



**Office of the Secretary**  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
 God's work. Our hands.

November 15, 2011

**TO:** Bishops of synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
 Vice Presidents of synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
 Secretaries of synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
 Members of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
 Administrative Team of the churchwide organization  
 Chief executive officers of separately incorporated ministries  
 Regional Coordinators

**FROM:** David D. Swartling, secretary

**SUBJECT:** Report of Responses by the Church Council to Synodical and Churchwide Assembly Actions (November 11–13, 2011)

**I. RESPONSES TO SYNODICAL RESOLUTIONS**  
**A. The Decade of Women—Gender Equality: Theological Reflections and Congregational Action Strategies**  
**Southwest California Synod (2B)**

WHEREAS, we celebrate this church's ordination of women as a clear public witness of the equality of women and men intended by Jesus and the early Christian community; and

WHEREAS, we globally profess to love our wives, mothers, sisters and daughters, yet leave millions of women and children displaced in the wilderness, or homeless on highways and streets, ignoring their cries for help, and remaining blind to their bruises and wounds from the violence they suffer; and

WHEREAS, a global study on the discrimination and disempowerment women face throughout their lives and how that impacts children's lives entitled the *UNICEF 2007 Report on the State of the World's Children* concluded the following:

- Gender equality is not only morally right, it is pivotal to human progress and sustainable development;
- Gender equality furthers the cause of child survival and development;
- Gender equality will not only empower women to overcome poverty and live full and productive lives, but will better the lives of children, families and countries as well;
- Women's equal rights and influence in the key decisions that shape their lives and those of children must be enhanced in three distinct arenas: the household, the workplace and the political sphere; and

WHEREAS, the 2009 Churchwide Assembly approved the creation of a Social Statement on Justice for Women (which was memorialized by this Synod); and

WHEREAS, the ELCA's implementation of "The Decade for a Culture of Peace and Nonviolence" and the "Stand With Africa" formats successfully highlighted ministry opportunities

and can be readily adapted to focus directly on the obstacles and challenges faced by women around the world; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Southwest California Synod Assembly direct the Synod Council to forward this resolution to the Church Council for timely consideration and possible action to adopt 2011–2020 as "The Decade of Women" within our denomination by incorporating those successful strategies as exhibited in "The Decade for a Culture of Peace and Nonviolence," and "Stand With Africa" and other gender-equality action strategies for congregations, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Southwest California Synod lend its voice and efforts in promoting gender equality which contributes to achieving the goals of reducing poverty and hunger, saving children's lives, improving maternal health, ensuring universal education, combating HIV and AIDS, malaria, and other diseases, and ensuring environmental sustainability, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Southwest California Synod Assembly commend and enhance the efforts of this church's Global Mission unit, the ELCA World Hunger Program, Lutheran World Relief, Women of the ELCA, and other ecumenical and interfaith advocacy efforts by raising awareness and funds for their important work in honoring women by faithfully addressing issues critical to their survival, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Southwest California Synod, through its staff, conferences, congregations and members, exercise intentional efforts to labor for real change on women's issues, especially in the areas of sexual violence, domestic violence, healthcare, human rights, displaced refugees, reproductive rights, poverty, economic and property rights, among others.

*Church Council Action [CC10.11.66e]*

To receive the resolution of the Southwest California Synod requesting consideration of “The Decade of Women” (2011–2020) within the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America;

To refer the resolution to the Office of the Presiding Bishop in consultation with the Administrative Team with a request that a report and possible recommendations be brought to the April 2011 meeting of the Church Council; and

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

*Response from the Office of the Presiding Bishop (April 2011)*

The justice for women program, on behalf of the Office of the Presiding Bishop, is pleased to respond to the resolution that calls for “The Decade of Women” 2011-2020. At the heart of this resolution is a grassroots call to advocacy, both legislative and social, for justice for women. Implicit in this resolution are the urgent demands that this church not shy away from its role to see gender-based disparity, injustice, and violence as ecclesiological issues; to see the unjustly interrelated ways that life in the United States influences the well-being of people, especially women and children, in other nations; and to do something about these problems. In shorthand, this resolution calls for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to be engaged in gender analysis and action globally.

