The Churchwide Committee on Discipline shall consist of 24–36 members, half of whom should be ordained ministers and half of whom should be laypersons, elected by the Churchwide Assembly for a term of six years. Each member will serve until a successor is elected, without consecutive re-election, and will serve as needed on a discipline hearing committee in any of the synods in this church.
- 20.64.** **The Committee on Appeals shall be comprised of six ordained ministers and six laypersons, elected by the Churchwide Assembly for a term of six years, without consecutive re-election.**
- 20.64.A13.** In the event that the term of any member of the Committee on Appeals expires before that member's successor is elected, the Church Council may elect an individual in the same category—ordained minister or layperson—to serve on the Committee until the next Churchwide Assembly. A member elected by the Church Council who serves less than one-half of a term shall be eligible for election to a full term by the Churchwide Assembly.

Secretary David D. Swartling responded to a question about the exceptions made historically in the composition of these committees to requirements that lay people make up at least 60 percent of such bodies.

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

VOTED:

CC13.07.32

TWO-THIRD VOTE REQUIRED

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

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

- 19.21.01.** ~~There shall be a Nominating Committee consisting of 18 members elected by the Churchwide Assembly. Each member shall be elected to one six-year term and shall not be eligible for consecutive re-election. Six members of the committee shall be elected each biennium. There shall be a Nominating Committee consisting of 12–18 members elected by the Churchwide Assembly.~~ Each member shall be elected to one six-year term and shall serve until a successor is elected. Members of the Nominating Committee shall not be eligible for consecutive re-election. 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 also 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.

20.21.11. ~~The churchwide Committee on Discipline shall consist of 36 persons, 19 of whom shall be laypersons and 17 of whom shall be ordained ministers, elected by the Churchwide Assembly for a term of six years, each without consecutive re-election, to~~ The Churchwide Committee on Discipline shall consist of 24–36 members, half of whom should be ordained ministers and half of whom should be laypersons, elected by the Churchwide Assembly for a term of six years. Each member will serve until a successor is elected, without consecutive re-election, and will serve as needed on a discipline hearing committee in any of the synods in this church.

20.64. **The Committee on Appeals shall be comprised of six ordained ministers and six laypersons, elected by the Churchwide Assembly for a term of six years, without consecutive re-election.**

20.64.A13. *In the event that the term of any member of the Committee on Appeals expires before that member's successor is elected, the Church Council may elect an individual in the same category—ordained minister or layperson—to serve on the Committee until the next Churchwide Assembly. A member elected by the Church Council who serves less than one-half of a term shall be eligible for election to a full term by the Churchwide Assembly.*

Vice President Peña declared the motion was adopted.

AMENDMENTS TO THE 2013 CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY RULES OF ORGANIZATION AND PROCEDURE (Agenda I.D.3.; Exhibit D)

Background:

At its November 2012 meeting, the Church Council voted [CC12.11.44u1] to recommend that the 2013 Churchwide Assembly adopt the proposed Rules of Organization and Procedure for the 2013 Churchwide Assembly (exclusive of quoted and highlighted constitutional provisions and bylaws that are already in force). It also voted [CC12.11.44u2]:

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

To report any changes to the Church Council at its August 2013 meeting.

Revisions to the Rules of Organization and Procedure were made to accommodate the increased use of electronic devices in conducting the business of the Churchwide Assembly.

Church Council Action:

Mr. Mark E. Johnson described amendments made to the recommended Rules of Organization and Procedure for the 2013 Churchwide Assembly to accommodate the increased use of electronic devices in conducting the business of the assembly. He noted that the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee would bring a second related recommendation to allow for further revisions. He made the following motion on behalf of the committee.

Moved;

Seconded: *To recommend adoption of the following resolution by the voting members of the 2013 Churchwide Assembly:*

To adopt the amended "Rules of Organization and Procedure" for the 2013 Churchwide Assembly (exclusive of quoted and highlighted constitutional provisions and bylaws that are already in force).

Secretary David D. Swartling noted that some revisions made it possible for forms to be submitted on paper and electronically; other revisions were made to deadlines during the assembly.

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

VOTED:

CC13.07.33 *To recommend adoption of the following resolution by the voting members of the 2013 Churchwide Assembly:*

To adopt the amended Rules of Organization and Procedure for the 2013 Churchwide Assembly (exclusive of quoted and highlighted constitutional provisions and bylaws that are already in force).

Vice President Peña declared the motion was adopted.

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

Moved;

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

To report any changes to the Church Council at its August 2013 meeting.

