

**EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
IN AMERICA**

Church Council

MINUTES

November 7-10, 2014

**Prepared by the
Office of the Secretary**

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**EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
CHURCH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES
November 7-10, 2014
Chicago, Illinois**

The eighty-third meeting of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) was convened in the Council Room of the Lutheran Center at Chicago, Ill.

The Audit Committee met Thursday, November 6, 2014.

The Executive Committee of the Church Council met in the Epiphany Conference Room on Friday, November 7, 2014, followed at 1:30 p.m. (Central Standard Time) by worship with Holy Communion in the Chapel of the Lutheran Center. The Rev. Jessica R. Crist, bishop of the Montana Synod and chair of the Conference of Bishops, presided; the Rev. Stephen R. Herr, preached. Ms. Louise A. Hemstead served as assisting minister and Mr. Oliver W. Thul as lector.

ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING

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

Voting Members

Officers:

Pr. Elizabeth A. Eaton, presiding bishop
Mr. Carlos E. Peña, vice president
Pr. Wm Chris Boerger, 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	Ms. Kayla S. Koterwski
Ms. Marit L. Bakken	Mr. John W. Lohrmann
Mr. Nicholas A. Barber	Ms. Susan W. McArver (<i>excused</i>)
Mr. Hans E. Becklin	Pr. Loren D. Mellum
Mr. Allan J. Bieber	Mr. Fernando Mercado
Ms. Amanda E. Briggs	Pr. Raymond A. Miller Jr.
Mr. Reid A. Christopherson	Pr. Robert G. Moore
Ms. Christine P. Connell	Pr. Linda Nou
Pr. Karsten Decker	Mr. John M. Pederson
Pr. Elizabeth E. Ekdale (<i>excused</i>)	Ms. Meri Jo Petrivelli
Ms. Marjorie B. Ellis	Ms. Pamela E. Pritt
Pr. William E. Flippin Jr.	Mr. Clarence M. Smith
Mr. Gary D. Gabrielson	Pr. Jonathan Splichal Larson
Pr. Vicki T. Garber	Ms. Ingrid S. Stafford
Pr. Joyce M. Graue	Ms. Leslie J. Swenson
Ms. Cynthia M. Gustavson	Mr. Oliver W. Thul
Ms. Louise A. Hemstead	Pr. Kathryn A. Tiede
Pr. Stephen R. Herr	Pr. James H. Utt
Mr. William B. Horne II	Mr. Vernon K. Veal
Ms. Maren Hulden	Pr. William O. Voss (<i>excused</i>)
Mr. James M. Hushagen	Pr. Michael R. Ward
Pr. Peder J. Johanson	Ms. Man Hei Yip
Pr. Carla J. Johnsen	

Representatives of the Conference of Bishops

Bp. Michael L. Burk, Region 5	Bp. Stephen S. Talmage, Region 2 (<i>excused</i>)
Bp. Claire S. Burkat, Region 7	Bp. Shelley R. Wickstrom, Region 1
Bp. Ralph E. Jones, Region 8	Bp. Herman R. Yoos III, Region 9
Bp. Marcus C. Lohrmann, Region 6	Bp. David B. Zellmer, Region 3
Bp. Brian D. Maas, Region 4 (<i>excused</i>)	

Resource People

Office of the Presiding Bishop:

Pr. M. Wyvetta Bullock, executive for administration
Mr. Kenneth W. Inskeep, executive for research and evaluation
Ms. Rhondean Johnson, executive for human resources
Pr. Marcus R. Kunz, assistant to the presiding bishop for theological discernment
Ms. Kathryn M. Lohre, assistant to the presiding bishop for ecumenical and inter-religious relations
Pr. Walter S. May, assistant to the presiding bishop for synodical relations
Pr. Donald J. McCoid, director for ecumenical and inter-religious relations
Ms. Jodi L. Slattery, assistant to the presiding bishop for governance

Office of the Secretary:

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

Unit Staff:

Ms. Rachel Bouman, assistant director for leadership
Pr. Stephen P. Bouman, executive director of the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit
Mr. Mark D. Burkhardt, director for congregational centers for mission
Pr. Rubén F. Durán, director for new congregations
Pr. Ronald T. Glusenkamp, director for the Campaign for the ELCA
Ms. Christina Jackson-Skelton, executive director of the Mission Advancement unit
Pr. Rafael Malpica Padilla, executive director of the Global Mission unit
Ms. Evelyn B. Soto, director for operations and programs of the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit
Pr. Michael R. Stadie, director for Lutheran Disaster Response
Pr. Jonathan P. Strandjord, director for seminaries
Pr. Gregory J. Villalón, director for leadership for mission/candidacy
Mr. David C. Wunsch, director for operations of the Global Mission unit

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
Ms. Eva M. Roby, president, Mission Investment Fund
Pr. Martin A. Seltz, publisher, worship and music, Augsburg Fortress, Publishers
Pr. Jeffrey D. Thiemann, president, Portico Benefit Services

Press:

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

Ecumenical Guests:

Pr. Scott D. Anderson, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Pr. Gay Clark Jennings, The Episcopal Church
Pr. Elizabeth D. "Betsy" Miller, Moravian Church in America (*excused*)
Bp. Sharon Z. Rader, United Methodist Church (*excused*)
Pr. Lisa Vander Wal, The Reformed Church in America (*excused*)

Registered Guests

Pr. Kim L. Beckmann, legislative team, Goodsoil
Mr. Michael L. Bennett, treasurer, Lutheran CORE (Coalition for Renewal)
Mr. Tim Fisher, legislative/communications assistant, ReconcilingWorks
Pr. W. Steven Shipman, director, Lutheran CORE (Coalition for Renewal)
Ms. Amalia Vagts, executive director, Extraordinary Lutheran Ministries (ELM)

**Friday, November 7, 2014
Plenary Session I**

CALL TO ORDER AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

(Agenda I.A.)

Background:

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

Church Council action:

Mr. Carlos E. Peña, vice president of the ELCA and chair of the Church Council, called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. He welcomed Mr. Vernon K. Veal, who had been nominated for election to the Church Council. The chair also brought greetings from those council members excused from attendance. He identified the guests who were present, and the Church Council responded with applause. The vice president drew attention to the meeting resource materials and deadlines for new business and for removing items from *en bloc* consideration. He reviewed the proposed agenda.

The Rev. Wm Chris Boerger, secretary of the ELCA, made the following motion.

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:

CC14.11.15 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.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

(Agenda I.B.)

Background:

The minutes of the April 4-6, 2014, meeting of the Church Council were distributed to council members electronically on Net Community. Minutes for meetings held in executive session were added to the protocol file in the Office of the Secretary.

The minutes of the council's Executive Committee meetings of April 4, 2014, May 5, 2014, June 18, 2014, August 15, 2014, September 10, 2014, and October 20, 2014, were distributed electronically to members. Minutes for meetings held in executive session were added to the protocol file in the Office of the Secretary.

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

Church Council Action:

Vice President Carlos E. Peña pointed out the minutes that had been prepared since the April 2014 meetings of the Church Council and its Executive Committee.

Secretary Wm Chris Boerger made the following motion.

Moved;

Seconded:

To approve the minutes of the April 4-6, 2014, meeting of the Church Council; and
To ratify actions of the council's Executive Committee as indicated in the minutes of the April 4, 2014, May 5, 2014, June 18, 2014, August 15, 2014, September 10, 2014, and October 20, 2014, meetings.

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

VOTED:

CC14.11.16

**To approve the minutes of the April 4-6, 2014, meeting of the Church Council; and
To ratify actions of the council's Executive Committee as indicated in the minutes
of the April 4, 2014, May 5, 2014, June 18, 2014, August 15, 2014, September 10, 2014,
and October 20, 2014, meetings.**

Vice President Peña declared the motion was adopted.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDING BISHOP

(Agenda I.C.; *Reference:* Report of the Presiding Bishop)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña asked Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton for her report.

Presiding Bishop Eaton said: "Thank you, Vice President Peña.

"You have my report. If you were at the Conference of Bishops meeting [in October 2014], you will recognize the first two sections. I will not go into all the details about all the things that I have been able to see, do and attend this past year. A lot of that work will be reported to you in your committees and also by others.

"It has been just more than a year that Chris Boerger and I started. We told you the story last year of finding ourselves on the elevator together. Bishop Hanson had just left, and we were saying good-bye to David Swartling. Chris and I got on the elevator; the doors closed, we looked at each other, and . . . it was a frightening thing to see that we were now the grown-ups.

"After a year, it has been a remarkable opportunity for me to see this church and see how the ELCA really does show up. Across this country and into the Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, and around the world, we do remarkable work together. We are far more capable of doing much more together than we are apart.

"That is one of the emphases in the written report that I have given you. I thought in my naive way that it was all wrapped up — we were church together, Team ELCA, Jesus was our captain, and things were fine — only to find how quickly that can unravel, when there are certain neuralgic points touched. They are not the same points for everyone. So, in my report to you, I outline some of the ways we became disconnected from one another, particularly after the 2009 Churchwide Assembly.

"Some of you were on the Church Council then, and I remember that those of us serving in the Conference of Bishops were pretty upset with the Class of 2011, because we wanted the Church Council to take an action that we decided would make our lives a lot easier. I am not sure that would have been the case. We wanted the Church Council to require that any ministry policy changes would need to be accepted by the Churchwide Assembly by a two-thirds majority. That was not the decision here; I heard the reasoning for the decision, and I understand that now. But our sense then, as the Conference of Bishops, was that the Church Council has all the power, and we are the ones who have to put up with all of the fallout. We have no power or authority as bishops. There was a disconnect between the Conference of Bishops and the Church Council.

"At the council's retreat this summer, we said we want to work as a team. We will have a chance to talk more about that tonight after dinner.

"I do know that the Conference of Bishops felt that the churchwide organization did not understand the kind of pain that it was going through, trying to hold this church together. I found out once I started here that we, as the Conference

of Bishops, did not understand the trauma experienced by people in this building and the deployed staff across this church, when they saw more than 100 colleagues leave because of mission support constraints — a lot of that brought on by the decisions made in 2009 but also the slow steady decline and the recession. So, there was real pain in this building, and the folks here thought, ‘How come the bishops are angry with us all the time? Why do they not understand us?’ Then I had the chance to be around with congregations. I met with the senior pastors of the largest congregations and also the senior pastors of the congregations giving the most mission support — not the same people all the time. One pastor, John Hogenson, said, ‘Over a couple of Sundays, 500 people were gone.’ I also had a chance, in North Carolina last week, to work with the South Carolina Synod; and one pastor explained to me how this divided families in the congregation.

“So, here we have gone through all this pain and trauma, and my observation was that we turned *on* each other instead of turning *to* each other. That is the culture we live in. This culture would have us divide into opposing camps, and we do not live in a place that David Swartling would hold up as a different model. David would want to say that we are a ‘both and’ church in an ‘either or’ world. The world wants us to be ‘either or,’ and that happened to us after 2009.

“Someone did ask me what I wanted my legacy to be, which I thought was hilarious, but maybe there is one thing I would like to spend a lot of energy on and effort in. (All of us could do this together.) How do we start finding our way back to each other? How do we do that? Because we are a stronger church when we are able to do that. And how do we resist the temptation, when our particular ox is gored, not immediately to say, ‘Ah ha, I know you did that intentionally?’ How do we resist the temptation that is so strong to begin to ascribe motive to somebody before we have even had a conversation with them. Perhaps we should laminate Luther’s explanation of the Eighth Commandment and carry that around with us all the time.

“Another thing that has become very important to me. (The synod assembly videos for 2015 will reflect this.) It is a hard concept to work on. ‘We are church.’

“I have been in your synods; you have heard me say this a zillion times. I am proud of the work that Bishop Hanson did to move us to be a church that is active and visible in the public square. Lutheran quietism is something that has not always served the faith or us well. We are advocating for those who are vulnerable in our communities and around the world, and that is important. We have to know why we are doing it and in whose name we are doing it. And how are we able to do this?

“I even want us to take a step back further than that. Americans are such active and useful people; we always have to be doing something. Sometimes even being the church is just another thing we do. I do not want us to stop any of the work we are doing; I am not saying we are going to do that. So, some people got the willies, thinking I had said we would not be engaged the way we are.

“At some level, can we hit the ‘pause button’ just to say, ‘Let us find a way to rest in Christ.’ That is the source of our life together — of our life period. Can we just find a way to do that?

“We are trying to work this into the synod assembly videos for 2015. Last year we were ‘church together,’ this year we will be ‘church,’ next year it will be ‘Lutheran,’ and the fourth year is ‘church for the sake of the world,’ and then I will have to think of a couple more things. We will have a chance to be around in congregations and in synods, in the video. It is still in the concept phase, but instead of the usual format (which I think has been wonderful) showing ministries and examples of how we engage in ministry as a church in different places, I think it is going to turn into more of a call from me to this church to press the ‘pause button’ for a while, and see how is it that our abiding in Christ looks across this church in a lot of different ways. I do not know how that is going to turn out, but we are going to give it a try. Your communication team is doing an excellent job trying to work with me on that. It has been very hard because even I cannot clearly articulate what I am trying to get at all the time, but I am giving it a try.

“I put at the end of my report something that I did not give to the Conference of Bishops because I had not yet preached on the Beatitudes; its meeting was before All Saints’ Sunday. This might be a completely bad interpretation and understanding of what Jesus was trying to say in Matthew 5, especially in the first four Beatitudes — verses one through 12 — when Jesus says that the poor in spirit, those who mourn and those in need are blessed.

“To our transactional culture, that makes absolutely no sense. That is just a ridiculous statement on Jesus’ part, because how can it possibly be that those who have no hope whatsoever, those who have no possibility for joy, and those

who have no access to God's abundance or to resources in the world, how can they be the ones who are honored or fortunate or other translations of μακάριοι? It just cannot be.

"This church, through a history of interpreting these Beatitudes, says, 'Maybe this is a list of things we need to do to be the church.' I do not think that is the case. I do not think the poor want more poor people, so I do not think Jesus would want us to do that.

"One interpretation I am coming to is that, if these are the people who have nothing, then the only thing they have (which of course is everything) is Jesus, and maybe at this time in our history we are coming to a point where all of that stuff that made us part of the dominant culture is being stripped away; and maybe we are finding that we are poor and mourning and meek and that there is a blessing in that, because it is not about us and doing what we need to do. We might be in a time where God is pruning the church, and, to quote Bishop Hanson, I do not want to measure how successful we are by how small we get, but could it be that now we need to measure how we are doing it in a different way?

"Wyvetta [Bullock] and I had this conversation, when she was working so hard to prepare her report for you; we say in the operational plan — goal number one — that we are going to have our congregations grow, and they are going to be diverse, and our members are going to be wonderful, and we are going to have all kinds of mission support. When you take a look at the trend lines, that is just not what is happening here. Not that I want us to continue in that way indefinitely, but maybe this is a time for us to measure growth in terms of how we understand Christ is engaging us in a way that is far deeper than when we looked at the size that we were in 1950 or 1970 or even in 1988.

"I do get to go across this church and see you in action. Linda and I were at PLU [Pacific Lutheran University] last week. There are really remarkable things we do with faithful people. So, when I talk about being pruned or going deeper, I am not trying to chastize anyone. I just think that this is a moment that God is giving to us, offering to us to be church in a way that we have not been forced to be, because that was not the reality.

"It has been a year, and people keep asking the same questions but in different tenses since my election. 'What are the big surprises? What have I learned? What are my joys?' I hate answering those questions.

"One big surprise — I went through media training yesterday again, and I was surprised how many cell phones there are in America. Everyone has one to take a picture with the thing. It is like confirmation Sunday every single day.

"Another big surprise is just how complex this church is. Most of us are familiar with our local congregations but maybe not with other expressions. You are familiar with Church Council work. I am familiar with the Conference of Bishops and the churchwide organization. It is really complex, and we really need each other. We really need Jesus, first of all, but we need each other.

"It has been interesting to see that. Marcus Miller cautioned us, when we had a retreat for the Conference of Bishops a year ago this past spring, 'People listen to what we say.' You, as members of the Church Council and churchwide staff and ecumenical guests, and I, as presiding bishop — people listen to what we say. I have learned that I have to tone it down, in some cases, because I am speaking for this church and not just for myself. I want to make sure that I represent us accurately and in a way that would be a blessing to this church and bring honor to God.

"This is really amazing, because we do not believe it. We are the last ones to believe it. We are so Lutheran. We talk about grace, but we do not accept it. We do not accept the degree of respect and admiration by which this denomination is held in such places as the Lilly Endowment and other places; it is something we do not believe. We do not think that is possible. My husband is an Episcopal priest, and he would say, as Jonathan Strandjord has told us, that the way our seminary presidents relate to our church and our seminaries relate to the bishops and congregations is far different from the system in The Episcopal Church. It is really something that people admire. We all think we are going down the tubes . . . deeply flawed and about to fall apart. That is not how we are seen.

"In this denomination, 69 percent of regular giving from members in mission support comes to the churchwide organization for us to work together. That does not happen in any other denomination, except maybe the Baptists. I think we are alone in that. People are stunned by that. I talked with John Wimmer of the Lilly Endowment. (Maybe this was not such good news for everybody else.) They would like to say we are maybe one of the best examples of a functioning mainline Protestant denomination in America. See, you do not believe that. We are the shining example. We have got to get over that, people.

"There are a lot of gifts God has given us; everything that we need is already here. There are a lot of gifts, and we constantly wring our hands and say, 'Things do not work. The system is broken.' Certainly, there is room to improve.

We can grow. We can change. But our starting point, our default is automatically that we are a mess. It is just not true, nor is it helpful.”

The presiding bishop was asked about the criteria the Lilly Endowment used for its observation.

“I can give you a couple criteria, but I will ask John [Wimmer] for more of a list, because I would like to know. He points to the relationships that our seminaries have with this church and the relationships that our people have with the seminaries. Our people support seminaries. And it may not always seem like it, but they try to work with the Church Council, with the churchwide organization, with synods, with bishops, with candidates, and that does not happen in all denominations. They point to the mission support that our people remit as something that is just completely off the charts, as better than most other religious institutions. I will try to find more of those and let you know.”

Another question dealt with the presiding bishop’s remarks about this church pressing the ‘pause button,’ when congregations seem to be constantly moving from one crisis to the next.

“That is a conversation that I would want to call the entire church to. People ask, ‘How are you going to . . .?’ I cannot do anything by myself. I wish I was the United States Navy, which, about ten years ago, had the whole fleet stand down, because there were so many incidences where people were getting injured in work related accidents. And they said, ‘Everyone stand down for two days. We are just going to stop this.’

“I get the back page of *The Lutheran*, which I found out more people than my mother read. Maybe we can start to say this. We are so worried about our congregations shrinking, mission support decreasing or not being relevant. Maybe we missed the whole point. Maybe what we need to do is say, ‘It is not about doing something all the time. It is about attending to, abiding in and finding ourselves in Christ.’

“There are ways to get at that. I just do not want those ways to become more things to do. We do go from one thing to the next. Bishop Chilstrom had Mission 90, and it did not seem to take off. After two years, they switched to something else. We have to be patient. The Church has been at this for 2,000 years. We can be patient. That will be a constant theme for me.

“I wrote that I used to get frustrated when people said they were spiritual and not religious. Maybe, when people look at our congregations and other denominations as well, they see a bunch of busy, active people who are religious and not spiritual. Why cannot we be both? We cannot be both if we are just going to *do* all the time, instead of finding ways to abide in Christ. It might be that we will grow, but that should not be the reason why we are doing this.”

The presiding bishop also responded to remarks about meetings of the ELCA being surrounded by worship and prayer as a way of pressing the ‘pause button,’ and about the presiding bishop’s positive candor.

“I do not know if it was in my written report, but the Church Council has changed the way it does things. I started here in 2005, as a member of the Church Council, and left when I was elected as a synod bishop. Then I came back as a liaison bishop, and the culture had changed. Most of our congregations or synods do not have meetings where there is a pause for prayer, where people actually tell the stories of their own personal faith experiences, where we pray for each other. Reflect on your congregational meetings. The meetings begin with prayer. ‘Hi, God, now, if you would step out in the hall, we will get to the real work. We will bring you back at the end of the meeting.’ Start with a devotion, do the real work, and end with the Lord’s Prayer. You changed things here. It is really remarkable. We already do this to some degree at the Churchwide Assembly. I wonder if there is a way we can do it even more.”

Vice President Peña thanked Presiding Bishop Eaton for her report.

REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

(Agenda I.D.; *Reference:* Vice President’s Report)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña relinquished the chair to Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton, who called on Mr. Peña for the report of the vice president.

Vice President Peña read and reflected on Acts 10:34-35, and he led the Church Council in prayer. He drew the council’s attention to his written report, noting the names given meeting reports instead of referring to them as exhibits. He provided his cell phone number and asked council members to text him examples of things that were considered radical several years ago but are now considered commonplace. He commented on many events since the previous Church Council meeting, including the Conference of Bishops meeting. He described matters the Executive Committee

would present to council, as well as recommendations from the Church Council's summer retreat that would be or had been implemented. He asked that all members of the council participate in the Campaign of the ELCA.

The vice president responded to questions about what should be sent to his cell phone. He and the Rev. Stephen P. Bouman, executive director of the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit, commented on this church's response to the crisis of children fleeing to the United States from Central America.

Presiding Bishop Eaton thanked the vice president for his report and returned the chair to Vice President Peña.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

(Agenda I.E.)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña drew the attention of the Church Council to agenda items provided by the Executive Committee.

CHURCH COUNCIL NOMINATION AND ELECTION

(Agenda I.E.1.; *Reference: Biographies*)

Background:

Mr. Michael Mason (5C) resigned from the Church Council. In accordance with ELCA bylaw 13.41.05. and constitutional provisions 14.15. and 19.03., Secretary Wm Chris Boerger declared a vacancy on the council.

The Central/Southern Illinois Synod (5C) nominated Mr. Vernon K. Veal, Bloomington, Ill., from its lay male membership to complete the term of Mr. Mason ending in 2019.

Church Council action:

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on Secretary Wm Chris Boerger, who announced that Mr. Michael Mason had resigned from the Church Council and that Mr. Vernon K. Veal had been nominated to complete Mr. Mason's unexpired term.

The secretary made the following motion on behalf of the Executive Committee.

Moved;

Seconded: To elect Mr. Vernon K. Veal, Bloomington, Ill. (5C), to the Church Council for a term ending in 2019.

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

VOTED:

CC14.11.17 To elect Mr. Vernon K. Veal, Bloomington, Ill. (5C), to the Church Council for a term ending in 2019.

Vice President Peña declared the motion was adopted.

At the invitation of the chair, Mr. Veal introduced himself and spoke of his experiences with this church.

PRESIDING BISHOP EMERITUS TITLE

(Agenda I.E.2.; *Reference: Bishop Emeritus Information*)

Background:

Voting members of the 2013 Churchwide Assembly informally inquired about the possibility of conferring the title of "presiding bishop emeritus" to then Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson. The Executive Committee of the Church Council, in consultation with the Conference of Bishops, reviewed related practices and implications for conferring such

titles. The review included reports regarding the use of titles in ecumenical and international contexts and a survey of whether synods confer the title 'bishop emeritus' to former synodical bishops.

Church Council action:

Vice President Carlos E. Peña asked Secretary Wm Chris Boerger to provide the next recommendation of the Executive Committee.

Secretary Wm Chris Boerger made the following motion on behalf of the committee.

Moved;

Seconded: To confer the honorary title of "presiding bishop emeritus" to the Rev. Herbert W. Chilstrom, the Rev. H. George Anderson and the Rev. Mark S. Hanson.

Vice President Peña presented the background information and the rationale for the motion. He drew attention to the reports included in the meeting's resource materials. He stated that three themes emerged from consultation with the Conference of Bishops: 1) waiting until the Word and Service unified roster is decided; 2) appreciating the ecumenical and global usage for such a title; and 3) reaffirming that such a title has no responsibilities associated with it.

Secretary Boerger and the Rev. Donald J. McCoid, director for ecumenical and inter-religious relations, expanded on the content of the written reports.

