

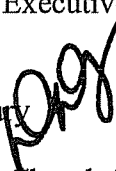
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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Office of
the Secretary

April 14, 2008

To: Bishops of synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Secretaries of synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Vice Presidents of synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Members of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Members of the Cabinet of Executives
Regional Coordinators

FROM: David D. Swartling, secretary 

SUBJECT: Report of Responses by the Church Council to Synodical Actions
(April 11–13, 2008)

I. RESPONSES TO SYNODICAL RESOLUTIONS

A. MEDIA CAMPAIGN FOR HIV AND AIDS STRATEGY Metropolitan New York Synod (7C)

WHEREAS, HIV and AIDS have been at pandemic levels for over two decades; and

WHEREAS, the year 2005 marked the grim milestone of 1,000,000 people in the United States alone living with HIV (and 40,000,000 worldwide); and

WHEREAS, ignorance about the subject continues to have a negative impact on the delivery of pastoral and educational services to those infected and affected by HIV, despite a variety of educational resources; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan New York Synod memorialize the 2007 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to direct the Communication Services unit of the churchwide organization to engage in collaborative activities to raise awareness about the issues surrounding HIV disease through the use of a media campaign directed at members of this church as well as the broader population.

Executive Committee Action

The Executive Committee of the Church Council voted [EC07.10.28g]:

To receive the resolution of the Metropolitan New York Synod requesting a media campaign for HIV and AIDS awareness;

To refer the resolution as information to the units of this church involved in the ongoing preparation of a strategy on HIV and AIDS to be

brought to the Church Council in April 2008; and

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

Churchwide Assembly Action:

The 2007 Churchwide Assembly voted [07.06.32]:

To receive the actions of the Minneapolis Area Synod, Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod, Northern Great Lakes Synod, and Metropolitan New York Synod;

To acknowledge that the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* specifies the process by synods address the Churchwide Assembly, the Church Council, and units of the churchwide organization; and

To refer the actions to the Executive Committee of the Church Council for proper referral and disposition under the bylaws and continuing resolutions of this church.

Executive Committee Action:

At its meeting on October 9, 2007, the Executive Committee voted [EC07.10.28g]:

To receive the resolution of the Metropolitan New York Synod requesting a media campaign for HIV

and AIDS awareness;

To refer the resolution as information to the units of this church involved in the ongoing preparation of a strategy on HIV and AIDS to be brought to the Church Council in April 2008; and

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

Church Council Action:

To authorize a delay in the response of the Church in Society and Global Mission units to the resolution of the Metropolitan New York Synod requesting a media campaign for HIV and AIDS awareness;

To recommend that the response be included in the churchwide strategy on AIDS and HIV, which will be brought to the November 2008 meeting of the Church Council; and

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

**B. COST OF BOARD OF PENSIONS MEDICAL COVERAGE
Southwestern Texas Synod (4E)**

WHEREAS, the rising costs of medical coverage for clergy and lay staff members of our synod's congregations are adversely affecting salaries because salaries are tied to the amount of medical premiums paid by congregations; and

WHEREAS, many of the congregations of the Southwestern Texas Synod are considering other routes to providing medical coverage for their pastors and staff; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Southwestern Texas Synod Council communicate to the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America that the Board of Pensions review the way it funds the cost of medical benefits; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Southwestern Texas Synod Council request that the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America direct the Board of Pensions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to research the viability of more options for congregations in the form of "cafeteria" plans, allowing for higher deductibles and optional coverage, and respond to the Southwestern Texas Synod Council regarding new options.

Executive Committee Action

The Executive Committee of the Church Council voted [EC07.03.08]:

To receive the resolution of the Southwestern Texas Synod Council related to the costs of medical benefits for rostered people and staff;

To refer the resolution to the Board of Pensions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in consultation with the Conference of Bishops; and

To request that the Board of Pensions bring a progress report to the November 2007 meeting of the Program and Services Committee and a report and possible recommendations no later than the April 2008 meeting of the Church Council.

Response from the Board of Pensions

In the November 2007 progress report, the Board of Pensions shared information that the Board's ongoing work with keeping health costs as low as possible would be informed by the Southwestern Texas Synod Council resolution. Additionally, it was stated that as a unit of this church the Board of Pensions would, as per direction of the Executive Committee of the Church Council, be engaging synodical bishops in conversation about the matter raised by the Southwestern Texas Synod Council.