The justice for women program is grateful for this grassroots calling to this church’s responsibility to take the global effects of sexism and patriarchy seriously. This resolution reflects the central message of the program’s call to this church at the 2007 Churchwide Assembly when it invited and urged the ELCA to educate for justice, advocate for change, and lead into the future to make justice for women and girls a reality.

On behalf of the Office of the Presiding Bishop, the justice for women program recommends a delay in Church Council action until November 2011. In the intervening time, staff members will consider options related to this resolution.

*Church Council Action [CC11.04.24c]*

To receive the background information provided by the justice for women program in response to the resolution of the Southwest California Synod related to “The Decade of Women—Gender Equality: Theological Reflections and Congregational Action Strategies”;

To authorize a delay until the November 2011 meeting of the Church Council; and

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

*Response from the Office of the Presiding Bishop (November 2011)*

The Office of the Presiding Bishop commends the intent of this resolution and the way it calls for support of already existing sources for congregational action on gender equity and justice for women.

This church is urged to understand, challenge, and respond faithfully to sexism through a transformation of how we see, think, feel, and act. This means the ELCA would understand justice for women and girls as a church issue. This church would have the theological ability to analyze church and society in terms of justice for women and girls. The ELCA would be equipped to challenge societal, theological, and ecclesial practices and beliefs that are unjust to women and girls. And it would be able to respond to injustice by advocating for changes in church practice and belief, as well as social policy and practice, which bring about and reflect justice for women and girls.

The 2007, 2009, and 2011 Churchwide Assembly Justice for Women reports describe the multiple ways this church works to build and preserve justice for women and children, through legislative advocacy, education, development, and relief. The focus of this resolution on action, especially as related to policy, law, humanitarian intervention, and social care is crucial and must be equally met with theological and social education that “exercise[s] intentional efforts to labor for real change.”

Decidedly, acute problems for women and girls worldwide, including in the United States, need to be addressed as care and service for the neighbor. To coordinate and encourage further work that reaches all areas of this church, however, depends upon three important considerations.

- Given the depth and breadth of work currently done throughout the ELCA, further work relies on the basis that will be provided through a social statement on justice for women.
- To coordinate efforts throughout this church depends upon staff resources presently not available.
- Global engagement on gender analysis and justice for women is best carried out in relationship with the Lutheran World Federation (LWF).

There are three important ways the intent of this resolution may be carried forward. The recommendations are as follows:

- First, the proposal for a decade on women should be referred to the task force for the social statement on justice for women as a possible implementing resolution.

- Second, leaders and congregations throughout the ELCA may participate in efforts for the entire communion to support gender equity and justice for women through the resources presently being developed through the LWF's Women in Church and Society Desk.
- Third, congregations are referred to the multiple resources on women and gender justice and to the upcoming social statement process on justice for women as ways to engage in many areas of justice for women. Congregations may refer to efforts through the ELCA's Justice for Women program, Women of the ELCA, Advocacy, World Hunger, Global Mission, and other ELCA-related organizations, such as Lutheran World Relief, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, Cherish Our Children, and other social ministry organizations and schools.

*Church Council Action:* [En Bloc]

**To receive with deep gratitude the resolution of the Southwest California Synod calling for the adoption of "The Decade of Women" in 2011-2020 within the ELCA by incorporating those successful strategies exhibited in "The Decade for a Culture of Peace and Nonviolence" and "Stand with Africa" and other gender-equality action strategies for congregations;**

**To affirm and celebrate the many ways individuals, congregations, synods, ELCA-related institutions, and the churchwide organization are already engaged in work to affirm and uphold gender equity and justice for women;**

**To refer a proposal for a decade on women to the upcoming task force for the Justice for Women social statement as a possible implementing resolution;**

**To encourage leaders and congregations to participate in efforts to support gender equity and justice for women through resources being developed with the Lutheran World Federation's Women in Church and Society Desk;**

**To refer congregations to resources on women and gender justice through the ELCA's Justice for Women program, Women of the ELCA, Advocacy, World Hunger, Global Mission, and other ELCA-related organizations, such as Lutheran World Relief, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, Cherish Our Children, and other social ministry organizations**