Members of the Church Council and the synodical bishops present discussed reactions to the proposal received from the Conference of Bishops, implications of and experiences with conferring the title "emeritus," possible interpretations regarding a threefold office of ministry, whether the title would be accepted by former presiding bishops, whether a bylaw or continuing resolution was needed to confer the title and whether conferring the title was for the Church Council to decide.

The chair suspended discussion of the motion to observe the orders of the day.

UPDATE FROM THE GLOBAL MISSION UNIT

(Agenda I.F.)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña asked the Rev. Rafael Malpica Padilla, executive director of the Global Mission unit, for an update.

Pr. Malpica was accompanied by Dr. Rebecca Duerst, director for global health, Ms. Sunitha Mortha, director for mission formation/relationships, and Mr. David C. Wunsch, director for operations of the Global Mission unit. Mr. Peter Mack served as musician for their report. They presented the various activities, events and programs that the Global Mission unit coordinates, with an emphasis on this church's response to the Ebola virus outbreak.

UPDATE AND PRESENTATION FROM LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

(Agenda I.G.)

Background:

Lutheran World Relief is a ministry of U.S. Lutherans, serving communities living in poverty beyond the United States. The nonprofit organization's mission statement is: "Affirming God's love for all people, we work with Lutherans and partners around the world to end poverty, injustice and human suffering." Lutheran World Relief works to improve the lives of people experiencing poverty in Africa, Asia and Latin America, both in times of emergencies and for the long term.

Since the founding of the ELCA, this church has provided financial support to Lutheran World Relief to help strengthen communities through programs in agriculture, climate and emergency support.

Ambassador Daniel V. Speckhard (retired) became president and chief executive officer of Lutheran World Relief on July 1, 2014.

Church Council discussion:

Vice President Carlos E. Peña introduced Ambassador Daniel V. Speckhard (retired), president and chief executive officer of Lutheran World Relief, and Mr. Jeffery S. Whisenant, executive vice president of Lutheran World Relief.

Ambassador Speckhard told the Church Council about his diplomatic background and the emergency and long-term work of Lutheran World Relief around the world.

Ambassador Speckhard presented the Rev. Jessica R. Crist, bishop of the Montana Synod and chair of the Conference of Bishops, with the LWR Champion award in recognition of her support of Lutheran World Relief and her service on its board of directors.

REPORT FROM THE CONFERENCE OF BISHOPS

(Agenda I.H.; *Reference:* Conference of Bishops Report)

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

Bp. Crist drew the attention of the Church Council to her written report, emphasizing the activities of the Conference of Bishops and its members.

Mr. Paul G. Archer related his observations from attending the October 2014 meeting of the conference.

There being no further comments or questions, Vice President Peña thanked Bp. Crist for the report.

ECUMENICAL GREETING

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on the Rev. Scott D. Anderson, an ecumenical guest representing the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

Pr. Anderson introduced himself and brought a greeting from the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), describing recent events and actions of that church.

CHURCH COUNCIL JOYS AND CONCERNS

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on the Rev. James H. Utt, who asked specific people how the Church Council may pray for them.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Vice President Carlos E. Peña asked Secretary Wm Chris Boerger to make announcements.

Secretary Boerger provided details about the meeting's schedule and deadlines.

HYMN AND PRAYER

(Agenda I.J.)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on Ms. Ingrid S. Stafford, who led the Church Council in prayer and in singing a hymn.

RECESS

The November 2014 meeting of the Church Council recessed for Friday, November 7, 2014, at 5:37 p.m. Council members gathered in the Augsburg Room of the Lutheran Center for a reception hosted by the separately incorporated ministries of this church and for a banquet dinner. Council members also engaged in café conversations, regarding their retreat of August 2014, which were off the record.

**Saturday, November 5, 2014
Plenary Session II**

Members of the Church Council gathered in meetings of the Budget and Finance, Legal and Constitutional Review, Program and Services, and Planning and Evaluation committees beginning at approximately 8:00 a.m. in the Lutheran Center. The meetings recessed at 11:45 a.m. for a Midday Prayer Service in the Chapel of the Lutheran Center led by the Rev. Kevin L. Strickland, director for worship and liturgical resources, and for lunch. Committee meetings reconvened at approximately 1:00 p.m. and adjourned at approximately 3:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called the second plenary session to order at 3:45 p.m. in the Augsburg Room of the Lutheran Center.

BIBLE STUDY

(Agenda II.A.)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on the Rev. Richard J. Perry Jr., professor of church and society and urban ministry, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, who led participants in a study of Acts 15:1-35, using conflict to identify values and apply them to what it means to welcome others.

REPORT OF THE PROGRAM AND SERVICES COMMITTEE

(Agenda II.B.; *Reference*: PS Agenda November 8 2014)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on the Rev. Kathryn A. Tiede, vice-chair of the Program and Services Committee, who presented the committee's report.

Pr. Tiede described issues the Program and Services Committee dealt with and recommendations it was bringing to the Church Council. She provided updates on the development of the Women and Justice: One in Christ social statement and the draft social message on gender-based violence.

CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

(Agenda II.B.1.; *Reference*: Corporate Social Responsibilities Chart)

Background:

The ELCA's concern for corporate social responsibility is expressed through issue papers, investment screening, shareholder resolutions and advocacy. Work of the corporate social responsibility program is based on this church's social statements and messages, as well as Churchwide Assembly and Church Council social policy resolutions. The program functions in close cooperation with Portico Benefit Services, other ELCA-related organizations and the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility. The Church Council has established a processes for writing, revising and approving issue papers that address specific social concerns related to investments and for developing social criteria investment screens.

Oversight and implementation of the corporate social responsibility program are shared by the ELCA and Portico Benefit Services and staffed by a part-time consultant. As part of a succession plan and planning for the future of the program, Portico and the ELCA will draft a shared part-time position description and will determine shared salary and benefit cost allotments, asking the current consultant, Ms. Patricia Zerega, to continue in that role.

Church Council action:

The Rev. Kathryn A. Tiede asked the Rev. Jeffrey D. Thiemann, president of Portico Benefit Services, to summarize his report to the Program and Services Committee regarding corporate social responsibility.

Pr. Thiemann explained the significance of differences between stockholders and stakeholders, as well as an initiative to flesh out that synergism in a report to the 2016 Churchwide Assembly. He responded to several questions about the concept and preparations for the Churchwide Assembly.

Pr. Tiede presented background information on this church's corporate social responsibility program, issue papers and investment screening. She made the following motion on behalf of the Program and Services Committee.

Moved;

Seconded:

To approve the Private Prisons Social Criteria Investment Screen; and

To approve the amendments to the following corporate social responsibility issue paper and economic social criteria investment screens, but to request that the original issue papers be archived for historical and research purposes:

- Environment Social Criteria Investment Screen
- Extractive Industries Issue Paper
- Military Weapons Social Criteria Investment Screen

There being no further discussion, Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on Mr. Paul G. Archer, who led the Church Council in prayer.

The chair called for the vote.

VOTED:

CC14.11.18

**To approve the Private Prisons Social Criteria Investment Screen; and
To approve the amendments to the following corporate social responsibility issue paper and economic social criteria investment screens, but to request that the original issue papers be archived for historical and research purposes:**

- **Environment Social Criteria Investment Screen**
- **Extractive Industries Issue Paper**
- **Military Weapons Social Criteria Investment Screen.**

Vice President Peña declared the motion was adopted.

Pr. Tiede made the following motion on behalf of the Program and Services Committee.

Moved;

Seconded:

To affirm the proposed succession plan as a necessary next step in joint planning around corporate social responsibility work between the churchwide organization and Portico Benefit Services; and

To request the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit and Portico Benefit Services to provide a progress report in the April 2015 meeting of the Church Council and a final report with recommendations no later than the November 2015 meeting of the Church Council.

Pr. Tiede described the proposed succession plan and continued planning regarding corporate social responsibility.

There being no further discussion, Vice President Peña called on Mr. Nicholas A. Barber, who led the Church Council in prayer.

The chair called for the vote.

VOTED:

CC14.11.19

To affirm the proposed succession plan as a necessary next step in joint planning around corporate social responsibility work between the churchwide organization and Portico Benefit Services; and

To request the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit and Portico Benefit Services to provide a progress report in the April 2015 meeting of the Church Council and a final report with recommendations no later than the November 2015 meeting of the Church Council.

Vice President Peña declared the motion was adopted.

Pr. Tiede commented on additional matters the Program and Services Committee had considered.

PROGRAMMATIC MINISTRIES FOR ALWAYS BEING MADE NEW: THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE ELCA
(Agenda II.B.2.; *Reference: Disability Ministries Report and Youth and Young Adult Ministries Report*)

Background:

While considering action to launch “the 25th Anniversary Campaign for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as a major fundraising effort of this church,” the 2013 Churchwide Assembly added and approved:

To instruct the Church Council to add an additional campaign priority of encouraging, recognizing, and forming lay youth and young adult leaders, and to add an additional \$4 million to the campaign goal specifically for the formation, recognition, and encouragement of lay young adult and youth leaders;

To call on the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit to form an advisory team, funded out of the campaign, to seek out and support the networks and efforts of lay young adult and youth leaders, to include among those on that team lay young adult leaders recommended by ELCA congregations, ELCA campus, youth, and outdoor ministers, as well as leaders from ELCA affiliated and/or associated organizations at the discretion of the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit, to charge that same team with searching for new ideas and fresh voices emerging in the church, and to charge that same team with assisting in the acquisition of and advising on the allocation of funds received as part of the additional \$4 million dollars of the campaign goal seeking to re-imagine the ministries of the ELCA through the eyes of lay young adults and youth leaders in the body of Christ;

The 2013 Churchwide Assembly also approved:

To add a goal of \$4 million for disability ministries, to advocate for inclusion of persons with disabilities in the life of this church, to train leaders both clergy and lay so that they would be equipped to work with persons with disabilities, to work with synods to create local committees for disability ministries, and to equip persons living with disabilities for lives of leadership and service in this church.

To implement the assembly action, the Mission Advancement and the Congregational and Synodical Mission units worked with advisory teams to develop two additional case statements for the campaign.

Church Council action:

The Rev. Kathryn A. Tiede provided the background information on actions of the 2013 Churchwide Assembly, adding two goals to the Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA, and the subsequent development of a case statement for each goal. She made the following motion on behalf of the Program and Services Committee.

Moved;

Seconded:

To receive the Youth and Young Adult Ministries Case Statement from the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit;

To thank the advisory team for its imaginative, thoughtful and diligent work to form and equip the ministries of the ELCA to reach more people with the good news of Jesus Christ;

To approve the implementation of the Youth and Young Adult Ministries program into Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA as detailed in the case statement; and

To encourage all expressions of this church to continue to consider ways to support the Campaign for the ELCA in order for the ELCA to be better-positioned to do God's work in Jesus' name throughout the world, for decades to come.

Members of the Church Council and resource people discussed fundraising, the vision and strategic direction of this church for youth and young adult ministry, the process to develop the proposed case statement, the content of the proposed case statement, the benefits and disadvantages of creating an endowment, details of endowments, short-term and long-range ministry needs, and parliamentary procedures.

Vice President Carlos E. Peña suspended discussion of the motion to observe the orders of the day.

Pr. Tiede noted that the second goal added by the 2013 Churchwide Assembly dealt with disability ministries. She drew the council's attention to the proposed case statement and made the following motion on behalf of the Program and Services Committee.

Moved;

Seconded:

To receive the Disability Ministries Case Statement from the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit;

To thank the advisory team for its imaginative, thoughtful and diligent work to form and equip the ministries of the ELCA to reach more people with the good news of Jesus Christ;

To approve the implementation of the Disability Ministries program into Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA as detailed in the case statement; and

To encourage all expressions of this church to continue to consider ways to support the Campaign for the ELCA in order for the ELCA to be better-positioned to do God's work in Jesus' name throughout the world, for decades to come.

There being no discussion, Vice President Peña called on the Rev. Vicki T. Garber, who led the Church Council in prayer.

The chair called for the vote.

VOTED:

CC14.11.20

To receive the Disability Ministries Case Statement from the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit;

To thank the advisory team for its imaginative, thoughtful and diligent work to form and equip the ministries of the ELCA to reach more people with the good news of Jesus Christ;

To approve the implementation of the Disability Ministries program into Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA as detailed in the case statement; and

To encourage all expressions of this church to continue to consider ways to support the Campaign for the ELCA in order for the ELCA to be better-positioned to do God's work in Jesus' name throughout the world, for decades to come.

Vice President Peña declared the motion was adopted.

Pr. Tiede stated that the report of the Program and Services Committee would continue later in the meeting.

UPDATE FROM THE CONGREGATIONAL AND SYNODICAL MISSION UNIT

(Agenda II.C.)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña asked the Rev. Stephen P. Bouman, executive director of the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit, for an update.

Pr. Bouman spoke of several current projects of the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit, with an emphasis on this church's reception of children seeking refuge in the United States unaccompanied from Central America. He led participants in small-group discussions of two questions:

- How do you see your congregation and synod engaging in these series of issues?
- As the church responds to these children and families, what questions do you have?

Church Council members discussed details of how the ELCA was responding to this crisis in the United States and Central America.

UPDATE ON TABLE AND FONT CONVERSATIONS

(Agenda II.D.; *Reference*: Table and font: Who is welcome?)

Background:

In 2012 the Northern Illinois Synod memorialized the 2013 Churchwide Assembly.

WHEREAS, *The Use of the Means of Grace* (1997), the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's (ELCA) guiding document on the "Practice of Word and Sacrament," clearly states that "The Holy Communion is given to the baptized" (Principle 37, pp. 41–42); and

WHEREAS, since the publication of that document the ELCA has entered into full-communion partnerships with church bodies that do not share that same understanding; and

WHEREAS, the implementing resolutions of our full-communion agreements encourage us to extend sacramental hospitality to one another's members; and

WHEREAS, some congregations of the ELCA currently have Communion policy statements which would effectively bar members of church bodies with which we are in full communion from participation in the Sacrament; and

WHEREAS, some ELCA congregations welcome everyone present to partake of the Eucharist without stipulating the need for Baptism; and

WHEREAS, clarification concerning Lutheran Sacramental theology and practice would be helpful in the life of this church at this time; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Northern Illinois Synod memorialize the 2013 Churchwide Assembly to institute a process necessary to review and possibly revise the ELCA's guiding documents concerning admission to the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

The 2013 Churchwide Assembly voted:

To receive with gratitude the memorial of the Northern Illinois Synod requesting a process to review the ELCA's guiding documents on communion practices;

To invite members, congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization into conversation and study regarding the *Use of the Means of Grace*;

To request the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit, in consultation with the Office of the Presiding Bishop and the Conference of Bishops, to establish a process to review current documents concerning administration of the Sacrament of Holy Communion; and

To request the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit to bring a report and possible recommendations to the April 2014 meeting of the ELCA Church Council.

The Congregational and Synodical Mission unit provided a report to the Church Council, which voted [CC14.04.13i] in April 2014:

To take seriously the invitation to engage one another in conversation and study of *The Use of the Means of Grace*;

To request the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit to provide resources that will help facilitate that conversation;

To encourage others to develop and share resources more locally, while guiding people to *The Use of the Means of Grace* with the invitation to read and share it; and

To let the conversation regarding *The Use of the Means of Grace* serve as the initial step in a process of review, but to delay any further development or implementation of a process until research is done to assess the nature and extent of changing practices, and until a director for worship formation and liturgical resources at the ELCA churchwide organization is in place and prepared to oversee the design of such a process, both in scope and hoped-for outcomes.

Church Council discussion:

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on the Rev. Stephen P. Bouman, executive director of the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit, who introduced the Rev. Kevin L. Strickland, director for worship and liturgical resources.

Pr. Strickland stated that a study resource on The Use of the Means of Grace had been distributed and was generating interest and a wide range of responses. He received a recommendation from council members that the deadline for responses be postponed one month to June 15, 2015. He responded to questions about the study guide, "Table and font: Who is welcome?" and The Use of the Means of Grace.

PERSONAL REFLECTION ON FAITH

(Agenda II.E.)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña asked the Rev. Jessica R. Crist, bishop of the Montana Synod and chair of the Conference of Bishops, to share a personal reflection on faith.

Bp. Crist related the experiences of the Montana Synod when its resolution of confession was delivered to and accepted by tribal councils in the territory.

CHURCH COUNCIL JOYS AND CONCERNS

(Agenda II.F.)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on the Rev. James H. Utt, who asked specific people how the Church Council may pray for them.

PROCESS OBSERVATIONS

(Agenda II.G.)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña asked Ms. Marjorie B. Ellis to provide observations on processes of the meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on Secretary Wm Chris Boerger to present announcements about the schedule for the evening and following morning.

The chair reminded the Church Council members of remaining business in the meeting.

HYMN AND PRAYER

(Agenda II.H.)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña invited Mr. Hans E. Becklin to close the session with prayer and to lead the Church Council in singing a hymn.

RECESS

The November 2014 meeting of the Church Council recessed for Saturday, November 8, 2014, at 6:13 p.m.

**Sunday, November 9, 2014
Plenary Session III**

The Board Development Committee met at 8:00 a.m.

Church Council members gathered at 9:30 a.m. in the Chapel of the Lutheran Center for a service of Holy Communion. Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton presided, the Rev. Karsten Decker preached, and Ms. Marit Bakken served as assisting minister. The Rev. Peder J. Johanson and the Rev. Kevin L. Strickland, director for worship and liturgical resources, were lectors. An offering of \$2,593 was received for Lutheran Disaster Response: Ebola Outbreak.

CALL TO ORDER

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called the third plenary session to order at 10:45 a.m. in the Council Room of the Lutheran Center.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

(Agenda III.A.; *Reference:* Treasurer's Report)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña asked the Rev. Linda O. Norman, treasurer of the ELCA, to present her report.

Treasurer Norman provided financial highlights for the first eight months of the fiscal year — Feb. 1 through Sept. 30, 2014. The churchwide organization had spent about \$390,000 more than revenue for the period. Current fund income was ahead of budget by 2 percent, and spending was at 92 percent of authorization. Mission support in the eight-month period was \$29.8 million, which was on budget to meet the year-goal of \$48 million. Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA raised \$27 million, which was 16 percent of the total five-year goal of \$198 million by Jan. 31, 2019. Half of the campaign's individual categories were on track to meet their annual goals, and the other categories were bolstered by unrestricted gifts. ELCA World Hunger received \$8.7 million, which was 10 percent more than predicted for the eight-month period. The ELCA Malaria Campaign accepted gifts of \$1.9 million so far this fiscal year, and has raised a total \$13 million or 86 percent of the campaign's five-year goal. The treasurer reported cash flow within management ranges and strong endowment funds. She noted that deferred gifts and investment returns were generally positive but being monitored. She also provided details on these highlights.

In response to a question, Treasurer Norman said disability ministries were included under 'congregations' and youth and young adult ministries were included under 'leadership' in the report of major categories within the Campaign for the ELCA. She pointed out where those categories were listed in her financial report to the Church Council.

There being no further questions or comments, Vice President Peña thanked the treasurer for her report.

REPORT OF THE BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

(Agenda II.F.; *Reference:*)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on Ms. Louise A. Hemstead, chair of the Budget and Finance Committee, who presented the committee's report.

Ms. Hemstead summarized committee recommendations included among the Church Council's *en bloc* resolutions, as well as other matters that came before the Budget and Finance Committee.

2014-2015 SYNOD MISSION SUPPORT PLANS

(Agenda III.B.1.; *Reference:* 2014-2015 Synod Mission Support Plans)

Ms. Louise A. Hemstead reported that, since the Church Council meeting in April 2014, the churchwide organization received mission support plans from synods for 2014 and for 2015. She noted that the committee had revised the language in its motions regarding mission support plans to be less judgmental. She made the following motion on behalf of the Budget and Finance Committee.

**Moved;
Seconded:**

To acknowledge the decision of the following synods to maintain the percentage of sharing of 2014 mission support contributions by congregations for synodical and churchwide ministries but estimating an adjustment in the projected amount to be shared: Grand Canyon and Northern Illinois 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, the chair called for the vote.

**VOTED:
CC14.11.21**

To acknowledge the decision of the following synods to maintain the percentage of sharing of 2014 mission support contributions by congregations for synodical and churchwide ministries but estimating an adjustment in the projected amount to be shared: Grand Canyon and Northern Illinois 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 the motion was adopted.

Ms. Hemstead noted that several synods had adjusted their mission support plans for 2015. She made the following motion on behalf of the committee.

**Moved;
Seconded:**

To acknowledge the decision of the following synods to maintain the percentage of sharing of 2015 mission support contributions by congregations for synodical and churchwide ministries: Southwestern Washington, Pacifica, Southwestern Minnesota, Minneapolis Area, Nebraska, Central States, Northern Illinois, Southeastern Iowa, Greater Milwaukee, South-Central Wisconsin, Indiana-Kentucky, Northwestern Ohio and Upper Susquehanna synods;

To acknowledge the decision in the following synods to increase the percentage of sharing of 2015 mission support by congregations for synodical and churchwide ministries: Northwest Washington, Eastern Washington-Idaho, Southwest California, Lower Susquehanna, Eastern North Dakota, Metropolitan Chicago, Northeastern Ohio and Virginia synods;

To acknowledge that circumstances in the following synods have led to decisions to seek a decrease from the prior levels in the percentage of sharing of 2015 mission support contributions by congregations for synodical and churchwide ministries; to encourage the synods to continue to work to grow mission support in the synod; and to request that the synod develop a plan, in consultation with the churchwide organization, to restore or surpass the previous level of mission support sharing: Sierra Pacific, Texas Louisiana Gulf Coast, New England, West Virginia-Western Maryland and North Carolina synods;

To acknowledge the decision of the following synods to maintain the percentage of sharing of 2015 mission support contributions by congregations for synodical and churchwide ministries but estimating an adjustment in the projected amount to be shared: Central/Southern Illinois and Southern Ohio 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.

Church Council members discussed the language of the motion, whether motions concerning mission support could be included among the *en bloc* resolutions and the specifics of synod mission support plans.

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

VOTED:

CC14.11.22

To acknowledge the decision of the following synods to maintain the percentage of sharing of 2015 mission support contributions by congregations for synodical and churchwide ministries: Southwestern Washington, Pacifica, Southwestern Minnesota, Minneapolis Area, Nebraska, Central States, Northern Illinois, Southeastern Iowa, Greater Milwaukee, South-Central Wisconsin, Indiana-Kentucky, Northwestern Ohio and Upper Susquehanna synods;

To acknowledge the decision in the following synods to increase the percentage of sharing of 2015 mission support by congregations for synodical and churchwide ministries: Northwest Washington, Eastern Washington-Idaho, Southwest California, Eastern North Dakota, Metropolitan Chicago, Northeastern Ohio, Lower Susquehanna and Virginia synods;

To acknowledge that circumstances in the following synods have led to decisions to seek a decrease from the prior levels in the percentage of sharing of 2015 mission support contributions by congregations for synodical and churchwide ministries; to encourage the synods to continue to work to grow mission support in the synod; and to request that the synod develop a plan, in consultation with the churchwide organization, to restore or surpass the previous level of mission support sharing: Sierra Pacific, Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast, New England, West Virginia-Western Maryland and North Carolina synods;

To acknowledge the decision of the following synods to maintain the percentage of sharing of 2015 mission support contributions by congregations for synodical and churchwide ministries but estimating an adjustment in the projected amount to be shared: Central/Southern Illinois and Southern Ohio 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 the motion was adopted.

2015 INCOME ESTIMATES AND SPENDING AUTHORIZATIONS

(Agenda III.B.2.)

Ms. Louise A. Hemstead told the Church Council that its Budget and Finance Committee had reviewed income estimates and the spending authorizations for the current fund and ELCA World Hunger. She made the following motion on behalf of the committee.

Moved;

Seconded: To approve a revised 2015 fiscal year current fund spending authorization of \$69,650,020; and
To approve a revised 2015 fiscal year World Hunger spending authorization of \$20,000,000.

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

VOTED:

**CC14.11.23 To approve a revised 2015 fiscal year current fund spending authorization of \$69,650,020; and
To approve a revised 2015 fiscal year World Hunger spending authorization of \$20,000,000.**

Vice President Peña declared the motion was adopted.