The Board of Pensions currently is in the process of completing annual visits with bishops and synod staffs as well as seminary and churchwide leaders. This year, in particular, because of a comprehensive benefits study being conducted with the assistance of Hewitt Associates, the consultations are looking at the ELCA philosophy of benefits and its five supporting principles: plan participation, level of benefits, bundled program, contribution policy, and sharing of health costs. The feedback from the consultations will assist the Board of Pensions in understanding how it is meeting its mission to "provide retirement, health, and related benefits and services to enhance the well-being of those who serve through the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and other faith-based organizations." It also will be very informative in finalizing a response to the Southwestern Texas Synod Council resolution. As a result of the study and the information received, a report with recommendations will be prepared for the next meeting of the Church Council in November 2008.

Church Council Action:

To receive the interim response of the Board of Pensions to the resolution of the Southwestern Texas Synod regarding the cost of health and related benefits;

To request that a full report and possible recommendations be brought to the November 2008 meeting of the Church Council; and

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

C. COMMUNAL DISCERNMENT

(Agenda III.F.1.)

Background:

Communal Discernment

Southwestern Minnesota Synod (3F)

WHEREAS, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America has been a church body for twenty years; and

WHEREAS, the overall culture we live in has grown more polarized and contentious; and

WHEREAS, we continue to struggle to discern truth together as a large, complex church body serving the Gospel in very different contexts; and

WHEREAS, we believe there are other ways of discerning and working together to follow Jesus and that our process might be adjusted in ways that would help our life together; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Southwestern Minnesota Synod ask the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to call together a task force to explore and analyze other models and possible adjustments of our model of communal discernment as a church body; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Southwestern Minnesota Synod ask that a report be given about what is learned in the study of other large Christian bodies work of engaging difficult church and social issues as well as recommendations about how we might work together in a way that fosters trust and deepens our spiritual discernment of challenging dilemmas and issues in our future together following Christ Jesus.

Church Council Action [2007]

At its August 2007 meeting, the Church Council voted [CC07.08.57] to refer this resolution for study:

To receive the resolution of the Southwestern Minnesota Synod related to communal discernment;

To refer the resolution to the Church Council Planning and Evaluation Committee in consultation with the Administrative Team and the Conference of Bishops with a request that a report and possible recommendations be brought to the April 2008 meeting of the Church Council; and

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

Responding to this referral, the Administrative Team and members of the Planning and Evaluation Committee began initial study of the conceptual framework implied by the resolution of the Southwestern Minnesota Synod Council. As was noted during discussion at the August 2007 meeting of the Church Council, discernment is a technical, theological term with a variety of levels of related meanings. In order to respond appropriately to the

resolution, Bishop Jon V. Anderson was invited to share his reflections on the underlying concerns that prompted the Synod Council resolution. Bishop Anderson's response provided a detailed outline largely centered on the importance of all participants who comprise large decision-making bodies working together to discover the truth of a matter, thereby making decisions by consensus. If the Church Council establishes a task force, one task will be to define appropriately what is meant by "discernment." In the meantime, based upon the response from Bishop Anderson, preliminary research focused on various models of consensus decision-making.

Consensus decision-making is a process that not only seeks the agreement of a very large majority of participants, but seeks also to resolve or mitigate the objections of the minority in order to achieve decisions with the greatest level of support possible. Consensus usually is defined both as general agreement and the process of getting to such agreement. Consensus decision-making is thus concerned primarily with that process. As a process, consensus decision-making aims to be:

- *Inclusive:* As many stakeholders as possible should be involved in the consensus decision-making process;
- *Participatory:* The consensus process should solicit actively the input and participation of all decision-makers;
- *Cooperative:* Participants in an effective consensus process should strive to reach the best possible decision *for the group and all of its members*, rather than opt to pursue a majority opinion, potentially to the detriment of a minority.
- *Egalitarian:* All members of a consensus decision-making body should be afforded, as much as possible, equal input into the process. All members have the opportunity to table, amend, and "block" proposals.
- *Solution-oriented:* An effective consensus decision-making body strives to emphasize common agreement over differences and reach effective decisions using compromise and other techniques to avoid or resolve mutually exclusive positions within the group.