**and schools, as ways to engage in the many areas of justice for women; and**

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

## **B. ELCA Health and Benefits Program Southeastern Minnesota Synod (3I)**

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

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

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

*Church Council Action [CC11.08.59]*

To receive with gratitude the resolution of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod related to ELCA Health and Benefits program;

To refer the resolution to the Board of Pensions in consultation with the Office of the Presiding Bishop, Office of the Secretary, and Office of the Treasurer;

To request that a report and possible recommendations be brought to the November 2011 meeting of the Church Council; and

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

*Response from the ELCA Board of Pensions*

The ELCA Board of Pensions thanks the Southeastern Minnesota Synod for sharing a concern relative to participation in the ELCA Pension and Other Benefits Program (benefits program). Leaders and staff of the Board of Pensions understand the concern related to the manner in which some congregations, pastors, and individuals have left the ELCA and have sought to draw others away from the ELCA. While we believe it is not appropriate for the Board of Pensions to make comments about specifics of this matter, we remain hopeful that all transitions from the ELCA and ongoing relationships will be respectful—even as this church, through the Board of Pensions, seeks to fulfill the mission of providing "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."

As a separately incorporated ministry of the ELCA, the Board of Pensions seeks to ensure that the benefits

program remains an efficient, cost-effective source of benefits for this church. We believe one way to assist in doing this is through efforts to encourage participation of other faith-based organizations as allowed for in the governing documents. Greater participation in the program increases assets under management, broadens the health-risk pool, and allows us to realize better economies of scale. We believe that such inclusive efforts help to provide for greater stability and efficiency for plan members sponsored in the benefits program.

Currently, we are doing further research to gain a fuller understanding as to the impact of participation levels, and, as per a recent request from the ELCA Conference of Bishops, we intend to share our findings with the Conference of Bishops, churchwide leadership, and the ELCA Church Council.

*Church Council Action:*

**To thank the Southeastern Minnesota Synod for its resolution related to the ELCA Health and Benefits Program;**

**To receive the report of the ELCA Board of Pensions prepared in consultation with the Office of the Presiding Bishop, Office of the Secretary, and Office of the Treasurer;**

**To request that a report from the ELCA Board of Pensions on the impact of participation levels be brought to the November 2012 meeting of the Church Council; and**

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

**C. Human Rights Violations Against the Oromo People**

**Metropolitan Washington, D.C., Synod (8G)**

WHEREAS, we are called to follow Jesus Christ “to bring good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives, recovery of sight to the blind, and to let the oppressed go free” (Luke 4:18); and

WHEREAS, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) has repeatedly called upon its congregations to intercede for those around the world who are being subjected to systematic violation of human rights; and

WHEREAS, the Constitution of the Oromo Evangelical Church in Washington, D.C., like the constitutions of many ELCA congregations, calls on members to “serve in response to God’s love to meet human needs, caring for the sick and the aged, advocating dignity and justice for all people, working for peace and reconciliation among the nations, and standing with the poor and powerless...” (\*C4.02.d.); and

WHEREAS, the Oromo people, who number 30 million within the territory of Ethiopia, have known more than a century of persecution at the hands of successive governments; and

WHEREAS, the people of the Oromia region of Ethiopia are presently being subjected to a massive campaign to deny their human and civil rights, including arbitrary detention, the torture of detainees, and extrajudicial executions; and

WHEREAS, Human Rights Watch, in a report released on April 6, 2011, called on the Ethiopian government to immediately release those detained without charge during “several waves of apparently politically motivated mass arrests of more than 200 ethnic Oromo Ethiopians;” and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of State, in its annual Human Rights report on Ethiopia (April 2011), has documented “unlawful killings, torture, beating, and abuse and mistreatment of detainees and opposition supporters by security forces... poor prison conditions; arbitrary arrest and detention, particularly of suspected sympathizers or members of opposition or insurgent groups” and has called on the Government of Ethiopia to comply with its commitments under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, to cease its practice of jamming Voice of America broadcasts that seek to report on the present situation and its denial of access to federal prisons by the International Committee of the Red Cross; and