UPDATE ON THE MISSION SUPPORT THINK TANK

(Agenda III.C.; *Reference:* Think Tank on Mission Support)

Background:

The 2011 Churchwide Assembly endorsed [CA11.03.07] recommendations of the Living Into the Future Together: Renewing the Ecology of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (LIFT) task force, as amended by the Church Council, and asked “the Conference of Bishops, in consultation with synod leaders and the churchwide organization, to prepare a report and recommendations for the November 2012 meeting of the Church Council for consideration by the 2013 Churchwide Assembly that,” among other things, “builds on the Blue Ribbon Committee report of 2007 and includes recommendations for renewed, sustainable financial support for the mission and ministries of this church, including funding for theological education.”

In April 2012, a Group of Nine of the Conference of Bishops reported to the Church Council, which authorized [CC12.04.08] the appointment of a Mission Funding Task Force. The task force prepared a report presented to the Conference of Bishops at its October 2012 meeting, recommending a new system for managing this church’s shared responsibility for mission support. At its November 2012 meeting, the Church Council voted [CC12.11.32]:

To recognize the need for and encourage ongoing discussion and analysis among synods and the churchwide organization on strengthening mission support for the benefit of this whole church;

To encourage and invite synods to partner on a regional basis or in groupings of synods to pilot ways to strengthen and build mission support, including development of approaches that emphasize stewardship, promote lateral accountability among synods and their leaders, and enhance collaboration with the churchwide organization;

To request that the Mission Investment Fund explore the development of a remittance process system that would improve the process for transmitting mission support and other funds designated for synod and churchwide ministries, strengthen financial controls, enhance financial reporting and access to timely information, and to invite and encourage synods to explore the possibility of participating in such a system; and

To request that the Conference of Bishops and the Church Council monitor the pilot programs established by synods and the development of a remittance process system for synods by the Mission Investment Fund for the purpose of making a report and possible recommendations to the 2016 Churchwide Assembly.

The Church Council also asked [CC12.11.33] that “the churchwide organization, in consultation with the Conference of Bishops, continue to build the case for the support of a church that shares a living, daring confidence in God’s grace, including creating a comprehensive strategy for growing stewardship and increasing awareness of all the ministries of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America” and encouraged “this church in all its expressions to identify and leverage

all networks within the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to assist in the interpretation of and financial support for its ministries, and to endorse the proposal to develop a major comprehensive campaign on the 25th anniversary of the ELCA, focused on giving to mission and ministry.”

Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton assembled one bishop from each of the nine regions of this church in a “mission support think tank,” convened by the Rev. H. Julian Gordy, bishop of the Southeastern Synod. Other members of the think tank were Bishop Richard H. Graham [Metropolitan Washington, D.C., Synod], Bishop James E. Hazelwood [New England Synod], Bishop Marcus C. Lohrmann [Northwestern Ohio Synod], Bishop Michael W. Rinehart [Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod], Bishop Thomas A. Skrenes [Northern Great Lakes Synod], Bishop Stephen S. Talmage [Grand Canyon Synod], Bishop Shelley R. Wickstrom [Alaska Synod] and Bishop Larry R. Wohlrabe [Northwestern Minnesota Synod].

Members of the think tank presented an interim report to the Conference of Bishops at its October 2014 meeting, sharing some of the learnings thus far and acknowledged a number of challenges in how this church addresses mission support. A final report with possible recommendations is anticipated at the April 2015 meeting of the Church Council.

Church Council discussion:

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on the Rev. Marcus C. Lohrmann, bishop of the Northwestern Ohio Synod, and the Rev. Shelley R. Wickstrom, bishop of the Alaska Synod, to provide an interim report on the work of the mission support think tank.

Bp. Lohrmann read Acts 6:1-7, reflected on the purpose of the task force and led the Church Council in prayer.

Bp. Wickstrom presented the background information and facilitated small-group discussions among the participants on the following questions.

1. What engages you/grabs your imagination as you read the interim report?
2. What do you sense might be missing?
3. The proposal offers some experiments the think tank considers worth exploring.
 - What do you think about that possibility (i.e. authorizing some synods to test our experiments)?
 - What are the possible risks and opportunities?
 - Can you think of other experiments worth considering?

After 10 minutes, participants said they had discussed being encouraged by this church’s willingness to analyze its business model, the think tank’s approach to mission support as a spiritual matter, comparing the giving patterns of congregations today and 50 years earlier, current business practices that might make sense for this church, the possibility of developing new experiments, multiple funding streams and engaging donors in new ways.

Bp. Lohrmann and Bp. Wickstrom shared additional ways the participants could inform the work of the think tank.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

PRESIDING BISHOP EMERITUS TITLE (CONT.)

(Agenda I.E.2.; *Reference:* Bishop Emeritus Information)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña restated the motion that was on the floor when discussion was suspended to observe the orders of the day:

To confer the honorary title of “presiding bishop emeritus” to the Rev. Herbert W. Chilstrom, the Rev. H. George Anderson and the Rev. Mark S. Hanson.

Church Council members discussed the continued involvement of former presiding bishops, “emeritus” meaning retired but not all former presiding bishops being retired, experiences with a “pastor emeritus,” whether the three former presiding bishops would accept the title, the informal understanding that a person was a bishop even after holding the office, there being no need to confer a title and the implications of not conferring a title.

Resource people were engaged in a conversation about the ecclesial and ecumenical implications of conferring an honorary title.

The Rev. Michael R. Ward made a motion to table this motion.

Moved;

Seconded: To postpone indefinitely consideration of the motion.

Secretary Wm Chris Boerger responded to a parliamentary question about the motion to table.
At the invitation of the chair, Ms. Ingrid S. Stafford led the Church Council in prayer.
Vice President Peña called for the vote by voice and by show of hands.

Moved;

Seconded;

Yes-21; No-20

Carried: To postpone indefinitely consideration of the motion.

The chair declared that the motion was adopted and consideration of the motion was postponed indefinitely.

SYNODICAL RESOLUTIONS FOR REFERRAL

(Agenda I.E.3.; *Reference:* Responses to Synodical Resolutions *and* Synodical Resolutions for Referral)

Background:

At the April 2014 meeting of the Church Council, Secretary Wm Chris Boerger proposed a possible process for managing synod resolutions directed to a unit or an office of the churchwide organization. The proposal was that the Executive Committee would ask a specific unit or office to provide the next meeting of the Church Council with either a report or a timeline for how this resolution would receive further attention. The council could receive the report or respond to the priorities set by the unit or office.

The consensus of the Executive Committee, at its August 2014 meeting, was to move forward with this process and to ask the Church Council to evaluate it at its November 2014 meeting.

Responses to Synodical Resolutions was a consent agenda of recommendations from staff of the churchwide organization regarding specific synod resolutions.

Synodical Resolutions for Referral provided council members with the scope of responses to synod resolutions and Churchwide Assembly actions currently under development.

Church Council discussion:

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on Secretary Wm Chris Boerger, who gave the rationale for proposing a process for managing synod resolutions that asked a specific unit or office to provide the next meeting of the Church Council with either a report or a timeline for how the resolution would receive further attention.

Secretary Boerger described the proposed process and responses that the council could make to synod resolutions and staff recommendations. He asked Church Council members to study any proposed timeline and consider the priority the matter should be given.

In response to a question, Secretary Boerger said the council could decline to act as a synod resolution requested.

CHURCH COUNCIL JOYS AND CONCERNS

(Agenda III.D.)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on the Rev. James H. Utt, who asked specific people how the Church Council may pray for them.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Reference: GM Responses to Questions)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on Ms. Jodi L. Slattery, assistant to the presiding bishop for governance, who announced that written questions regarding the update of the Global Mission unit had been answered in a report that was available electronically on Net Community.

HYMN AND PRAYER

(Agenda III.E.)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña invited the Rev. Vicki T. Garber to close the session with prayer and table grace. Mr. Clarence M. Smith assisted her in leading the Church Council in the singing of a hymn.

RECESS

The November 2014 meeting of the Church Council recessed at 12:18 p.m. for lunch.

**Sunday, November 6, 2014
Plenary Session IV**

CALL TO ORDER

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called the fourth plenary session to order at 1:27 p.m. in the Augsburg Room of the Lutheran Center.

PRAYER

Vice President Carlos E. Peña invited Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton to make an announcement.

The presiding bishop said that Mr. Michael L. Bennett, who was a guest of Church Council meeting on behalf of Lutheran CORE (Coalition for Renewal), learned that his mother had passed away. She led the assembly in prayer.

PERSONAL REFLECTION ON FAITH

(Agenda IV.A.)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña asked Ms. Marit Bakken to share a personal reflection on faith.

Ms. Bakken related experiences from her childhood in a household in which both her parents were pastors.

PRIMER ON LUTHERAN OUTDOOR MINISTRIES

(Agenda IV.B.; *Reference*: Lutheran Outdoor Ministry Materials)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña introduced the Rev. Nathan A. Pile, pastor of New Hope Lutheran Church, Spring Mills, Pa., who addressed the Church Council by video conference.

Pr. Pile, board president of Lutheran Outdoor Ministry, presented the council with a primer on the outdoor ministries of this church and their networks. He discussed the strategic goals of the association, the support provided by the ELCA and the participation of international camp counselors.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE: THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

(Agenda IV.C.; *Reference*: TEAC Progress Report)

Background:

At its April 2013 meeting, the Church Council voted [CC.13.04.11]:

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

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

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

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

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

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

At its July 2013 meeting, the council's Executive Committee appointed [EC13.07.20] the Rev. Robin J. Steinke (*co-chair*), Mr. Paul C. Pribbenow, the Rev. Nancy L. Winder, Ms. Leila M. Ortiz, Ms. Jacqueline Busse, Ms. Sarah Rhode, Mr. Randall S. Foster, and the Rev. Herman R. Yoos III, bishop of the South Carolina Synod (*co-chair*), to the Theological Education Advisory Council. In August 2013, the Executive Committee also appointed [EC13.08.25] the Rev. James E. Hazelwood, bishop of the New England Synod, to the advisory council. Mr. William B. Horne II and Ms. Maren Hulden participate in advisory council meetings on behalf of the Church Council.

The co-chairs of the Theological Education Advisory Council and the Rev. Jonathan P. Strandjord, director for seminaries, were present.

Church Council action:

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on Secretary Wm Chris Boerger, who made the following motion.

Moved;

Seconded: To go into a committee of the whole for a period of 45 minutes to discuss the work of the Theological Education Advisory Council and to be led by the co-chairs of the Theological Education Advisory Council. In addition, during the committee of the whole no parliamentary motions will be in order and no votes will be taken.

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

VOTED:

CC14.11.24 To go into a committee of the whole for a period of 45 minutes to discuss the work of the Theological Education Advisory Council and to be led by the co-chairs of the Theological Education Advisory Council. In addition, during the committee of the whole no parliamentary motions will be in order and no votes will be taken.

Vice President Peña declared the motion was adopted.

The Church Council entered into a committee of the whole at 2:04 p.m.

The committee of the whole rose at 2:59 p.m., and the Church Council returned into plenary session.

CONVERSATION ON PRIORITIES IN THE ELCA

(Agenda IV.D.)

Background:

Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton led the October 2014 meeting of the Conference of Bishops and synod vice presidents in an exercise of "appreciative inquiry." She asked participants, in small groups, to give examples of effectual cooperation or collaboration throughout the ELCA, to identify stumbling blocks or missed opportunities for collaboration and to name additional information it would find useful to have. Summaries of the discussions were compiled and shared with the participants.

Church Council discussion:

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton, who led the Church Council in an exercise of “appreciative inquiry.” Participants organized themselves into small groups. Presiding Bishop Eaton asked each person to give an example of effectual cooperation or collaboration throughout the ELCA. After a period of time, she also asked each group to record “missed opportunities” and to identify information it would find useful to have.

Returning to plenary session, council members spoke of examples of effectual cooperation: Lutheran Disaster Response, “God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday, ELCA World Hunger, the ELCA Malaria Campaign, ecumenical relationships and social statements, the mission developers coaching network, the mission of accompaniment, global welfare, and self insured health plans.

They mentioned missed opportunities: to build stronger relationships among the expressions of this church, to tell the story about what this church is doing along the U.S.-Mexican border, the website redesign, ecumenical relationships and social statements, technological support for congregations, advocacy and injustice, limiting fellowship programs to the men’s, women’s and youth organizations, congregations becoming multicultural, and faith practices not including faith sharing.

They also identified more information they would like to have: statistics to build a positive narrative about this church, an online metrics dashboard demonstrating the health of this organization, a map of all available online resources, a clear explanation of the Church Council’s role, this church’s relationship with Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, the ramifications of council votes for and against, which congregations are in trouble and how many pastors are under serious stress, the number of Youth Gathering participants who return to this church as adults, and five things the churchwide organization wants congregations to know and do.

Presiding Bishop Eaton indicated that the information gathered from oral and written comments would be collated as an initial step in assessing the working relationships within this church.

RECESS

The November 2014 meeting of the Church Council recessed at 3:32 p.m.

**Sunday, November 9, 2014
Plenary Session V**

CALL TO ORDER

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called the fifth plenary session to order at 3:58 p.m. in the Council Room of the Lutheran Center.

REPORT OF THE PROGRAM AND SERVICES COMMITTEE

PROGRAMMATIC MINISTRIES FOR ALWAYS BEING MADE NEW: THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE ELCA (CONT.)
(Agenda II.B.2.; *Reference:* Youth and Young Adult Ministries Report)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña restated the motion that was on the floor when discussion was suspended to observe the orders of the day:

To receive the Youth and Young Adult Ministries Case Statement from the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit;

To thank the advisory team for their imaginative, thoughtful and diligent work to form and equip the ministries of the ELCA to reach more people with the good news of Jesus Christ;

To approve the implementation of the Youth and Young Adult Ministries program into the Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA as detailed in the case statement; and

To encourage all expressions of this church to continue to consider ways to support the Campaign for the ELCA in order for the ELCA to be better-positioned to do God's work in Jesus' name throughout the world, for decades to come.

Ms. Maren Hulden read a resolution and offered the following as a substitute motion.

Moved;

Seconded:

To substitute the following motion for the motion on the floor:

To receive with appreciation the "Youth and Young Adult Ministries Case Statement" prepared by youth and young adults and their stakeholders;

To affirm the objectives listed in that case statement as a list of potential efforts that could form the ministry and vision for how the churchwide expression could support youth and young adult engagement across this church;

To thank the advisory team for its imaginative, thoughtful and diligent work to form and equip the ministries of the ELCA to reach more people with the good news of Jesus Christ;

To request that \$3 million of the funds raised for Youth and Young Adults Ministries as part of Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA be spent during the years of the Campaign for the ELCA and the final \$1 million be used to create an endowment to support youth and young adult ministries into the future; and

To encourage all expressions of this church to continue to consider ways to support the Campaign for the ELCA in order for the ELCA to be better positioned to do God's work in Jesus' name throughout the world for decades to come.

Ms. Hulden explained that the churchwide organization does not currently have a youth and young adult ministry program, and she saw the Churchwide Assembly as a call to restore and fund that program. The substitute motion would support restoring and sustaining the program.

Vice President Peña requested and received consensus to manage this substitute motion as the Churchwide Assembly dealt with substitute motions — the Church Council would perfect the substitute motion and the original motion, decide whether to replace the original motion with the substitute motion and then vote on the product of that decision.

The chair noted that Mr. Mark D. Burkhardt, associate in ministry and director for congregational centers for mission, was available by conference call to serve as a resource person.

Ms. Kayla S. Koterwski asked that Mr. Burkhardt describe the process used to develop the case statement.

Mr. Burkhardt described the membership of the advisory team that developed the case statement. It considered how to use the \$4 million to be raised by the Campaign for the ELCA by either spending it or placing it in an endowment. The team came to the consensus of including an immediate expenditure of \$1 million and an investment of \$3 million in an endowment. The endowment would follow the example of the ELCA Fund for Leaders in Mission.

Church Council members talked about whether there was an immediate need for funds to restore the youth and young adult ministries program or a greater need to invest in funding long-term ministry needs. They discussed whether the request that money “be spent during the years of the campaign” would be problematic, the intentions of the advisory team and the case statement it drafted, the deliberations of the 2013 Churchwide Assembly on adding this goal to the campaign, the implications of the substitute motion, current funding for youth and young adult ministries, mission development funds available to the council, budgeting funds for youth and young adult ministries, building relationships and the case statement being less about money than it is about ministry.

The Rev. Vicki T. Garber, with the consent of the chair, led the Church Council in prayer.

Mr. Hans E. Becklin made the following motion.

Moved;

Seconded:

To amend the fourth paragraph of the substitute motion by insertion and deletion:

To request that the goal be set at \$3 million of the funds raised for current fund gifts for Youth and Young Adults Ministries as part of Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA be spent during the years of the Campaign for the ELCA and the final and the goal of \$1 million be used to create set for the creation of an endowment to support youth and young adult ministries into the future; and

A remark was made in favor of replacing the “spending” language with “goal” language.

Ms. Christine P. Connell called the question on the amendment.

Moved;

Seconded:

To vote on the previous question.

Two-Thirds Vote Required

The chair called for the vote.

Moved;

Seconded;

Carried:

To vote on the previous question.

Two-Thirds Vote Required

Vice President Peña declared the motion to call the question was adopted. He called for the vote on the motion to amend.

Moved;

Seconded;

Carried:

To amend the fourth paragraph of the substitute motion by insertion and deletion:

To request that the goal be set at \$3 million of the funds raised for current fund gifts for Youth and Young Adults Ministries as part of Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA be spent during the years of the Campaign for the ELCA and the final and the goal of \$1 million be used to create set for the creation of an endowment to support youth and young adult ministries into the future; and

Vice President Peña declared that the motion to amend had been adopted, and the substitute motion was on the floor to be perfected.

A Church Council member asked Mr. Burkhardt to speak to points made about building relationships.

Mr. Burkhardt responded that his comments were more about process than relationships. It was not made clear to the advisory team that its work on the case statement could be altered.

The Rev. Karsten Decker made the following motion.

Moved;

Seconded: *To amend the fourth paragraph of the substitute motion by deletion and insertion:*

To request that the goal be set at \$~~3~~2 million for current fund gifts for Youth and Young Adults Ministries as part of Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA and the goal of \$~~1~~2 million be set for the creation of an endowment to support youth and young adult ministries into the future with the intention to find an additional \$1 million toward the endowment fund; and

Secretary Wm Chris Boerger noted that the motion to amend dealt with more than the campaign, which was the subject of the substitute motion.

The chair declared the motion out of order.

Pr. Decker made the following motion.

Moved;

Seconded: *To amend the fourth paragraph of the substitute motion by deletion and insertion:*

To request that the goal be set at \$~~3~~2 million for current fund gifts for Youth and Young Adults Ministries as part of Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA and the goal of \$~~1~~2 million be set for the creation of an endowment to support youth and young adult ministries into the future; and

Council members discussed the merits of putting more of the money raised into an endowment fund rather than into current fund spending.

There being no further discussion, the chair called for the vote by voice and then by show of hands.

Moved;

Seconded; **Yes-22; No-16**

Carried: *To amend the fourth paragraph of the substitute motion by deletion and insertion:*

To request that the goal be set at \$~~3~~2 million for current fund gifts for Youth and Young Adults Ministries as part of Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA and the goal of \$~~1~~2 million be set for the creation of an endowment to support youth and young adult ministries into the future; and

Vice President Peña declared that the motion to amend had been adopted, and the substitute motion was on the floor to be perfected. There being no further discussion on the substitute motion, he stated that the original motion was on the floor to be perfected.

Secretary Boerger responded to parliamentary questions about the method the Churchwide Assembly used to deal with substitute motions.

Church Council members talked about the proposed case statement for youth and young adult ministries, the original and substitute motions, communicating with the advisory team and the process for dealing with a substitute motion.

There being no further discussion, the chair called on the Rev. Robert G. Moore, who led the assembly in prayer.

Vice President Peña called for the vote on the motion to substitute.

Moved;
Seconded;
Carried:

To substitute the following motion for the motion on the floor:
To receive with appreciation the “Youth and Young Adult Ministries Case Statement” prepared by youth and young adults and their stakeholders;
To affirm the objectives listed in that case statement as a list of potential efforts that could form the ministry and vision for how the churchwide expression could support youth and young adult engagement across this church;
To thank the advisory team for its imaginative, thoughtful and diligent work to form and equip the ministries of the ELCA to reach more people with the good news of Jesus Christ;
To request that the goal be set at \$2 million for current fund gifts for Youth and Young Adults Ministries as part of Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA and the goal of \$2 million be set for the creation of an endowment to support youth and young adult ministries into the future; and
To encourage all expressions of this church to continue to consider ways to support the Campaign for the ELCA in order for the ELCA to be better positioned to do God’s work in Jesus’ name throughout the world for decades to come.

Vice President Peña declared that the motion to substitute was adopted and that this motion was now the main motion.

Ms. Louise A. Hemstead made the following motion to amend.

Moved;
Seconded:

To amend the fourth paragraph of the motion by deletion and insertion:
To request that the goal be set at \$2 million for current fund gifts for Youth and Young Adults Ministries as part of Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA and the goal of \$2 million be set for the creation of an permanent endowment to support youth and young adult ministries into the future; and

Participants discussed the significance of stating that the endowment fund would be permanent. There being no further discussion, the chair called for the vote on the motion to amend.

Moved;
Seconded;
Carried:

To amend the fourth paragraph of the motion by deletion and insertion:
To request that the goal be set at \$2 million for current fund gifts for Youth and Young Adults Ministries as part of Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA and the goal of \$2 million be set for the creation of an permanent endowment to support youth and young adult ministries into the future; and

Vice President Peña declared that the motion to amend had been adopted.

There being no further discussion on the main motion, the chair called on the Rev. Linda Nou, who led the assembly in prayer.

Vice President Peña called for the vote on the main motion.

VOTED:

CC14.11.25 To receive with appreciation the “Youth and Young Adult Ministries Case Statement” prepared by youth and young adults and their stakeholders;

To affirm the objectives listed in that case statement as a list of potential efforts that could form the ministry and vision for how the churchwide expression could support youth and young adult engagement across this church;

To thank the advisory team for its imaginative, thoughtful and diligent work to form and equip the ministries of the ELCA to reach more people with the good news of Jesus Christ;

To request that the goal be set at \$2 million for current fund gifts for Youth and Young Adults Ministries as part of Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA and the goal of \$2 million be set for the creation of a permanent endowment to support youth and young adult ministries into the future; and

To encourage all expressions of this church to continue to consider ways to support the Campaign for the ELCA in order for the ELCA to be better positioned to do God's work in Jesus' name throughout the world for decades to come.

Vice President Peña declared the motion was adopted.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE FOR ADMINISTRATION

(Agenda V.B.; *Reference:* Report of the Executive for Administration)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on the Rev. M. Wyvetta Bullock, executive for administration, for her report to the Church Council.

Pr. Bullock drew the council's attention to her written report, the 2014-2016 operational plan of the churchwide organization and the annual operational plan for 2014. At its April 2014 meeting, the Church Council had approved a schedule for progress reports on achieving the goals of the operational plan. She noted that most reports the council received from the churchwide organization were related in some way to the operational plan. She discussed preparation of an annual operational plan for 2015. She recalled that members of the Church Council had asked in April 2014 for a dashboard to track progress toward achieving goals in the operational plan; and she announced that a dashboard did not lend itself to reporting such progress and that graphics had been produced to serve that purpose. She presented the graphics.

Pr. Bullock led the Church Council in a discussion of Goal 1 of the operational plan:

Congregations are growing, vibrant in their worship life and diverse, and worshipers increase their engagement in and support for God's mission, locally and globally.

She asked participants to discuss four questions in small groups.

- What outcomes should we strive for with our congregations?
- What should we be measuring about congregations?
- How do you understand your role as Church Council in relationship to our goal of becoming a more multicultural church?
- How have or would you go about engaging the goal in your congregation?

After approximately 10 minutes of small-group discussions, participants reported they had talked about striving for genuine outcomes that meet qualitative and quantitative measurements, asking congregations what they do well — what reflects their gifts — and what help they need, congregations determining why it is important to be multicultural, diversity in thinking in addition to ethnic diversity and accompaniment within this church. They had also discussed the Church Council's role in budgeting to achieve this goal, even when such decisions were difficult, including support for developing new congregations in ethnic communities. And they talked about congregations engaging the goal by offering worship at different times during the week, reflecting their communities and partnering with neighboring congregations.

