



Report of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Summary of Meetings August 7, 2016

The eighty-seventh meeting of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) was convened on Sunday, August 7, 2016, in Grand Ballroom C of the Sheraton New Orleans Hotel, 500 Canal Street, New Orleans, La. Mr. Carlos E. Peña, vice president of the ELCA and chair of the Church Council, called the meeting to order at 2:29 p.m.

Voted: **CC16.08.17**
To adopt the agenda and to permit the chair to call for consideration of agenda items in the order the chair deems most appropriate.

Voted: **CC16.08.18**
To approve the following citation:

Mr. Carlos E. Peña has for 13 years devoted generous amounts of time and offered his gifts of leadership in his calling as vice president of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The vice president serves as chair of the Church Council meetings and the council's Executive Committee. He has done so with conscientious ability and a gracious manner. He has engaged all members of the council in thoughtful decision-making and diligent service as the board of directors of the churchwide organization.

During his tenure, Carlos demonstrated forthright commitment to the faith and genuine compassion for the people in congregations and communities throughout the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. He fulfilled his responsibilities with abundant generosity by:

- Sharing God's love and providing insightful devotions on the church's mission;
- Being inspired and guided by faith to preside with fairness and care for each member of the council;
- Balancing the commitment to listen to all voices with the demands of presiding over tight agendas;
- Seeking to make visible the unity that is ours in Christ amidst the unique gifts of Christian diversity;
- Visiting other countries on behalf of the ELCA and witnessing God at work through the people locally and globally;
- Serving the church at numerous synod assemblies and on the World Council of Churches Central Committee;
- Honoring the past while envisioning the future and trusting God during tumultuous and enormous change; and
- Keeping constant focus on the commitments of this church and providing diligence in service to members of this whole church.

We give thanks to God for the contributions Carlos has made to the life of this church. Although Carlos has chosen to conclude his service as vice president, we remember Ecclesiastes 3: "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven." Carlos will continue his dedication to witness and service in daily life in the variety of other activities that he undertakes. In the passing of his responsibilities as vice president to his successor, may God grant him persistent hope in the Gospel we proclaim and delight in remembering the privilege of serving as the fourth vice president of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Upon action of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the *Servus Dei* Award is conferred upon Mr. Carlos E. Peña, vice president of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, November 1, 2003-October 31, 2016.

Voted: **CC16.08.19**
To acknowledge with appreciation the action of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin to maintain the percentage of sharing of 2016 Mission Support contributions by congregations for synod and churchwide ministries but estimating an adjustment in the projected amount to be shared; and

To further affirm that we will steward these gifts to maximize their impact in mission for the sake of God's work. Our hands. in the world.

Voted: CCI6.08.20

To acknowledge with gratitude the action of the Southwestern Minnesota Synod to increase the percentage of sharing of 2016 Mission Support by congregations for synod and churchwide ministries; and

To further affirm that we will steward these gifts to maximize their impact in mission for the sake of God's work. Our hands. in the world.

Voted:

CCI6.08.21

As a grateful church that affirms the partnership of congregation, synod and churchwide expressions, we affirm the percentage of sharing of 2016 Mission Support by congregations for synod and churchwide ministries:

Metropolitan Chicago Synod and Rocky Mountain Synod;

As a Church Council, we thank the bishops and synod leaders of every synod as they strive to be faithful to shared commitments within the ELCA and direct synod and churchwide staff, including the directors for evangelical mission, to deepen their partnership in efforts to strengthen financial support for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; and

We will steward these gifts to maximize their impact in mission for the sake of God's work. Our hands. in the world.

Voted:

CCI6.08.22

As a grateful church that affirms the partnership of congregation, synod and churchwide expressions, we acknowledge the actions of the following synods and affirm the percentage of sharing of 2017 Mission Support by congregations for synod and churchwide ministries:

Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod and Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod;

As a Church Council, we thank the bishops and synod leaders of every synod as they strive to be faithful to shared commitments within the ELCA and direct synod and churchwide staff, including the directors for evangelical mission, to deepen their partnership in efforts to strengthen financial support for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; and

We further affirm that we will steward these gifts to maximize their impact in mission for the sake of God's work, our hands in the world.

Voted:

CCI6.08.23

To acknowledge with appreciation the action of the Southwestern Minnesota Synod to maintain the percentage of sharing of 2017 Mission Support contributions by congregations for synod and churchwide ministries but estimating an adjustment in the projected amount to be shared; and

To further affirm that we will steward these gifts to maximize their impact in mission for the sake of God's work. Our hands. in the world.

Voted:

CCI6.08.24

As a grateful church that affirms the partnership of congregation, synod and churchwide expressions, we affirm the percentage of sharing of 2017 Mission Support by congregations for synod and churchwide ministries by the Metropolitan Chicago Synod;

As a Church Council, we thank the bishops and synod leaders of every synod as they strive to be faithful to shared commitments within the ELCA and direct synod and churchwide staff, including the directors for evangelical mission, to deepen their partnership in efforts to strengthen financial support for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; and

We will steward these gifts to maximize their impact in mission for the sake of God's work. Our hands. in the world.

Voted:

CCI6.08.25

To take action *en bloc* on the following items.

Voted: En Bloc

CCI6.08.25a

To ratify the following appointments of continuing members of the Church Council to Church Council committees for the 2016-2019 triennium:

Budget and Finance Committee: Mr. Hans E. Becklin, Pr. Elizabeth E. Ekdale, Mr. Gary D. Gabrielson, Pr. Vicki T. Garber, Ms. Meri Jo Petrivelli, Mr. Clarence M. Smith, Ms. Ingrid S. Stafford, Pr. William O. Voss and Pr. Michael R. Ward

Legal and Constitutional Review Committee: Ms. Amanda E. Briggs, Ms. Marjorie B. Ellis, Pr. Stephen R. Herr, Ms. Maren Hulden, Mr. James M. Hushagen, Mr. John W. Lohrmann and Mr. Vernon K. Veal

Planning and Evaluation Committee: Mr. Allan J. Bieber, Mr. Reid A. Christopherson, Ms. Christine P. Connell, Pr. William E. Flippin Jr., Pr. Joyce M. Graue, Pr. Linda Nou, Mr. John M. Pederson, Pr. Jonathan Splichal Larson and Pr. James H. Utt

Program and Services Committee: Mr. Paul G. Archer, Bp. William O. Gafkjen, Ms. Cynthia M. Gustavson, Pr. Peder J. Johanson, Pr. Loren D. Mellum, Ms. Pamela E. Pritt and Ms. Leslie J. Swenson

Voted: En Bloc

CC16.08.25b

To authorize the continuing members of the Executive Committee to serve as the Executive Committee of the Church Council between the close of the Churchwide Assembly on August 13, 2016, and the November 2016 meeting of the Church Council.