WHEREAS, the Oromo Evangelical Church of Washington, D.C., as well as other Oromo congregations, stand ready to provide documentation and study materials on the present situation in Ethiopia through the synod office; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the ELCA Metropolitan Washington, D.C., Synod Assembly encourage congregations of the synod to pray regularly for those in prison in Ethiopia and to devote time to studying the situation of the Oromo people; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan Washington, D.C., Synod Assembly direct the bishop of the synod to send a letter to the U.S. Secretary of State expressing the synod’s concern for the well-being of the Oromo people and requesting that all developmental and military aid to the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia be tied to that government’s compliance with internationally-recognized human rights agreements; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan Washington, D.C., Synod Assembly memorialize the 2011 Churchwide Assembly meeting in Orlando, Florida, to undertake programs of education and advocacy on behalf of the human rights of the Oromo people.

*Background*

As baptized Christians, we are called by our baptismal covenant to stand in solidarity with people most affected by injustice and repression. To that end, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America continually has affirmed its commitment to the promotion, preservation, and protection of universal human rights.

The global engagement and awareness present in

every expression of this church is formed through the practices of accompaniment, the mission theology of the ELCA. The blend of solidarity and accompaniment motivates ELCA members toward effective advocacy.

One of the commitments intrinsic to the practice of accompaniment is consultation with global companion churches prior to ELCA action outside the territories of the ELCA. In many areas, including governmental advocacy, operating without prior consultation can lead to unintended consequences, both for the ELCA and for our companion churches.

*Church Council Action [CC.11.07.46b]*

To thank the Metropolitan Washington, D.C., Synod for its resolution related to human rights violations against the Oromo people;

To refer the resolution to the Congregational and Synodical Mission and Global Mission units for consultation with the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (EECMY) with the request that a report and possible recommendations be brought to the November 2011 meeting of the Church Council; and

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

*Response from the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit*

Since the action by the Church Council on July 28, 2011, staff of the Congregational and Synodical Mission and Global Mission units have consulted with a variety of people, including staff of The Lutheran World Federation, with more detailed knowledge of the human rights situation in Ethiopia. These consultations have been undertaken to enable the ELCA both to gather additional information about the situation in Ethiopia and to avoid possible unintended consequences as noted in the background. A number of options are being considered, which would address the matter in an effective way while also giving due attention to the ELCA's practice of accompaniment with global companion churches. It is anticipated that another report will be prepared for the April 2012 meeting of the Church Council.

*Church Council Action: [En Bloc]*

**To receive the background information provided by the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit in response to the resolution of the Metropolitan Washington, D.C., Synod related to "Human Rights Violations Against the Oromo People";**

**To authorize a delay in further response until the April 2012 meeting of the Church Council;**

**and**

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

## **II. RESPONSES TO CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY REFERRALS**

### **Church Council Referrals of 2011 Churchwide Assembly Actions**

The following actions are indexed according to unit, office, or conference. The complete text of the memorials, motions and recommended actions follow the index.

#### **Congregational and Synodical Mission**

**1. Churchwide Assembly Action CA11.03.12**

Memorials Category A3:

International Year for People of African Descent

Due: April 2012 Church Council meeting

CSM is the lead in consultation with GM.

**2. Churchwide Assembly Action CA11.03.06a**

Memorials Category A4: Energy Stewardship

Due: April 2013 Church Council meeting

CSM is the lead in consultation with OT and OB.

**3. Churchwide Assembly Action CA11.04.26**

Memorials Category A6: Immigration Reform

Due: November 2012 Church Council meeting

CSM is the lead in consultation with OB.

**4. Churchwide Assembly Action CA11.05.39**

Memorials Category C1: Lutheran Campus Ministry

Due: November 2012 Church Council meeting

CSM is the lead in consultation with COB and OB.

**5. Churchwide Assembly Action CA11.03.06f**

Memorials Category D2: Holy Communion

Due: April 2013 Church Council meeting

CSM is the lead in consultation with COB.

**6. Churchwide Assembly Action CA11.05.31**

Motion C: Confronting Injustice in State Immigration Initiatives

Due: April 2012 Church Council meeting

CSM is the lead in consultation with OB.

