



Report of the Reference and Counsel Committee

Saturday, August 17, 2013, at 12:37 AM

1 **Motion A**

2 *This motion has failed.*

3

4 **Motion B**

5 *This motion has passed.*

6

7 **Motion C**

8 *This motion has passed.*

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10 **MOTION D**

11 *This motion has passed.*

12

13 **MOTION F**

14 **500th Anniversary**

15 *Submitted by: Chase (Charles E.) Moon III, NE Pennsylvania Synod*

16 Rediscovering Our Roots Resolution

17 WHEREAS, the year 2017 marks the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation of Martin Luther
18 from the Catholic Church; and

19 WHEREAS, the year 2013 marks the 25th anniversary of the formation of the Evangelical Lutheran
20 Church in America; and

21 WHEREAS, this church accepts "the teachings of the Unaltered Augsburg Confession" (2.06);

22 and WHEREAS, this church confesses "the ecumenical creeds and Lutheran confessional writings, as
23 the power of God to create and sustain the Church for God's mission in the world" (2.07);

24 and WHEREAS, this church "shall encourage and equip all members to worship, learn, serve, and
25 witness" (4.03.02);

26 and WHEREAS, many members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, including laypersons
27 and clergy, do not know the history or significance of their Lutheran roots and the Reformation;
28 therefore,

29 be it RESOLVED, that during the Observance of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation celebrations
30 described in the Strategy for the Observance of the 500th Anniversary of the Evangelical (Lutheran)
31 Church in America (ELCA) that special attention be paid to the education of members, including
32 laypersons and clergy, involved in congregational, synodical, and church wide bodies concerning the
33 Reformation;

34 and be it further RESOLVED, that the congregations of this church will avail themselves of the
35 resources available to them, especially our seminaries and local resource centers, to determine what
36 documents and writings are relevant for study;

37 and be it further RESOLVED, that members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America will engage
38 in a reading of relevant documents and writings pertaining to the Reformation and the life and teachings
39 of Martin Luther for personal and spiritual reflection;

40 and be it further RESOLVED, that members of this church will come together in fellowship to discuss
41 the writings of the Reformation and Martin Luther, and how these documents applied during the time of
42 the Reformation, as well as today in a modern context, in order to deepen our understanding of how and
43 why we can call ourselves Lutherans in the modern world.
44

45 **Rationale of the Reference and Counsel Committee**

46 The Reference and Counsel Committee thanks the maker of this motion for this timely suggestion and
47 we support the concept and propose a simplified version for the assembly's action.

48 **Recommendations of the Reference and Counsel Committee**

49 We recommend:

50 **Rediscovering Our Roots**

51 WHEREAS the year 2017 marks the 500th anniversary of the evangelical Lutheran Reformation; and

52 WHEREAS many members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America may not be familiar with
53 the history or significance of their Lutheran roots and the Reformation;

54 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America be
55 encouraged to read, discuss and engage the writings of Martin Luther and other evangelical reformers,
56 such as the 95 Theses, Luther's Large and Small Catechisms, and the Augsburg Confession, in order to
57 deepen our understanding of and fluency in evangelical Lutheran witness in the world; and be it further

58 RESOLVED that this encouragement be referred to the Church Council for additional action as part of
59 the ELCA's observance of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation.

60

61 **MOTION G**

62 *The result of this motion is there was a substitute motion from the floor, the motion failed.*

63

64 **MOTION H**

65 **A Social Policy Resolution Concerning the Guarantee of Voting Rights to All Citizens**

66 *Submitted by Kwame Pitts, Metropolitan Chicago Synod*

67 [1] **WHEREAS**, the guarantee that all citizens may exercise the right to vote on an equal basis
68 is a fundamental requirement for a just society, and

69 [2] **WHEREAS**, the laws and practices that, in effect, exclude whole groups of citizens from
70 fully and equally exercising this right; and

71 [3] **WHEREAS**, the Voting Rights Act of 1965 was passed and subsequently reauthorized by
72 the United States Congress to remedy or prevent patterns of discrimination that preclude
73 racial-minority groups from fully and equally exercising the right to vote; and

