



2022 Churchwide Assembly Report of the Reference and Counsel Committee – Report 3

Thursday, August 11, 2022

Motion L

Resolution of Appreciation for Church Council Members who are Ending their Terms of Service in 2022

We, the members of the 2022 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, give thanks to God for the members of the Church Council who will be concluding their six-year terms at this Assembly. We wish to thank these 13 individuals for their dedicated service to this church during their terms, and to acknowledge that their service included membership on task forces, ad hoc committees, attendance at synod assemblies, and representation of this church in global, national, and local forums:

- Ms. Lisa Burk
- Ms. Cheryl Chatman
- Ms. Alyssa Cobb
- Mr. Ismael Danforth
- Pr. Dena Gable
- Pr. Daniel Gerrits
- Mr. Jim Jennings
- Mr. Joe Nolte
- Mr. Gary Pederson
- Mr. Bill Rice
- Pr. Ricardo Rivera
- Ms. Sonja Wolfe
- Ms. Merritt Zesinger

We appreciate their tireless work of renewing and growing the church's mission. We continue to keep them and their work, which is our work, in prayer.

Motion M

Resolution of Appreciation for Churchwide Staff

The members of the 2022 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America gathered in Columbus, Ohio, thank the churchwide organization and staff for their hard work and dedication to the mission of Christ in this church. We thank God for their willingness to serve as a part of the everyday lifeblood of this church both here in the United States and globally.

We thank each of the offices and units of the Churchwide organization:

- Office of the Presiding Bishop
- Office of the Secretary
- Office of the Treasurer
- Christian Community and Leadership
- Service and Justice

- Innovation

We are church together in Christ because of this churchwide organization's willingness to continue renewing and growing our church in both acceptance of others and what it means to truly live the Gospel.

Motion N

Resolution of Appreciation for Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton

We, the members of the 2022 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, give thanks to God for the leadership of our Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton.

We celebrate her dedication to inclusivity, inter-faith relationships, ecumenism, and anti-racism. Her witness of loving our neighbors inspires us to live the gospel in the same way.

We give thanks for her courage in leading us into opposition as we continue to work against racism, from the Declaration of the ELCA to People of African Descent, to Black Lives Matter, to the Apology to Iglesia Luterana Santa María Peregrina, and to the many injustices suffered by those who marginalized or oppressed. She, furthermore, led the churchwide organization, our synods, and our congregations through the multitude of challenges—theological, practical, logistical, legal, financial, and organizational—resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic beginning in 2020 and continuing to this day.

We congratulate her for expertly presiding over this, her third Churchwide Assembly, and for her eloquent and inspiring report to the assembly and for sharing with us her intellect, wit, faith, prophetic voice, and boundless grace and patience.

Motion O

Resolution of Appreciation for Interim Vice President Carlos E. Peña

The voting members of the 2022 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America wish to express their gratitude and appreciation for your service as interim vice president following the untimely death of ELCA Vice President Bill Horne on August 14, 2021. Despite having served 19 years as a member of the Church Council, including 13 years as vice president, you willingly returned to complete the remaining term until your successor's term begins. You embody the word, and we extend our thanks to you, Interim Vice President Carlos Peña.

We are church, we are church together! And through your tireless example of unwavering fortitude as a servant-leader, together we have and are becoming better equipped and positioned to effectuate change for the sake of the world. We do so in our efforts as judicious stewards, as advocates for social justice, in our care and protection of God's creation, as we stand in solidarity with and respond to those in need and, most importantly, as we proclaim and share the gospel that is ours in Jesus Christ.

We profess that a good steward is one who gives of his or her time, talent, and treasures. To do so with humility, determination, and prayer-inspired guidance is indicative of what we have come to know and appreciate in you.

Thank you, Carlos; for you are indeed a "good and faithful servant."

Motion P

Resolution of Appreciation for Secretary Sue Rothmeyer

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America meeting in assembly gives thanks to God for the service of Deacon Sue Rothmeyer as ELCA Secretary. We give thanks for her leadership of the new office of the secretary, her attentiveness and passion for the governing documents of this church, for her management of the rosters of ministers of this church, and her oversight of roster and congregation report and statistics. In addition, we recognize her leadership, oversight, and work with synodical bishop elections as well as her work with the Committees on Appeals and Discipline.

We appreciate her commitment to supporting congregations, synods, and churchwide organization on matters relating to the ELCA Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions as well as legal matters. Her commitment to fostering synodical relations with the churchwide organization helps us be church together.

We acknowledge the many challenges and tremendous work involved in planning this 16th Churchwide Assembly. We give thanks for her leadership, energy, and dedication of the Office of the Secretary in preparing and planning this assembly. And we thank her for her gracious and attentive leadership during this assembly. We offer our prayers for her service as Secretary in the coming triennium.

Motion Q

Resolution of Appreciation for Treasurer Lori Fedyk

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America meeting in assembly gives thanks to God for the service of Treasurer Lori Fedyk. We appreciate her skilled leadership of the Office of the Treasurer her attentiveness to the role of proposing policies and providing for the implementation of the financial accounting, audit granting, banking, investment, property and information technology systems. We give thanks for her shepherding of the last triennium budget and her keen preparation for the 2023-2025 budget adopted without amendment at this assembly.

We recognize her leadership of the Treasurer's office this past triennium to initiate a new churchwide financial system and navigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Churchwide organization. We note Lori's leadership in addressing cost savings, managing grants, seeking sustainable fundraising models, upgrading technology, and fostering greater collaboration tools within the churchwide organization.