Voted: En Bloc

CC16.08.25c

To receive the written report of the Office of the Secretary on nominees for the Churchwide Nominating Committee;

To note that bylaw 19.21.01 states in regard to the Nominating Committee: “The Church Council shall place in nomination the names of two persons for each position. The committee shall consist of at least one member but no more than three members from any region. Nominations from the floor shall also be permitted, but each floor nomination shall be presented as an alternative to a specific category named by the Church Council and shall therefore meet the same criteria as the persons against whom the nominee is nominated. In the materials provided in advance to each member of the assembly, the Church Council shall set forth the criteria applicable to each category that must be met by persons nominated from the floor”;

To request, therefore, that the Church Council restrict the tickets to the following: ordained minister (PC/L); ordained minister; lay female (Region 7); lay male (Region 2); lay male (Region 3); lay male (Region 6); lay male (Y/YA); and

To request that the Church Council transmit the following slate of nominees to the 2016 Churchwide Assembly:

CHURCHWIDE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Ordained Minister (PC/L)

- A. Pr. Manuel Retamoza, San Diego, Calif. (2C)
- B. Pr. Nathan V.A. Luong, Saint Peter, Minn. (3F)

Ordained Minister

- A. Pr. Brandi Jo Hacker, Madison, Ohio (6E)
- B. Pr. Kathryn A. Tiede, Lino Lakes, Minn. (3H)

Lay Female (Region 7)

- A. Ms. Joyce D. Adams, East Lansdowne, Pa. (7F)
- B. Ms. Julie P. Grindle, Baldwinsville, N.Y. (7D)

Lay Male (Region 2)

- A. Mr. Robert T. Flynn, Woodland Hills, Calif. (2B)
- B. Mr. Louis Moehlman, Garden Grove, Calif. (2C)

Lay Male (Region 3)

- A. Mr. Zachary C. Baker, Minneapolis, Minn. (3G)
- B. Mr. Raul Garcia III, Brooklyn Park, Minn. (3G)

Lay Male (Region 6)

- A. Mr. Roy E. Hart, Lancaster, Ohio (6F)
- B. Mr. Bryan L. Penvose, Valley City, Ohio (6E)

Lay Male (Y/YA)

- A. Mr. Samuel F. Schlouch, Rock Island, Ill. (5B)
- B. Mr. Samuel P. Swenson-Reinhold, Fairfax, Va. (8G)

Voted: En Bloc

CC16.08.25d

To receive, with gratitude, the resolution of the Greater Milwaukee Synod related to Justice for the Holy Land through Responsible Investment; and

To acknowledge the action of the 2016 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as the response of the Church Council to the resolution from this synod.

The eighty-seventh meeting of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America adjourned Sunday, August 7, 2016, at 4:47 p.m.

November 10-13, 2016

The eighty-eighth meeting of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) was convened in the Council Room of the Lutheran Center at Chicago, Ill. Mr. William B. Horne II, vice president of the ELCA and chair of the Church Council, called the meeting to order on Thursday, Nov. 10, 2016, at 3:29 p.m.

Voted: **CC16.11.26**

To adopt the agenda and to permit the chair to call for consideration of agenda items in the order the chair deems most appropriate.

Voted: **CC16.11.27**

To approve the minutes of April 7-10, 2016, and August 7, 2016, meetings of the Church Council; and
To ratify actions of the council's Executive Committee as indicated in the minutes of the April 7, 2016, May 17, 2016, June 7, 2016, August 7, 2016, September 21, 2016, and October 6, 2016, meetings.

Voted: **CC16.11.28**

To elect Ms. Emilee M. Le Blanc, Dearborn, Mich. [6A], to the Church Council for a term ending in 2019.
To elect the Rev. Karin I. Liebster, Houston, Texas [4F], to the Church Council for a term ending August 31, 2017.

Voted: **CC16.11.29**

To ratify the appointments to the Church Council committees and other advisory responsibilities for the 2016–2019 triennium as detailed in the “2016-2019 Church Council Committee List.”

Voted: **CC16.11.30**

To affirm the process for the election of the Executive Committee for the 2016-2019 triennium.

Voted: **CC16.11.31**

To acknowledge the commitment of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to have “greater interaction of members of the Church Council with synod councils and synod assemblies in their respective areas”;

To urge members of the Church Council to accept this responsibility and interact with their own synods and their partner synods in various ways, including attending at least one Synod Council meeting per year and participating in synod assemblies, especially in years when a synod is considering nominations to the Church Council; and

To note that expenses for attending Synod Council meetings and synod assemblies will be reimbursed by the churchwide organization in accordance with the ELCA travel policy.

Voted: **CC16.11.32**

To authorize the Theological Education Advisory Committee to require those proposing theological education initiatives to complete a designated assessment tool that defines the initiative and its impact. The assessment results will be used to prioritize financial and other resources.

Voted: **CC16.11.33**

To encourage synods and direct the churchwide organization to maintain financial support for seminaries for 2017 without a percentage reduction for special incentives.

Voted: **CC16.11.34**

To elect Ms. Marjorie B. Ellis, Ms. Maren Hulden and Mr. Allan J. Bieber to a term ending in 2019 on the Executive Committee of the Church Council.

Voted:

CC16.11.35

To acknowledge with appreciation the action of the Northwestern Pennsylvania Synod to maintain the percentage of sharing of 2016 mission support contributions by congregations for synod and churchwide ministries but estimating an adjustment in the projected amount to be shared; and

To further affirm that we will steward these gifts to maximize their impact in mission for the sake of God's work. Our hands. in the world.

Voted:

CC16.11.36

To acknowledge with appreciation the action of the following synods to maintain the percentage of sharing of 2017 mission support contributions by congregations for synod and churchwide ministries but estimating an adjustment in the projected amount to be shared:

Delaware-Maryland, Southern Ohio, Southeastern Pennsylvania, Upper Susquehanna and Upstate New York synods; and

To further affirm that we will steward these gifts to maximize their impact in mission for the sake of God's work. Our hands. in the world.

Voted:

CC16.11.37

As a grateful church that affirms the partnership of congregation, synod and churchwide expressions, we affirm the percentage of sharing of 2017 mission support by congregations for synod and churchwide ministries:

Lower Susquehanna and Nebraska synods;

As a Church Council, we thank the bishops and synod leaders of every synod as they strive to be faithful to shared commitments within the ELCA and to direct synod and churchwide staff, including the directors for evangelical mission, to deepen their partnership in efforts to strengthen financial support for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; and

We will steward these gifts to maximize their impact in mission for the sake of God's work. Our hands. in the world.

Voted:

CC16.11.38

To approve a revised 2017 fiscal year current fund spending authorization of \$67,210,025.

Voted:

CC16.11.39

To terminate the ELCA Supplemental Retirement Benefits Trust ("Trust") and the ELCA Continuation of the ALC and LCA Minimum and Non-Contributory Pension Plan ("Pension Plan"), including satisfaction of the Pension Plan's liabilities, and to establish a general account to reserve potential liabilities associated with the ELCA Supplemental Retirement Plan for Government Chaplains ("Chaplains Plan"); and

To transfer the excess amounts ("Residual") remaining after full satisfaction of the Pension Plan's liabilities and reservation of potential liabilities associated with the Chaplains Plan to help satisfy the 2016 ELCA Retiree Medical Obligation.