**7. Churchwide Assembly Action CA11.05.35**

Motion G: Effect of U.S. Ethanol Policy on World Hunger

Due: April 2013 Church Council meeting

CSM is the lead in consultation with OB.

8. Churchwide Assembly Action CA11.05.36  
Motion H: Youth-Related Matters  
Due: November 2012 Church Council meeting

9. Churchwide Assembly Action CA11.04.18  
Motion J: Native Americans and Alaska Natives  
Due: November 2012 Church Council meeting

### **Conference of Bishops**

1. Churchwide Assembly Action CA11.05.39  
Memorials Category C1: Lutheran Campus Ministry  
Due: November 2012 Church Council meeting  
CSM is the lead in consultation with COB and OB.

2. Churchwide Assembly Action CA11.05.30  
Motion B: Perpetual Prayer Vigil  
Due: April 2013 Church Council meeting  
OB is the lead unit in consultation with COB.

3. Churchwide Assembly Action CA11.03.06f  
Memorials Category D2: Holy Communion  
Due: April 2013 Church Council meeting  
CSM is the lead in consultation with COB.

### **Global Mission**

1. Churchwide Assembly Action CA11.03.12  
Memorials Category A3: International Year for People of African Descent  
Due: April 2012 Church Council meeting  
CSM is the lead in consultation with GM.

### **Mission Advancement**

1. Churchwide Assembly Action CA11.05.34  
Motion F: Congregational Offerings  
Due: November 2012 Church Council meeting.

2. Churchwide Assembly Action CA11.05.38  
Motion L: Mission Support  
Due: November 2012 Church Council meeting

### **Office of the Presiding Bishop**

1. Churchwide Assembly Action CA11.03.06a  
Memorials Category A4: Energy Stewardship  
Due: April 2013 Church Council meeting  
CSM is the lead in consultation with OT and OB.

2. Churchwide Assembly Action CA11.04.26  
Memorials Category A6: Immigration Reform  
Due: November 2012 Church Council meeting  
CSM is the lead in consultation with OB.

3. Churchwide Assembly Action CA11.03.06c  
Memorials Category B2: Synodical Ratification Procedure  
Due: November 2012 Church Council meeting

4. Churchwide Assembly Action CA11.05.39  
Memorials Category C1: Lutheran Campus Ministry  
Due: November 2012 Church Council meeting  
CSM is the lead in consultation with COB and OB.

5. Churchwide Assembly Action CA11.03.06h  
Category E1: Social Statement on Human Sexuality  
Due: November 2012 Church Council meeting

6. Churchwide Assembly Action CA11.05.30  
Motion B: Perpetual Prayer Vigil  
Due: April 2013 Church Council meeting  
OB is the lead unit in consultation with COB.

7. Churchwide Assembly Action CA11.05.31  
Motion C: Confronting Injustice in State Immigration Initiatives  
Due: April 2012 Church Council meeting  
CSM is the lead in consultation with OB.

8. Churchwide Assembly Action CA11.05.32  
Motion D: Dialogue with the North American Lutheran Church  
Due: November 2012 Church Council meeting

9. Churchwide Assembly Action CA11.05.35  
Motion G: Effect of U.S. Ethanol Policy on World Hunger  
Due: April 2013 Church Council meeting  
CSM is the lead in consultation with OB

10. Churchwide Assembly Action CA11.04.19  
Motion K: Tree for Luthergarten  
Due: April 2012 Church Council meeting

### **Office of the Treasurer**

1. Churchwide Assembly Action CA11.03.06a  
Memorials Category A4: Energy Stewardship  
Due: April 2013 Church Council meeting

## I. Memorials

### **Category A3: International Year for People of African Descent**

*Churchwide Assembly Action CA11.03.12:*

To receive with gratitude the memorials of the Central/Southern Illinois, Northeastern Ohio, Southeastern Pennsylvania, and Virginia synods related to the International Year for People of African Descent;

To affirm these memorials and request that the presiding bishop of this church issue a statement acknowledging the International Year for People of African Descent and encouraging congregations to participate through prayer, ministry, forums, and presentations, as well as artistic, cultural, and worship expressions that affirm the gifts of people of African Descent;