REPORT OF THE PLANNING AND EVALUATION COMMITTEE

(Agenda V.C.; *Reference:* Agenda, November 8, 2014)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on Mr. William B. Horne II, chair of the Planning and Evaluation Committee, who presented the committee's report.

Mr. Horne said the Planning and Evaluation Committee had no recommended actions for the Church Council. He described the committee's efforts to implement recommendations of the Living into the Future Together: Renewing the Ecology of the ELCA task force, to review the work of churchwide units and offices, to study the way the committee analyzes the work of churchwide units and offices and to update its charter to conduct reviews in an ongoing manner.

BREAK

The November 2014 meeting of the Church Council recessed at 6:06 p.m. and reconvened at 6:11 p.m. in the Council Room of the Lutheran Center.

UPDATE FROM THE MISSION ADVANCEMENT UNIT

(Agenda V.D.)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on Ms. Christina Jackson-Skelton, executive director of the Mission Advancement unit, for an update.

Ms. Jackson-Skelton talked about the responsibilities of the Mission Advancement unit, trends in membership and mission funding, the ELCA Foundation, supporting stewardship and ELCA ministries, and engaging members, especially through "God's work. Our hands." Sunday. She described plans to experiment with peer-to-peer fundraising, to host regional network gatherings, to implement a communications audit and to develop the online community.

Ms. Jackson-Skelton asked participants to discuss a series of questions.

- What is our most productive stance and approach in the face of decline in membership and mission support? Accept and adapt? Take actions that counter or reverse the trend?
- How can we best define and think about member engagement? What would that look and feel like as distinct from where we are today?
- What are the most promising avenues to explore and build on to increase and enhance engagement?

Church Council members mentioned the cooperation of congregations with each other in "God's work. Our hands." Sunday projects, a reluctance to accept declines in membership and mission support, an imperative to adapt to change, the importance of accepting facts and of adapting, conducting more baptisms than funerals, congregations engaging their communities through Alcoholics Anonymous meetings and other things they are already doing, and accepting facts but not giving up.

UPDATE ON ALWAYS BEING MADE NEW: THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE ELCA

(Agenda V.E.; *Reference:*)

Ms. Christina Jackson-Skelton, executive director of the Mission Advancement unit, introduced the Rev. Ronald T. Glusenkamp, director for the Campaign for the ELCA.

Pr. Glusenkamp provided the Church Council with an overview of the campaign and its progress toward achieving a five-year goal of \$198 million. He encouraged council members to participate in the campaign. He described the case statements, themes and events developed for the campaign. He invited the Church Council to view a 90-second video on the campaign featuring Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton.

EXTENSION

Vice President Carlos E. Peña requested and received the consensus of the Church Council to extend the fifth plenary session by 30 minutes.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

(Agenda V.F.; *Reference: Secretary's Report*)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña asked Secretary Wm Chris Boerger to present his report.

Secretary Boerger described work being done to make downloadable resources of the Office of the Secretary more readily available on the ELCA website.

The secretary recalled that the 2013 Churchwide Assembly had defeated motions to have the Church Council nominate two people for each of the elections for vice president and secretary with additional nominations possible from the floor. He related a conversation within the Executive Committee considering what discernment could be done in advance of the election of a vice president by the 2016 Churchwide Assembly as well as what procedural changes could be in place for the elections of the presiding bishop and secretary for the 2019 Churchwide Assembly. He identified four patterns that synods had used to elect synodical bishops.

1. Discussions in advance of the Synod Assembly without naming potential nominees; ecclesiastical ballot at the Synod Assembly
2. Process identifying potential nominees in advance of the Synod Assembly; biographical information of potential nominees for an ecclesiastical ballot at the Synod Assembly
3. Nomination process and forums in advance of the Synod Assembly; biographical information of nominees and a ballot with write-in possibilities at the Synod Assembly
4. Nomination process and forums in advance of the Synod Assembly; biographical information of nominees and a ballot without floor nominations at the Synod Assembly

A working group of the Executive Committee was comparing these processes to current practices for electing churchwide officers, reviewing what changes would require amending the assembly's Rules of Organization and Procedure or continuing resolutions, and analyzing what changes would require amending the constitution or bylaws. The secretary distributed a chart of the four election options, asking all participants to indicate their preferences on the chart for the election process to use for the presiding bishop, vice president and secretary.

Secretary Boerger shared some of the information gathered from congregational reports, and he commented on work being done to revise the Manual of Policies and Procedures for Management of the Rosters of the ELCA and to propose amendments to the Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the ELCA. He mentioned that the allocation of voting members by synods to the 2016 Churchwide Assembly had been distributed and that the Church Council was considering *en bloc* a recommendation to allocate an additional seven voting members to five synods.

The secretary responded to questions about possible amendments to Chapter 7 of the ELCA constitution and about the role of the Church Council at the 2016 Churchwide Assembly.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on Secretary Wm Chris Boerger, who presented information about the remainder of the meeting's schedule and logistics associated with adjournment.

CHURCH COUNCIL JOYS AND CONCERNS

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on the Rev. James H. Utt, who asked specific people how the Church Council may pray for them.

RECESS

At the invitation of Vice President Carlos E. Peña, Ms. Cynthia M. Gustavson closed the session with prayer.

The November 2014 meeting of the Church Council recessed for Sunday, November 9, 2014, at 6:28 p.m.

Monday, November 10, 2014
Plenary Session VI

CALL TO ORDER

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called the sixth plenary session to order at 9:15 a.m. in the Council Room of the Lutheran Center.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

(Agenda V.A.)

The November 2014 meeting of the Church Council immediately entered into executive session to receive a legal briefing from Mr. Phillip H. Harris, general counsel. Minutes for meetings held in executive session are added to the protocol file in the Office of the Secretary. The executive session concluded at 9:25 a.m., and the council meeting entered open session.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE: NEW CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

(Agenda VI.A.; *Reference*: New Congregational Development in the ELCA and Analysis, Assessment and Measurement of New Starts)

Background:

In 2012, the Southwest California Synod Council resolved:

- to request that the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America direct the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit to create a research design using appropriate methodology and standardized measurement scales for mission starts and redeveloping congregations, specifically looking at early qualitative and quantitative assessments of mission development pastors, realistic financial support strategies, concurrent assessment practices, and further diversification of church planting strategies, including concepts for further long-term development and support for developing pastors, inner-city, and ethnocentric specific mission start strategies and early viability and sustainability assessments;
- that this church use additional psychological and behavioral standardized assessment tools in the process of identifying mission developers; and to implement a mentoring program for every mission developer; and
- that this church looks toward our full-communion partnerships for alternative methodologies and analytical tools, for direct partnerships and for church developer peer support teams.

In April 2012, the Church Council's Executive Committee referred the resolution to the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit with a request that a report and possible recommendations be brought to the November 2012 meeting of the council.

In November 2012, the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit provided a preliminary report and requested additional time to fully engage developers, synods, congregations, and other religious groups in the review. The Church Council voted [CC12.11.44c] to acknowledge and affirm the ongoing work of the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit and to anticipate a full report and possible recommendations to the November 2013 meeting of the council.

In November 2013, the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit presented the Church Council with a report from its New and Renewing Congregations Working Group. The council asked [CC13.11.69a] the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit to implement the working group's recommendations, as possible, and report its progress to its November 2014 meeting.

The Rev. Rubén F. Durán, director for new congregations, brought the Church Council a progress report on the unit's work in strategic visioning, interpretation and communication, and process improvements regarding new congregational development in the ELCA.

Church Council action:

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on Secretary Wm Chris Boerger, who made the following motion.

Moved;

Seconded: To go into a committee of the whole for a period of 30 minutes to discuss new congregational development in the ELCA led by Congregational and Synodical Mission unit staff. In addition, during the committee of the whole no parliamentary motions will be in order and no votes will be taken.

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

VOTED:

CC14.11.26 To go into a committee of the whole for a period of 30 minutes to discuss new congregational development in the ELCA led by Congregational and Synodical Mission unit staff. In addition, during the committee of the whole no parliamentary motions will be in order and no votes will be taken.

Vice President Peña declared the motion was adopted.

The Church Council entered into a committee of the whole at 9:27 a.m.

The committee of the whole rose at 9:58 a.m., and the Church Council returned into plenary session.

PERSONAL REFLECTION ON FAITH

(Agenda VI.B.)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña asked Mr. Fernando Mercado to share a personal reflection on faith.

Mr. Mercado related experiences he had with the Lutheran Church and faith in Jesus Christ. He led the assembly in prayer.

PRIMER ON ELCA YOUTH MINISTRY NETWORK

(Agenda VI.C.; *Reference:* Youth and Young Adult Ministries Report)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña introduced the Rev. Todd E. Buegler, pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, Owatonna, Minn.

Pr. Buegler, executive director of the ELCA Youth Ministry Network, presented a primer on the network of youth ministry leaders and the Extravaganzas, webinars and podcasts it has hosted. He distributed several examples of the network's publications. He said the network focuses on the spiritual renewal, continuing education, and networking and connecting of youth ministry leaders.

REPORT OF THE LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL REVIEW COMMITTEE

(Agenda V.G.; *Reference:* LCRC Agenda, November 8, 2014)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on the Rev. Raymond A. Miller Jr., chair of the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee, who presented the committee's report.

PERSONNEL POLICIES FOR THE CHURCHWIDE ORGANIZATION

(Agenda V.G.1.; *Reference*: Personnel Policies November 2014)

Background:

Employees of the churchwide organization of the ELCA are expected to read, understand and comply with the Personnel Policies of the Churchwide Organization. A review of the policies resulted in several proposed amendments to sections dealing with such matters as avoiding conflicts of interest, the new employee's introductory period, accuracy of information, flexible schedules, reporting harassment or other inappropriate behavior, the use of social media and preventing workplace violence.

Church Council action:

The Rev. Raymond A. Miller Jr. drew the attention of the Church Council to the revised Churchwide Organization Personnel Policies and made the following motion on behalf of the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee.

Moved;

Seconded: To approve the amended Churchwide Organization Personnel Policies.

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

VOTED:

CC14.11.27 To approve the amended Churchwide Organization Personnel Policies.

Vice President Peña declared the motion was adopted.

ELCA SPECIAL NEEDS RETIREMENT FUND

(Agenda V.G.2.; *Reference*: Special Needs Retirement Fund Information)

Background:

The 1993 Churchwide Assembly established [CA93.08.100] the ELCA Special Needs Retirement Fund to provide "both for additional pension contributions for pastors in situations of low compensation, and for pensioners who are receiving at or near the minimum pension." A Special Needs Retirement Fund Management Committee was organized to assist the ELCA Board of Pensions in implementing this action. A special task force reported that the first half of the mandate was not workable; only the employee and employer may make contributions into a retirement account, and a third party is precluded from making "additional pension contributions." The management committee asked that greater efforts be made to honor compensation guidelines set by the synods and that the committee be directed to concentrate its efforts on fulfilling the intent of the assembly action.

Church Council action:

The Rev. Raymond A. Miller Jr. pointed out the materials provided the Church Council regarding the Special Needs Retirement Fund and made the following motion on behalf of the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee.

Moved;

Seconded: To recognize and support the Special Needs Retirement Fund Management Committee's efforts to provide financial support for annuitants who are receiving at or near the minimum pension as an adequate response to CA93.08.100.

Participants discussed regulations of the Internal Revenue Service regarding contributions to retirement funds. There being no further discussion, the chair called for the vote.

VOTED:

CC14.11.28 **To recognize and support the Special Needs Retirement Fund Management Committee's efforts to provide financial support for annuitants who are receiving at or near the minimum pension as an adequate response to CA93.08.100.**

Vice President Peña declared the motion was adopted.

IN MEMORY OF MR. DAVID A. ULLRICH

The Rev. Raymond A. Miller Jr. concluded the report of the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee by noting items the committee had placed in the *en bloc* resolution, as well as one matter it had asked to be removed from the *en bloc* resolution, and by making the following motion on behalf of the committee.

Moved;

Seconded: To give thanks to God for the life and service of David A. Ullrich;
 To note with appreciation his distinguished service as associate general counsel for the ELCA, his service and wise counsel to the Church Council, and his work with the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee and the Office of the Secretary; and
 To continue to offer its prayers for comfort and peace for his family and colleagues.

Council members asked that this action be communicated to the Office of the Secretary and the Ullrich family. There being no further discussion on the motion, the chair called for the vote.

VOTED:

CC14.11.29 **To give thanks to God for the life and service of David A. Ullrich;
 To note with appreciation his distinguished service as associate general counsel for the ELCA, his service and wise counsel to the Church Council, and his work with the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee and the Office of the Secretary; and
 To continue to offer its prayers for comfort and peace for his family and colleagues.**

Vice President Peña declared the motion was adopted.

**REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
PRESIDING BISHOP EMERITUS TITLE (CONT.)**

(Agenda I.E.2.; *Reference:* Bishop Emeritus Information)

Mr. Paul G. Archer made a motion to remove from the table the matter of conferring the honorary title of "presiding bishop emeritus."

Moved;

Seconded: To consider the matter of conferring the honorary title of "presiding bishop emeritus."

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

Moved;
Seconded;
Carried: To consider the matter of conferring the honorary title of “presiding bishop emeritus.”

Vice President Peña declared the motion was adopted, and he stated the motion that was on the floor.

To confer the honorary title of “presiding bishop emeritus” to the Rev. Herbert W. Chilstrom, the Rev. H. George Anderson and the Rev. Mark S. Hanson.

Members of the Church Council discussed the need to act on this matter, the honor associated with the title, the motivation behind the motion, the precedent the action may set and the definitions of “emeritus.”

Ms. Pamela E. Pritt called for the question on the motion.

Moved; **Two-Thirds Vote Required**
Seconded: To vote on the previous question.

The chair called for the vote.

Moved; **Two-Thirds Vote Required**
Seconded;
Carried: To vote on the previous question.

Vice President Peña declared the motion to call the question was adopted. He invited the Rev. Raymond A. Miller Jr. to lead the Church Council in prayer.

The chair called for the vote.

Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton recused herself from the vote.

VOTED:
CC14.11.30 To confer the honorary title of “presiding bishop emeritus” to the Rev. Herbert W. Chilstrom, the Rev. H. George Anderson and the Rev. Mark S. Hanson.

Vice President Peña declared the motion was adopted.

BREAK

The November 2014 meeting of the Church Council recessed at 10:35 a.m. and reconvened at 10:49 a.m. in the Council Room of the Lutheran Center.

PRIMER ON WOMEN OF THE ELCA

(Agenda VI.E.; *Reference:* Women of the ELCA Digest of Board Actions *and* Women of the ELCA Report)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña announced that Ms. Linda Post Bushkofsky, executive director of Women of the ELCA, was unable to be present, and a primer on Women of the ELCA would be postponed until the April 2015 meeting of the Church Council.

REPORT OF THE BOARD DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

(Agenda VI.F.; *Reference*: August 2014 Retreat Evaluation)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on Mr. Paul G. Archer, co-chair of the Board Development Committee, who presented the committee's report. He reviewed the responsibilities of the committee and feedback the committee received regarding the council's August 2014 retreat. He led a discussion on the schedule of this and future meetings.

UPDATE ON THE 500TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LUTHERAN REFORMATION

The Rev. Marcus R. Kunz, assistant to the presiding bishop for theological discernment, distributed a pamphlet outlining commitments, responsibilities, activities and means of communication for events surrounding observances of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation leading up to and including 2017. He presented each element of the pamphlet, including the anniversary theme, "Freed and Renewed in Christ: 500 Years of God's Grace in Action."

Participants commented on the ecumenical nature of the observance, resources produced by The Lutheran World Federation, documentaries being produced regarding the Reformation and a goal of the observance being to raise understanding of the Lutheran witness to the Christian faith.

CONSIDERATION OF ITEMS REMOVED FROM *EN BLOC* AND *EN BLOC* APPROVAL OF CERTAIN ITEMS

(Agenda VI.G. and VI.H.; *Reference*: *En Bloc* Items, Responses to Churchwide Assembly Actions and Responses to Synodical Resolutions)

Background:

En bloc resolutions or consent calendars were presented to the Church Council including routine or noncontroversial actions prepared by staff of the churchwide organization and by the council's committees. The resolutions were presented in three documents — *En Bloc* Items, Responses to Synodical Resolutions and Responses to Churchwide Assembly Actions. Opportunity was provided to members of the Church Council to remove items from *en bloc* for separate consideration by the council. A single vote on those items remaining *en bloc* is taken without debate or amendment.

Church Council action:

Vice President Carlos E. Peña asked Secretary Wm Chris Boerger whether any Church Council members had removed an item from the Responses to Synodical Resolutions document for separate consideration.

Secretary Boerger reported that the first and third recommendations had been removed from the Responses to Synodical Resolutions document. He presented the first.

1. The Isolation of Individuals Living in Our Communities

Virginia Synod (9A) [2013]

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.

Church Council action (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.

Response from the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit (April 2014)

At its November meeting, the Church Council adopted a social message on “The Body of Christ and Mental Illness.” The very first page of that message speaks about the loneliness and isolation that those with mental illness experience. However, under the heading of “The Call to Companionship”, the message reminds us that being integrated into a community is treated as definitive by Jesus. In fact, on page 12 the message clearly states that “to people who are experiencing mental illness, physical, prayerful companionship can be a sign of God’s presence in a time when God’s presence cannot be felt any other way.” And so, in italics on page 16, we read that “The ELCA commits as a church to accompanying you in your valley of the shadow...” We also read of a commitment to the families and caregivers of those with mental illness, “The ELCA as a church commits to accompanying you as families and caregivers with honest, hopeful yet realistic, and prayerful companionship.”

To assist congregations in beginning conversations about the particular loneliness and isolation that those with mental illness experience, a congregational study guide has been developed to accompany the mental health message. Conversations about the isolation involved with mental illness can help to broaden the discussion so that the isolation experienced in the world in general can also be addressed.

For those whose isolation has led to despair and thoughts of suicide, there is an Independent Lutheran Organization called Lutheran Suicide Prevention Ministry which can provide many resources for helping people to move through the valley of the shadow.

Church Council action (CC14.04.11)

To refer this matter to the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit for further work.

Background from the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit (November 2014)

After the April 2014 Church Council meeting, the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit followed up with the Virginia Synod and the author of the resolution regarding their intention as directed. A discussion with Bishop James Mauney, Virginia Synod, led into communication with the author of the resolution. The author then wrote a response to Bishop Mauney expressing that the intention of the resolution was to address isolation experienced from people with mental illness. Her primary concern was “that what is lacking is not that congregation members don’t care, they just are not aware and lack a degree of understanding. Therefore, the goal would be to raise awareness and understanding.” The author of the resolution and Bishop Mauney both expressed appreciation for our follow-up.

The Congregational and Synodical Mission unit strongly affirms the current and available congregational resources and materials, as noted in the April 2014 response. These available materials would address the concern noted and would assist congregation members to develop awareness and understanding that could enable them to support those living in isolation due to mental illness. We commend all these congregational resources to our members for their study to help them support those living in isolation in their congregations and communities.

Church Council action:

Vice President Peña called on the Rev. James H. Utt, who had removed this item from *en bloc* consideration.

Pr. Utt expressed the appreciation of the Virginia Synod and the authors of the resolutions for the attention given these issues. He made the following motion.

Moved;

Seconded: To thank the Virginia Synod for encouraging congregations and individuals to reach out to those living in isolation;
To receive the responses from the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit;

To encourage congregations and individuals to use the mental health message congregational study guide to engage in conversations about isolation;

To encourage congregations and individuals to utilize the resources provided through Lutheran Suicide Prevention Ministry; and

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

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

VOTED:

- CC14.11.31** **To thank the Virginia Synod for encouraging congregations and individuals to reach out to those living in isolation;**
 To receive the responses from the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit;
 To encourage congregations and individuals to use the mental health message congregational study guide to engage in conversations about isolation;
 To encourage congregations and individuals to utilize the resources provided through Lutheran Suicide Prevention Ministry; and
 To request that the secretary of this church inform the synod of this action.

Vice President Peña declared the motion was adopted.

3. Statement on Aging

Virginia Synod (9A) [2014]

WHEREAS, a statement of the Lutheran Church in America regarding “Aging and the Older Adult” was adopted by the Ninth Biennial Convention, Chicago, Illinois, July 12–19, 1978; and

WHEREAS, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) upon its founding accepted the statement as a historical document; and

WHEREAS, the document has never been rescinded; and

WHEREAS, the statement is not binding for the ELCA; and

WHEREAS, while this church is blessed by the vital growth of young people and families, it is also blessed by the increasing number of senior members, making the subject of aging of paramount importance to a significant number of ELCA congregations; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Virginia Synod form a committee to study the issue and draft a social statement on aging; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Virginia Synod Council request the Church Council to bring the 1978 statement, “Aging and the Older Adult,” out of retirement and revise it as appropriate to make it a living document.

Executive Committee action (EC14.08.18d)

To receive the resolution from the Virginia Synod regarding the statement on aging; and

To refer the resolution to the Office of the Presiding Bishop for a report or for a timeline on when this resolution will receive further attention to be presented to the November 2014 Church Council meeting.

Background from the Office of the Presiding Bishop (November 2014)

The 2014 Virginia Synod Assembly discussed matters about aging and the church, adopting two actions that call for the development of social documents on aging. The first directed action to the synod itself and the second requested action on the part of the Church Council. The Executive Committee of the Church Council considered the resolutions at its August 2014 meeting and referred them to the Office of the Presiding Bishop, directing that a report or a timeline be presented to the November 2014 Church Council meeting to indicate when the second resolve would receive further attention.

Discussion regarding appropriate action on this request within the Office of the Bishop involves several considerations.

The first follows from the application of the term “social statement” by the synod in regards to the action it authorized for itself. While the use of this term causes confusion when applied to a synod document, given the specific and widespread meaning of the term for a specific kind of churchwide document, the synod is not taking upon itself the intention to draft a social statement on behalf of the ELCA. Rather, the intent is to produce a synodical study document that probes matters of aging and might inform conversation on relevant issues from the standpoint of faith. That is, the resolution does not use the term “social statement” in the technical sense and with the accompanying protocol specified in “Policies and Procedures of the ELCA for Addressing Social Concerns.” It does seem useful to clarify this matter in the Church Council action to the synod for the sake of clarity.

The second set of considerations involves the comparative significance of this issue at this time in relation to: a) existing work on the development of social documents, b) previously existing requests for additional documents, and c) churchwide staff capacity. It is widely recognized that a dominant cohort of ELCA membership is living longer and with greater vigor in ways that strengthen the presence and contribution of older adults within the church. It also is widely recognized that life span expansion and the use of rapidly evolving medical technology sharpens the challenges and dilemmas as individuals live longer. As the resolution itself points out, the 35-year-old LCA document “Aging and the Older Adult” could provide significant basis for the development of a document, even though dated by themes, scope and cultural shifts since 1978.

Given these considerations, the need for a social message on aging seems clearly worth an assessment even while it remains uncertain whether a document should or would finally be authorized. The recommendation from the Office of the Presiding Bishop below calls for such an assessment. At the same time, any commitment for an assessment must be added to an already extensive work load for the Theological Discernment Team as a whole and for the director for theological ethics who would take primary responsibility.

Church Council action:

Vice President Peña called on Pr. Utt, who had removed this item from *en bloc* consideration.

Pr. Utt made the following motion.