Voted:

CC16.11.40

To establish a task force to consider whether the ELCA Foundation should be separately incorporated from the churchwide organization or otherwise reorganized, and to make recommendations on governance and structure;

To appoint the following members to the task force: Ms. Ingrid S. Stafford, Evanston, Ill., as chair; Secretary Wm Chris Boerger; Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton; Ms. Marjorie B. Ellis, Worthington, Ohio; Mr. Eric Golberg, Hudson, N.Y.; Ms. Christina Jackson-Skelton, executive director of the Mission Advancement unit; Treasurer Linda O. Norman; the Rev. Thomas A. Skrenes, bishop of the Northern Great Lakes Synod;

To appoint the following ELCA churchwide staff as resource people to the task force: the Rev. M. Wyvetta Bullock, executive for administration; Mr. Thomas A. Cunniff, associate general counsel; Ms. Annette C. Shoemaker, director for the ELCA Foundation; and

To authorize the Executive Committee of the Church Council to appoint additional members to the task force as needed.

Voted:

CC16.11.41

To approve Chapters 1-12 of the proposed bylaws of The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, to be subsequently known as United Lutheran Seminary;

To request that the seminary review Chapter 13 (Dissolution Clause); and

To authorize the Executive Committee to approve Chapter 13.

Voted:

CC16.11.42

To adopt Called Forward Together in Christ — ELCA Strategic Directions 2017-2025;

To affirm the Conference of Bishops, under the leadership of its chair, will discuss its role and approach for implementing the strategic directions at its March 2017 meeting;

To commit to a first phase of implementing the strategic directions during 2017 with attention to the following critical elements:

- a. Developing a well-planned communication strategy that gives the statement visibility and promotes understanding and engagement in the continuing process of Called Forward Together in Christ
 - b. Disseminating ELCA Strategic Directions 2017-2025 across this church with targeted information for different audiences
 - c. Using the Spring 2017 council retreat to progress thinking on strategy and implementation of the goals and priorities, with a special focus on governance
 - d. Coordinating its launch with this church's observance of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation
 - e. Developing a process to engage congregations across this church in active conversation about the ELCA's identity and helping them understand the directions in their context. This could be introduced through synod assemblies and be supported by resources and tools, with an aim to roll out a process to all congregations simultaneously in October
 - f. Using the Rostered Ministers Gathering as a strategic opportunity to engage ELCA ministers in understanding and contributing to implementation of the strategic directions
 - g. Developing resources that keep the strategic directions rooted in Scripture
 - h. Aligning the churchwide operational planning to the goals and priority areas for action
 - i. Beginning work on the metrics and information that will enable the ELCA to monitor; and
- To express appreciation for Ms. Lyla Rogan, who served as consultant for this process.

Voted:

CC16.11.43

To approve the revised committee charters.

Voted:

CC16.11.44

To stand with and support Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton as she stands with and supports the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe as an expression of this church's ministry of reconciliation.

Voted: Two-Thirds Vote

CC16.11.45

To adopt *en bloc* the following amendments to continuing resolutions of the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* as follows.

15.12.H16. Responsibility for Worship

Responsibility for leadership of the worship life of this church shall be exercised by the Office of the Presiding Bishop. In doing so, efforts shall be undertaken to support the worship ministry of the church, oversee the development and review of worship resources intended for use throughout this church, and recommend, through the presiding bishop, policies related to worship and sacramental practices to the Church Council and the Churchwide Assembly.

a. To fulfill these responsibilities, the executive for worship, appointed by the presiding bishop, shall:

1) assist the presiding bishop of this church in carrying out the role of presiding over the ministry of Word and Sacrament;

2) introduce and interpret worship resources developed for use throughout this church;

3) direct this church's process for liturgical review in accord with policy adopted by the Church Council;

- 4) *study and advise this church in matters of sacramental practice;*
 - 5) *assist the synods, congregations and churchwide units of this church in carrying out the ministry of worship, maintaining a network of partners in order to be responsive to the diversity of worship practices of this church;*
 - 6) *develop and implement worship for churchwide assemblies and other churchwide events;*
 - 7) *represent the presiding bishop and the churchwide organization to other church bodies on matters related to worship; and*
 - 8) *be responsible for the Lutheran Center Chapel and for providing worship opportunities for the churchwide organization.*
- b. The executive for worship shall provide, through the Publishing House of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, worship resources and shall support the development of a variety of congregational resources that are consistent with the proclamation, prayer, worship, and sacramental practices of this church.*

16.12.A16. Domestic Mission Unit

The Domestic Mission unit shall foster and facilitate the work of synods, congregations, and partners in making congregations vital centers for mission and in creating coalitions and networks to promote justice and peace. Its work includes creating and revitalizing congregations; leadership development; ~~providing worship and liturgical resources;~~ enhancing discipleship; supporting multicultural ministries and the commitment of this church to inclusivity; fostering relationships with educational partners; facilitating the engagement of this church in advocacy; and related activities that serve the evangelical mission of synods and congregations. The Domestic Mission unit shall relate to the Deaconess Community, Lutheran Men in Mission, National Lutheran Campus Ministry, Inc., Educational and Institutional Insurance Administrators, Inc., and the Evangelical Lutheran Education Association.

17.40.A11, A16. Responsibilities of the Publishing House of the ELCA

The Publishing House of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America—also known as ~~Augsburg Fortress, Publishers 1517 Media~~—shall:

- a. *be responsible for the publishing, production, and distribution of publications to be sold to accomplish the mission of this church.*
- b. *work in close cooperation with congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization to provide a diversity of published resources.*
- c. *relate to other work with churchwide units ~~through resource planning groups to plan the publication of materials to assist congregations in fulfilling their life in mission. shall be developed in coordination with other appropriate churchwide units. Development costs will be paid by the unit developing the publication.~~*
- d. *develop, produce, and distribute materials required to carry out its functions.*
- e. *be financed from the sale and distribution of materials, not from the budget of this church.*
- f. *create, develop, and publish a diversity of resources in various media; make available other publications, materials, and church supplies; produce ~~the~~ official documents and publications of this church; and produce materials in a manner that assures their ready availability.*
- g. *establish a distribution center, as well as utilize other means provide for the wide distribution of resources within and beyond this church.*
- h. *manage its finances and other resources in a manner that assures the continuity and extension of its activities. This publishing house shall maintain its own accounting, ~~data processing, personnel, pension, information technology, human resources, employee benefits~~ and other functions essential to a cohesive, efficient, and effective operation.*
- i. *identify and nurture talented authors, composers, artists, and others involved in creating various media.*
- j. *produce and distribute the church periodical in accord with provisions of this church's constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions.*
- k. *determine its necessary financial reserves, appropriations, and publishing subsidies.*
- l. *make available resources to meet unique language and cultural needs, as feasible.*

Voted: **CC16.11.46**
To take *en bloc* action on the remaining items listed in *En Bloc* Items, Responses to Churchwide Assembly Actions and Responses to Synodical Resolutions.

Voted: En Bloc **CC16.11.46a**
To approve the appointment of the following to the ELCA Audit Committee for a two-year term expiring in November 2018: Mr. Richard D. Wehrheim III and Mr. James P. Zils.

Voted: En Bloc **CC16.11.46b**
To approve the report of the ELCA Audit Committee describing their review of the audited financial statements, management letter, and response of management for the churchwide organization's fiscal year ending January 31, 2016.