To ask that the director for racial justice collaborate with the ELCA Church Council, congregations, synod anti-racism teams, strategy teams, ethnic associations, ELCA colleges and universities, and ELCA seminaries to deepen efforts to eradicate racism by examining the factors that inhibit people of color and/or whose primary language is other than English from experiencing the fullness of leadership and inclusion in this church;

To request the Global Mission and Congregational and Synodical Mission units to recognize this International Year in upcoming events; and

To anticipate that the director for racial justice and the staff of the Lutheran Office for World Community at the United Nations will monitor the events of the International Year for People of African Descent and provide current information for the ELCA website.

*Church Council Action:* *[En Bloc]*

**To request that the director for racial justice, in consultation with the Congregational and Synodical Mission and Global Mission units, bring to the April 2012 meeting of the Church Council a report on the ELCA activities associated with the International Year for People of African Descent.**

### **Category A4: Energy Stewardship**

*Churchwide Assembly Action CA11.03.06a:*

To receive with gratitude the memorials of the Sierra Pacific, Rocky Mountain, Northeastern Minnesota, Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast, Metropolitan Chicago, Northern Illinois, Northeastern Iowa, South-Central Synod of Wisconsin, North/West Lower Michigan, New Jersey,

New England, Metropolitan New York, Southeastern Pennsylvania, and Metropolitan Washington, D.C. synods related to energy stewardship;

To thank the Lutheran Climate Change Coalition and Lutherans Restoring Creation for their work and to commend their strategies to this church;

To encourage all expressions and agencies of this church to improve their stewardship of energy resources and promote care for God's creation; and

To request that, as financial and staff resources permit, the churchwide organization establish processes to track, assess, and share these efforts to improve our care of God's creation.

*Church Council Action:* *[En Bloc]*

**To refer Memorials Category A4: Energy Stewardship to the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit, in consultation with the Office of the Treasurer and the Theological Discernment team in the Office of the Presiding Bishop; and**

**To request that a report and possible recommendations be presented to the April 2013 Church Council meeting.**

### **Category A6: Immigration Reform**

*Churchwide Assembly Action CA11.04.26:*

To affirm the commitment of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service to support comprehensive immigration reform and the DREAM Act;

To request that the presiding bishop of this church communicate to the president and members of Congress the support of the ELCA for comprehensive immigration reform and the DREAM Act; and

To encourage all ELCA synods, congregations, and members to add their voices in support of comprehensive immigration reform and the DREAM Act.

*Church Council Action:* *[En Bloc]*

**To request that the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit, in collaboration with the Office of the Presiding Bishop, bring to the November 2012 meeting of the Church Council a report on its activities associated with its support of comprehensive immigration reform and the DREAM Act.**

**Category B2: Synodical Ratification Procedure**  
*Churchwide Assembly Action CA11.03.06c:*

To receive with gratitude the memorial of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod concerning synodical ratification of social statements and amendments to churchwide governing documents;

To acknowledge that the issue of ratification has been considered many times in the life of the ELCA, most recently by the task force on Living Into the Future Together: Renewing the Ecology of the ELCA (LIFT);

To encourage further exploration of existing means of discussion and decision-making as well as new means, such as communal discernment and non-legislative gatherings, as recommended by the LIFT task force; and

To decline to institute synodical ratification of social statements and amendments to churchwide governing documents.

*Church Council Action:*

**To refer the third paragraph of the Churchwide Assembly's action on Memorials Category B2: Synodical Ratification Procedure to the Office of the Presiding Bishop; and**

**To request that a report and possible recommendations on that action be presented to the November 2012 meeting of the Church Council.**

**Category C1: Lutheran Campus Ministry**

*Churchwide Assembly Action CA11.05.39:*

To receive with gratitude the memorials of the Pacifica, Southwestern Minnesota, Arkansas-Oklahoma, Metropolitan Chicago, Northern Illinois, Central/Southern Illinois, Southeastern Iowa, Greater Milwaukee, Upstate New York, and South Carolina synods related to Lutheran Campus Ministry;

To acknowledge that ELCA campus ministry is a Lutheran ministry on campus, not just a ministry to Lutherans at more than 180 state and private colleges and universities, with cooperating congregations in campus ministry at an additional 400 campuses nationwide;

To recommend a liaison related to Lutheran Campus Ministry be established within the Conference of Bishops for consultation with representatives of Lutheran Campus Ministry-related constituencies, specifically students, Lutheran Campus Ministry staff, and synodical judicatories; and

To create a consultative protocol when any decisions proposed by the ELCA Church Council regarding Lutheran Campus Ministry are conducted with representatives of Lutheran Campus Ministry-related

constituencies, specifically students, Lutheran Campus Ministry staff, and synodical judicatories.