Moved;

Seconded:

To thank the Virginia Synod for its resolution on aging;

To receive the response from the Office of the Presiding Bishop;

To ask that the term “social statement” be avoided in the work of the synodical committee drafting a synod document on aging for the sake of clarity regarding the technical meaning “social statement” as used in “Policies and Procedures of the ELCA for Addressing Social Concerns;”

To acknowledge both the continuing limited staff capacity as well as the continuing presence of important social questions around aging;

To invite an assessment and possible recommendation from the Theological Discernment Team staff in the Office of the Presiding Bishop regarding the feasibility of developing a social message on aging that includes attention to the 1978 LCA statement, “Aging and the Older Adult”; and

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

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

VOTED:

CC14.11.32

To thank the Virginia Synod for its resolution on aging;

To receive the response from the Office of the Presiding Bishop;

To ask that the term “social statement” be avoided in the work of the synodical committee drafting a synod document on aging for the sake of clarity regarding the

technical meaning “social statement” as used in “Policies and Procedures of the ELCA for Addressing Social Concerns;”

To acknowledge both the continuing limited staff capacity as well as the continuing presence of important social questions around aging;

To invite an assessment and possible recommendation from the Theological Discernment Team staff in the Office of the Presiding Bishop regarding the feasibility of developing a social message on aging that includes attention to the 1978 LCA statement, “Aging and the Older Adult”; and

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

Vice President Peña declared the motion was adopted.

Secretary Boerger made the following motion.

Moved;

Seconded: To take action *en bloc* on the remaining items listed in the Responses to Synodical Resolutions document.

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

VOTED:

CC14.11.33 To take action *en bloc* on the items listed below.

Vice President Peña declared the motion was adopted.

A. The Future of ELCA Seminaries

Northern Great Lakes Synod (5G) [2014]

RESOLVED, that the Northern Great Lakes Synod of the ELCA:

1. Reaffirm the generous financial support given to ELCA seminaries and seminarians from the Northern Great Lakes Synod and many of its member congregations; and
2. Inform its congregations and members, by means of the spoken, printed, and electronic word, of the financial struggles that ELCA seminaries are experiencing, in particular the two seminaries relating to this synod which are the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago and Wartburg Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa; and
3. Through its rostered leaders and congregation members, identify and lift up potential leaders who may serve its congregations and encourage them to pursue theological education; and
4. Educate its congregations and members, by means of the spoken, printed, and electronic word, that the ELCA Foundation, seminary foundations, and the Northern Great Lakes Synod Endowment Committee can help people plan and develop charitable trusts, gift annuities, and other planned gifts that will help ELCA seminaries continue into the future; and
5. Urge the Church Council to continue to review and adapt the institutions and practices of ELCA theological education to meet the needs in varied congregational contexts for this time and beyond, and to communicate these efforts and results annually to the 65 synods; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Northern Great Lakes Synod Assembly direct the Synod Council to forward this resolution to the Church Council for consideration and positive action.

Executive Committee action (EC14.08.18b)

To receive the resolution from the Northern Great Lakes Synod regarding the future of ELCA seminaries; and

To refer the resolution to the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit for a report or for a timeline on when this resolution will receive further attention to be presented to the November 2014 Church Council meeting.

Background from the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit (November 2014)

The first four resolves in the resolution from the Northern Great Lakes Synod on “The Future of ELCA Seminaries” are welcome reaffirmations of this synod’s commitment to the ELCA’s shared work in preparing leaders for mission through the ELCA’s seminaries.

Concerning the fifth resolve, the ELCA Church Council, at its November 2014 meeting, is receiving an interim report from the Theological Education Advisory Council. The advisory council’s purpose is to review the institutions and practices of ELCA theological education. This will include adaptations already underway, new possibilities for the organization and how theological education is delivered and supported. This interim report, along with any Church Council actions related to it, will be publicly available following the November 2014 meeting.

The Theological Education Advisory Council will continue its work during the next year, bringing its final report and recommendations to the November 2015 meeting of the Church Council.

VOTED:

EN BLOC

**CC14.11.33a To thank the Northern Great Lakes Synod for its resolution on the future of ELCA seminaries;
To receive the response from the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit;
To acknowledge the ongoing work of the Theological Education Advisory Council in addressing the concerns expressed in the resolution; and
To request that the secretary of this church inform the synod of this action.**

B. Constitutional Provision on Limited Voting Rights

Grand Canyon Synod Council (2D) [2014]

RESOLVED, that the Synod Council of Grand Canyon Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America hereby petitions the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to recognize the distinctive situation of certain ELCA congregations in Sunbelt areas that experience with joy a large influx of seasonal members who are active participants in the life of those congregations and who are crucial in congregations; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Grand Canyon Synod Council petitions the Church Council to affirm the experience of various congregations that are situated primarily in areas with a substantial population of retired persons in which the involvement of seasonal members is greatly facilitated by minimizing distinctions between voting and associate members, especially as related to the mission and ministry and the local affairs of such congregations; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Grand Canyon Synod Council, demonstrating clear recognition of these concerns, recommends that the following amendment be proposed by the Church Council of the Evangelical Church in America to the 2016 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to address the particular needs of certain congregation in some synods:

To adopt a new constitutional provision as 9.54. to read in the *Constitution, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*:

9.54. A congregation may grant limited voting rights to associate members with the approval of the synod responsible for the review of the congregation’s constitution, subject to the following limitations: Associate members in affected congregations (a) shall be deemed to be active participants who offer crucial support for the congregation’s overall mission and ministry; (b) shall not have the right to vote on any matter governed by provisions 7.46. and 9.62. in this constitution; (c) shall not have the right to serve as an officer or member of the Congregation Council; (d) shall not be eligible to serve as a voting member of the Synod Assembly or the Churchwide Assembly; and (e) shall be governed by any additional

limitations as the Synod Council may require as a condition of the synod's approval of voting and other privileges for associate members.

Executive Committee action (EC14.08.18a)

To receive the resolution from the Grand Canyon Synod concerning a constitutional provision on limited voting rights; and

To refer the resolution to the Office of the Secretary for a report or for a timeline on when this resolution will receive further attention to be presented to the November 2014 Church Council meeting.

Background from the Office of the Secretary (November 2014)

The Grand Canyon Synod has requested that a provision be added to the ELCA Constitution to allow associate members to have the privilege of voting in congregational meetings where they hold associate membership with certain limitations. This proposal will be part of the review of the constitutions in anticipation of the 2016 Churchwide Assembly. Early conversation would not see this provision added as written to the ELCA Constitution. A provision could be considered in the Model Constitution for Congregations. The timeline would be to have a proposal ready for the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee to review at its April 2015 meeting. A proposal could be recommended to the Churchwide Assembly at the November 2015 meeting of the Church Council.

VOTED:

EN BLOC

CC14.11.33b

To receive the response from the Office of the Secretary and to thank the Grand Canyon Synod for its resolution on Constitutional Provision on Limited Voting Rights;

To acknowledge such a provision could be considered for the Model Constitution for Congregations and will be incorporated into the overall constitutional review work of the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee;

To request the Office of the Secretary consider the constitutional provision as it reviews possible amendments to the *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*; and

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

C. Transparent and Accountable Congregation Management

Metropolitan New York Synod (7C) [2014]

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Assembly instruct the Metropolitan New York Synod Council to request that the Church Council propose an amendment to the *Model Constitution for Congregations* by adding this clause to the end of C12.09:

“...including financial reports that fairly represent the financial status of the congregation.”; and be it further

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

Executive Committee action (EC14.08.18c)

To receive the resolution from the Metropolitan New York Synod regarding transparent and accountable congregation management; and

To refer the resolution to the Office of the Secretary for a report or for a timeline on when this resolution will receive further attention to be presented to the November 2014 Church Council meeting.

Background from the Office of the Secretary (November 2014)

The Metropolitan New York Synod has asked that language requiring a report of the financial status of a congregation be part of the annual report to the annual meeting. This also will be reviewed as part of the overall review

of the constitutions in preparation for the 2016 Churchwide Assembly. The timeline would call for review by the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee at its April 2015 meeting. Any proposal for amendment would be part of the proposed amendments acted on at the November 2015 Church Council meeting.

VOTED:

EN BLOC

CC14.11.33c To receive the response from the Office of the Secretary and to thank the Metropolitan New York Synod for its resolution on Transparent and Accountable Congregation Management;

To acknowledge such an amendment could be considered for the Model Constitution for Congregations and will be incorporated into the overall constitutional review work of the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee;

To request the Office of the Secretary consider the amendment as it reviews possible amendments to the *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*; and

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

Vice President Peña called on Secretary Boerger, who made the following motion.

Moved;

Seconded: To take action *en bloc* on the items listed in the Responses to Churchwide Assembly Actions document.

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

VOTED:

CC14.11.34 To take action *en bloc* on the items listed below.

Vice President Peña declared the motion was adopted.

A. Social Statement *Genetics, Faith and Responsibility*

Churchwide Assembly Action (CA11.04.17)

1. To call upon members of this church to pray, work, advocate and apply genetic knowledge and technology in ways that respect and promote the community of life justly and wisely;
2. To call upon congregations and other sites of ministry to give renewed attention to becoming places of koinonia in Christ that foster a deepened understanding of and commitment to baptismal vocation, everyday callings and moral formation and discernment;
3. To encourage leaders in conferences, synods or other appropriate bodies to compile lists of resources for their jurisdictions to which pastors, counselors and individuals can turn for help when seeking information or guidance in dealing with genetic issues;
4. To call upon this church's advocacy ministries to support and advocate for measures consistent with this social statement;
5. To affirm the study document "Genetics and Faith: Power, Choice and Responsibility" as a resource for ongoing deliberation and discernment, and to direct the Theological Discernment team of the Office of the Presiding Bishop to maintain its availability as long as demand continues;
6. To affirm the 2004 ELCA Social Policy Resolution "Genetically Modified Organisms in the Food Supply" and its continuing value for the mission and ministry of the ELCA;

7. To encourage the churchwide organization to maintain a database of ELCA members with expertise related to genetic science and technology that can serve as a primary resource for consultation;
8. To direct the Theological Discernment team of the Office of the Presiding Bishop to assess the feasibility of developing a social message on regenerative medicine, including, but not limited to, a range of stem cell technologies; and to bring to the ELCA Church Council in November 2013 a report and possible recommendations, in accordance with Policies and Procedures of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for Addressing Social Concerns (Chicago: ELCA, 1997, revised 2011); and
9. To call upon the Office of the Presiding Bishop to establish and oversee a process of implementation and accountability for Genetics, Faith and Responsibility and to report annually on implementation to the ELCA Church Council through November 2015, with progress reports made available through www.ELCA.org.

Background from the Office of the Presiding Bishop (November 2014)

Since 2003, one implementing resolution in each social statement has directed or called upon units of the churchwide organization to provide a process for accountability and reporting regarding the implementation of the resolutions attached to it. The 2011 statement, *Genetics, Faith and Responsibility*, specified an annual report in implementing resolution #9 (through 2015) and this report assesses activities during 2014. Activities for 2013 or earlier are reported in the November 8-10, 2013, Church Council materials, specifically Exhibit J, Part 6.

Resolutions #1 and 2 of *Genetics, Faith and Responsibility* call for prayer, ministry and daily work that “respect and promote the community of life justly and wisely.” These activities are unquantifiable and difficult to assess, especially in terms of congregational activity and renewed attention “to becoming places of Koinonia in Christ.” Barring a churchwide survey, it also remains difficult to report accurately what actions were generated by Resolution #3, which encourages church leaders “to compile lists of resources for their jurisdictions” that might help pastors and others seeking to deal with genetic issues. ELCA advocacy ministries (Resolution #4) have not given priority or visibility to issues around genetics this year. Yet, staff of the churchwide organization is familiar with the statement and report referring to it on occasion.

It is clear, however, that the ELCA’s statement continues to create visibility and reflection for its concerns. For example, the statement was reviewed significantly in *Kristeligt Dagblad* (a Danish newspaper) in September 2013, was summarized on the Pew Research Center website last June, and cited in a Washington Post article that drew from the Pew site.

Ecumenically, this social statement has been widely recognized for its excellence — most clearly indicated in the activities within The Episcopal Church. That church’s 2012 General Convention adopted Resolution A-013 that expressly commends the leadership of the ELCA and called upon itself to “follow the example of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and other denominations in seeking to identify the moral, ethical and theological principles” raised by genetically modified organisms. The subsequent Episcopal working paper draws at length from both *Genetics, Faith & Responsibility* and the 2004 ELCA social policy resolution “Genetically Modified Organisms in the Food Supply.” (This social policy resolution was reaffirmed in Resolutions #5 and #6.) The working paper discusses themes and principles from these ELCA documents for more than ten pages and cites them as sources of guidance for the resolutions proposed to the 2014 General Convention.

Resolution #7 encourages the churchwide organization to maintain a database of ELCA members with relevant expertise and an initial, brief list compiled in late 2011 remains available. The churchwide organization’s integrated database (ECIS) would be the natural location for the creation of a complete database, however in light of other priorities staff capacity limitations remain. No further efforts have been made to create such a database.

Resolution #8 directs the Theological Discernment Team in the Office of the Presiding Bishop to assess “the feasibility of developing a social message on regenerative medicine” and to bring a report to the Church Council by November 2013. A delay for this activity was approved by Church Council action in November 2013 due to limited staff capacity and will be the subject of Church Council attention at the November 2014 meeting. It should be noted that moral questions surrounding regenerative medicine largely have been replaced in public conversation by other topics such as Ebola or the Affordable Health Care Act. However, it remains appropriate to conduct a thorough assessment.

VOTED:

EN BLOC

CC14.11.34a **To receive the report from the Office of the Presiding Bishop in response to the 2011 Churchwide Assembly action related to the implementing resolutions for the social statement, Genetics, Faith and Responsibility.**

B. Social Statement *The Church and Criminal Justice: Hearing the Cries*

Churchwide Assembly Action (CA13.05.16)

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

Background from the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit (November 2014)

Education

Race & Criminal Justice was a plenary presentation during the 2014 joint North/West Lower Michigan Synod and Southeast Michigan Synod assemblies by the ELCA program director for racial justice.

Planning is underway in the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod, in partnership with the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit, Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, the African Descent Lutheran Association Philadelphia Chapter and Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in Pennsylvania, for a daylong gathering to equip congregations to accompany individuals and families impacted by incarceration. The event is scheduled for June 6, 2015. Michelle Alexander, author of *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*, will deliver the keynote.

The theme of mass incarceration education will be included in the strategic plans of the ethnic associations.

Work is underway toward the development of a study guide to *The Church and Criminal Justice: Hearing the Cries*. A writer and design company have been contracted to craft the study guide as an interactive PDF that will include several varied-length curriculum sessions, multiple audience entry points, video clips and leader's guide. The resource will be available on the ELCA website, or for purchase as a flash drive or in print. The target for completion is April 2015.

Resources

Lutheran Men in Mission has provided free copies of New Testament translation Bibles in Spanish for outreach ministry to formerly incarcerated individuals.

A Bible study prepared for the African Descent Lutheran Association will focus on the issue of incarceration and its impact on communities of African descent. The Bible study will be featured in the fall 2014 newsletter of the association.

The ecumenical resource "Healing the Community" provides a framework for churches to be stations of hope. Funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, this resource has been implemented in more than 20 sites nationally. This model is currently used in Southeastern Pennsylvania, Lower Susquehanna and Southeastern synods.

New Start Congregations

A partnership of the ELCA and the Prison Congregations of America connects synodical bishops, Directors for Evangelical Mission and local leaders in starting ministries with incarcerated individuals and/or with formerly incarcerated people as they reintegrate into society. The Church of the Damascus Road prison ministry is the first Prison Congregations of America site in the state of Texas. The congregation is part of the Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana mission area.

Living Gospel Ministry, located in the northwest community of Philadelphia, provides life skills, employment search assistance and help with accessing government benefits to formerly incarcerated individuals and their families.

Accompaniment

The Intersection, a congregation located in Dorchester, Mass., provides educational preparation classes for adults preparing to take the Massachusetts State High School Equivalency Test (formerly known as the GED). This initiative is specifically intended to be a resource for returning citizens but will be available to any adult in need of obtaining a degree equivalent.

Advocacy

The ELCA Washington Office is part of an interfaith coalition for smarter sentencing reform. In June 2014, it issued an action alert for support of the *Smarter Sentencing Act*. This bipartisan legislation would reduce racially disparate mandatory minimum sentences for drug offenses and allow current prisoners serving outdated sentences for crack cocaine offenses to apply for a sentence reduction.

The ELCA State Public Policy Office in California is advocating for sentencing policy reform. California Proposition 47 is on the ballot for November 4, 2014. If approved by the state's voters, this law would reduce the classification of most "non-serious and nonviolent property and drug crimes" from a felony to a misdemeanor.

In 2013, the ELCA was able to formally sign on as an official supporter of the Campaign for the Fair Sentencing of Youth on the basis of the social statement *The Church and Criminal Justice: Hearing the Cries*.

Synod staff members report sharing copies of and text from *The Church and Criminal Justice: Hearing the Cries* in advocacy efforts with legislators in several states — states as diverse as New Jersey and Mississippi.

Corporate Social Responsibility

The action directed by Implementing Resolution #8 of The Church and Criminal Justice: Hearing the Cries to develop a social investment screen on private prison operations was undertaken by the corporate social responsibility consultant under the auspices of the churchwide organization's inter-unit review team. Following normal protocol for the development of a screen, the process involved review by Church Council, Conference of Bishops and staff at Portico Benefit Services. The adoption of this screen is expected at the November 2014 meeting of the Church Council after a final review by its Program and Services Committee.

Ecumenism

The ELCA is working within the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA on interreligious relations with a focus on peace and mass incarceration. The 2014 Christian Unity Gathering focused on mass incarceration and what we can do together ecumenically to help contribute to a solution to this crisis.

Breaking the Chains: Mass Incarceration & Systems of Exploitation will be the 2015 Ecumenical Advocacy Days theme. The event will take place April 17-20, 2015, in Washington, D.C. More than 1,000 participants will gather to build a movement to shake the foundations of systems of human exploitation (Acts 16:16-40), including a prison-industrial system that incarcerates millions of people in the United States and abroad.

VOTED:

EN BLOC

CC14.11.34b To receive the report from the Office of the Presiding Bishop in response to the 2013 Churchwide Assembly action related to the implementing resolutions for the social statement, The Church and Criminal Justice: Hearing the Cries.

C. Update on the Book of Faith Initiative

Churchwide Assembly action (CA13.02.04)

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.

Background from Augsburg Fortress, Publishers (November 2014)

Augsburg Fortress has actively partnered with others in all expressions of this church and many of its related institutions and agencies since the inception of the Book of Faith initiative in 2007. In listening to the needs of leaders across this church, Augsburg Fortress has published 122 unique Book of Faith learning and teaching resources written by 70 different authors whose primary workplace includes a wide range of ELCA congregations, agencies and institutions. In addition, Augsburg Fortress assists the churchwide organization on marketing the Book of Faith initiative, including a website, brochures and use of social media.

Beyond the resources published under the Book of Faith initiative imprint, Augsburg Fortress and our ecumenical faith formation division, sparkhouse, continue to partner with people across this church to publish a wide range of print, digital and video resources for teaching and learning, worship planning and personal devotion, which are designed to enhance biblical fluency for children, youth and adults.

In addition, one of the major pillars of our Fortress Press publishing program is biblical studies, many of them created to enhance the knowledge and confidence of students as well as pastors who lead their congregations toward biblical literacy.

Background from the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit (November 2014)

The 2013 Churchwide Assembly voted to “affirm the Book of Faith initiative as a continuing emphasis and priority in this church.” The presiding bishop, in collaboration with the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit, continues to provide leadership for this initiative.

In response to the call 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, we have launched a promotional campaign to deepen the understanding of multiple methods of engagement. We are calling on people throughout this church to engage our devotional, historical, literary and theological Book of Faith.



In response to the call to encourage engagement of the Book of Faith initiative by colleges, universities and seminaries of this church, we are in the process of initiating, in collaboration with the seminaries, a newly imagined Book of Faith Hein Fry Challenge. The purpose of this challenge is to enliven the biblical engagement of the whole church by providing current examples of innovative and effective ways of teaching and learning the Scripture. This challenge will result in both conferences and videos. The Book of Faith Initiative was also highlighted in two seminary publications. The June 2014 issue of *Currents in Theology and Mission* is dedicated to the Book of Faith Initiative and downloadable for free at the Book of Faith website. The lead article in *Word and World's* Summer 2014 issue, *Igniting Biblical Imagination*, highlights the initiative.

We are responding in a number of ways to a variety of the challenges listed in the adopted resolutions.

In response to the challenge of Bible and mission outreach, we continue, in partnership with Faith Practices and Mission Development Leaders, to promote *Story Matters: Claiming our Biblical Identity for the Sake of the World*.

We continue to expand our online presence. We have 1,107 members of the Facebook Book of Faith group. We have 1,798 followers on Twitter and counting. We are in the ongoing process of improving our website, www.bookoffaith.org.

Several new projects are in the works: We are forming a team to participate in the 2015 Youth Gathering in Detroit. We are active in the formation of an evolving group, *Partners in Adult Learning*. We are working with the Covenant Cluster of seminaries in envisioning a partner initiative entitled *Life of Faith*. And we are working with ELCA Research and Evaluation to create a new survey that will gauge how ELCA members think about and read the Bible. This survey will be significant in that it will grow out of our Lutheran theological tradition and experience rather than most of the extant surveys that have a more fundamentalist viewpoint.

Other challenges continue to be present as we envision the future of the Book of Faith initiative, including “the importance of family and home as centers of faith development,” addressing the great variety of cultures that make up this church and world and appealing to the growing number of persons in society claiming to be “spiritual but not religious.” Such challenges as these will be met as the initiative transitions to a new director, following the February 2015 retirement of Diane Jacobson.

At the heart of the initiative is the continuing overall goal “to help individuals and congregations throughout the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to open Scripture and join the conversation.”

VOTED:

EN BLOC

CC14.11.34c To receive the report and thank Augsburg Fortress, Publishers, and the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit for their ongoing work to help individuals and congregations throughout the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to open Scripture and join the conversation.

D1. Motion J: Native Americans and Alaska Natives

RESOLVED, that the ELCA Churchwide Organization be committed to inviting the tribal leader or a representative of the sovereign tribal or region wherein any and at every ELCA Churchwide Organization sponsored event held—e.g. Churchwide Assemblies, Global Mission Events, ELCA Youth Gatherings, smaller or regional events, etc.—with costs incurred to be supported by each event’s budget, to bring a word of welcome/greetings from their nations or peoples; and that consultation with the ELCA Director for American Indian and Alaska Native Ministries be done so as to ensure the invitation is extended appropriately; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the ELCA Churchwide Organization be committed to ensuring at least one educational component is developed and offered to participants at every Churchwide Organization sponsored event—e.g. Churchwide Assemblies, Global Mission Events, ELCA Youth Gatherings, smaller or regional events, etc.—regarding American Indian and Alaska Native tribal peoples of the nation or region wherein the Churchwide Organization sponsored event is being held, with costs incurred to be supported by each event’s budget; and that consultation with the ELCA’s Director for American Indian and Alaska Native Ministries be done so as to ensure such an educational experience is developed and presented appropriately.

Churchwide Assembly action (CA11.04.18)

To refer Motion J to the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit for consultation with the American Indian and Alaska Native Ministries to identify ways to address the intent of the motion.

Church Council action (CC13.04.27f)

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

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

Church Council action (CC13.11.69o)

To receive the response from the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit; and

To postpone the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit report with possible recommendations to the November 2014 meeting of the ELCA Church Council.