Voted: En Bloc **CC16.11.46c1**
To amend the resolution regarding Appointment of Assistant Officers [CC16.04.16b1] as follows.

RESOLVED, that for the sole purpose of executing, when necessary, documents approved and authorized in accordance with actions of the Church Council, the following are hereby appointed as assistant vice presidents of this corporation: M. Wyvetta Bullock, Walter S. May, Marcus R. Kunz, and Jodi L. Slattery, to serve until replaced or removed by subsequent appointments, with such subsequent appointments to be based upon the nomination and recommendation of the Presiding Bishop;

RESOLVED, that for the sole purpose of executing, when necessary, documents approved and authorized in accordance with actions of the Church Council, the following are hereby appointed as assistant treasurers of this corporation: Cecilia Favela, Christina Jackson-Skelton, Christopher Carpenter ~~Majors~~, and Annette Roman, to serve until replaced or removed by subsequent appointments, with such subsequent appointments to be based upon the nomination and recommendation of the Treasurer;

RESOLVED, that for the sole purpose of executing or attesting, when necessary, documents approved and authorized in accordance with actions of the Church Council, the following are hereby appointed as assistant secretaries of this corporation: Phillip H. Harris, ~~Laura L. Knitt~~, Sue E. Rothmeyer, and Thomas A. Cunniff, to serve until replaced or removed by subsequent appointments, with such subsequent appointments to be based upon the nomination and recommendation of the Secretary;

RESOLVED, that prior resolutions adopted by this Council, including CC15.04.31b and the prior actions identified in CC15.04.31b, addressing the appointment of assistant officers are hereby rescinded and replaced by this action.

Voted: En Bloc **CC16.11.46c2**
To amend the resolution regarding Authorization to Engage in Commercial Transactions [CC15.11.45] as follows.

RESOLVED, that the Treasurer, ~~or in the absence or unavailability of the Treasurer two assistant treasurers,~~ and any one of the Presiding Bishop (President), Secretary, or Executive for Administration are appointed as a committee having the authority of the Church Council in the management of the business affairs of this corporation to *authorize, approve, and execute* on behalf of this corporation, transactions with a value of \$250,000 or greater, not involving real property or the borrowing of funds, to which the corporation is a party, including, but not limited to, conveyances, assignments, contracts, notes, bills of sale, purchases and sales of securities, and financing statements;

RESOLVED, that the Treasurer, or in the absence or unavailability of the Treasurer, any one of the Presiding Bishop (President), Secretary, or Executive for Administration, has the authority of the Church Council in the management of the business affairs of this corporation to *authorize and approve*, on behalf of this corporation, transactions with a value of at least \$30,000 but less than \$250,000, not involving real property or the borrowing of funds, to which the corporation is a party, including, but not limited to, conveyances, assignments, contracts, notes, bills of sales, purchases and sales of securities, and financing statements;

RESOLVED, that the Treasurer, or in the absence or unavailability of the Treasurer, any one of the Presiding Bishop (President), Secretary, or Executive for Administration, or in absence of all of the foregoing, any two of the assistant treasurer may *execute*, and the Secretary or any assistant secretary may *attest*, any document required or desirable in connection with a commercial or fiscal transaction of less than \$250,000, not involving real property or the borrowing of funds, to which this corporation is a party, and which has been authorized and approved as provided herein, including but not limited to conveyances, assignments, contracts, notes, leases, bills of sales, purchases and sales of securities, trust documents, and financing statements;

RESOLVED, that the Treasurer and any one of the Presiding Bishop (President), Secretary, or Executive for Administration are appointed as a committee having the authority of the Church Council in the management of the business affairs of this corporation to *authorize and approve*, on behalf of this corporation, the borrowing of funds or the purchase, acquisition, sale, mortgage, lease, transfer, or other disposition or acquisition of real property (other than the acquisition of real estate within a gift instrument) by the churchwide organization;

RESOLVED, that the Treasurer and any one of the Presiding Bishop (President), Secretary, or Executive for Administration, or in absence or unavailability of the Treasurer, any one of the Presiding Bishop (President), Secretary, or Executive for Administration and any one of the assistant treasurers may *execute*, and the Secretary or any assistant secretary may *attest*, any document required or desirable in connection with the borrowing of funds or a commercial or fiscal transaction involving real property to which this corporation is a party, and which has been previously authorized and approved as provided herein;

RESOLVED, that the Office of Treasurer keep and maintain appropriate accounting and records of all transactions authorized above and annually report transactions exceeding \$250,000 to the Budget and Finance Committee of the Church Council;

RESOLVED, that prior resolutions adopted by this Council, including CC90.4.31, addressing the matters specified above are hereby rescinded and replaced by this action.

Voted: En Bloc

CC16.11.46d

To give consent to the proposed financing transaction of Skaalen Retirement Services, Inc. and Skaalen Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, Inc., provided that nothing in the proposed transaction mortgages, pledges, restrains or otherwise encumbers any assets of the ELCA except as provided in the attached agreement regarding the Skaalen Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, Inc. right of reverter; and

To approve the agreement regarding the Skaalen Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, Inc. right of reverter.

Voted: En Bloc

CC16.11.46e

To approve the Flexible Bundle for Non-rostered Members first as a pilot program and, if successful, across the ELCA; and

To direct Portico Benefit Services to take actions required to create the ELCA Retirement Savings Plan and Trust, and to amend the ELCA Medical and Dental Plan, ELCA Disability Benefits Plan and ELCA Survivor Benefits Plan to accommodate the Flexible Bundle for Non-rostered Members.

Voted: En Bloc

CC16.11.46f

To endorse the Case for Change adopted by the board of directors of Lutheran Services in America, approve the proposed bylaw amendments that address board composition and related governance issues, and recommend to the member organizations that the proposed bylaw amendments be approved at the 2017 annual meeting; and

To recognize, affirm and give thanks for the ministry of Lutheran Services in America and for the leadership of its staff and board of directors.

Voted: En Bloc

CC16.11.46g

To approve the amendments to the Publishing House of the ELCA Articles of Incorporation and bylaws as proposed by its board of trustees.

Voted: En Bloc

CC16.11.46h

To approve the amendments to the Mission Investment Fund bylaws as proposed by the Mission Investment Fund board of trustees.

Voted: En Bloc

CC16.11.46i

To approve the applications of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, Lutheran World Relief and Lutheran Educational Conference of North America to be Independent Lutheran Organizations according to the policies of this church.