Consensus is not equivalent to unanimity. A healthy consensus decision-making process usually encourages the expression of dissenting opinions early, maximizing

the chance of accommodating the views of all minorities. Consensus is reached when a pre-determined threshold of participant support has been reached; "rough consensus" has no specific rule for such a majority, but instead the question of consensus is left to the judgment of the chair. In either case, dissenters are given the opportunity to declare reservations, stand aside to let the motion pass, or block a proposal (generally considered to be an extreme measure, used only when a participant believes a proposal endangers the organization or its participants or violates the mission of the organization).

The model used by the Quakers is effective because it puts in place a simple, time-tested structure that moves a group toward consensus. This model has been well-received when employed in other settings because it gives everyone a chance to speak while limiting potential disruptors.

A model used with mixed results by the Reformed Church in America relies upon the moderator periodically inviting participants to hold up a red, yellow, or green card to reflect the level of agreement with the proposal. The level of consensus is determined by the moderator based upon this periodic visual feedback.

The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod uses parliamentary procedures, but alters *Robert's Rules of Order*. For example, according to the 2007 Special Standing Rules for the Convention, no motion to amend, table, or end debate can be made during the presentation of committee recommendations or initial debate on the main motion. Such motions can be introduced only during a special segment of discussion. Amendments to proposed substitutes are to be published in "Today's Business" (the LCMS version of the "Daily Docket") for publication prior to consideration, so all delegates have the language before them prior to deliberation. Motions to end debate are limited to the immediate question, which means there are no motions to "call the question on all matters before the house." And, while anyone can move to end debate, the chair is required to call for a vote to end debate after every 20 minutes of open debate. The chair also can call for a vote to end debate whenever he judges that the assembly has heard sufficient speaking from both sides of the issue.

All NATO decisions are made by consensus after discussion and consultation among member countries. A decision reached by consensus is an agreement reached by common consent, a decision that is accepted by each member country. This means that when a "NATO decision" is announced, it is the expression of the collective will of all the sovereign states that are members. This principle also is applied at every committee level and demonstrates clearly that NATO decisions are collective decisions made by its member countries.

The World Council of Churches (WCC) has changed its meeting procedures from a parliamentary style to consensus decision-making. This transition was made in

part for theological reasons, as the body sought to bear witness to unity in a world marked by division. By promoting collaboration rather than adversarial debate, consensus procedures help the WCC assembly, commissions, and committees to seek the mind of Christ together. This consensus model also encourages prayerful listening to one another and growth in understanding between ecclesial traditions. At the same time it requires discipline on the part of participants and moderators. There are rules, but the aim is to arrive at a common mind rather than simply determine the will of the majority. When consensus is declared, all who have participated can affirm confidently: "It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us . . ." (Acts 15:28).

Because the Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is fundamentally a legislative body, some consensus decision-making models may be impossible to implement. Revisions to the Rules of Organization and Procedure, however, that would increase the level of consensus within the body might be considered. These might include procedural changes, such as a requirement to table a substitute motion until a subsequent plenary session so that it can be photocopied and distributed to voting members. Other possible changes might be to restrict how motions to end debate are introduced or to exempt debates over procedures from time restrictions so that such measures are not perceived as ways to manipulate or limit discussion.

The Executive Committee at its February 25, 2008, meeting discussed a recommendation from the Planning and Evaluation Committee, which was subsequently considered by the Church Council at its April 2008 meeting.

Church Council Action:

To give thanks to the Southwestern Minnesota Synod for its resolution asking the Church Council to appoint a task force to examine models of communal discernment and report "recommendations about how we might work together in a way that fosters trust and deepens our spiritual discernment of challenging dilemmas and issues in our future";

To underscore the importance of communal discernment to the interrelationships and life of this church in each of its expressions and to anticipate that this examination will serve not only to provide a vehicle to speak to each other about difficult issues in difficult times, but also to call this church to look deeply and prayerfully at how it seeks to be led by the Holy Spirit in all its communal discernment processes;

To recognize that this request asks the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

(ELCA) to examine specific criteria for discernment, both current and future, and therefore a breadth of representation on the task force and a flexible time lines are necessary;