D2. Motion N: American Indian and Alaska Native Peoples

RESOLVED, that this assembly commits this church, the ELCA, to go beyond apologies and begin working on renewed, healthy and responsible relationships with American Indian and Alaska Native Peoples; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the ELCA commits to becoming the leader among churches in the area of advocacy and active support of justice, self-determination, sovereignty, and advancement of American Indian and Alaska Native Peoples and their nations and governments; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the ELCA endorses the U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples adopted by the U.N. General Assembly on September 13, 2007, adopts the declaration as the standard for our own practices, and commits to implementing the values and principles of the declaration within the work and structure of this church; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this assembly asks the presiding bishop to write to the president of the United States of America, encouraging the president to continue building strong government-to-government relationships with all of the federally recognized tribes, as well as to work collaboratively with tribes and the National Congress of American Indians on discerning how to best fully and effectively implement the U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples for the sake of justice in the lives and communities of American Indian and Alaska Native Peoples; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the ELCA actively supports the work and goals of the ELCA's director of American Indian and Alaska Native Ministries, the American Indian and Alaska Native Advisory Team, and the American Indian and Alaska Native Lutheran Association and, further, that this church will actively seek their counsel, in order to deepen our understanding of the oppression and colonized histories lived and remembered by American Indian and Alaska Native Peoples, as well as to gain insight on the present situations of injustices experienced by and opportunities that lie before American Indian and Alaska Native Peoples; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the ELCA encourage its membership, and especially its leadership, to educate themselves about American Indian and Alaska Native Peoples; starting with the tribes and Peoples whose reservations and/or nations are nearest us, then the tribes and Peoples who first inhabited the lands whereupon church buildings now sit; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the ELCA actively explore funding opportunities to better serve American Indian and Alaska Native Peoples and social services organizations that provide direct services such as the Oaks Indian Mission, Lakota Lutheran Center, Navajo Lutheran Mission and others, so that they may have sufficient resources to feed and house children and families in serious poverty; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the ELCA periodically encourage synods and congregations to go beyond mission trips to American Indian and Alaska Native communities and become active advocates for and supporters of them; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the ELCA commits to being a part of dreaming, praying and working together with American Indian and Alaska Native Peoples for a reconciled and hopeful future, recognizing that immediate action and long-term commitment are required for renewed, healthy and responsible relationships to be built.

Rationale of the Reference and Counsel Committee

The Reference and Counsel Committee receives the motion with gratitude. We acknowledge ongoing efforts of American Indian and Alaska Native Ministries in the ELCA. We also recognize that we have for too long as a church failed to act more intentionally on and to educate each other about issues of justice for American Indian and Alaska Native peoples. The Churchwide Assembly is unable to endorse the United Nations document that it has not yet read and studied. There is further work to be done if we are to seriously move forward with the goals of this motion.

Churchwide Assembly action (CA13.06.29)

To refer Motion N to the Congregational and Synodical Mission and Global Mission units.

Church Council action (CC13.11.69I)

To refer Motion N: American Indian and Alaska Native Peoples to the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit, in consultation with the Global Mission unit and the working group of the ELCA American Indian and Alaska Native Ministries Program; and

To request that a report and possible recommendations be presented to the November 2014 meeting of the Church Council.

Background from the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit (November 2014)

Following is a summary of the scope of the work that will need to be addressed by the American Indian and Alaska Natives (AIAN) Ministry Program in the coming months.

Motion J First Resolved Recommendations:

1. Create a working group by the American Indian and Alaska Natives (AIAN) Ministry Program:
 - a. Recommend guidelines for this church on ways to approach and offer invitation to Indian Nations to bring greetings to ELCA churchwide events;
 - b. Consider other questions, including:
 - i. Types and sizes of events that might be appropriate for greetings,
 - ii. Cost estimates for participation in such events,
 - iii. Consideration of how they will be funded; and
 - c. Recommend guidelines to the American Indian and Alaska Native communities on acceptable ways to provide greetings at ELCA events.

Motion J Second Resolved Recommendations:

1. A series of six 5-minute educational videos to be used at appropriate ELCA events, introducing:
 - a. The Lutheran historical commitment to accompany American Indian and Alaska Native peoples in North America, and
 - b. The lifting up of current concerns in Indian Country.
2. The AIAN Ministry Program and the AIAN Lutheran Association
 - a. serve as consultants in the production of the videos, and
 - b. commit to finding partners and advocates...to provide funds for the proposed recommendations.

Motion N First Resolved Recommendations:

1. To acknowledge the benefit of past apologies to bring attention to the communities and issues of AIAN tribes in North America;
2. To commend current and past efforts, by parts of the ELCA, to take action on the intent of this resolved. For example, the Montana Synod not only wrote an apology to the tribal nations of Montana, but also is in the process of going to each nation and hand-delivering the apology, seeking a more meaningful relationship with each nation;
3. To encourage the rest of the ELCA to follow suit and seek out face-to-face engagement with tribal nations closest to their locations; and
4. To encourage closer collaboration of ELCA staff and bishops with the National Congress of American Indians and find common cause with each other.

Motion N Second Resolved Recommendations:

1. To commend past and current relationships between ELCA staff and AIAN leaders, including ELCA advocacy staff collaborating on the Violence Against Women Act amendments and the Office of the Presiding Bishop staff's inviting comment on the Justice for Women statement by Wendy Helgemo (Ho-Chunk), a senior congressional staffer and member of the ELCA; and
2. To encourage closer collaboration of ELCA staff and bishops with the National Congress of American Indians in areas of advocacy which are of common cause, including the Conference of Bishops' ready benches.

Motion N Third Resolved Recommendations:

1. Ask the AIAN Working Group to work with the staff of the ELCA Global Mission unit and the Lutheran Office for World Community (LOWC) who have already been following the U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, in order to come up with recommendations on how to proceed with the intent of this resolved; and
2. Join with our ecumenical partners to address the church's complicity in making the Doctrine of Discovery a foundation of U.S. Federal Indian Law and take actions to repudiate this doctrine.

Motion N Fourth Resolved Recommendations:

1. Encourage Presiding Bishop Eaton to write the President of the United States of America to:
 - a. commend him for his commitment to Native Nations,
 - b. urge him to continue to strengthen government-to-government relationships between tribal nations and the U.S. federal government, and
 - c. urge him to work collaboratively with the National Congress of American Indians on implementation of the U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Motion N Fifth Resolved Recommendations:

1. Commend the ELCA in its past and current support of American Indian and Alaska Native ministries in the ELCA and commend the staff of the ELCA, in all its expressions, for its support of these ministries throughout the church;
2. Commend the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit for establishing an interim strategy for accomplishing the work of the AIAN ministry program in, what has been a long-term vacancy in the program director's position;
3. Request that the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit implement the ELCA Church Council's desire for an AIAN working group, which has suffered the consequences of the current position vacancy;
4. Request that the interim program director begin work on revising the ELCA AIAN ministry strategy, which is quite out-dated; and
5. Request that the AIAN Ministry Program begin work on an AIAN leadership initiative:
 - a. For the leadership needs of ELCA AIAN ministries, and
 - b. In collaboration with the Council of Native American Ministries, to address leadership needs in common in the ecumenical AIAN arena.

Motion N Sixth Resolved Recommendations:

1. Following the recommendations to Motion J, ask the AIAN working group to create a series of five-minute educational videos, by curating current products or adapting them to the format and intent of this resolved, such as: previous Commission for Multicultural Ministries videos, resources from Select Learning/Seraphim Communications, the Native Nations collaborative, videos produced by our full-communion partners; and
2. Encourage all expressions of the ELCA to find ways in which to have face-to-face engagement with the American Indian and/or Alaska Native communities around them.

Motion N Seventh Resolved Recommendations:

1. Request that the ELCA AIAN Ministries program director work with appropriate staff of the Mission Advancement unit (MA) in creating a communications and marketing strategy for the Native American Ministries Endowment Fund, so that it may be further strengthened, in order to support the intention of this resolved;
2. Utilize the existing Multicultural Resources Fund to create interpretive products for the purpose of this resolved; and
3. Work with ELCA Program Director for Community Development and the Poverty and Justice Ministries Team-Congregational and Synodical Mission, to create a consultation plan for ELCA AIAN ministries to take

advantage of the capacity-building workshops and related processes to increase and stabilize their financial capacity.

Motion N Eighth Resolved Recommendations:

1. Request that the AIAN ministry program work with appropriate MA staff to develop a communications vehicle to inform all the expressions of the ELCA of the state of its AIAN ministries, the issues of concern in these communities and opportunities for learning and service in these communities; and
2. Request that a new Indigenous Institute be planned to coincide with the 2015 National Congress of American Indians annual meeting, held in San Diego, CA in November 2015 and to make strategic invitations to Directors for Evangelical Mission and other synod leaders to participate in this Institute, so that they become stronger allies with American Indian and Alaska Native communities.

Motion N Ninth Resolved Recommendations:

1. To commit to the intent of these resolutions and these recommended actions to fulfill them, providing prayer support and resources to this end, as the Creator allows and we are able; and
2. To commend the current work of the ELCA American Indian and Alaska Native ministry program, the American Indian and Alaska Native Lutheran Association, and the Native Ministry Team, who have already engaged many of these resolutions and commend all those in the ELCA who have supported this work and have shown a commitment to them.

Concluding commentary on these resolutions and the work of the ELCA in American Indian and Alaska Native communities

Two unfortunate vacancies in the position of program director for American Indian and Alaska Native ministries of the ELCA, and the programmatic void that occurred as a result of them, have delayed the implementation of the Church Council's actions. However, by devoting staff time during the interim and a resurgence of efforts among the ELCA and many of its full-communion partners, there is a reason for confidence that this will no longer be the case. Many of us greatly appreciate the patience of the Church Council, and we anticipate good things to come in the near future. In reality, this work has not stopped just because of a programmatic vacancy. Our ELCA ministries in AIAN communities continue to struggle and grow. There are challenges and there are new opportunities that present themselves. We thank you for your partnership in this work.

VOTED:

EN BLOC

CC14.11.34d

To thank the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit for its response;

To acknowledge the challenges of accomplishing the broad scope of the work due to diminished staff capacity;

To encourage the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit to continue its ongoing efforts in implementing the recommendations outlined in its response, including establishment of an AIAN working group; and

To encourage all expressions of the ELCA to work on renewed, healthy and responsible relationships with American Indian and Alaska Native Peoples.

E. Fossil Fuels

Background:

The Report of the Memorials Committee to the Churchwide Assembly includes the full text of the synodical memorials to that assembly under the category.

Churchwide Assembly Action (CA13.03.07f)

To receive with gratitude the memorials of the Oregon, Northwest Washington and New England synods regarding climate change and fossil fuels;

To reaffirm the commitment of this church to:

1. confess that both our witness to God's goodness in creation and our acceptance of caregiving responsibility have often been weak and uncertain;
2. support and encourage synods, congregations, members, the churchwide organization, and agencies and institutions of this church that are working to reduce their use of fossil fuels and improve their stewardship of energy resources;
3. support and encourage synods, congregations, members, the churchwide organization, and agencies and institutions of this church to adopt and advocate for policies that reduce energy use, and with it our dependence on fossil fuels, as an expression of this church's commitment to address climate change and to care for God's creation;
4. support and encourage synods, congregations, members, the churchwide organization, and agencies and institutions of this church to re-examine lifestyles and environmental footprints as they relate to the climate crisis and to improve their stewardship of energy resources and promote care for God's creation;

To refer the matter of evaluating the feasibility and advisability of developing revised or additional investment screens and related recommendations to the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit with the request that it ask the Corporate Social Responsibility Team to provide a report with possible recommendations to the November 2014 meeting of the ELCA Church Council; and

To forward any possible revisions of these policies to the separately incorporated ministries, agencies and institutions of this church for implementation as appropriate.

Background from the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit (November 2014)

In an effort to fulfill the actions set out by the Churchwide Assembly related to fossil fuels, the ELCA engaged in a campaign during the summer of 2014 to support the Environmental Protection Agency's proposed rules to reduce carbon emissions, which would diminish the use of fossil fuels in the United States. The following is an overview of the Clean Air Campaign/ Climate Change actions:

- ELCA Lutheran leaders throughout the country attended and gave testimony at all public hearings on the Environmental Protection Agency's proposed rules for carbon emissions at power plants. Speakers included:
 - Rev. Leah Schade (Pa.), Rev. Paul Lubold (Pa.), Rev. Bill Rosenow (D.C.), Ms. Mary Minette (D.C.), Rev. Edward Wolff (Tenn.), Dr. James White (director for the Institute for Arctic Alpine Research and member of Trinity Lutheran Church, Colo.), Rev. Robert Moss (Colo.)
- In our campaign in support of the Environmental Protection Agency's proposed rules on carbon emissions at power plants throughout the United States, we encouraged Lutherans to send comments to the EPA.
 - We have received 1,182 paper and electronic comments to send to the EPA so far. We will be presenting these comments to Gina McCarthey, administrator for the EPA, this month.
- We encouraged Lutherans to sign an interfaith climate petition to global leaders, letting them know that Lutherans support action to combat climate change.
 - As of Oct. 1 we have collected 1,219 signatures in support of the Climate Petition.
- Hundreds of Lutherans (an estimated 350) traveled to New York City for the People's Climate March as part of the Interfaith Contingent. Those representing the Lutheran faith were one of the largest groups present at a march of more than 400,000 people.
- This year we have doubled the number of Lutherans in our network who are active on Environmental issues.

The corporate social responsibility team did evaluate the feasibility of developing revised or additional investment screens. It was determined that no additional investment screens are needed at this time. However, there is a recommended revision to the Environment Social Criteria Investment Screen. The social criteria investment screen, "Environment," is available in the Program and Services materials and will be reviewed by the committee during its meeting in November 2014.

VOTED: *EN BLOC*
CC14.11.34e **To receive the response from the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit; and
To affirm the continued efforts in supporting and encouraging all expressions of
this church to reduce their use of fossil fuels and improve their stewardship of energy
resources.**

F. Hydraulic Fracturing

Background from the 2013 Churchwide Assembly Memorials Committee: Category B1

The Report of the Memorials Committee to the Churchwide Assembly includes the full text of the synodical memorials to that assembly under the category.

The issues surrounding hydraulic fracturing are complex and diverge significantly from place to place. Rural landowners, including some ELCA congregations and ministries, have benefitted financially from leasing to drilling companies, but other parts of these communities may be suffering from environmental or social impacts related to drilling. The moratorium on hydraulic fracturing suggested by the New England synod in its memorial is a solution that some communities might embrace, while others would not. For that reason, it would be difficult for the ELCA, as a national church, to endorse a single approach to this complex issue.

Given the complexity of these issues, including a number of environmental and economic factors, and the variety of important and valid perspectives held by ELCA members and communities on this issue, a dialog, as suggested by the Upper Susquehanna Synod's memorial, could be constructive and helpful for this church body. Convening such conversations could both underscore the challenges in finding a single policy solution for such a complex issue and lead to new understanding and new approaches as we live out our shared commitments to addressing hunger and poverty, supporting rural communities, and caring for God's creation.

Churchwide Assembly action (CA13.03.07e)

To receive with gratitude the memorials of the Upper Susquehanna and New England synods regarding hydraulic fracturing;

To thank the Upper Susquehanna and New England synods for raising an important issue and for their continued partnership as advocates for a cleaner energy future for our communities and for God's creation;

To recognize the complexity of issues surrounding hydraulic fracturing and the divergent views of this practice that exist within the ELCA;

To support and lift up the ongoing and evolving work of ELCA advocacy ministries of the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit to monitor and engage issues related to hydraulic fracturing; and

To encourage all ELCA synods, congregations and members to inform and educate themselves through the lens of the social statements Caring for Creation (1993), Sufficient, Sustainable Livelihood for All (1999), and Genetics, Faith, and Responsibility (2011) about the issues pertaining to hydraulic fracturing by engaging in 1) grassroots conversation, 2) the sharing of pertinent stories, and 3) workshops and study groups to discern the theological, moral and ethical facets of this practice.

Background from the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit (November 2014)

The corporate social responsibility team addressed the issues outlined in the churchwide action on Hydraulic Fracturing in the "Extractive Industries Issue Paper" document found in the Program and Services materials. By addressing all extractive practices, with a particular emphasis on populations and locations most severely impacted by extractive practices such as hydraulic fracturing, the corporate social responsibility team has provided a framework within which further educational efforts can be made.

Another first step was the inclusion of hydraulic fracturing as part of the advocacy presentations given at both the Western North Dakota Synod and Western Iowa Synod assemblies.

Consideration related to further educational efforts is a part of the corporate social responsibility team's standing agenda.

VOTED:

EN BLOC

**CC14.11.34f To receive the response from the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit; and
To encourage the educational efforts in addressing the issues surrounding
hydraulic fracturing.**

G. Immigration Reform

Churchwide Assembly action (CA13.03.08)

To receive with gratitude the memorials of the Northeastern Pennsylvania, Lower Susquehanna, New Jersey, Southwestern Pennsylvania and Metropolitan Washington, D.C., synods regarding comprehensive immigration reform;

To advocate for the adoption of comprehensive immigration reform legislation, consistent with guidance articulated in the ELCA message on "Immigration" and as set forth by Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services:

- Provide an earned pathway to lawful permanent residency and eventual citizenship for undocumented immigrants and their families
- Ensure the humane and just enforcement of U.S. immigration laws, specifically by reducing the use of immigration detention and expanding the use of community support programs for immigrants who do not need to be detained
- Protect families from separation and ensure an adequate supply of visas for families seeking to reunite
- Provide adequate resources and protections to ensure the successful integration of refugees, asylees, survivors of torture and trafficking, unaccompanied minors, and other vulnerable migrants
- Ensure the protection of U.S. citizen and migrant workers;

This legislation should provide a reasonable path to citizenship for undocumented individuals currently living and working in the United States, and set fair immigration quotas that are not discriminatory;

To call on rostered leaders, in their preaching and teaching, to promote an understanding of immigration issues that addresses welcome, promotes concern for the vulnerable, and calls believers to foster the highest possible level of moral discourse in church and society;

To call on congregations to engage in prayerful, reasoned discussion and education on issues related to immigration, availing themselves of resources prepared by the ELCA and Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service;

To call on rostered leaders and congregations of the ELCA to communicate with the President of the United States, Senators, and Members of Congress, to develop and pass such comprehensive immigration reform legislation in the current session; and

To call on the presiding bishop of this church to continue to communicate to members of Congress the ELCA's position on immigration reform.

Church Council action (CC13.11.69h)

To request the Congregational and Synodical Mission Unit, in consultation with the Office of the Presiding Bishop and the Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, to bring a report on the ELCA advocacy activities related to comprehensive immigration reform by the November 2014 meeting of the Church Council.

Background from the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit (November 2014)

Although the U.S. Senate led in April 2013 with its passage of a long-awaited and long-fought-for humane Comprehensive Immigration Reform package, House leadership has yet to follow the Senate's lead and will unlikely vote on any positive immigration reform measures in the lame duck session ahead. Sadly, the legislation that passed the Senate expires at the close of 2014 with the end of this congressional session. Therefore, the probability of the passage any sort of comprehensive immigration reform legislation, particularly any that reflect Lutheran principles and values, is slight at best until the advent of a new administration in 2017 and renewed political will in Congress.

As Congress fails to deliver overdue solutions to our outdated and inadequate immigration laws, President Obama is expected to take some steps to provide relief to a segment of the current undocumented population. Administrative steps hold the most promise for short-term fixes to the immigration system.

Regardless of how truculent the current political environment may be in regard to the possibility of a good immigration reform package, Lutherans continue to keep up the fight toward justice and family unity. Quite contrary to Congress's culture of impasse, Lutherans continue to engage on a whole array of immigration-related issues with eyes kept on comprehensive legislative solutions and federal agency practices and procedures:

- In the wake of the dramatic increase of children and families crossing the southern border of the United States, Lutherans, through the leadership of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS) and affiliates like Lutheran Social Services of Texas, along with Lutheran Disaster Response and the ELCA Advocacy Office, reached out to the administration and to Congress to request that proper funding be made available to meet the children's basic needs without detracting from important work to resettle traditional refugees. Because the federal agency that cares for children who arrive alone also resettles refugees, the increase in arrivals of unaccompanied children resulted in a cut in programming for refugee services. LIRS sought supplemental funding to ensure that both vulnerable populations received the support they need, and continues to fight for adequate funding through the appropriations process.
- Lutherans also advocated for ensured access to legal counsel and continue to work to ensure that children are kept safe and held in child-appropriate settings while awaiting the adjudication of their legal status. LIRS worked with the administration to ensure that children were placed in the least restrictive and as small a setting as possible, with a strong emphasis on foster care. LIRS has also led the way in working to ensure safe release of minors to relatives already living in the United States. This has meant advocacy with the administration to work toward the guarantee of adequate post-release follow-up services as a means of helping to safeguard children from possible abuse, trafficking, or neglect as well as a means of helping families navigate the Byzantine immigration system that currently exists.
- While the number of children and families crossing the border has diminished to some extent since the peak of arrivals this past summer, the numbers of children arriving alone and with parents has truly been astounding. In response, the administration has re-instituted the obsolete and inhumane practice of family detention and is increasingly holding newly arrived mothers and their babies, toddlers and teens in immigration detention facilities. In response to this, LIRS is advocating strongly with the administration to release families into communities, with proper case management support, such as under the care of a Welcoming Congregation. The ELCA Advocacy Office is working in conjunction with LIRS on this issue and is considering, if capacity allows, a possible advocacy campaign on this issue in the year to come. LIRS has begun to directly speak with Lutheran churches and pastors as a way to educate and mobilize Lutherans around this issue and to help Lutherans understand how a comprehensive immigration reform package could help end family detention in the United States.
- Another Lutheran effort toward showing compassion and welcome for migrants and refugees is one led by Lutheran pastor, the Rev. Alexia Salvatierra, called Guardian Angels. The Guardian Angels is a response to the crisis of unaccompanied migrant children crossing the U.S./Mexican border. Recent studies have shown that roughly 60 percent of the children appear to have credible asylum cases (many connected to the potential for murder or trafficking by organized crime in their home countries.) While the House passed a bill on Aug. 1, 2014, only allowing children (without any guarantee of legal representation) seven days to prove their asylum case, the Senate did not concur. However, federal immigration courts have implemented faster initial hearings for unaccompanied children and families released from detention. These faster hearings, known as the "rocket docket," negatively impact the ability to find legal representation necessary to mount a challenge to deportation. All children who arrive to the United States without valid visas are placed into deportation proceedings and have no right to government-appointed counsel. This is a confusing and anguishing time for their caregivers, many of whom don't know what to do or how to help. The National Lawyers' Guild is currently engaged in a suit to gain the provision of legal counsel for these children. They need court observers who are trained to watch for violations of the trafficking laws and report them to the guild. The Guardian Angels program is designed to engage immigrant and non-immigrant congregational members in accompanying these children and families to court, both for pastoral support and to document violations. Guardian Angels may also be in a position to advocate in other ways (e.g. write letters to authorities on behalf of particular children and families). The

Welcoming Congregations Network of the Southwest California Synod is in partnership with the National Lawyers' Guild to train volunteers and link them with families. Volunteers attend court at a time and date when the unaccompanied migrant children are going through the court process, wearing t-shirts that identify them and being available to pastorally support families. The National Lawyers' Guild offices are across from the court so the most efficient way to structure the program is for the assigned volunteers to meet at their offices to be briefed on the cases for the day before going across the street. The National Lawyers' Guild will also inform the court about the Guardian Angels project. Volunteer training sessions are currently being scheduled by the National Lawyers' Guild (legal counsel) and LIRS (a webinar on effective ministry to children and families).

- While Congress keeps immigration reform in limbo, millions of immigrants must suffer the consequences of this inaction. Approximately 300 churches across the country, through the leadership of the Interfaith Immigration Coalition*, are responding to the immediate needs of immigrants by providing sanctuary. One such congregation is Augustana Lutheran Church in Portland, Ore., which has committed to hosting at least one undocumented man. His case marks the first time in recent years that an immigrant has been granted sanctuary inside an Oregon church. During the past decade, as reform has stalled, it is perceived by some that churches around the country have offered refuge to immigrants who lack legal status because immigration officials generally do not arrest people inside churches and other places of worship.
- Because comprehensive immigration reform is currently stalled in Congress, the push now is for some fixes on the administrative front that could ease some of the burden immigrants face while awaiting Congress' eventual passage of an immigration reform package. The following are what Lutheran pastors and congregations, such as Reformation Lutheran in Washington, D.C., are asking of the administration:
 - Renew and Expand Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals;
 - Expand Use of Prosecutorial Discretion and Amend Civil Enforcement Priorities;
 - End Secure Communities and 287(g) Agreements;
 - Reform Deportation Policies and Practices;
 - Reform Detention Policies and End the Detention Bed Mandate;
 - Expand Implementation of the Rule on Provisional Unlawful Presence Waivers;
 - Respect Department of Labor Actions and Parental Rights;
 - Increase Opposition to Anti-Immigrant State Policies; and
 - Prioritize Funding to Promote Immigrant Integration and Protect Vulnerable Populations.