Voted: En Bloc

CC16.11.46j1

To ratify the following amendments to the constitution of the Sierra Pacific Synod:

S9.04. The bishop shall be elected by the Synod Assembly by ecclesiastical ballot. Three-fourths of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election on the first ballot. All persons receiving legal votes shall be reported in written form after the first ballot, together with the number of legal votes each received. The second ballot shall list all persons who received legal votes on the first ballot, except those who have asked that their names not be considered, but members may still vote for any eligible person even if that person did not receive legal votes on the first ballot. On the second ballot, three-quarters of the legal votes cast shall be required for election, and the results shall be reported in written form. Beginning with the third ballot, only those who have received 5% of the legal votes on the previous ballot shall be listed; but through the fifth ballot members may cast a write-in vote for any eligible person, even if not listed on the ballot. All persons receiving legal votes shall be reported in written form to the Assembly, together with the number of legal votes each received. On the third ballot, 2/3 of the legal votes cast shall be required for election. On the fourth ballot, 60% of the legal votes cast shall be required for election. On the fifth and subsequent ballots, a majority of the legal votes cast shall be required for election. If no one is elected through five ballots, the sixth ballot shall be limited to the three persons (plus ties) who received the greatest number of legal votes on the fifth ballot and no votes for other persons shall be considered legal; the seventh and subsequent ballots, if necessary, shall be limited to the two persons (plus ties) who received the greatest number of legal votes on the immediately preceding ballot and no votes for other persons shall be considered legal. If no one is elected, the first ballot shall be considered the nominating ballot. The second ballot shall list all persons who received legal votes on the first ballot, except for those who have asked that their names not be included for further consideration in the election process by notifying the Chair of the Elections Committee within two hours of the announcement of the results of the first ballot. Three-fourths of the legal votes cast on the second ballot shall be necessary for election. The third ballot shall be limited to the seven persons (plus ties) who received the greatest number of legal votes on the second ballot, and two-thirds of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election. The fourth ballot shall be limited to the three persons (plus ties) who receive the greatest number of legal votes on the third ballot, and 60 percent of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election. On subsequent ballots a majority of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election. These ballots shall be limited to the two persons (plus ties) who receive the greatest number of legal votes on the previous ballot.

Voted: En Bloc

CC16.11.46j2

To ratify the following amendments to the constitution of the Eastern North Dakota Synod:

S9.04. The bishop shall be elected by the Synod Assembly. Three-fourths of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election on the first ballot. If no one is elected, the first ballot shall be considered the nominating ballot. Three-fourths of the legal votes cast on the second ballot shall be necessary for election. The third ballot shall be limited to the seven persons (plus ties) who received the greatest number of legal votes on the second ballot, and two-thirds of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election. The fourth ballot shall be limited to the three persons (plus ties) who receive the greatest number of legal votes on the third ballot, and 60 percent of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election. On subsequent ballots a majority of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election. These ballots shall be limited to the two persons (plus ties) who receive the greatest number of legal votes on the previous ballot.

a. A sitting bishop must submit written notification to the synod nominating committee at least 120 days prior to the Synod Assembly as to his/her intentions for seeking another term.

b. In preparation for a regular or special Synod Assembly at which the election of the bishop is to occur, congregations of the synod, 100 days in advance of such an assembly, may submit the names of up to

three ordained ministers of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to the secretary of the conference of which the congregation is a part.

bc. The secretary of the conference, with the other officers of the conference, shall tabulate the names submitted by congregations and report the results to the synodical Nominating Committee no less than 90 days in advance of the regular or special Synod Assembly. Basic biographical information will be made available at the conference assemblies for each of the candidates being brought forward. At the conference assembly, there will be a write in option. Any voting member at the conference assembly may submit the name of any minister of Word and Sacrament in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as a nominee for consideration for the position of synodical bishop.

ed. Sixty-five days in advance of the regular or special Synod Assembly at which the bishop is to be elected, conference assemblies shall be held to vote on a maximum of seven names per conference from a list as tabulated from conference reports to the synodical Nominating Committee.

...
[Update lettering of subsequent paragraphs in provision S9.04.]

Voted: En Bloc

CC16.11.46k

To adopt the revised Candidacy Manual, effective January 1, 2017; and
To authorize the Domestic Mission unit, in consultation with the Office of the Secretary, to make any necessary corrections for clarity and accuracy.

Voted: En Bloc

CC16.11.46l

To decline the request for a social message on regenerative medicine as such a message is now dated and of restricted value to a majority of ELCA members or to a public discussion;
To affirm the prioritizing of a social message on human rights with a target date for Church Council consideration by its November 2017 meeting; and
To defer the questions of developing a social message on U.S. National Drug Policy or aging until the November 2017 Church Council meeting when a new assessment of each issue, staff capacity and finances will be made.

Voted: En Bloc

CC16.11.46m

To appoint Ms. Leslie J. Swenson and the Rev. James H. Utt as advisory members on the “Women and Justice: One in Christ” social statement task force.

Voted: En Bloc

CC16.11.46n

To approve the amendments to the following corporate social responsibility documents to serve as the basis for ongoing corporate social responsibility work in this church:

- Social Criteria Investment Screen Policies and Procedure Development;
- Gambling Social Criteria Investment Screen;
- Issue Paper Policies and Procedure;
- Genetics Issue Paper;
- International Access to Healthcare Issue Paper;
- Sustainability Issue Paper; and

To request that the original issue papers be archived for historical and research purposes.

Voted: En Bloc

CC16.11.46o1

To elect to the board of directors of National Lutheran Campus Ministry, Inc. for a four-year term expiring in 2021: The Rev. William E. Bentzinger II, Mr. Thomas T. Chase Jr. and the Rev. Joan A. Conroy.

To re-elect to the board of directors of National Lutheran Campus Ministry, Inc. for a second four-year term expiring in 2021: Ms. Karen Sumner and the Rev. Robert G. Wollenburg.

Voted: En Bloc

CC16.11.46o2

To elect to the board of trustees of the Endowment Fund of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for a one-year, renewable term expiring in November 2017: The Rev. Glenn D. Miller.

To elect to the board of trustees of the Endowment Fund of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for a five-year term expiring in November 2021: Mr. Eric Brudos.

Voted: En Bloc

CC16.11.46o3

To approve the designation of the following members of the board of directors of The Evangelical Lutheran Good Samaritan Society as representatives to the ELCA: Mr. David J. Horazdovsky [president], Mr. H. Theodore Grindal [term ending in 2018], Dr. Gwen Wagstrom Halaas [term ending in 2019] and Mr. Dale M. Thompson [term ending in 2018].

Voted: En Bloc

CC16.11.46o4

To elect to the board of directors of The Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago to a three-year term expiring in 2020: Ms. Karen M. McClain.

Voted: En Bloc

CC16.11.46o5

To elect to the board of directors of Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg to a two-year term expiring in 2018: The Rev. J. Elise Brown and Mr. David A. Russell.

To elect to the board of directors of Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg to a three-year term expiring in 2019: The Rev. Charles S. Miller and Ms. Nancy Z. Mock.

To elect to the board of directors of Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg to a four-year term expiring in 2020: Ms. Kris Hansen-Kieffer and the Rev. Audrey E. Moody.

Voted: En Bloc

CC16.11.46o6

To nominate to the advisory council of Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary as part of Lenoir-Rhyne University to a three-year term expiring in 2020: The Rev. Lowell G. Almen and the Rev. Howard D. Stendahl.

Voted: En Bloc

CC16.11.46p

To receive with gratitude the response from the Office of the Presiding Bishop regarding the relationship-building already underway to deepen relationships with Historic Black Churches; and

To request a report to the April 2018 Church Council meeting on the development of a strategy to further this goal.

Voted: En Bloc

CC16.11.46q

To receive the response from the Corporate Social Responsibility review team on the timeline; and

To anticipate interim reports in November 2017 and April 2018 with a final report by the November 2018 Church Council meeting.