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

VOTED:

CC13.07.34 **To authorize the presiding bishop and secretary of this church to prepare further editing and scheduling revisions that may be found necessary for the Rules of Organization and Procedure prior to their publication in the *Pre-Assembly Report*; and To report any changes to the Church Council at its August 2013 meeting.**

Vice President Peña declared the motion was adopted.

EN BLOC APPROVAL OF CERTAIN ITEMS

(Agenda I.E.; Exhibit B)

Background:

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

Church Council Action:

Vice President Carlos E. Peña introduced the recommendations for *en bloc* consideration, noting that none had been removed for separate consideration.

Secretary David D. Swartling made the following motion.

Moved;

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

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

VOTED:

CC13.07.35 To take action *en bloc* on the items listed below.

Vice President Peña declared the motion was adopted.

**A. Boy Scouts of America Units Sponsored by Congregations of the ELCA
Metropolitan Chicago Synod (5A) [2013]**

WHEREAS, there are numerous Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) congregations which are chartering organizations for Boy Scout units throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS, these units and are re-chartered annually; and

WHEREAS, the current policy of the Boy Scouts of America which bans homosexuals from serving as Boy Scout leaders is contrary to the ELCA's social statement, *Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust*, which opposes all forms of violence or discrimination against homosexuals and is committed to welcoming all people, regardless of sexual orientation, and their families into our congregations; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan Chicago Synod Assembly, commend the National Council of Boy Scouts of America for its recent change in policy that excluded gay youth from participating in Boy Scouts of America (BSA) and encourage the National Council of the BSA to re-examine its policy banning homosexual persons in leadership roles; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan Chicago Synod Assembly encourage congregations which charter BSA units to engage unit leaders at the time of charter renewal, encouraging them to communicate with the National Council and the executive board of the BSA to rescind the policy banning homosexual persons from serving as Boy Scout leaders and volunteers; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan Chicago Synod Assembly encourage synod congregations to affix an addendum to their charters, advising the BSA that the congregation opposes the BSA's discriminatory policy, urging full inclusion for all leaders; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan Chicago Synod Assembly direct the Synod Council to forward this resolution to the National Council of the BSA: and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan Chicago Synod Assembly direct the Synod Council to forward this resolution to the Church Council for consideration and action.

VOTED:

**CC13.07.35a To receive the resolution of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod regarding Boy Scouts of America units sponsored by congregations of the ELCA;
To refer the resolution to the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit in consultation with the Conference of Bishops and the Office of the Presiding Bishop;
To request that a report and possible recommendations be presented to the November 2013 meeting of the Church Council; and
To request that the secretary inform the synod of this action.**

EN BLOC

**B. Conversations about Ministering to Same-gender Couples and Families
Metropolitan Chicago Synod (5A) [2013]**

WHEREAS, the 2009 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) resolved to “commit itself to finding ways to allow congregations that choose to do so to recognize, support, and hold publicly accountable lifelong, monogamous, same-gender relationships;” and

Whereas, the ELCA social statement Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust (2009) states that

1. “the ELCA recognizes that it has a pastoral responsibility to all children of God.” (p. 19)
2. “supports legislation and policies to protect civil rights” for all and has also “called upon congregations and members of this church to welcome, care for, and support same-gender couples and their families and to advocate for their legal protection.” (p. 19, emphasis added)
3. “will attend to the need for equal protection, equal opportunities, and equal responsibilities under the law” for all (p. 33); and

WHEREAS, marriage has been recognized for same-gender couples in nine states and the District of Columbia and within the territory of twelve synods of the ELCA, which together minister to more than 650,000 Lutherans (about 15 percent of the total membership of this church); and

WHEREAS, seven additional states (Illinois, Minnesota, Delaware, Rhode Island, Hawaii, Oregon, and New Jersey) are widely expected to consider legislation recognizing marriage for same-gender couples between 2013 and 2015, encompassing twelve additional synods that minister to more than 1.1 million Lutherans (about 25 percent of the total membership of this church); and

WHEREAS, the 2012 assembly the Metropolitan Chicago Synod resolved to call upon its congregations and members to welcome, care for, and support same-gender couples and their families and to advocate for their legal protection, and has urged the Illinois legislature and governor to extend the protections and dignity of marriage to all people and to protect the freedom of religion for all faith communities and religious organizations; and

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court of the United States is currently considering whether to declare two laws unconstitutional: the federal Defense of Marriage Act and California’s Proposition 8, both of which restrict the individual and family protections afforded by marriage; and

WHEREAS, individuals, congregations, and pastors have requested advice and resources to assist in their mission to support same-gender couples and their families; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan Chicago Synod

1. extend its longstanding advocacy for equal protection under the law for same-gender couples and their families;
2. reaffirm its commitment to conversation about ministry among people of all sexual orientations and gender identities, individuals, couples, and families;
3. continue to promote conversation and resource sharing toward this mission, utilizing proven and successful tools and events such as the Deepening the Welcome workshops; and
4. forward this resolution to the Church Council for consideration and possible action, in order to make provision for voting members to engage in these conversations at the 2016 Churchwide Assembly, as this church continues to discern its ministry in the emerging context.