To anticipate that, together with the Book of Faith Initiative, this church is committing itself to a journey with the Spirit, a journey of spiritual renewal through Holy Scripture and discernment;

To appoint a communal discernment task force to explore whether there may be better ways for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in all its expressions to engage emotional and divisive issues, seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and make difficult decisions as a church body in ways that will increase mutual trust, build respect for each other as the body of Christ, and deepen spiritual discernment;

To encourage the task force to engage in a thorough study of alternative possibilities for communal discernment, to recommend to the Church Council alternative models of communal discernment it deems helpful, and to offer leadership to this church as it seeks to be led by the Holy Spirit in its communal discernment processes;

To request that the task force consult regularly with the Administrative Team and the Conference of Bishops, work collaboratively with all expressions of this church, and report its findings and possible recommendations through the Planning and Evaluation Committee to the Church Council;

To include as members of the task force people selected for their interest and expertise from among:

- the Church Council;
- the Conference of Bishops;
- churchwide officers and staff;
- teaching theologians;
- rostered and lay leaders from congregational settings; and
- institutions and agencies;

To include as advisors to the task force people selected for their interest and expertise from among ecumenical partners and intentional faith communities who have explored, or already employ, alternative models of communal discernment;

To anticipate that the task force, as it

determines what will be helpful for its work, may invite resource people from a wide range of faith traditions who practice varied models of communal discernment;

To allocate \$20,000-\$25,000 for the work of the task force; and

To request that the task force be named and convened by July 1, 2008, and that the task force provide 1) a preliminary outline of the scope of its work and a timeline for completing it; and 2) any recommended changes in the process of deliberation that would affect the 2009 Churchwide Assembly to the November 2008 meeting of the Church Council following following consultation with the Administrative Team.

2. RESPONSES TO CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY REFERRALS TO THE CHURCH COUNCIL

A.1. IMMIGRATION AND SANCTUARY Northwest Washington Synod (1B) [Memorial B7][CA07.06.33i]

RESOLVED, that the bishop of the Northwest Washington Synod lead and comfort our Hispanic community during this time of *kairos* until the time of justice comes upon us and have us as part of our flock; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the good offices of our congregations, Synod Council, and the office of the bishop denounce and demand that the raids, deportations, and massive firings of undocumented immigrant workers cease immediately; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the bishop meet with the heads of our ecumenical partners to denounce jointly the massive raids and deportations; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the bishop encourage Lutheran agencies, congregations, and committees to designate grants that will create or support faith-based institutions that are currently serving the undocumented immigrants within the United States, who are currently being defrauded by unscrupulous and untrustworthy organizations that profit at their expense; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the bishop meet with grass- roots leaders involved in immigration issues to listen to their concerns and pray for members who are confronting deportation proceedings; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the bishop and synod office make available the "New Sanctuary Movement Statement of Support and Involvement" to congregations and that the Synod Council consider adopting this statement at the 2008 Synod Assembly; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Northwest Washington Synod

of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America memorialize the 2007 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to request that the presiding bishop provide for an urgent national meeting of church workers, lawyers, and theologians to establish strategies for accompanying undocumented immigrants, including the establishment and support of sanctuaries in congregations; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Northwest Washington Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America memorialize the 2007 Churchwide Assembly to request that the Office of the Presiding Bishop arrange an urgent meeting with Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service to discuss the expansion of its mission from solely providing services to refugees to directly assisting refugee families within the United States that need legal representation as they confront deportation proceedings and other immigration proceedings; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Northwest Washington Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America memorialize the 2007 Churchwide Assembly to request that the presiding bishop and the Conference of Bishops encourage all synods of this church to establish committees on immigration that include leaders from the Hispanic community who are involved in immigration issues and to encourage the members of this church to continue to pray that God gives us the power and will to walk with the immigrant community in this time of trial and injustice.