*Church Council Action:* *[En Bloc]*

**To refer Memorials Category C1: Lutheran Campus Ministry to the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit; in consultation with the Conference of Bishops and the Office of the Presiding Bishop; and**

**To request that a report and possible recommendations be presented to the November 2012 meeting of the Church Council.**

**Category D2: Holy Communion**

*Churchwide Assembly Action CA11.03.06f:*

To receive with gratitude the memorial of the Upper Susquehanna Synod concerning Holy Communion and to affirm its commendation of faithful and joyful reception of this sacrament; and

To refer the memorial to the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit in consultation with the Conference of Bishops for consideration of actions that will promote more frequent reception of Holy Communion by ELCA members and weekly observance of Holy Communion as the primary worship service of each ELCA congregation.

*Church Council Action:*

**To request that the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit, in consultation with the Conference of Bishops, present to the spring 2013 Church Council meeting a report and possible recommendations concerning its activities related to Memorial Category D2: Holy Communion.**

**Category E1: Social Statement on Human Sexuality**

*Churchwide Assembly Action CA11.03.06h:*

To receive with gratitude the memorials of the South Dakota, Metropolitan Chicago, Metropolitan New York, and Metropolitan Washington, D.C., synods, related to the social statement *Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust*;

To acknowledge both the sorrow and joy resulting from the decisions of the 2009 Churchwide Assembly;

To decline to reconsider this social statement; and

To request that the report to be prepared for the November 2012 meeting of the Church Council on the implementation of this social statement also be provided



as information for the 2013 ELCA Churchwide Assembly.

*Church Council Action:* [En Bloc]

**To request that the Office of the Presiding Bishop provide the report on the implementation of the social statement on human sexuality, which is due to the Church Council at its November 2012 meeting, to the 2013 Churchwide Assembly as information.**

## II. Motions from Reference and Counsel

### **Motion B: Perpetual Prayer Vigil**

*Churchwide Assembly Action CA11.05.30:*

To refer Motion B to the Office of the Presiding Bishop in consultation with the Conference of Bishops.

*Church Council Action:* [En Bloc]

**To request that the Office of the Presiding Bishop, in consultation with the Conference of Bishops, present a report and possible recommendations on Motion B: Perpetual Prayer Vigil to the April 2013 meeting of the Church Council.**

### **Motion C: Confronting Injustice in State Immigration Initiatives**

*Churchwide Assembly Action CA11.05.31:*

RESOLVED, that the 2011 Churchwide Assembly declare its support of and encouragement for all efforts to prevent the enactment of punitive and unjust federal and state laws that target immigrants; and be it further

RESOLVED, that all congregations and institutions of this church are called to welcome and serve persons regardless of their documented status; and be it further

RESOLVED, that congregations, seminaries, camps, colleges, universities, synods, and all expressions of the ELCA are hereby called upon to deepen their understanding of the current issues related to immigration and their calling to stand for welcome, including the widespread study and use of the ELCA social policy resolution titled "Toward Compassionate, Just and Wise Immigration Reform," adopted by the Church Council in 2009; and be it further

RESOLVED, that all members of this church, including its leaders, be encouraged to protest laws and proposed laws that ignore the Bible's witness to care for the stranger among us and to serve all people and strive for justice and peace in all the earth, by communicating

with legislators, governors, and the media; participating in public gatherings opposing unjust immigration policies; and taking all actions that demonstrate welcome and live out accompaniment of immigrants; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Churchwide Assembly affirm the church's cooperation with and support for the ministry and advocacy of LIRS; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Church Council be asked to consider the designation of one day each year for "Stand for Welcome Sunday," a moment to bring particular attention in congregations and communities to the presence and gifts of refugees and migrants, and the opportunities for mission and ministry with newcomers; and be it

RESOLVED, that the presiding bishop and synodical bishops be called upon to communicate this resolution and the commitment of the ELCA to stand with and advocate for immigrants to the U.S. administration, Congress, all governors and state legislatures, and the media.