74 [4] **WHEREAS**, the United States Supreme Court has recently held Section 4(b) of the Voting
75 Rights Act unconstitutional, a holding that four of the Court's nine justices believe
76 "terminates the remedy that proved to be best suited to block that discrimination" (US
77 Supreme Court, *Shelby County v. Holder*, 570 US_ (2013), dissenting opinion by Justice
78 Ginsburg); and

79 [5] **WHEREAS**, this church has recognized that "many find it difficult to participate in public
80 life because of racial or ethnic barriers...", and it has committed to "actively promote a
81 public life worthy of the name. We encourage public witness by members, and stand publicly
82 as a church against injustice." (ELCA Social Statement on Race, Ethnicity, and Culture,
83 p. 6); and

84 [6] **WHEREAS**, this church has established, as a matter of social policy, that it "will support
85 legislation, ordinances, and resolutions that guarantee ... to all citizens, the right to vote"
86 (ELCA Social Statement on Race, Ethnicity, and Culture, p. 7); and

87 [7] **WHEREAS**, this church continues to "encourage members, congregations, synods, and
88 agencies and institutions to join the churchwide organization in its commitment ... to
89 confront the scandalous realities of racial, ethnic, cultural ... barriers that often manifest
90 themselves in exclusion, poverty, hunger, and violence; and pursue ardently the ELCA's
91 commitment to becoming more diverse, multicultural, and multigenerational in an ever-

92 changing and increasingly pluralistic context" (ELCA Churchwide Assembly Action
93 CA03.06.22, "Working Against Racism"); now, therefore, be it

94 **RESOLVED:**

95 [8] That the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America call upon local, state, and federal
96 governments to guarantee the right to vote to all citizens and to discourage or eliminate all
97 laws, ordinances or regulations that would have the effect of racial and ethnic discrimination
98 in the exercise of that right; and

99 [9] That the Presiding Bishop and synodical bishops of this church be urged to support
100 publically and stand as an advocate to proposed local, state, or federal legislation and
101 regulations that, consistent with this church's social teaching, seek to guarantee to all
102 citizens the right to vote; and

103 [10] That the Conference of Bishops be requested to include, as part of one of their 2014
104 meetings, an educational session on voting rights,

105 [11] That members, congregations, and synods of this church be encouraged to "promote
106 public life worthy of the name" by speaking out as an advocate and engaging in local efforts
107 such as voter registration and supporting legislation to guarantee the right to vote
108 to all citizens; and

109 [12] That appropriate churchwide staff be requested to identify and publicize resources for
110 members, congregations, and synods of this church to advocate for voting rights for all
111 citizens.

112

113 **Rationale of the Reference and Counsel Committee**

114 The Reference and Counsel Committee receives the motion with gratitude. Part of the call as disciples of
115 Jesus Christ is safeguarding the rights of all citizens.

116 **Recommendations of the Reference and Counsel Committee**

117 We recommend approval.

118

119 **Motion I**

120 **Term Limits**

121 *Submitted by: Jonathan Vehar, South Dakota Synod*

122 13.23 No person shall be eligible to be elected to a third consecutive six-year executive term to the
123 office of presiding bishop.

124 13.33 No person shall be eligible to be elected to a third consecutive six-year term to the position of vice
125 president.

126 13.43 No person shall be eligible to be elected to a third consecutive six-year term to the office of
127 secretary.

128 **Rationale of the Reference and Counsel Committee**

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

131 The proposed resolution requested consideration of term limits for all officers selected by the
132 churchwide assembly. In the coming days we will have many conversations about this assembly's
133 decisions. The conversations about leadership needs and our future elections are already taking place.
134 The proposed resolution engages one of many points of conversation.

135 **Recommendations of the Reference and Counsel Committee**

136 To refer this resolution to the ELCA Church Council and Conference of Bishops for broad based
137 conversation beginning in Spring 2014 (for example – inviting the input of our vice presidents) with a
138 possible report by November 2015 meeting with sufficient time for potentially bringing action to the
139 2016 assembly.