Voted: En Bloc

CC16.11.46r

To receive the response from the Domestic Mission unit on the timeline [regarding suicide prevention research] and to request a report be received by the November 2017 Church Council meeting.

Voted: En Bloc

CC16.11.46s

To receive the response from the Domestic Mission unit;

To encourage the Domestic Mission, Global Mission and Mission Advancement units to seek ways to promote easy access to refugee resettlement resources;

To commend the presiding bishop for speaking out on this church's commitment to resettling refugees; and

To encourage others to join the presiding bishop in continuing to express this church's commitment to this task.

Voted: En Bloc

CC16.11.46t

To receive the response from the Domestic Mission unit;

To decline to establish an ELCA task force addressing gun violence prevention;

To commend the ongoing efforts of ELCA Advocacy in addressing gun violence in a manner congruent with this church's social teaching documents; and

To request a follow-up report be provided to the April 2018 Church Council meeting.

Voted: En Bloc

CC16.11.46u

To receive the response from the Office of the Presiding Bishop [regarding peace with justice in the Holy Land] and to request a report be provided by the November 2017 Church Council meeting.

Voted: En Bloc

CC16.11.46v

To receive the response from the Corporate Social Responsibility review team on the timeline;
To request the development of a social message on human rights, noting that this takes priority over work of developing other social messages;
To acknowledge the development of a general human rights social criteria investment screen will be postponed until the approval of the human rights social message;
To acknowledge that this ongoing work may delay other work assigned to the Corporate Social Responsibility review team and Theological Discernment team; and
To request periodic reports on the progress of implementing the intentions of the Churchwide Assembly action.

Voted: En Bloc

CC16.11.46w

To receive the report from the Domestic Mission unit; and
To affirm the work of ELCA Advocacy to:

- provide watershed identification resources in order that congregations can use them to locate a watershed by using a zip code, so that the waters may be named and known in worship and intercessory prayer;
- provide resources to congregations and individual members to encourage and support conservation and prayerful stewardship of water resources;
- continue to develop strategies and provide resources to support areas struggling with natural or human-caused disasters that impact access to clean water, such as water contamination, drought and floods, with an awareness that the impact of our environmental actions have disproportionate implication for communities of color with lower incomes.

Voted: En Bloc

CC16.11.46x

To receive the response from the Office of the Secretary [regarding gender identity] and to anticipate a progress report by the November 2017 Church Council meeting.

Voted: En Bloc

CC16.11.46y

To incorporate the intentions of Motion D into the gender identity study process; and
To acknowledge that the action of the Church Council regarding the Gender Identity memorial of the Sierra Pacific Synod will be the response to this resolution.

Voted: En Bloc

CC16.11.46z

To receive the response from the Office of the Secretary [regarding compensation for the vice president] and to anticipate a progress report by the November 2017 Church Council meeting.

Voted: En Bloc

CC16.11.46aa

To receive the response from the Office of the Presiding Bishop [addressing human trafficking] and to anticipate a report by the November 2017 Church Council meeting.

Voted: En Bloc

CC16.11.46bb

To receive the response from the Domestic Mission unit [regarding Campaign Zero] and to anticipate a report by the April 2017 Church Council meeting.

Voted: En Bloc

CC16.11.46cc

To receive with gratitude the response of the Office of the Presiding Bishop in supporting military personnel, veterans and their families;
To pray for and celebrate initiatives of the “Centurion Connections” volunteers;

To thank the ELCA Federal Chaplaincy staff and the presiding bishop for their work in designating a Sunday near Veterans Day for prayer and action and to commend this time as an opportunity to unite the ELCA in support of military personnel, veterans and their families; and

To commend the churchwide staff, synods, congregations and volunteers for their continued efforts to implement the assembly action.

Voted: En Bloc

CC16.11.46dd

To receive the response from the Office of the Presiding Bishop on a proposed timeline and outcome for the initiative;

To authorize the Executive Committee to identify two people from the Church Council to serve as advisors with Federal Chaplaincy on developing next steps; and

To anticipate a progress report with possible recommendations by the April 2017 Church Council meeting.

Voted: En Bloc

CC16.11.46ee

To receive the response from the Office of the Secretary and the Domestic Mission unit [regarding designation as a sanctuary denomination]; and

To anticipate a report with possible recommendations by the November 2017 Church Council meeting.

Voted: En Bloc

CC16.11.46ff

To receive the response from the Conference of Bishops [regarding the call process] and to anticipate a report with possible recommendations by the November 2017 Church Council meeting.

Voted: En Bloc

CC16.11.46gg

To receive the response from the Domestic Mission unit on a proposed timeline to address the implementation of the African Descent Lutherans assembly action;

To anticipate a report on actions related to the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation and the U.N. International Decade for People of African Descent by the April 2017 Church Council meeting; and

To anticipate a report on actions related to the “Declaration of the ELCA to the African Descent Community,” review on current governing documents and ways to increase the number of African Descent leaders, congregations and communities served at the November 2017 Church Council meeting.

Voted: En Bloc

CC16.11.46hh

To receive the response from the Domestic Mission unit [regarding a strategy toward authentic diversity] and to anticipate a report by the April 2017 Church Council meeting.

Voted: En Bloc

CC16.11.46ii

To receive with appreciation the response from the Domestic Mission unit regarding the work underway to implement the repudiation of the doctrine of discovery;

To commend the American Indian Alaska Native Ministries in its work with synods and congregations to educate people about the doctrine of discovery and its continuing effects on indigenous nations and peoples;

To anticipate a progress report on the work at the November 2018 Church Council meeting; and

To request a revised American Indian and Alaska Native Strategic Plan be presented at the April 2019 Church Council meeting.

Voted: En Bloc

CC16.11.46jj

To receive with gratitude the response from the Domestic Mission unit;

To anticipate a revised ELCA Campus Ministry Policies and Procedures at the November 2017 Church Council meeting; and

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

Voted: En Bloc

CC16.11.46kk

To receive with gratitude the response from the Domestic Mission unit;

To encourage congregations to advocate for laws and policies that protect children and other people fleeing persecution;

To commend the ministry that is being done through the AMMPARO strategy to address the situation of migrants in transit; and
To request that the secretary of this church inform the synod of this action.

Voted: En Bloc

CC16.11.46ll

To receive the response from the Domestic Mission unit, in consultation with legal counsel in the Office of the Secretary;

To decline to endorse the goal of the “Move to Amend” Interfaith Caucus to support a constitutional amendment that states “only human beings, not corporations, are endowed with constitutional rights”;

To commend the ELCA Washington Office and state advocacy offices in their continued efforts to address the issue of money in politics; and

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

Voted: En Bloc

CC16.11.46mm

To receive the response from the Office of the Presiding Bishop [regarding the Thrivent choice neutrality policy] and to request a report be received by the April 2017 Church Council meeting; and

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

Voted: En Bloc

CC16.11.46nn

To receive the response from the Global Mission unit;

To affirm the response of the 2016 Churchwide Assembly [CA16.02.03i] related to “Supporting Mission Phebe Hospital through Photovoltaics”;

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

Voted: En Bloc

CC16.11.46oo

To receive the response from the Mission Advancement unit [regarding “Find a Congregation” on the website] and to anticipate a report no later than the April 2018 Church Council meeting; and

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

Voted: En Bloc

CC16.11.46pp

To receive with gratitude the response from the Domestic Mission and Global Mission units;

To encourage the Global Mission unit to promote the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals at workshops and companion project visits; and

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

Voted: En Bloc

CC16.11.46qq

To receive the response from the Domestic Mission unit;

To acknowledge the communication already made by ELCA Advocacy regarding appropriate political discourse;

To affirm the continued focus of the ELCAvotes campaign on civil discourse and healing after the 2016 election season;

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

The eighty-eighth meeting of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America adjourned Sunday, Nov. 13, 2016, at 3:13 p.m.