VOTED:

EN BLOC

CC14.11.34g To receive the report from the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit on current ELCA advocacy activities related to comprehensive immigration reform; and To affirm the ongoing work of this church and Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services on this issue.

H. Gender Identity Discrimination

Background:

The Report of the Memorials Committee to the Churchwide Assembly includes the full text of the synodical memorials to that assembly under the category.

Churchwide Assembly action (CA13.03.07a) Category A1

To receive with gratitude the memorials of the Eastern North Dakota, Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana, Eastern Washington-Idaho, South-Central Synod of Wisconsin, Southwestern Texas, Saint Paul Area, Sierra Pacific, Northwest Washington, Greater Milwaukee, Southwest California, Minneapolis Area, Metropolitan New York, Northwestern Minnesota, Upstate New York, Northeastern Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Southwestern Minnesota, Southwestern

* The ELCA is a member of Interfaith Immigration Coalition.

Pennsylvania, Metropolitan Washington, D.C., and Indiana/Kentucky* synods regarding their concern for the important issue of employment non-discrimination and their common cause in memorializing the 2013 Churchwide Assembly;

To acknowledge the continued lack of state and federal anti-discrimination workplace laws addressing the categories of sexual identity and gender identity and the recent and recurring proposals concerning the employment non-discrimination legislation, including a proposal to provide a religious exemption;

To recommit this church to principles of non-discrimination in employment and to call for other employers to engage in similar practices;

To affirm the work by the ELCA advocacy ministries and Corporate Social Responsibility Team in supporting employment non-discrimination legislation and request that they continue to support legislation that opposes workplace discrimination;

To request that the presiding bishop of this church communicate to members of Congress the support of the ELCA for legislation that prohibits employment discrimination on the basis of actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity while providing for religious exemptions; and

To encourage all ELCA synods, congregations, and members to add their voices in support of legislation that prohibits employment discrimination on the basis of actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity.

Church Council action (CC13.11.69f)

To request the Congregational and Synodical Mission Unit, in consultation with the Office of the Presiding Bishop, to bring a report on the ELCA advocacy activities related to Gender Identity Discrimination by the November 2014 meeting of the Church Council.

Background from the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit (November 2014)

With inter-religious coalition members, the ELCA helped in a federal legislative effort late last year to push the Employment Non-Discrimination Act through to final passage.

On November 7, 2013, with concerted advocacy from faith-based leadership in partnership with other sectors, the Senate passed Employment Non-Discrimination Act. However, as with many pieces of legislation, House leadership referred the bill to its Workforce Protections Subcommittee.

During the winter and spring of 2014, a coalition of partners including the ELCA, worked to garner House support to move the bill through committee. Meetings to encourage House representatives, requests to the business community for support and work to further concretize interfaith support made up the bulk of the work over the first months of the year.

However, advocacy work to support Employment Non-Discrimination Act in the House diminished and has practically stopped as lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender coalition partner groups began to pull out of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act fight due to the Supreme Court's Hobby Lobby decision.

While there are no other pieces of legislation that address gender identity discrimination solely moving in either the House or Senate, the ELCA continues to assess and address other advocacy work through a gender lens. Examples of how this is realized in the ELCA's advocacy portfolio include recommending that issues around gender identity discrimination as it relates to mass incarceration, asylum issues, as well as the International Violence Against Women's Act are addressed in legislative language. The ELCA also continues to raise the issue of Gender Identity Discrimination as it works with the administration. In a meeting with Labor Secretary Thomas Perez, ELCA advocacy staff noted the churchwide commitment to end gender discrimination in the workplace and encouraged Secretary Perez to do what can be done through executive order on this issue. In the area of housing, the ELCA has done the same encouragement through appropriate channels with Housing Urban Development.

VOTED:

CC14.11.34h

**To receive the response from the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit; and
To request the ELCA Advocacy Office continue its efforts in supporting legislation
and policies to protect civil rights and to prohibit discrimination in housing,
employment and public services.**

EN BLOC

I. State and Commonwealth

Churchwide Assembly Motion B: Constitution

To amend †S3.01. by striking “state” in the last line and substituting the word “Commonwealth,” and to amend 10.01.11. by striking the word “state” in the fifth line and substituting the word “commonwealth,” striking the final comma in the same line and substitute the word “and,” and striking the word “state” in the last line and substituting the word “commonwealth.”

Churchwide Assembly action (CA13.05.16)

To refer this matter to the Office of the Secretary with a requested report to the Church Council by the fall of 2014.

Background from the Office of the Secretary

Currently all references are to “the state of . . .,” and four of the states refer to themselves as “commonwealths.” This resolution was presented by a pastor from Pennsylvania. It is the opinion of the secretary that this change does not need to be made at this time. The constitution of the United States refers only to states and not to states and commonwealths. The website for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (pa.gov) self-identifies as the “Keystone State.” While it is appropriate to refer to the Commonwealths of Virginia, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania and Kentucky, it is not standard practice to do so when referring to them along with states that are not commonwealths. All commonwealths are states.

VOTED:

EN BLOC

CC14.11.34i

**To receive the response from the Office of the Secretary; and
To decline to amend this church’s constitutions by striking the word ‘state’ and
substituting the word ‘commonwealth.’**

J. Term Limits for Officers

Churchwide Assembly: Motion I

To amend the Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America by inserting the following provisions:

- 13.23. No person shall be eligible to be elected to a third consecutive six-year executive term to the office of presiding bishop.
- 13.33. No person shall be eligible to be elected to a third consecutive six-year term to the position of vice president.
- 13.43. No person shall be eligible to be elected to a third consecutive six-year term to the office of secretary.

Rationale of the Reference and Counsel Committee

The Reference and Counsel Committee receives the motion with gratitude. We are not advocating for or against term limits.

The proposed resolution requested consideration of term limits for all officers selected by the Churchwide Assembly. In the coming days, we will have many conversations about this assembly’s decisions. The conversations about leadership needs and our future elections are already taking place. The proposed motion engages one of many points of conversation.

Recommendation of the Reference and Counsel Committee

To refer this resolution to the ELCA Church Council and Conference of Bishops for broad-based conversation beginning in spring 2014 (for example – inviting the input of our vice presidents) with a possible report by the November 2015 meeting of the Church Council with sufficient time for potentially bringing action to the 2016 Churchwide Assembly.

The items for attention include:

- Identification of the needs of the Churchwide Organization for each office (that are deeper than the constitutional descriptions);
- Identifying leaders to potentially serve; and
- Conversation about possible limitation of duration in terms.

Churchwide Assembly action (CA13.06.28)

To refer Motion I to the Church Council and Conference of Bishops for broad-based conversation (e.g. inviting the input of synodical vice presidents) beginning in spring 2014 with a possible report to the Church Council at its November 2015 meeting and recommendations to the 2016 Churchwide Assembly.

The items for attention include identifying the needs of the churchwide organization for each office that are deeper than the constitutional descriptions, identifying leaders to potentially serve, and discussing the possible limitation of duration in terms.

Church Council action (CC13.11.69k)

To refer Motion I: Term Limits to the Office of the Secretary, in consultation with the Conference of Bishops and the Office of the Presiding Bishop; and

To request that a report with possible recommendations be brought to the November 2015 meeting of the Church Council.

Background from the Office of the Secretary (November 2014)

In surveying synod bishops, vice presidents and secretaries, Secretary Chris Boerger learned that 18 synods have term limits for bishops, 37 have term limits for vice presidents, 30 have term limits for secretary, and 27 have term limits for treasurer.

In response to the question, "Do you believe your synod would favor or oppose a two-term limit for churchwide officers?" 33 percent were in favor, 22 percent were opposed, and 45 percent were not sure. The comments section noted the strength of having new ideas and new perspectives as a reason for term limits. Loss of experience and corporate memory were the most common negatives noted. Several comments were made about an election as a form of term limits.

While there was some enthusiasm expressed for this concept, there was also some strong opposition. This issue has also been the subject of synod memorials three times in the life of this church. On all three occasions, the request to establish term limits was declined by the Churchwide Assembly.

Therefore, Secretary Boerger does not recommend that this church amend the constitution to establish two-term limits for churchwide officers. He will be working with a group from the Executive Committee to look at officer election processes. He does not anticipate that term limits will be part of that discussion.

VOTED:

EN BLOC

**CC14.11.34j To receive the response from the Office of the Secretary; and
To decline to amend the ELCA Constitution to establish term limits for churchwide officers.**

At the invitation of the chair, Secretary Boerger reported that the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee had removed item IV.B., Definitions and Guidelines for Discipline, from *En Bloc* Items for separate consideration.

Definitions and Guidelines for Discipline

(Reference: Definitions and Guidelines for Discipline and Amendments to Definitions and Guidelines)

Background:

With the adoption of provision *C15.03. of the Model Constitution for Congregations, the issue of congregational member discipline moved into the discipline processes of this church. Definitions and Guidelines for Discipline currently

identify the conduct and behaviors of congregations and rostered leaders that might call for a disciplinary response. Adding congregational members to the process of the church requires that the nature of offenses that might result in member discipline be identified.

Part of this review by the committee raised the issue of whether Chapter 3 of the Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the ELCA should be identified as part of the faith confessed by this church, so you will find proposed amendments to the current language deleting references to Chapter 3.

Church Council action:

Secretary Boerger presented the reference materials and background information. He made the following motion on behalf of the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee.

Moved;

Seconded: To approve the amended Definitions and Guidelines for Discipline.

Vice President Peña called on the Rev. Raymond A. Miller Jr., chair of the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee.

Pr. Miller made the following motion on behalf of the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee.

Moved;

Seconded: To amend the amended Definitions and Guidelines for Discipline as delineated in Amendments to Definitions and Guidelines.

Secretary Boerger noted that the amended Definitions and Guidelines for Discipline was received as a report from the Committee on Appeals, and the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee was recommending that the Church Council amend the report before approving it.

Mr. John W. Lohrmann explained that the committee was recommending that Definitions and Guidelines for Discipline, dealing with certain cases of congregational member discipline, identify when discipline may be warranted rather than mandate discipline.

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

Moved;

Seconded;

Carried: To amend the amended Definitions and Guidelines for Discipline as delineated in Amendments to Definitions and Guidelines.

Vice President Peña declared that the motion to amend the amended Definitions and Guidelines for Discipline had been adopted. The motion on the floor was now to approve the amended Definitions and Guidelines for Discipline as amended. There being no further discussion, he called for the vote.

VOTED:

CC14.11.35 To approve Definitions and Guidelines for Discipline as follows.

Vice President Peña declared the motion was adopted.

DEFINITIONS AND GUIDELINES FOR DISCIPLINE OF ORDAINED MINISTERS

As an expression of its life in the gospel of Jesus Christ, this church embraces disciplinary processes of counseling, admonition and correction, with the objective of forgiveness, reconciliation and healing.

Simultaneously, out of deep concern for effective extension of the gospel, this church remains alert to the high calling of discipleship in Jesus Christ. The ordained ministers of this church, as persons charged with special responsibility for the proclamation of the Gospel, are to seek to reflect the new life in Christ, avoiding that which would make them stumbling blocks to others. To that end, this church recognizes that there is behavior that is deemed to be incompatible with ordained ministry and that calls for disciplinary action.

The following definitions and guidelines do not set forth the high expectations this church has of its ordained ministers. "Vision and Expectations: Ordained Ministers in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America" has been developed for that purpose. The normative expectations of this church for its ordained ministers focus upon faithful and effective exercise of ministerial leadership. In all matters of morality and personal ethics, this church expects its ordained ministers to be exemplary in conduct.

These definitions and guidelines describe the grounds for which ordained ministers may be subject to discipline according to the practice of this church. Their purpose is juridical: to assist in the processes of consultation, discipline and appeals.

Grounds for discipline of ordained ministers are as follows:

- A. **Preaching or teaching in conflict with the faith confessed by this church** is grounds for discipline of ordained ministers. A summary of the faith confessed by this church is found in Chapter 2 of this church's constitution.
- B. **Conduct incompatible with the character of the ministerial office** is grounds for discipline of ordained ministers. These guidelines define and describe kinds of behavior which are incompatible with the character of the ministerial office.
 1. **Confidential Communications:** Ordained ministers must respect privileged and confidential communication and may not disclose such communication, except with the express permission of the person who has confided it or if the person is perceived to intend great harm to self or others.
 2. **Integrity:** Ordained ministers must be honest and forthright in their dealings with others while protecting privileged and confidential communications. Dishonesty, deception, duplicity, or the manipulation of others for personal benefit or gain is incompatible with the character of the ministerial office.
 3. **Professional Attention to Duties:** An ordained minister of this church has made commitments through ordination and through acceptance of a letter of call. Continued neglect of or indifference toward such duties constitutes conduct incompatible with the character of the ministerial office.
 4. **Relationship to Family:** This church is committed to the sanctity of marriage and the enhancement of family life. Ordained ministers of this church are expected to uphold this church's ideals of marriage, family and relationship in their public ministry as well as in private life. Spouse or same-gender partner and children, if any, are to be regarded with love, respect and commitment. Departure from this standard may be considered conduct incompatible with the character of the ministerial office. Such departure might include any of the following:
 - a. Separation, divorce, or termination of same-gender relationship that occurs without consultation with the synodical bishop's office and appropriate implementation of such consultation;
 - b. Desertion or abandonment of spouse, same-gender partner, or children;
 - c. Abuse of spouse, same-gender partner, or children;
 - d. Repeated failure to meet legally determined family support obligations.
 5. **Sexual Matters:** The expectation of this church is that an ordained minister is to lead a chaste and decent life in word and deed. In keeping with this expectation, chastity and abstinence are required outside of marriage or outside publicly accountable, lifelong, monogamous, same-gender relationships, and chastity and fidelity are required within marriage or within such same-gender relationships. Adultery, infidelity, casual sexual

relationships, promiscuity, the sexual abuse of another, or the misuse of the pastoral relationship for sexual activity constitute conduct that is incompatible with the character of the ministerial office.

6. **Addiction and Substance Abuse:** Any addictive behavior that impairs the ability of an ordained minister to perform effectively the duties of the office or the misuse of alcohol, drugs, medications, sex, gambling, or pornography is incompatible with the office of pastoral ministry. The approach of this church to such a problem may be to insist upon effective treatment or to initiate immediate discipline. Refusal to accept treatment or failure to abide by the terms of such treatment is conduct incompatible with the character of the ministerial office.
 7. **Fiscal Responsibilities:** Ordained ministers of this church are expected to conduct their fiscal affairs in accordance with ethical and legal requirements. Among those fiscal activities that may be considered conduct incompatible with the character of the ministerial office are:
 - a. Indifference to or avoidance of legitimate and neglected personal debts;
 - b. Embezzlement of money or improper appropriation of the property of others;
 - c. Using the ministerial office improperly for personal financial advantage.
 8. **Membership in Certain Organizations:** This church has specifically declared in 7.47.01. that discipline may be administered to any of its ordained ministers who belong to any organization other than the Church which claims to possess in its teaching and ceremonies that which the Lord has given solely to the Church.
 9. **Conviction of a Felony:** The society in which this church ministers has placed a high premium upon the role of law in regulating the rights and duties of individuals to promote the common good. This includes laws which define certain conduct as felonies. Pleading guilty to, or being convicted of, a felony is grounds for discipline as conduct incompatible with the character of the ministerial office but may not be grounds for discipline in those instances where the violation of law was to protest or to test a perceived unjust law or as an expression of civil disobedience.
- C. **Willfully disregarding or violating the functions and standards established by this church for the office of Word and Sacrament** is grounds for discipline of ordained ministers. Such functions and standards established by this church are found in Section 7.20. through 7.47.01. of this church's constitution, bylaws and continuing resolutions.
- D. **Willful disregard of the constitution or bylaws of this church** is grounds for discipline of ordained ministers.

DEFINITIONS AND GUIDELINES FOR DISCIPLINE OF ASSOCIATES IN MINISTRY, MEMBERS OF THE DEACONESS COMMUNITY AND DIACONAL MINISTERS

As an expression of its life in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, this church embraces disciplinary processes of counseling, admonition and correction, with the objective of forgiveness, reconciliation and healing.

Simultaneously, out of deep concern for effective extension of the Gospel, this church remains alert to the high calling of discipleship in Jesus Christ. The individuals on the official rosters of laypersons of this church, as persons charged with special responsibility for the Gospel in the ministries to which they are called, are to seek to reflect the new life in Christ, avoiding that which would make them stumbling blocks to others. To that end, this church recognizes that there is behavior that is deemed to be incompatible with the standards for the rostered ministries of this church and that calls for disciplinary action.

The following definitions and guidelines do not set forth the high expectations this church has of individuals on the official rosters of laypersons of this church. "Vision and Expectations: Associates in Ministry, Deaconesses and Diaconal Ministers in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America" has been developed for that purpose. The normative expectations of this church for individuals on the official rosters of laypersons of this church focus upon faithful and effective exercise of their leadership. In all matters of morality and personal ethics, this church expects individuals on the official rosters of laypersons of this church to be exemplary in conduct.

These definitions and guidelines describe the grounds for which individuals on the official rosters of laypersons of this church may be subject to discipline according to the practice of this church. Their purpose is juridical: to assist in the processes of consultation, discipline and appeals.

Grounds for discipline of individuals on the official rosters of laypersons of this church (commissioned associates in ministry, consecrated deaconesses and consecrated diaconal ministers) are as follows:

- A. Confessing or teaching in conflict with the faith confessed by this church** is grounds for discipline of individuals on the official rosters of laypersons of this church. A summary of the faith confessed by this church is found in Chapter 2 of this church's constitution.
- B. Conduct incompatible with the standards for the rostered ministries of this church** is grounds for discipline of individuals on the official rosters of laypersons of this church. These guidelines define and describe kinds of behavior which are incompatible with the standards for these rostered ministries.
 - 1. Professional Attention to Duties:** An individual on the official rosters of laypersons of this church has made commitments through the appropriate liturgical rite and through acceptance of a letter of call. Continued neglect of or indifference toward such duties constitutes conduct incompatible with the standards for the rostered ministries of this church.
 - 2. Integrity:** Individuals on the official rosters of laypersons must be honest and forthright in their dealings with others. Dishonesty, deception, duplicity, or the manipulation of others for personal benefit or gain is incompatible with the standards for the rostered ministries of this church.
 - 3. Relationship to Family:** This church is committed to the sanctity of marriage and the enhancement of family life. Individuals on the official rosters of laypersons of this church are expected to uphold this church's ideals of marriage, family and relationship in their public ministry as well as in private life. Spouse or same-gender partner and children, if any, are to be regarded with love, respect and commitment. Departure from this standard may be considered conduct incompatible with the standards for the rostered ministries of this church. Such departure might include any of the following:
 - a. Separation, divorce, or termination of same-gender relationship that occurs without consultation with the synodical bishop's office and appropriate implementation of such consultation;
 - b. Desertion or abandonment of spouse, same-gender partner, or children;
 - c. Abuse of spouse, same-gender partner, or children;
 - d. Repeated failure to meet legally determined family support obligations.
 - 4. Sexual Matters:** The expectation of this church is that an individual on an official roster of laypersons is to lead a chaste and decent life in word and deed. In keeping with this expectation, chastity and abstinence are required outside of marriage or outside publicly accountable, lifelong, monogamous, same-gender relationships, and chastity and fidelity are required within marriage or within such same-gender relationships. Adultery, infidelity, casual sexual relationships, promiscuity, the sexual abuse of another, or the misuse of ministry relationships for sexual activity constitutes conduct that is incompatible with the standards for the rostered ministries of this church.
 - 5. Addiction and Substance Abuse:** Any addictive behavior that impairs the ability of an individual on an official roster of laypersons of this church to perform effectively the duties of the office or the misuse of alcohol, drugs, medications, sex, gambling, or pornography is incompatible with the office of lay ministry. The approach of this church to such a problem may be to insist upon effective treatment or to initiate immediate discipline. Refusal to accept treatment or failure to abide by the terms of such treatment is conduct incompatible with the standards for the rostered ministries of this church.
 - 6. Fiscal Responsibilities:** Individuals on the official rosters of laypersons of this church are expected to conduct their fiscal affairs in accordance with ethical and legal requirements. Among those fiscal activities that may be considered conduct incompatible with the standards for the rostered ministries of this church are:
 - a. Indifference to or avoidance of legitimate and neglected personal debts;
 - b. Embezzlement of money or improper appropriation of the property of others;
 - c. Using one's position improperly for personal financial advantage.
 - 7. Conviction of a Felony:** The society in which this church ministers has placed a high premium upon the role of law in regulating the rights and duties of individuals to promote the common good. This includes laws which

define certain conduct as felonies. Pleading guilty to, or being convicted of, a felony is grounds for discipline as conduct incompatible with the standards for the rostered ministries but may not be grounds for discipline in those instances where the violation of law was to protest or to test a perceived unjust law or as an expression of civil disobedience.

- C. **Willfully disregarding or violating the functions and standards established by this church for the rostered ministries of this church** is grounds for discipline of individuals on the official rosters of laypersons of this church. Such functions and standards established by this church are found in Section 7.52. through 7.53. of this church's constitution, bylaws and continuing resolutions.
- D. **Willful disregard of the constitution or bylaws of this church** is grounds for discipline of individuals on the official rosters of laypersons of this church.

DEFINITIONS AND GUIDELINES FOR DISCIPLINE OF CONGREGATIONS

- A. **Departing from the faith confessed by this church** is grounds for discipline of a congregation of this church. A summary of the faith confessed by this church is found in Chapter 2 of this church's constitution.
- B. **Willfully disregarding or violating any of the criteria for recognition as congregations of this church** is grounds for discipline of a congregation of this church. These criteria are set forth in 9.21. and 9.22. of this church's constitution.
- C. **Willfully disregarding or violating the provisions of the constitution or bylaws of this church** is grounds for discipline of a congregation of this church.

DEFINITIONS AND GUIDELINES FOR DISCIPLINE OF MEMBERS OF CONGREGATIONS

- A. **Persistent and public denial of the Christian faith by a member of a congregation of this church** is grounds for disciplinary action against the member. The Christian faith as confessed by this church is expressed in Chapter 2 of the constitution for congregations. A congregation member who persists in denial of this faith and seeks to convince others to do so, may be subject to discipline. In order to warrant discipline, such behavior must be more than occasional expressions of doubt or private comments and conduct contrary to the Christian faith; the behavior must be seen to bring harm to the faith of others and detract from the mission and ministry of the congregation.
- B. **Willful or criminal conduct grossly unbecoming a member of the Church of Christ** is grounds for disciplinary action against a congregation member. Commission of murder, attempted murder, rape, sex crimes or hate crimes, child abuse, spousal and elder abuse, public and profane obscenity and vulgarity, and similar conduct seen as reprehensible to the Christian community may warrant discipline. Persons deemed guilty of such behavior remain in need of pastoral care and compassion.
- C. **Continual and intentional interference with the ministry of the congregation** is grounds for discipline of a member engaging in such behavior. A congregation member who repeatedly interrupts the congregation's gatherings, worship services, fellowship and educational activities, congregational and council meetings, or disparages the congregation or its ministry to others in ways that damage or destroy the ability of other members to carry out the church's mission may be disciplined by the church. In order to warrant discipline, such conduct must be more serious than a member merely expressing disagreement, being impolite, or even exhibiting anger. The member must have engaged in a course of conduct and communication so persistent, inappropriate and objectionable, that the congregation's ability to perform ministry is being impaired.
- D. **Willful and repeated harassment or defamation of member(s) of the congregation** are grounds for discipline of a member. If the treatment of another by a member of the congregation repeatedly devolves into slanderous, vicious, or intentionally hurtful communications, no matter the means of such communications, the behavior is unacceptable and may warrant disciplinary action. Similarly, if any members are being constantly harassed by another member for any reason, whether such harassment is based upon gender, race, sexual orientation, or any other reason, perceived or real, the behavior may warrant discipline without regard to the nature of the harassment. The use of phone, email, text messages, or other means of communication, and behaviors including anything from

shouting and gestures to actual stalking, may all be means of unacceptable defamatory or harassing behavior between members.

Secretary Boerger made the following motion.

Moved;

Seconded: To take action *en bloc* on the remaining items listed in *En Bloc* Items.