*Church Council Action:* [En Bloc]

**To refer Motion C: Confronting Injustice in State Immigration Initiatives to the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit in consultation with the Theological Discernment team in the Office of the Presiding Bishop; and**  
**To request that a report and possible recommendations, particularly about the designation of "Stand for Welcome Sunday," be presented to the Church Council at its April 2012 meeting.**

### **Motion D: Dialogue with the North American Lutheran Church**

*Churchwide Assembly Action CA11.05.32*

RESOLVED, that the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America through the Office of the Presiding Bishop's Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Relations invite dialogue with the North American Lutheran Church and to strive for a mutual relationship, where possible, for both the ELCA and the NALC.

*Church Council Action:* [En Bloc]

**To request that the Office of the Presiding Bishops' Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Relations staff bring a report and possible recommendations on Motion D: Dialogue with the North American Lutheran Church to the November 2012 meeting of the Church Council.**

**Motion F: Congregational Offerings**

*Churchwide Assembly Action CA11.05.34:*

To refer Motion F to the Mission Advancement unit, to be shared, along with other stewardship strategies, across this church, as appropriate.

*Church Council Action:* [En Bloc]

To request that the Mission Advancement unit present a report on its activities related to **Motion F: Congregational Offerings to the November 2012 Church Council meeting.**

**Motion G: Effect of U.S. Ethanol Policy on World Hunger**

*Churchwide Assembly Action CA11.05.35:*

To refer Motion G to the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit and the Office of the Presiding Bishop.

*Church Council Action:* [En Bloc]

To request that the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit, in collaboration with the Office of the Presiding Bishop, present a report and possible recommendations on **Motion G: Effect of U.S. Ethanol Policy on World Hunger to the April 2013 meeting of the Church Council.**

**Motion H: Youth-Related Matters**

*Churchwide Assembly Action CA11.05.36:*

RESOLVED, that the 2011 Churchwide Assembly commend the churchwide and synodical expressions of the ELCA for beginning to implement continuing resolution 6.02.A09, adopted at the 2009 Churchwide Assembly, establishing a goal for this church that at least 10% of all churchwide and synodical assemblies, councils, committees, and boards be comprised of youth and young adults, and encourage the churchwide and synodical expressions to continue to find ways to involve youth and young adults in their governance structures; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the ELCA recognize the rich history of the Lutheran Youth Organization and affirm the work that it has accomplished since 1987; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the 2011 ELCA Churchwide Assembly call upon the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit to maintain and strengthen a youth-led faith formation and leadership development organization based at the churchwide expression.

*Church Council Action:* [En Bloc]

To request that the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit present a report and possible recommendations on **Motion H: Youth-Related Matters to the November 2012 meeting of the Church Council.**

**Motion J: Native Americans and Alaska Natives**

*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:* [En Bloc]

To request that the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit bring a report and possible recommendations on **Motion J: Native Americans and Alaska Natives to the November 2012 meeting of the Church Council.**

**Motion K: Tree for Luthergarten**

*Churchwide Assembly Action CA11.04.19:*

To refer Motion K to the Office of the Presiding Bishop for consideration.

*Church Council Action:* [En Bloc]

To request that the Office of the Presiding Bishop present a report and possible recommendations on **Motion K: Tree for Luthergarten to the April 2012 meeting of the Church Council.**

**Motion L: Mission Support**

*Churchwide Assembly Action CA11.05.38:*

To refer Motion L to the Mission Advancement unit of the churchwide organization, in consultation with the Office of the Secretary, for consideration consistent with other actions taken at this assembly.

*Church Council Action:* [En Bloc]

To request that the Mission Advancement present a report on its activities related to **Motion L: Mission Support to the November 2012 meeting of the Church Council.**