140 The items for attention include:

- 141 • Identification of the needs of our Churchwide organization for each office that are deeper than
142 the constitutional descriptions,
- 143 • Identifying leaders to potentially serve and,
- 144 • Conversation about possible limitation of duration in terms

145

146 **Motion J**

147 *This motion has been withdrawn.*

148

149 **Motion K**

150 *This motion has been withdrawn.*

151

152 **Motion L**

153 *Motion L was an en bloc amendment.*

154

155 **Motion M**

156 *Motion M was an en bloc amendment.*

157

158 **Motion N**

159 **American Indian and Alaska Native Peoples**

160 *Submitted by Vance Blackfox, Metropolitan Chicago Synod*

161 Whereas, the ELCA has proclaimed its welcoming of all people with special emphasis on
162 immigrants from all parts of the world, and

163
164 Whereas, the ELCA, as do so many institutions and people, often forgets the people who were
165 and are native to these lands before and while immigrants arrived to these lands, and

166
167 Whereas, most of the population of the United States of America and most of the membership
168 of our church are uneducated about American Indian and Alaska Native People and their
169 history, culture, and oppression and atrocities suffered, and

170
171 Whereas, Lutheran church bodies were once the leaders of advocacy for American Indian and
172 Alaska Native legal rights, most directly when partnered with and supporting the American
173 Indian Movement during the 1960's and 1970's, and the development of the National Indian
174 Lutheran Board, and

175
176 Whereas, all treaties made by the United States of America with tribal nations and governments
177 have been broken, and promises made 25 years ago by this church to American Indian and
178 Alaska Native leaders and the National Indian Lutheran Board, when it was encouraged to
179 dissolve, have not been kept, and

180
181 Whereas, American Indian and Alaska Native Peoples have suffered tremendously for too many
182 years, and continue to suffer rates of poverty, homelessness, disease, addiction, violence
183 against women, among a list that is too long to list here, is much higher than the national
184 average; our faith tells us that when one suffers, we all suffer, and

185
186 Whereas, culture and language is important to our American Indian and Alaska Native sisters
187 and brothers, and supporting their needs and rights to preserve and live out and share their
188 culture in all regards should also be important, even within the church, and

189
190 Whereas, there has been a decline in some congregations of participation by American Indian
191 and Alaska Native Peoples; leadership in the ELCA among American Indian and Alaska Native
192 Peoples has declined; presently there are only three students who are members or citizens of a
193 federally recognized tribe who are seeking ordination in the ELCA through the Theological
194 Education for Emerging Ministries program; presently there are zero full or part-time Master of
195 Divinity students and one part-time Master of Theology student attending our eight seminaries,
196 therefore, be it

197
198 **RESOLVED**, that this assembly commits this church, the ELCA, to go beyond apologies and
199 begin working on renewed, healthy and responsible relationships with American Indian and
200 Alaska Native Peoples; and, be it further

201
202 **RESOLVED**, that the ELCA commits to becoming the leader among churches in the area of
203 advocacy and active support of justice, self-determination, sovereignty, and advancement of
204 American Indian and Alaska Native Peoples and their nations and governments; and, be it
205 Further

206

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

211
212 RESOLVED, that this assembly asks the Presiding Bishop to write to the President of the United
213 States of America encouraging the President to continue building strong government to
214 government relationships with all of the federally recognized tribes, as well as to work
215 collaboratively with tribes and the National Congress of American Indian on discerning how to
216 best fully and effectively implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous
217 Peoples for the sake of justice in the lives and communities of American Indian and Alaska
218 Native Peoples; and, be it further

219
220 RESOLVED, that the ELCA actively supports the work and goals of the ELCA's Director of
221 American Indian and Alaska Native Ministries, the American Indian and Alaska Native Advisory
222 Team, and the American Indian and Alaska Native Lutheran Association; and further, that the
223 church will actively seek their counsel, in order to deepen our understanding of the oppression
224 and colonized histories lived and remembered by American Indian and Alaska Native Peoples,
225 as well as to gain insight on the present situations of injustices experienced by and opportunities
226 that lie before American Indian and Alaska Native Peoples; and, be it further

227
228 RESOLVED, that the ELCA encourage its membership, and especially its leadership, to
229 educate themselves about American Indian and Alaska Native Peoples; starting with the tribes
230 and Peoples whose reservations and/or nations are nearest us, then the tribes and Peoples
231 who first inhabited the lands whereupon church buildings now sit; and, be it further