March 31, 2017

The eighty-ninth meeting of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) was convened in Red Oak Ballroom A of the Eaglewood Resort in Itasca, Ill. Mr. William B. Horne II, vice president of the ELCA and chair of the Church Council, called the meeting to order on Friday, March 31, 2017, at 9:00 a.m.

Voted **CC17.03.01**

To adopt the agenda and to permit the chair to call for consideration of agenda items in the order the chair deems most appropriate.

Voted **CC17.03.02**

To approve the minutes of the November 10-13, 2016, meeting of the Church Council; and
To ratify actions of the council's Executive Committee as indicated in the minutes of the November 10-13, 2016, December 13, 2016, and January 17, 2017 meetings.

Voted **CC17.03.03**

To declare that the newly elected chairs of the Budget and Finance Committee, Legal and Constitutional Review Committee, Planning and Evaluation Committee and Program and Services Committee shall be members of the Executive Committee of the Church Council beginning on September 1, 2017.

Voted **CC17.03.04**

To designate [the Wisconsin Center, 400 W. Wisconsin Ave.] Milwaukee, Wisconsin — subject to the satisfactory completion of negotiations in the judgment of the secretary of this church — as the site for the Fifteenth Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, either August 5-10, 2019, or August 12-17, 2019; and

To authorize the Executive Committee to select another venue, if negotiations are not successful.

Voted **CC17.03.05**

To affirm the direction of the ELCA Foundation Task Force on Structure and Governance to move toward a structure in which the deferred giving programs of the ELCA Foundation are transferred to the Endowment Fund of the ELCA; and

To authorize the task force and staff to lay the groundwork for that transition, including the hiring of such advisors and consultants as reasonably necessary, with the goal of bringing a complete proposal, including the necessary implementing continuing resolutions, to the Church Council at its November 2017 meeting.

Voted **CC17.03.06**

To receive the ELCA Churchwide Organization Operational Plan Report for 2016; and
To thank the staff of the churchwide organization for their ongoing work.

Voted **CC17.03.07**

To authorize the Domestic Mission unit and representatives of the ethnic specific ministry associations, in consultation with Conference of Bishops, Women of the ELCA, and ecumenical partners, to provide recommendations of names of persons to be appointed to the task force for implementation of action CA16.05.25;

That the task force be convened by the Domestic Mission unit comprised of both association and non-association participants with attention to regional representation, lay/clergy and gender balance; and

To receive a progress report and further recommendations including analysis of scope of work called for by Motion B, names of recommended members to the task force, and a projection of funds to support implementation at the November 2017 Church Council meeting.

Voted **CC17.03.08**

To receive with appreciation the draft documents relating to the proposed asset acquisition of Trinity Lutheran Seminary by Capital University;

To thank the administrations and boards of Capital University and Trinity Lutheran Seminary for engaging in thoughtful, forward-looking, spirit-filled discussions about the future of these institutions within the ecology of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; and

To state that merger actions involving these schools must comply with the requirements in the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*.

Voted

CC17.03.09

To designate five percent of churchwide funding for seminaries in 2018 fiscal year for a focused, collaborative project among all seminaries that expands the number of persons of color preparing for rostered ministry in this church.

Voted

CC17.03.10

To take action *en bloc* on those items listed in *En Bloc* Items, Responses to Churchwide Assembly Actions and Responses to Synodical Resolutions that were not considered separately.

Voted: En Bloc

CC17.03.10a

To approve the report of the ELCA Audit Committee describing the review of the audited financial statements, management letter, and response of management for the Endowment Fund Pooled Trust's year ending December 31, 2016.

Voted: En Bloc

CC17.03.10b1

To acknowledge with appreciation the action of the following synods to maintain the percentage of sharing of 2017 mission support contributions by congregations for synod and churchwide ministries but estimating an adjustment in the projected amount to be shared:

Nebraska, Southeastern Pennsylvania and Upper Susquehanna synods; and

To further affirm that we will steward these gifts to maximize their impact in mission for the sake of "God's work. Our hands." in the world.

Voted: En Bloc

CC17.03.10b2

As a grateful church that affirms the partnership of congregation, synod and churchwide expressions, we affirm the percentage of sharing of 2017 mission support by congregations for synod and churchwide ministries:

Rocky Mountain, Western North Dakota and Northern Great Lakes synods;

As a Church Council, we thank the bishops and synod leaders of every synod as they strive to be faithful to shared commitments within the ELCA and to direct synod and churchwide staff, including the directors for evangelical mission, to deepen their partnership in efforts to strengthen financial support for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; and

We will steward these gifts to maximize their impact in mission for the sake of "God's work. Our hands." in the world.

Voted: En Bloc

CC17.03.10c

As a grateful church that affirms the partnership of congregation, synod and churchwide expressions, we acknowledge with gratitude the actions of the following synods and to affirm the percentage of sharing of 2018 mission support by congregations for synod and churchwide ministries:

Alaska, Northwest Washington, Southwestern Washington, Eastern Washington-Idaho, Oregon, Montana, Sierra Pacific, Southwest California, Pacifica, Grand Canyon, Rocky Mountain, Western North Dakota, Eastern North Dakota, South Dakota, Northwestern Minnesota, Northeastern Minnesota, Southwestern Minnesota, Minneapolis Area, Saint Paul Area, Southeastern Minnesota, Nebraska, Central States, Arkansas-Oklahoma, Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana, Southwestern Texas, Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast, Metropolitan Chicago, Northern Illinois, Central/Southern Illinois, Southeastern Iowa, Western Iowa, Northeastern Iowa, Northern Great Lakes, Northwest Synod of Wisconsin, East-Central Synod of Wisconsin, Greater Milwaukee, South-Central Synod of Wisconsin, La Crosse Area Synod, Southeast Michigan, North/West Lower Michigan, Indiana-Kentucky, Northeastern Ohio, New Jersey, New England, Metropolitan New York, Upstate New York, Northeastern Pennsylvania, Southeastern Pennsylvania, Northwestern Pennsylvania, Southwestern Pennsylvania, Lower Susquehanna, Upper Susquehanna,

Delaware-Maryland, Metropolitan Washington, D.C., West Virginia-Western Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Southeastern, Florida-Bahamas and Caribbean synods;

As a Church Council, we thank the bishops and synod leaders of every synod as they strive to be faithful to shared commitments within the ELCA, and to direct synod and churchwide staff, including the directors for evangelical mission, to deepen their partnership in efforts to strengthen financial support for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America;

We further affirm that we will steward these gifts to maximize their impact in mission for the sake of “God’s work. Our hands.” in the world.