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

VOTED:

CC14.11.36 To take action *en bloc* on the remaining items listed below.

Vice President Peña declared the motion was adopted.

A. ELCA Missionary Housing Support Fund

For many years, the ELCA owned missionary apartments on the campus of Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minn. The missionary apartments comprised a 32,000 square-foot parcel with a 16-unit apartment building, which was historically used to provide housing for Global Mission personnel during home leave. In May 2014, the churchwide organization entered into an agreement with Luther Seminary and a developer to sell the missionary apartments for \$1.2 million. The sale is expected to close shortly. Consistent with the original use of the missionary apartments, the proceeds from the sale are recommended to be made available to support subsidized costs for Global Mission personnel housing needs during home assignment and/or reintegration.

VOTED:

**CC14.11.36a To place the proceeds from the sale of the missionary apartments into a Church Council designated fund functioning as endowment entitled ELCA Missionary Housing Support Fund;
To make income from the fund available to support subsidized costs for Global Mission personnel housing needs during home assignment and/or reintegration;
To request that guidelines for distribution be developed by the Global Mission unit in consultation with the treasurer and executive for administration; and
To authorize that specific distributions from the fund be made upon approval of the executive director for Global Mission unit.**

EN BLOC

B. Dorrer Legacy Fund

The former Lutheran Church in America received a bequest of a 30 percent interest in Country Club Mobile Homes Estates, Yucca Valley, Calif., a general partnership, from Mr. Walter B. Dorrer. The restricted gift benefitted the Lutheran Church in America's Division for World Mission and Ecumenism. This gift has continued to provide rental income to support the current fund expenses of the ELCA's Global Mission unit. In August 2014, the churchwide organization sold its interest to the partnership for \$412,500. Consistent with the original intent of the gift, the proceeds from the sale are recommended to be made available to continue supporting current fund expenses of the Global Mission unit.

VOTED: *EN BLOC*
CC14.11.36b **To place the proceeds from the sale of the ELCA's interest in the Country Club Mobile Homes Estates into a Church Council designated fund functioning as endowment entitled Dorrer Legacy Fund; and
To utilize distributions from the fund to support current fund expenses of the Global Mission unit.**

C. Audit Committee Membership

(Reference: Biographies)

The Audit Committee consists of six members. A minimum of two members should be ELCA Church Council Budget and Finance Committee members. Members of the committee shall be 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.

The current members of the Audit Committee are Ms. Marjorie B. Ellis, Ms. Louise A. Hemstead, Mr. Clarence M. Smith and Ms. Ingrid S. Stafford.

VOTED: *EN BLOC*
CC14.11.36c **To elect Mr. James Zils and Mr. Richard Wehrheim to the ELCA Audit Committee for two-year renewable terms ending November 2016.**

D. Audit Committee Report

(Reference: Report of the Audit Committee)

At its November 6, 2014 meeting, the ELCA Audit Committee reviewed the audited financial statements for the year ended January 31, 2014 and the Endowment Fund Pooled Trust for the year ending December 31, 2013.

VOTED: *EN BLOC*
CC14.11.36d **To approve the report of the ELCA Audit Committee describing their review of the audited financial statements, management letter, and response of management for the Churchwide Organization's fiscal year ended January 31, 2014 and the Endowment Fund Pooled Trust's year ending December 31, 2013.**

E. ELCA Operating Investments

(Reference: ELCA Cash Management Policy, ELCA Core Investment Policy and ELCA Operating Investment Policy)

VOTED: *EN BLOC*
CC14.11.36e **To approve the revised ELCA Cash Management Policy;
To approve the revised ELCA Operating Investment Policy; and
To approve the revised ELCA Core Investment Policy.**

F. ELCA Charitable Gift Annuity Philosophy and Policy Statement

(Reference: Charitable Gift Annuity Philosophy and Policy)

VOTED:

EN BLOC

CC14.11.36f To approve the revised ELCA Investment Philosophy and Policy Statement for the Charitable Gift Annuity Program.

G. Approval of Committee Charters

(Reference: Audit Committee Charter, LCRC Charter and Program and Services Charter)

The Executive Committee is responsible for reviewing and making recommendations regarding committee charters. In recognition of the expansive work that the Program and Services Committee will be involved with in the coming years, the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee has agreed to take on the responsibility of reviewing the churchwide organization's personnel policies. This requires an amendment to those committees' charters to reflect this change. The Audit Committee also has a change to their charter.

VOTED:

EN BLOC

CC14.11.36g To approve the revised committee charters for Audit Committee, Program and Services Committee and Legal and Constitutional Review Committee as amended.

H. Additional Voting Members for the 2016 Churchwide Assembly

For each Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, provision for additional voting members has been made for certain synods. This has been done in keeping with this church's "Principles of Organization." Under those principles, the Church Council was assigned responsibility for ensuring that at least 60 percent of the members of assemblies shall be lay persons and that at least 10 percent of such voting members shall be people of color or people whose primary language is other than English (ELCA constitutional provision 5.01.f.).

Experience in the registration process for assemblies has demonstrated the need for allocation of additional positions to help ensure fulfillment of the organizational principles and also to provide for broader representation in synods (for example, the Caribbean Synod) that normally would be entitled to only two voting members, one of whom would be the synodical bishop.

The 2011 Churchwide Assembly passed an amendment to ELCA bylaw 12.41.11., which describes the process for determining the number of voting members for a Churchwide Assembly and includes the possibility that the Church Council may allocate up to ten additional voting members.

12.41.11. Each synod shall elect one voting member of the Churchwide Assembly for every 6,000 baptized members in the synod. In addition, each synod shall elect one voting member for every 50 congregations in the synod. The synodical bishop, who is ex officio a member of the Churchwide Assembly, shall be included in the number of voting members so determined. These voting members elected by each synod shall comply with the principles of organization, commitment to inclusiveness, and interdependence as specified in Chapter 5 of this Constitution. In addition, each synod shall elect one additional voting member who is a youth or young adult at the time of the election and one additional voting member who is a person of color or a person whose primary language is other than English. There shall be at least two voting members from each synod. The Church Council may allocate up to 10 additional voting members among synods, but no single synod may be allocated more than two additional voting members. The secretary shall notify each synod of the number of assembly members it is to elect.

VOTED:

EN BLOC

CC14.11.36h

**To allocate for the 2016 Churchwide Assembly one additional voting member to the Alaska Synod (1A), Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod (4C), and West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod (8H), making a total of six voting members per synod; and
To allocate for the 2016 Churchwide Assembly two additional voting members to the Caribbean Synod (9F) and Slovak Zion Synod (7G), making a total of six voting members per synod.**

I. Synod Constitution Amendments

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

CC14.11.36i

To ratify the following amendments to the Rocky Mountain, Southwestern Minnesota, Minneapolis Area, Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana, Southeastern Iowa, Indiana-Kentucky, Northwestern Ohio, New England and Upper Susquehanna synod constitutions.

Rocky Mountain Synod (2E) [2014]

The 2014 Rocky Mountain Synod Assembly adopted the following constitutional amendments, in accordance with †S18.13.b., to clarify when the terms of officers begin, reduce the size of its Nominating Committee and describe its membership in relation to established criteria, designate the Synod Council to name nominees for vice president, change the date for electing the Executive Committee, bring together the salary-setting functions of the Executive Committee into a bylaw, and straighten up two title provisions.

S8.52. The terms of the officers shall begin on ~~the first day of the third full month following election~~ August 15th or, in the year of a Churchwide Assembly, the day after adjournment of that year's Churchwide Assembly or, in special circumstances, at a time designated by the Synod Council.

S9.03. There shall be a Nominating Committee consisting of ~~6-12~~ 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.~~ Membership on the Nominating Committee shall reflect a balance of gender, rostered and lay persons, a multi-cultural presence, and a geographical balance according to the standard representational mandate of the ELCA.

...

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

S11.08. The Synod Council shall have an Executive Committee composed of the four synodical officers and four Synod Council members, two elected by the Council at the ~~close of the Synod Assembly~~ Winter Meeting of the Synod Council each year to serve overlapping two-year terms. The Executive Committee shall counsel with the synodical officers and shall perform those functions of the Synod assigned to it by the Synod Council. This

committee, with the exception of the salaried officer(s) of this synod, shall review the work of the officer(s) and the Executive Staff and recommend staff salaries to the Synod Council.

S11.20. Catalyst Ministry Teams include Mission Outreach Board, Congregational Ministries Board, Global Mission Committee, Hunger Network Core Team and other groups which may be constituted by Synod Council for a particular purpose.

S11.40. Self-Organizing Ministry Teams

Southwestern Minnesota Synod (3F) [2014]

By recommendation of the Southwestern Minnesota Synod Council, the 2013 Southwestern Minnesota Synod Assembly approved and the 2014 Southwestern Minnesota Synod Assembly adopted the following amendments to provision S9.04. The 2014 Southwestern Minnesota Synod Assembly also adopted bylaw S9.04.04., specifying the process by which its Synod Assembly conducts its election for bishop.

S9.04. ~~The bishop shall be elected by the Synod Assembly from among the slate of nominees determined in the bylaws. There shall be no nominations from the floor for the office of the bishop. Seconding speeches or statements by the candidates may be permitted according to rules adopted by the synod assembly. Three-fourths of the votes cast shall be necessary for election on the first ballot. If no election results, the candidate receiving the least number of votes shall be removed from the slate of nominees. On the second ballot, two-thirds of the votes cast shall be necessary to elect. If no election results, the candidate with the least number of votes shall be removed from the slate of candidates. On all remaining ballots until election, a majority of votes cast shall elect. If no election results on a given ballot, the candidate with the least votes shall be removed from the slate of candidates.~~

The bishop shall be elected by the Synod Assembly in accordance with the process specified in the bylaws and continuing resolutions.

Minneapolis Area Synod (3G) [2014]

The 2014 Minneapolis Area Synod Assembly adopted amendments to the following constitutional provisions to adjust the number and terms of those elected to certain positions within the governance of the synod, to correct terminology used in the election of a bishop, and to remove provisions for committees that no longer exist.

S9.03. There shall be a Nominating Committee consisting of ~~11~~ 10-15 members who shall be elected by each of the conferences 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. e. During the balloting process, and according to a schedule outlined in the bylaws, printed information about ~~nominees~~ candidates shall be made available to voting members and opportunity to address the Synod Assembly shall be offered to ~~nominees~~ candidates for the office of bishop.

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

†S10.01.b. The term of office of members of the Synod Council, with the exception of the officers and the youth member, shall be three ~~two~~ years.

~~S11.05. The Committee on Ecumenism shall consist of six persons appointed by the Synod Council for a term of three years, renewable one time. Three shall be ordained ministers and three shall be laypersons. The functions of the Committee on Ecumenism shall be to advise the bishop on ways to strengthen ecumenical relationships within the territory of the synod, to assist congregations in the development of ecumenical relationships, and to maintain a relationship with the ecumenical agencies within the territory of the synod.~~

Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Synod (4D) [2014]

In the same action to adopt the following constitutional provision, the 2014 Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Synod Assembly adopted a series of related bylaws establishing the purpose of a Mission Endowment Fund, as well as its governance, staffing, budget, and policies and procedures.

S11.06. There shall be a Mission Endowment Fund of the Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Southeastern Iowa Synod (5D) [2014]

The 2011 Churchwide Assembly amended required provisions †S8.41. and †S8.51. of the *Constitution for Synods* to give the synod the option of either electing or appointing its treasurer. The constitution of the Southeastern Iowa Synod declares, “The treasurer of this synod shall be appointed to a term of four years and may be reappointed.” The 2014 Southeastern Iowa Synod Assembly voted to delete provision S9.07. which referred to the former procedure for electing its treasurer.

S7.32. *Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised (RONR)*, latest edition, shall govern parliamentary procedure of the Synod Assembly except where it conflicts with this Constitution, Bylaws or Continuing Resolutions, or any Special Rules of Order the Assembly might from time to time adopt.

S7.33. “Ex officio” as used herein means membership with full rights of voice and vote unless otherwise expressly limited. Ex officio members are not considered in determining the quorum.

~~S9.07. The Synod Council shall nominate two persons for treasurer; additional nominations may be made from the floor.~~

Indiana-Kentucky Synod (6C) [2014]

The 2013 Churchwide Assembly amended required provision *C17.03. of the *Model Constitution for Congregations* regarding a 120-day notification date from the synod respecting changes to congregations’ constitutions. To be consistent with that change, the Indiana-Kentucky Synod Council proposed and the 2014 Indiana-Kentucky Synod Assembly adopted the following amendments to the synod’s constitution.

S13.03. ~~The governing documents of congregations recognized at the establishment of this church shall continue to govern such congregations. When such a congregation wishes to amend a particular provision of its governing documents, the provision so amended shall must be consistent with the governing documents of this church.~~
a. All proposed changes in the constitution of incorporation documents of a congregation ~~shall will~~ be referred to the Synod Council. The Synod Council ~~shall must~~ approve or disapprove of the proposed changes ~~within 120 days of receipt thereof, and shall must~~ notify the congregation of its decision; ~~in the absence of a decision, the changes shall go into effect.~~

- b. The synod ~~shall~~ should recognize that congregations may organize themselves in a manner ~~which they deem most appropriate and that there are a variety of ways in which the required elements may be stated.~~
- c. The synod will develop, maintain, and make available criteria on which the Synod Council will evaluate congregations' constitutions.

Northwestern Ohio Synod (6D) [2014]

The 2013 Northwestern Ohio Synod Assembly and the 2014 Northwestern Ohio Synod Assembly amended the synod's governing documents to expand the conference structure for the synod and replace the division, department, cluster, and coalition structures described below in provisions of Chapters 11 and 12. In accordance with constitutional provision †S18.13.a., the following amendments were approved by both assemblies.

S11.07. The Synod Council, in consultation with the Bishop, shall establish committees, task forces, and/or affinity groups as needed, specifically to develop ministries such as: mission (domestic & global), peace & justice, clergy & lay leadership, synod Office operations, budget & financial support, Synod Assembly, and Ecumenical concerns. These ministries shall also relate to their counterparts at Churchwide.

- ~~a. There shall be four divisions. Each division may have a board or task forces as needed consisting of members appointed by the Synod Council. The purpose of each division board and task force shall be to enhance the mission of the church in specifically assigned areas as designated in the bylaws. Division boards and/or task force shall strive for cooperation, communication, interaction with other division boards and/or tasks forces, accountability to the division, the Synod Council and Synod Assembly, and support among all facets of ministry within the division board and with other divisions boards as appropriate.~~
- ~~b. Except as otherwise specified, term of office for all division boards shall be for three years, with approximately one-third of the membership being appointed annually. A member may serve two consecutive terms. An unexpired term of a year or less shall not be considered in determining eligibility for election. Unless otherwise provided, terms of appointment shall begin on the first day of July.~~
- ~~c. Each division board shall be accountable to, and function under, the policies of the Synod Assembly through the Synod Council and the Synod Bishop.~~
- ~~d. Each division board is expected to:
 - ~~1) Assess needs in its area of ministry and related decisions made by the Synod Assembly;~~
 - ~~2) Set goals consistent with this synod's strategic plan and goals;~~
 - ~~3) Determine, plan, and implement appropriate actions and interventions;~~
 - ~~4) Evaluate the outcome effectiveness of goals, plans, and actions; and~~
 - ~~5) Submit an annual report to the Synod Assembly.~~~~
- ~~e. Each division board shall have the authority to appoint individuals to task forces, work groups, or committees to make operational the various areas of ministry and functions assigned to each division.~~

~~S11.08. A Division for Evangelical Outreach and Congregational Mission shall foster and facilitate the efforts of the congregations, institutions and agencies of this synod in reaching out in witness to the Gospel to people in all contexts and cultures.~~

~~S11.09. A Division for Church in Society in cooperation with the ELCA Churchwide Church in Society Unit shall assist the congregations, institutions and agencies of this synod to discern, understand, and respond to the needs of individuals, communities, society, and the whole creation through human services and through addressing systems, structures, and societal policies, seeking to promote justice, peace, and care of the earth.~~

~~S11.10. A Division for Global Missions, in cooperation with the ELCA Churchwide Global Missions Unit shall be responsible for this church's and this synod's mission and ministry in other countries and shall be the channel through which churches and organizations in other countries engage in mission and ministry to this church and to society. This unit shall be responsible for Companion Synod relationships and associated programs, events and other occurrences in regard to these relationships.~~

- ~~S11.11. A Division for Vocation and Education in cooperation with the ELCA Churchwide Vocation and Education Unit shall be responsible for the development and support of faithful, theologically grounded, and courageous leaders whose vocations serve God's mission in the world; and shall assist this church and this synod and its institutions in equipping people to practice their callings under the Gospel for the sake of the church in community, in the congregations, institutions and agencies, and in the world.~~
- ~~S11.12. There shall be six (6) departments, which shall report to the bishop of this synod.~~
- ~~S11.13. There shall be a Department for Pastoral Care and Counseling.~~
- ~~S11.14. There shall be a Department for Synod Staff and Office Operations.~~
- ~~S11.15. There shall be a Department for Budget and Financial Support.~~
- ~~S11.16. There shall be a Department for Communications.~~
- ~~S11.17. There shall be a Department for the Synod Assembly.~~
- ~~S11.19. There shall be a Department for Ecumenical Concerns and Development.~~
- ~~S12.20. This synod may have clusters. Clusters are groups of congregations, within a conference, which share common ministry and interest.~~
- ~~S12.30. This synod may have coalitions. A coalition is a grouping of congregations and pastors, sharing a common interest in ministry.~~

New England Synod (7B) [2014]

The 2013 Churchwide Assembly adopted required bylaw †S7.21.01.:

Voting members shall begin serving with the opening of a regular Synod Assembly and shall continue serving until voting members are seated at the next regular Synod Assembly.

To be consistent with new voting members being "seated," the 2014 New England Synod Assembly adopted the following amendment to the synod's constitution.

- 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~~ seating of new members or until they have been disqualified by termination of membership. Congregations shall elect their lay voting members by action of the congregational meeting, church council or other body as they shall individually determine prior to each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.

Upper Susquehanna Synod (8E) [2014]

The 2011 Churchwide Assembly amended required provisions of the *Constitution for Synod*, giving each synod the option of either electing or appointing its treasurer. The 2012 Upper Susquehanna Synod Assembly voted to incorporate those provisions into its constitution with the direction that its Synod Council would appoint its treasurer. The 2014 Upper Susquehanna Synod Assembly voted to amend provision S8.55. accordingly.

- S8.55. 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~~ vice president or secretary can be held or the appointment of a new treasurer, 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.

J. Update on Genetics Social Statement Resolution 8

Feasibility of Developing a Social Message on Regenerative Medicine

The 2011 Churchwide Assembly directed the Office of the Presiding Bishop to assess the feasibility of developing a social message on regenerative medicine, including, but not limited to, a range of stem cell technologies. The theological discernment team asked the Church Council for postponement of a report and possible recommendations due to continued staff capacity limitations as well as priority given to develop a social message on gender-based violence.

Churchwide Assembly Action (CA11.04.17)

8. To direct the Theological Discernment team of the Office of the Presiding Bishop to assess the feasibility of developing a social message on regenerative medicine, including, but not limited to, a range of stem cell technologies; and to bring to the ELCA Church Council in November 2013 a report and possible recommendations, in accordance with Policies and Procedures of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for Addressing Social Concerns (Chicago: ELCA, 1997, revised 2011); and

Church Council Action (CC13.11.69z)

To acknowledge both the existing limited staff capacity and the continuing presence of important moral and social questions around regenerative medicine; and

To postpone a report and possible recommendations from the Theological Discernment Team staff in the Office of the Presiding Bishop regarding the feasibility of developing a social message on regenerative medicine, including, but not limited to, a range of stem cell technologies, until the November 2014 meeting of the Church Council.

Background from Office of the Presiding Bishop (November 2014)

A delay for this activity was approved by the Church Council in November 2013 due to limited staff capacity. Unfortunately, due to continued staff capacity limitations as well as changes in priorities such as the Church Council approved delay of the social message on gender-based violence, a postponement is still needed. It should be noted that moral questions surrounding regenerative medicine largely have been replaced in public conversation by other topics such as Ebola or the Affordable Care Act. However, it remains appropriate to conduct a thorough assessment.

VOTED:

EN BLOC

CC14.11.36j

**To acknowledge both the continuing limited staff capacity and the continuing relevance of important moral and social questions around regenerative medicine; and
To postpone until the November 2015 meeting of the Church Council a report and possible recommendations from the Theological Discernment Team staff in the Office of the Presiding Bishop regarding the feasibility of developing a social message on regenerative medicine, including, but not limited to, a range of stem cell technologies.**

K. Ministry to and with Same Gender Families (M2SGF) Working Group

(Reference: M2SGF Charter)

The ministry to and with same-gender families working group was established in response to a 2013 Churchwide Assembly action. The working group is tasked with exploring the current context of conversations and resources in ministering to and with same-gender couples and their families. A charter was developed within the working group to help guide its work.

VOTED:

EN BLOC

CC14.11.36k

To affirm the charter developed by the Ministry to and with Same-Gender Families working group.

L. Church Council Advisor to the Justice for Women Consulting Committee

Ms. Pamela E. Pritt was unable to continue serving as the Church Council advisor to the Justice for Women Consulting Committee. Pr. Linda Nou had agreed to serve.

VOTED:

EN BLOC

CC14.11.36l To appoint Pr. Linda Nou as the Church Council Advisor to the Justice for Women Consulting Committee for a two-year term beginning November 2014.

M. Church Council Nominations and Elections

(Reference: Biographies)

The Church Council has the responsibility of electing people to fill terms on boards of separately incorporated ministries, social ministry organizations, and seminaries. The relationship of the ELCA to certain affiliated social ministry organizations is expressed through the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit. The Congregational and Synodical Mission unit has forwarded the nominations for social ministry organizations to Church Council. Bylaw 8.31.03. outlines basic parameters for the election of members to the boards of ELCA seminaries. Biographical information is provided in Biographies.

VOTED:

EN BLOC

CC14.11.36m To re-elect to the board of directors of National Lutheran Campus Ministry, Inc. to a three-year term expiring in 2018: Mr. Wayne C. Hanson;
To elect to the board of directors of National Lutheran Campus Ministry, Inc. to three-year terms expiring in 2018: The Rev. Galen F. Hora and The Rev. Jeff R. Johnson;
To elect to the board of directors of Mosaic, Inc., to a three-year term expiring in October 2017: Ms. Lisa Negstad;
To elect to the board of directors of Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia to a three-year term expiring in 2018: The Rev. Charles Miller; and
To elect to the board of directors of Wartburg Theological Seminary to a six-term expiring in 2020: The Rev. J. Mamy Ranaivoson.

NEW BUSINESS

(Agenda VI.I.)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña announced that there was no new business.

CHURCH COUNCIL JOYS AND CONCERNS

(Agenda VI.K.)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña called on the Rev. James H. Utt, who asked specific people how the Church Council may pray for them.

ECUMENICAL GREETING

(Agenda VI.J.)

The Rev. Gay Clark Jennings, president of the House of Deputies, brought a greeting from The Episcopal Church.

PROCESS OBSERVATIONS

(Agenda VI.M.)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña asked Mr. Nicholas A. Barber to present process observations.
Other Church Council members added their observations.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Vice President Carlos E. Peña thanked the Church Council members and staff of the churchwide organization for their assistance with conducting this meeting. He announced that Mr. John J. Hessian was leaving his position as administrative services coordinator in the Office of the Presiding Bishop to become a research analyst in Research and Evaluation. The council expressed its appreciation with applause.

The chair called on Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton and Secretary Wm Chris Boerger for announcements.

Presiding Bishop Eaton noted that staff of the churchwide organization would meet in a convocation the following day to learn about the proceedings of this meeting.

Secretary Boerger asked that expense reports be submitted promptly.

HYMN AND PRAYER

(Agenda VI.N.)

Vice President Carlos E. Peña invited Ms. Amanda E. Briggs to close the meeting with prayer and to lead the Church Council in singing a hymn. Mr. Clarence M. Smith accompanied on the piano.

ADJOURNMENT

(Agenda VI.O.)

The eighty-third meeting of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America adjourned Monday, November 10, 2014, at 11:53 a.m.

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