232
233 RESOLVED, that the ELCA actively explore funding opportunities to better serve American
234 Indian and Alaska Native Peoples and social services organizations that provide direct services
235 such as the Oaks Indian Mission, Lakota Lutheran Center, Navajo Lutheran Mission and others,
236 so that they may have sufficient resources to feed and house children and families in serious
237 poverty; and, be it further

238
239 RESOLVED, that the ELCA periodically encourage synods and congregations to go beyond
240 mission trips to American Indian and Alaska Native communities and become active advocates
241 for and supporters *of* them; and, be it further

242
243 RESOLVED, that the ELCA commits to being a part *of* dreaming, praying and working together
244 with American Indian and Alaska Native Peoples for a reconciled and hopeful future,
245 recognizing that immediate action and long-term commitment are required for renewed, healthy
246 and responsible relationships to be built.

247

248 **Rationale of the Reference and Counsel Committee**

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

255

256 **Recommendations of the Reference and Counsel Committee**

257 Refer to Congregational and Synodical Mission.

258

259 **Motion O**

260 **Confirmation**

261 *Submitted by Michael Wollman, Northwest Synod of Wisconsin*

262 Whereas the word "confirmation" does not appear in Scripture or in the Confessions, and;

263 Whereas the ritual and tradition of "confirmation" no longer confers real responsibility for discipleship,
264 leadership, or vocation from congregational leaders to youth emerging from "childish ways", and only
265 really frees most youth from needing to continue to attend to study, worship, service, and receiving the
266 Sacraments with this Church once the requisite number of recorded instances of study, worship, service,
267 and receiving the sacraments needed to achieve "confirmation" have been achieved, and;

268 Whereas the youth are not the future of the Church, but the once and immediate Church, and;

269 Whereas the congregations of this Church who grow spiritually also study, worship, serve, and pray
270 intergenerationally, and;

271 Whereas various (though few) congregations of this Church have discovered avenues toward lifelong
272 intergenerational discipleship among their members either by delaying such rituals of passage known as
273 "confirmation", or by replacing a "confirmation" tradition with an intergenerational model of faith
274 formation and discipleship training, therefore...

275 Be it resolved that the ELCA discontinue published use the term "confirmation" as it relates to the
276 education tradition of the ELCA from all future publications (curricula, Model constitutions, hymnals,
277 etc.), and;

278 Be it further resolved that the congregations of the ELCA discontinue practice of "confirmation" as it
279 relates to the ritual of passage for youth or young adults into voting membership in congregations, and;

280 Be it further resolved that the ELCA fully implement Luther's doctrine of vocation as the rationale and
281 basis for preparation for lifelong discipleship, and;

282 Be it further resolved that the ELCA encourage congregations to develop and establish rituals of passage
283 into adult discipleship and ministry, such that those congregations' baptized members who recognize and
284 who are able to articulate God's call to practice their various vocations and Spiritual gifts as disciples of
285 Christ in the world also receive the public recognition and affirmation of those gifts and vocations by the
286 congregations into which and among whom those individuals live out their vocations and Spiritual gifts,
287 and;

288 Be it further resolved that the congregations of the ELCA become centers of lifelong and
289 intergenerational study of Scripture and catechesis, worship and service, prayer and giving, and,

290 Be it further resolved that the congregations of the ELCA end "confirmation" as ritualized right of youth
291 who have completed required steps and requirements.

292

293 **Rationale of the Reference and Counsel Committee**

294 The Reference and Counsel Committee receives the motion with gratitude. We share these concerns and
295 join the lament that for many confirmation is understood to mark the end of faith formation. We lift up
296 resolves 3, 4 and 5. However the discontinuation of the word and practice of confirmation has
297 ecclesiastical, constitutional and pragmatic implications.

298

299 **Recommendations of the Reference and Counsel Committee**

300 Therefore, we recommend referral of this resolution to ELCA Church Council in consultation with the
301 Conference of Bishops.

302

303 **Motion P**

304 *Motion P was an en bloc amendment.*

305 **Motion Q**

306 ***Appreciation for Bishop Mark Hanson***

307

308 We, the members of the 2013 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America,
309 offer our profound thanksgiving to God for blessing us with the servant leadership of our Presiding
310 Bishop, Mark Hanson.