**A.2. IMMIGRATION AND SANCTUARY
Southwest California Synod (2B)
[Memorial B7][CA07.06.33i]**

WHEREAS, the membership of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) has consisted historically of immigrant people from many nationalities and ethnicities; and

WHEREAS, the Latino community has been deeply affected by the current deportation policies of the U.S. government, which have caused significant pain and suffering to Lutheran families; and

WHEREAS, other ethnic communities also have suffered because of these policies; and

WHEREAS, the ELCA has an obligation under the Gospel of Jesus Christ to proclaim good news to the poor, the hurting, the marginalized, and the voiceless, and further to denounce unjust, discriminatory practices, which destroy the livelihood and dignity of our brothers and sisters; and

WHEREAS, pastors and laypersons are cognizant of the divine imperative found in Leviticus 19:33-34: "When an alien lives with you in your land, do not mistreat him. The alien living with you must be treated as one of your native born. Love him as yourself for you were aliens in Egypt"; and

WHEREAS, the church has a role to be a prophetic voice for those who are afraid to speak publicly against injustice; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the 2007 Assembly of the Southwest California Synod encourage the synod bishop and council to provide the rostered leaders of this synod

with basic education on immigration law and procedure; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Southwest California Synod encourage conversation among the members, congregations, and conferences on the plight of the immigrant community in this synod, including the testimonies of individuals and families in the congregations of this synod; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Southwest California Synod Assembly memorialize the 2007 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:

- a. to encourage the Office of the Presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to meet with the heads of this church's ecumenical partners to lift up the human cost to individuals, families, congregations, and communities when the laws of current immigration policies are implemented;
- b. to request that the Church in Society unit call a meeting with grass-roots leaders on immigration issues, and specifically to include representatives of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service to discuss its mission and strategies for providing services to refugees and immigrant families within the United States;
- c. to urge the synods to establish committees on immigration that include leaders from communities who are involved in and affected by immigration issues; and
- d. to urge that the Church in Society unit provide grants that will encourage the creation or support of trustworthy faith-based institutions, including those in the new sanctuary movement, that currently serve the undocumented immigrant population in the United States.

**A.3. IMMIGRATION AND SANCTUARY
Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod (8B)
[Memorial B7][CA07.06.33i]**

WHEREAS, Jesus teaches us in Matthew 25 to feed the hungry, give water to the thirsty, clothe the naked, care for the sick, visit the imprisoned, and welcome the stranger; and

WHEREAS, Leviticus 19:33-34 instructs us: "When an alien resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the alien. The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God . . ."; and

WHEREAS, Lutherans have served Christ for over 60 years through refugee resettlement ministry and have been invited to provide services to new immigrants by the United States government, which also has a proud history of welcoming persecuted people; and

WHEREAS, legislation passed in the Real ID and Patriot Act II programs, which are intended to prevent terrorists and those sympathetic to terrorist organizations from entering the United States, has created unintended barriers for thousands of genuine refugees, who pose no threat to our communities or national security and otherwise would be welcome to resettle in the United States; and

WHEREAS, based on the same law, immigration judges must deny asylum (refugee status) for asylum seekers with legitimate claims, resulting in genuine refugees being unjustly held in detention and ultimately returned to the country of their persecution; and

WHEREAS, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service already has identified current material support language that needs to be revised and actively has engaged in advocating to the United States government for appropriate changes in legislation; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the 2007 Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod

1. Go on record expressing gratitude for legislators, including Representative Pitts (PA-16, R), who have written and sponsored legislation to correct the unintended consequences of material support;
2. Urge the Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod office to request the United States House of Representatives, the United States Senate, and the president of the United States to support such legislation that corrects the unintentional consequences of Real ID and Patriot Act II; and
3. Encourage the Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod congregations and individual members to contact their legislatures in support of such legislation;

and be it further

RESOLVED, that the 2007 Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod Assembly memorialize the 2007 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, through the Office of the Presiding Bishop, also to request a change in United States law so that genuine refugees are not barred on grounds of material support.

Churchwide Assembly Action

The 2007 Churchwide Assembly voted [CA07.06.33i]:

To thank the Southwest California Synod, Northwest Washington Synod, and Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod for calling this church's attention to the urgent concern for immigrants who are being unjustly treated;

To reaffirm the revision and updating of the 1998 Message on Immigration that was requested by the ELCA Church Council in response to the synodical resolutions received in 2006 for its consideration and approval in November of 2007 and to anticipate that the revisions will address new concerns that are emerging related to immigrant rights and just policies toward immigrants in this country;

To reaffirm the work of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS) in partnership with the synods

of this church in the development of immigration task forces;

To continue this church's support for and close partnership with LIRS, including the delivery of technical assistance, networking, grants to dedicated and independent legal service projects, and advocacy for comprehensive immigration reform; and

To request that the Church in Society unit work with LIRS and other relevant churchwide units to convene opportunities for partners and interested leaders to meet to establish opportunities and strategies for further supporting and accompanying undocumented immigrants.