We offer our prayers and support to Lori and the Office of the Treasurer as they address their goals for the next triennium as outlined in the Report of the Treasurer. Furthermore, we thank Lori for her gracious, insightful and collaborative leadership at this assembly, that has assisted the assembly to find its voice on fiscal and budget matters.

Motion R

Resolution of Appreciation for Nominees for Election

The members of the 2022 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America gathered in Columbus, Ohio, thank for all those who put their names forward for election at this assembly. We thank God for their willingness to consider taking on important roles within our church. From those nominees for Vice President, to those who stood for Church Council, and all those who stood for other churchwide committees and boards of separately incorporated ministries we give thanks. We are church together because of those willing to place their names forward and serve our church in this way.

Motion S

Resolution of Appreciation for Churchwide Committees Roll of Assembly Members

The members of the 2022 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America gathered in Columbus, Ohio, thank all those who served on the committees of this assembly. We thank God for those individuals that gave of their time and talent to ensure the work of this assembly could be carried out.

We thank each of the committees and their members of this assembly for their work:

- Churchwide Assembly Planning Committee;
- Credentials Committee;
- Elections Committee;
- Local Arrangements Committee;
- Memorials Committee;
- Minutes Team;
- Nominating Committee;
- Reference and Counsel Committee; and
- Worship Committee and our worship leaders and musicians.

We also extend our deep gratitude to all those volunteers that worked tirelessly throughout the assembly with such good humor and hospitality.

Motion T

Resolution of Appreciation for Ecumenical and Inter-religious guests

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America meeting in assembly give thanks to God for the presence and partnership of our ecumenical guests. The assembly has been blessed by their participation in this assembly and we give thanks for their contributions to our life together as the church. They embody the global nature of the church and remind us how we are connected globally as the people of God. We give thanks to God for these ecumenical and global partners who have joined with us this week at this assembly either in person or by sharing video greetings:

- The Most Rev. Michael Curry, Presiding Bishop and Primate of The Episcopal Church
- The Most Rev. Linda Nicholls, Archbishop and Primate of The Anglican Church of Canada
- Rev. Anne Burghardt, General Secretary, Lutheran World Federation
- Rev. Eddy Alemán, General Secretary, Reformed Church in America
- Salmoon Bashir, Ecumenical and Interreligious Office of the Episcopal Church

- Bishop Sally Dyck, Ecumenical Officer of the Council Bishops, United Methodist Church
- Rev. Protopresbyter Dr. Nicolas Kazarian, Director, Department of Inter-Orthodox, Ecumenical & Interfaith Relations, Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America
- Rev. Walter J. Kedjerski, Ph.D., Executive Director, Secretariat for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
- Bishop Denis J. Madden, Titular Bishop of Baia, Auxiliary Bishop of Baltimore, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Co-Chair, Lutheran-Catholic Dialogue in the United States
- Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie, Interim President and General Secretary, National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA
- Rev. Dr. Betsy Miller, President, Moravian Church Northern Province
- The Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson, Stated Clerk, Presbyterian Church USA
- Rev. Mark Pettis, Ecumenical and Interfaith Relationships Manager, United Church of Christ
- The Rev. Margaret Rose, Deputy to the Presiding Bishop for Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations, The Episcopal Church
- Dr. Monica Schaap Pierce, Executive Director, Christian Churches Together in the USA
- Rev. Sonia Skupch, Regional Secretary, Latin America and the Caribbean & North America, Lutheran World Federation
- Rev. Dr. Jack Sullivan, Jr., Executive Director, Ohio Council of Churches
- Rev. Paul S. Tch , President, Christian Unity and Interfaith Ministry, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Furthermore, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America meeting in assembly give thanks to God for the presence and partnership of our inter-religious guests. Their participation at this assembly reminds us of our commitment to love our neighbor and to deepen our commitment to seek mutual understanding with our neighbors of other religions and worldviews. May their presence continue to assist us on the road with our neighbors of other religions and worldviews as instruments of God’s justice and peace. We give thanks to God for the presence this week of Dr. Tarunjit Singh Butalia, Executive Director, Religions for Peace USA, Imam Saffet Catovic, Head of ISNA Office for Interfaith Alliances, Community Alliances, and Government Relations, and Rabbi Esther L. Lederman, Director of Congregational Innovation, Union for Reform Judaism, Co-Chair, Shoulder to Shoulder Campaign: Standing with American Muslims, Advancing American Ideals.

Motion U

Resolution of Appreciation and Thanksgiving for Hospitality

As we conclude our fellowship together this week we acknowledge that we have assembled on the original and ancestral homelands of the Shawnee, Miami, and Kaskaskia peoples, and we give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We also wish to recognize and honor all our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this land their home.

The members of the 2022 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America deeply thank the City of Columbus, the Southern Ohio Synod, and Region 6 for hosting this Assembly, for their hospitality, assistance, warmth, and generous spirit and for all things buckeye and saints and sinners refreshments.

We give thanks for the Greater Columbus Convention Center for their accommodations, for their assistance in helping us assemble together in prayer and business, facilitating our ability to worship boldly, for providing us with laughs in their lifelike police officer statue, and for serving as a focal point in the work of this church.

We give thanks for the Hyatt Regency, Hilton, and Sonesta hotels for giving us a place to rest and reflect on our time together. We also give thanks to the hotel staff, Greater Columbus Convention Center staff, and restaurant workers of Columbus for their hard work and gracious hospitality.

The City of Columbus embodies a beautiful expression of what it means to be church, and we thank them for welcoming us into their city so warmly.