311

312 We celebrate the Spirit's power that led our brother Mark to answer the call to serve as the chief pastor
313 of this church which serves more than four million people as we strive to live out our baptismal call to
314 love God and to serve our neighbors. Propelled by the assurance of the power of grace, Bishop Hanson
315 has moved throughout this church as both leader and companion, walking alongside synodical bishops,
316 Churchwide staff , Directors for Evangelical Mission, and those involved in regional and local efforts to
317 extend true hospitality to the those whom we see as family and to the strangers who live and work
318 among us, aiding us to see Christ in every face we see.

319

320 We celebrate the Spirit's leading that has enabled him to work tirelessly to enhance dialog among people
321 of faith, with our ecumenical partners and global partners, and with those who long for true peace
322 among the peoples and nations of this world. We give thanks for his formal leadership role as President
323 of the Lutheran World Federation and for his role as companion and friend as he prays for us and for this
324 church.

325

326 We celebrate the humble way in which our brother Mark has embraced the holy privilege of leadership
327 of this church and the way in which he has courageously dared each of us to rekindle the spirit's power,
328 to build upon the strong foundations of our roots, to rattle the dry bones, to ask what will matter, to risk
329 new things being born, to increase our Gospel fluency, to embrace liturgical renewal, to set a table full
330 of welcome for people of every race, tribe, creed, age, gender, ability, and orientation, and to grow in

331 grace and mercy. We have been blessed by our Bishop's leading as we reclaim our role as a public and
332 prophetic church - a strong voice for Jesus Christ in the places where people cry out for justice.

333
334 We give thanks to God for Bishop Hanson's life which continues to be filled with passion for the Gospel
335 and which generously enables others to find their vocational callings and to honor our Lord Jesus Christ.

336
337 With evangelical, missional imagination and thanks to God as we celebrate 25 years together and write
338 the next chapter of Acts for the ELCA, we have for you, these 25 words:

339
340 Deeply rooted, Always new,
341 Word, Witness, Gospel true.
342 Vision, Mission, Creation care,
343 Prayers, Praise, Grace shared.
344 Confident hope, Spirit-renewed.
345 Work. Hands. God in you.

346
347

348 **Motion R**

349 ***Appreciation for Ione Hanson and Family***

350 On behalf of all of the members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, we – the members of
351 the 2013 Churchwide Assembly sincerely thank you for sharing Bishop Mark S. Hanson, with us during
352 the past 12 years.

353 You have had to endure long hours without him.

354 You have had to participate in family events without him.

355 You have had to worry about his health, his safety, and his attention to self-care.

356 For all this and more, we sincerely thank you.

357 Therefore, be it resolved that...

358 It is in Christian love with much gratitude and many warm wishes that we thank you for lending your
359 husband, father and grandfather to us, for exceptional service in this church and to our Lord.

360 Furthermore, we want to thank you Ione, for all you have done to support Mark, your witness and all
361 you have done to build up this church.

362

363 **Motion S**

364 ***Appreciation for Vice President Carlos Pena***

365

366 Whereas;

367 We, the 2013 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, accept the report
368 of Vice President Carlos Pena and thank him for his devoted leadership in this church and for the many
369 and varied ways he supports and represents the ELCA. Although he has served this church as the Vice
370 President for 10 years and in other leadership roles for many more, it is readily evident in his words and
371 deeds that he is always being made new, in his personal life and in his service to our Lord.

372 As the most visible volunteer officer or leader in the ELCA, Carlos continues to be an example of
373 discipleship and service. In his role as chairperson of the meetings of the Church Council and a member
374 of the Council's Executive Committee, he spends a great deal of time preparing for meetings and raising
375 his level of expertise on the issues the Council addresses. Additionally, he travels extensively on behalf
376 of the church, representing the churchwide expression of the ELCA at countless Synod Assemblies, on
377 several international trips, and as a delegate to the Assembly of the World Council of Churches.

378 At a time in his life when he continues to run a business and when his children are living through the
379 great and joyous changes of graduation, marriage and childbirth, we share in the joy Carlos and his wife,
380 Diane, experience and we marvel at the healthy balance he has struck between the family, work, and
381 church aspects of his life.

382 Be it resolved that;

383 It is with deep appreciation and great admiration that we thank Carlos Pena for his service to this church
384 and to our Lord, Jesus Christ.