Church Council Action:

To authorize a delay in the response of the Church in Society unit to the action of the 2007 Churchwide Assembly in response to memorials from the Southwest California Synod, Northwest Washington Synod, and Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod;

To anticipate that the revised Message on Immigration, which will be considered by the Church Council at its November 2008 meeting, will serve as the response to these memorials; and

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

B. CONTINUING SUBSIDIES OF WORTHY MINISTRIES Indiana-Kentucky Synod (6C)

[Memorial A1] [CA07.06.33a]

WHEREAS, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) traditionally has supported new, transformational, and innovative ministries for at least three years; and

WHEREAS, this synod at times has identified ministries that realize the primary purposes stated in ¶S6.02. but have little prospect of becoming self-supporting while at the same time they may be deserving of ongoing support from the wider church; and

WHEREAS, the ELCA has convened a Blue Ribbon Task Force to strengthen funding of ministry and sharing of mission support; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Indiana-Kentucky Synod in assembly memorialize the ELCA to study this issue, including the practices of this synod, as outlined in the synod outreach binder, and of other denominations and bring to the Churchwide Assembly as soon as practical a recommended approach for setting criteria and

subsidizing such ministries that need ongoing support from the wider church.

Churchwide Assembly Action

The 2007 Churchwide Assembly voted [CA07.06.33a]:

To express gratitude to the Indiana-Kentucky Synod for its request for a "recommended approach for setting criteria and subsidizing such ministries that need ongoing support from the wider church";

To acknowledge with thanks the commitment of the Evangelical Outreach and Congregational Mission (EO) unit to:

1. Continue to work with congregations, synods, and other partners to explore contextual solutions to questions related to sustainability, utilizing the principles described in the response above;
2. Consult with ecumenical partners about how they sustain ministries that are not self-supporting;
3. Discuss the realities of funding and sustainability to gain input from those who work with the ethnic strategies and with ministries among people in poverty;
4. Involve stewardship staff in the development or renewal of ministries in order to strengthen resources for supporting and equipping stewardship efforts in economically marginalized contexts;
5. Receive and review the outcomes of the Blue Ribbon Committee on Mission Funding in order to gain insights about strengthening mission support and ministry funding and incorporate them into Evangelical Outreach and Congregational Mission processes;
6. Train mission directors and stewardship staff about sustainability as part of the cultural proficiency work of the Evangelical Outreach and Congregational Mission unit; and
To request that the Evangelical Outreach and Congregational Mission unit, in consultation with the

Conference of Bishops, continue to study these issues and bring a report and possible recommendations to the April 2008 meeting of the Church Council.

Response from Evangelical Outreach and Congregational Mission

Because of staff transitions in the Evangelical Outreach and Congregational Mission unit, including the lack of a mission director in the Indiana-Kentucky Synod, the unit requests additional time to gather information from the synod about the reasons for the memorial and to respond to it thoroughly.

Church Council Action:

To authorize a delay in the response of the Evangelical Outreach and Congregational Mission unit to the memorial from the Indiana-Kentucky Synod concerning continuing subsidies for worthy ministries;

To request that a report and possible recommendations be brought to the November 2008 meeting of the Church Council; and

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

C. HIV AND AIDS FUNDING

[Motion A] [CA07.06.35]

RESOLVED, to instruct the Church Council to take steps to develop a plan to provide up to an additional \$1 million in funding to implement the HIV and AIDS strategy.

Churchwide Assembly Action

The 2007 Churchwide Assembly voted [CA07.06.35]:

To refer this motion to the Church Council and encourage its continued support of the development and funding of this church's strategy on HIV and AIDS.

Church Council Action:

To authorize a delay in the response of the Office of the Presiding Bishop and the Office of the Treasurer to the request for funding for the churchwide strategy on HIV and AIDS; and

To recommend that the response be included in the churchwide strategy on AIDS and HIV, which will be brought to the November 2008 meeting of the Church Council.