VOTED:

EN BLOC

**CC13.07.35b To receive the resolution of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod on Conversation about Ministering to Same-gender Couples and Families;
To acknowledge that the action of the 2013 Churchwide Assembly will be the response to this resolution; and
To request that the secretary of this church inform the synod of this action.**

**C. The Isolation of Individuals Living in Our Communities
Virginia Synod (9A) [2013]**

WHEREAS, we are called by the Gospel to live in community; and

WHEREAS, we are called to love and care for our neighbor in body, mind, and soul, including the fullness of mental health; and

WHEREAS, isolation separates individuals of all ages from the love and support of a helping community; and

WHEREAS, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) calls us to do God’s work with our hands; and

WHEREAS, our synodical leadership encourages mutual support and accountability; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that members of the Virginia Synod Assembly encourage their congregations to pray for those living in isolation; and be it further

RESOLVED, that members of the Virginia Synod Assembly encourage their congregations to identify and reach out to those who are living in isolation; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Virginia Synod encourage congregations and individuals to partner with institutions and agencies who work with children, youth, adults, and senior citizens to identify and reach out to those who are living in isolation; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Virginia Synod of the ELCA forward this to the ELCA Church Council for further consideration.

VOTED:

EN BLOC

CC13.07.35c **To receive the resolution of the Virginia Synod on the Isolation of Individuals Living in Our Communities;**
To refer the resolution to the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit;
To request that a report be brought to the November 2013 meeting of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; and
To request that the secretary inform the synod of this action.

D. Ratification of Synod Constitutional Amendments

VOTED:

EN BLOC

CC13.07.35d **To ratify the following amendments to synodical constitutions:**

Northeastern Ohio Synod (6E)

S9.0313. The Synod Assembly shall elect its representatives to the Boards of Directors of Trinity Lutheran Seminary and Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, recognizing the inclusive composition of the each respective board and that the. ~~The~~ terms of office are shall be set forth by the each respective institution.

S10.04. Any proposal to appropriate funds, whether by amendment to the budget or otherwise, which is presented to a meeting of the Synod Assembly without the approval of the Synod Council, shall require a two-thirds vote for adoption. Any proposal to increase the budget must be accompanied by a statement of the source of the revenue.

S11.06. Other committees of this synod may be formed, as the need arises, by decision of the Synod Council. Duties of such committees shall be specified in the continuing resolutions.

Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod (7E)

S11.06. This Synod shall have program, support, and coordinating ministry teams, committees, and task forces as designated or provided for in the Bylaws or Continuing Resolutions.

New Jersey Synod (7A)

S9.03. ~~There shall be a Nominating Committee consisting of one member from each cluster, who shall be elected by the cluster to serve for two consecutive regular meetings of the Synod Assembly. One half of the committee shall stand for election each year. Additional nominations may be made from the floor for all elections for which nominations are made by the Nominating Committee. There shall be a Nominating Committee appointed annually by the Synod Council of from six to nine persons. The Synod Council may appoint the Mission District Deans to serve in this role. The Synod Bishop and Synod Secretary shall serve ex-officio with voice, but not vote. The Nominating Committee shall provide at least one nomination for Counselor for each Mission Cluster. The Nominating Committee shall provide nominations to the Synod Assembly for Synod Council and for ELCA Churchwide Voting Members for positions available after Mission District elections of nominees. The Nominating Committee shall designate categories for Mission Districts electing nominees for Synod Council and Churchwide Voting Members. Nominations may be made from the floor for all elections, except for those tickets where a Mission District election has provided the nominee.~~

E. Nominating Committee Nominations

VOTED:

EN BLOC

CC13.07.35e

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 [four positions]; lay female [two positions, including one youth/young adult]; lay male [two positions, including one person of color or whose primary language is other than English]; and

To request that the Church Council transmit the following slate of nominees to the 2013 Churchwide Assembly:

CHURCHWIDE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Clergy

A. Pr. Amber Remillard, Castleton-on-Hudson, N.Y. (7D)

B. Pr. Amy Thompson Sevimli, Alexandria, Va. (8G)

Clergy

- A. Pr. Ruth E. Hamilton, Atlanta, Ga. (9D)
- B. Pr. Cynthia K. Hileman, Chicago, Ill. (5A)

Clergy

- A. Pr. Christopher S. Heavner, Clemson, S.C. (9C)
- B. Pr. Eric Carlson, Clive, Iowa (5D)

Clergy

- A. Pr. Stephen A. Keiser, Philadelphia, Pa. (7F)
- B. Pr. Gordon D. Peterson, Overland Park, Kan. (4B)

Lay Female [Youth/Young Adult]

- A. Ms. Emily Isensee, Vancouver, Wash. (1C)
- B. None

Lay Female

- A. Ms. Sandra J. Schlesinger, Midland, Mich. (6B)
- B. Ms. Stacy D. Kitahata, Seattle, Wash. (1B)

Lay Male [Person of Color/Language other than English]

- A. Mr. Tommie L. Robinson Jr., Washington, D.C. (8G)
- B. Mr. Troy Walker, Detroit, Mich. (6A)

Lay Male

- A. Mr. David Hawkins, Princeton, N.J. (7A)
- B. Mr. Jordan Krey, Quincy, Mass. (7B)

CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY UPDATE

CHURCH COUNCIL ASSIGNMENTS

(Agenda I.F.1.a.; Exhibit E)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña reviewed the assignments for Church Council members during the 2013 Churchwide Assembly provided in the exhibits. He noted that council members could also bring questions to their August 2013 meeting.

Secretary David D. Swartling responded to a question regarding orientation for Church Council members scheduled for Monday, August 12, 2013.

CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY MATERIALS AND MAILING LIST DISTRIBUTION

(Agenda I.F.1.b.)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on Secretary David D. Swartling to discuss policies regarding the distribution of the mailing list of Churchwide Assembly voting members.

The secretary reviewed the existing policies for distribution of materials and mailing lists. He mentioned that each voting member would receive the email address of an assigned prayer partner for the 2013 Churchwide Assembly. Previously each received the other's phone numbers.

CHURCHWIDE ORGANIZATION STRATEGIC PLANNING UPDATE

(Agenda I.F.2.)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña asked the Rev. M. Wyvetta Bullock, executive for administration, for an update on strategic planning for the churchwide organization.

Pr. Bullock described work that had begun on a 2014–2016 operational plan, based on the 2011–2013 operational plan. She presented the process that would be used to develop goals and strategies for implementation. The Church Council and its committees would receive another update in November 2013.

Mr. William B. Horne II discussed the importance of his participation and that of others in the planning workshop.

UPDATE FROM PORTICO BENEFIT SERVICES

(Agenda I.F.3.)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña requested an update from the Rev. Jeffrey D. Thiemann, president of Portico Benefit Services.

Pr. Thiemann recalled actions the Church Council had taken in April 2013 in anticipation of health care reform, affirming the ELCA Philosophy of Benefits and endorsing initial plans for 2014. He outlined steps Portico had taken and would take to educate plan members about reforms in health care and the options being considered for ELCA plans.

Pr. Thiemann responded to questions about how recent changes in federal requirements would affect Portico's planning. He mentioned that a bill in the U.S. Senate would allow church bodies to operate health care plans much like state-run insurance exchanges, but the bill lacked key support. At the request of those present, he gave a detailed list of the senators who would need to support such a measure.

PROPOSAL FOR ELCA CREDIT UNION

(Agenda I.F.4.; Exhibit F)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson and Ms. Eva M. Roby, president of Mission Investment Fund (MIF), to discuss a letter, provided among the exhibits, proposing the establishment of a credit union to serve members of the ELCA.

Presiding Bishop Hanson presented some of the benefits of such a credit union to its members and to this church.

Ms. Roby described credit unions, the process for establishing an ELCA Credit Union in 2014, the role of MIF in that process, and the relationship such a credit union would have with this church.

Responding to questions from Church Council members, Ms. Roby explained that the MIF would consider the credit union a business partner to communicate with the banking industry, what it would mean for the ELCA to sponsor a credit union, the services provided by a credit union, and investment possibilities.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Agenda I.G.)

Secretary David D. Swartling reminded Church Council members of registration procedures and preliminary events for the 2013 Churchwide Assembly.

Vice President Carlos E. Peña thanked the council members.

ADJOURNMENT

The seventy-ninth meeting of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America adjourned Thursday, July 11, 2013, at 3:25 P.M.