385

386 **Motion T**
387 ***Appreciation for Secretary David Swartling***

388

389 Whereas;

390 We, the 2013 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, accept the report
391 of Secretary David Swartling and thank him for his faithful and tireless work on behalf of this church
392 and of the Lord. David's six years as Secretary have proven him to be a devoted disciple of Christ and a
393 true Lutheran Missionary. In fact, it could be said that he is (with apologies to Gilbert and Sullivan) The
394 Very Model of a Modern ELCA Secretary.

395 He loves all things Constitutional and easily translates them to be institutional.

396 His ideas are truly visional, while also always being missional.

397 When our church needs guidance in areas fiduciary, his ideas and gifts are revolutionary.

398 His methods are always contemplative, even on issues legislative.

399 In dealing with the church's governance, he never leaves anything to happenstance.

400 In areas of this church considered operational, his efforts border on computational.

401 He can wax poetic on issues political, without ever sounding homiletical.

402 His work ethic is purely methodical, especially on relationships synodical.

403 When topics turn governmental, he is anything but ornamental.

404 When he needed to deal with disaffiliation, he did it without a hint of miscommunication.

405 He has safely guided our church from a cycle biennial to a new idea – a cycle triennial.

406 His work among us uneraseable, in fact, he may be nearly irreplaceable.

407 We laud his fleet-footedness, and we praise God for his deep-rootedness.

408 Though we bid him farewell blueely, we rejoice in knowing he is always being made new-ly.

409 He is the very model of a modern ELCA Secretary.

410 Therefore, be it resolved that;

411 It is with fondness, gratitude, and warm wishes for a smooth transition to the next phase of his life, that
412 we thank David Swartling for his service to this church and to our Lord, Jesus Christ.

413

414 **Motion U**

415 ***Resolution of Appreciation for Treasurer Linda Norman***

416 We, the members of the 2013 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America,
417 thank Pr. Linda Norman, for her extraordinary leadership as the treasurer of the ELCA. We give thanks
418 for her deep roots in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, for her careful management of the financial systems that
419 safeguard and steward the financial, property, and individual resources that have been shared across this
420 church for the sake of our mutual goals. We give thanks for her leadership as she assists this church in
421 the transition in systems of gift management, information and security management, and in systems
422 automation. We give thanks for her vision as she helps this church in reaching out in new ways,
423 especially as we grow our social and electronic ministry presence among God's people. For Pr. Norman's
424 special gifts and talents, for her dedication to excellence, and for her work in mentoring others as they
425 grow in their vocational calls we say "Thanks be to God!"

426

427 **Motion V**

428 ***Resolution of Appreciation and Thanksgiving for the Churchwide Staff***

429

430 Be it resolved:

431 We, the members of the 2013 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
432 express gratitude for the Churchwide staff, who work year-round to support the growth and mission of
433 our Church. We are thankful for the many hours of preparation that have allowed us to be "Paperless in
434 Pittsburgh."

435 Striving to grow and challenge our church we thank the work of the staff on all the special projects. We
436 also express thanks to the members of the staff who have and will continue to help this church through
437 their work in Mission Advancement, Congregational and Synodical Mission, Global Mission, Research
438 and Evaluation, Federal Chaplaincy, and Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Relations.

439 We further thank the work of the staff in the Office of the Presiding Bishop, the Office of the Secretary,
440 and the Office of the Treasurer. We continue to keep the staff and their work in our prayers.

441

442 **Motion W**

443

444 ***Resolution of Appreciation and Thanksgiving for Hospitality***

445 Be it resolved:

446 We, the members of the 2013 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America deeply
447 thank Pittsburgh and the Bishop's staff and congregations of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod for
448 hosting this assembly. For the daily supply of two hundred and twenty dozen homemade cookies, the
449 loving hands that bakes them and the red-vested, well informed volunteers, we give thanks. The
450 hospitality displayed can simply be described as radical.

451 We express great thanks for the local and diverse selection of music that filled our worship services
452 throughout the week. The talented worship leaders and musicians reminded us that music is constantly
453 making us anew.
454 The city of Pittsburgh has only further encouraged the church's path toward an environmentally
455 conscience and friendly being. The David L. Lawrence Convention Center has shown us the many ways
456 we can conserve the resources of God' creation.
457
458