Voted: En Bloc ***CC17.03.10d***

To approve a Church Council designated fund in the amount of \$1,630,000 representing the excess revenue over expenses from fiscal year 2016 for release in fiscal year 2018 for the budgeted operations of the ELCA churchwide organization.

Voted: En Bloc ***CC17.03.10e***

To designate the persons identified in the “2017 ELCA Synod Assemblies” grid with voice but not vote in the meetings of the assigned Synod Assembly, including like privileges accorded to those additional persons whom the Synod Assembly or the Synod Council has designated.

Voted: En Bloc ***CC17.03.10f***

To approve the updated *Manual of Policies and Procedures for the Management of the Rosters of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* for use by synod bishops, synod staff members, and others who hold responsibilities for such matters in this church; and

To authorize the secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to provide periodic updates reflecting new or revised policies subsequently adopted by the Church Council.

Voted: En Bloc ***CC17.03.10g***

To approve the amended bylaws of the Deaconess Community of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Voted: En Bloc ***CC17.03.10h***

To approve the revised constitution and bylaws of the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, Chicago, Ill.

Voted: En Bloc ***CC17.03.10i***

To approve the amended bylaws and Articles of Incorporation of Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, Iowa.

Voted: En Bloc ***CC17.03.10j***

To approve the amended bylaws of Luther Seminary, Saint Paul, Minn.

Voted: En Bloc ***CC17.03.10k***

To affirm the amended bylaws of Luther Seminary Foundation, Saint Paul, Minn.

Voted: En Bloc ***CC17.03.10l***

To approve the amended bylaws of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, to be subsequently a supporting organization for United Lutheran Seminary.

Voted: En Bloc ***CC17.03.10m***

To approve the amended Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws of The Publishing House of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Voted: En Bloc ***CC17.03.10n***

To authorize Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton and Vice President William B. Horne II to execute the “Nomination by Evangelical Lutheran Church in America of Personal Representative and Renunciation of Priority of Appointment.”

Voted: En Bloc

CC17.03.10o

To affirm the succession plan proposed by the Domestic Mission unit for the Corporate Social Responsibility position.

Voted: En Bloc

CC17.03.10p1

To nominate to serve as chair of the Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary advisory committee beginning June 1, 2017: The Rev. David C. Nagler.

Voted: En Bloc

CC17.03.10p2

To elect to the board of directors of Luther Seminary for a four-year term expiring in 2021: Ms. Joyce A. Thompsen, Mr. John E. Haugo, Mr. David L. Hayes, Mr. Thomas Holtz, Mr. David L. Rutlen, Mr. Carlos E. Peña and Ms. Kathleen Brekken;

To elect to the board of directors of The Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago for a three-year term expiring in 2020: Mr. Harry C. Mueller;

To re-elect to the board of directors of Trinity Lutheran Seminary for a three-year term expiring in 2020: The Rev. Gus Vinajeras and Ms. Danette Miller; and

To elect to the board of trustees of The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, to be subsequently known as United Lutheran Seminary, for a three-year term expiring in 2020: The Rev. Nancy J. Deming.

Voted: En Bloc

CC17.03.10p3

To elect to the board of directors of Mosaic, Inc., for a three-year term expiring in 2020: The Rev. Daniel F. Forehand.

Voted: En Bloc

CC17.03.10p4

To elect to the board of trustees of Portico Benefit Services (Board of Pensions of the ELCA) for a two-year term expiring in 2019: Ms. Lori A. Kirkland, Ms. Jennifer L. McGinnis and Mr. Morris L. Larson;

To elect to the board of trustees of the Mission Investment Fund of the ELCA for a two-year term expiring in 2019: The Rev. Martín J. Lopez-Vega, Ms. Lori S. Fedyk and Ms. Nicole Hudson; and

To elect to the board of trustees of 1517 Media (Publishing House of the ELCA) for a two-year term expiring in 2019: The Rev. Pedro M. Suarez, Ms. Julie M. Stecker, Ms. Susan G. Worst and Mr. Fred D. Halvin.

Voted: En Bloc

CC17.03.10p5

To elect to the Committee on Appeals for a two-year term expiring in 2019: The Rev. Paul J. Blom, the Rev. Christine A. Timm, Ms. Lesley M. Houston and Mr. George K. Rahdert.

Voted: En Bloc

CC17.03.10q

To receive the response from the Office of the Presiding Bishop regarding Thrivent Choice Neutrality Policy;

To acknowledge that the intent of the resolution was shared with Thrivent Financial; and

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

Voted: En Bloc

CC17.03.10r

To receive the response from the Domestic Mission unit on “Examining the Opportunities and Implications of Campaign Zero, a policy platform in affirmation of Black Lives Matter;” and

To acknowledge the Campaign Zero policy platform is in alignment with this church’s criminal justice social statement, but to recognize the insufficient resources for the churchwide organization to provide an educational or organizing campaign in support of Campaign Zero.

Voted: En Bloc

CC17.03.10s

To receive with gratitude the progress report from the Office of the Presiding Bishop on the round table “Day of Discernment” event; and

To request that a final report be provided by the November 2018 Church Council meeting.

Voted: En Bloc

CC17.03.10t

To receive the report from the Domestic Mission unit on actions related to the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation and the U.N. International Decade for People of African Descent; and

To thank the churchwide staff and the ethnic associations on their intentional efforts to educate and raise awareness of the contributions of African descent Lutherans as part of these observances.

The eighty-ninth meeting of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America adjourned Friday, March 31, 2017, at 12:20 p.m.

November 9-12, 2017

The ninetieth meeting of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) was convened in the Council Room of the Lutheran Center at Chicago, Ill. Mr. William B. Horne II, vice president of the ELCA and chair of the Church Council, called the meeting to order on Thursday, Nov. 9, 2017, at 3:01 p.m.

Voted: **CC17.11.11**

To adopt the agenda and to permit the chair to call for consideration of agenda items in the order the chair deems most appropriate.

Voted: **CC17.11.12**

To approve the minutes of the March 31, 2017, meeting of the Church Council; and
To ratify actions of the council's Executive Committee as indicated in the minutes of the March 30, 2017, May 22, 2017, June 20, 2017, August 29, 2017, and October 24, 2017, meetings.

Voted: **CC17.11.13**

To elect Ms. Man-Hei Yip, Quincy, Mass. (7B), to the Church Council for a term ending in 2019.

Voted: **CC17.11.14**

To commend the Lutheran World Federation Gender Justice Policy to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for study and consideration.

Voted: Two-Thirds Vote **CC17.11.15**

To elect Ms. Lori S. Fedyk to a six-year term as treasurer of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, beginning February 1, 2018.

Voted: **CC17.11.16**

To elect the Rev. Tiffany C. Chaney, Montgomery, Ala. (9D), to the Nominating Committee for a term ending in 2019.

Voted: **CC17.11.17**

To direct the Theological Education Advisory Committee to define a single seminary governance structure; and
To adopt enterprise-wide seminary fiscal metrics and to request that a report on results be brought to the April 2018 meeting of Church Council.

Voted: **CC17.11.18**

To elect Ms. Ingrid S. Stafford to a term ending in 2019 on the Executive Committee of the Church Council.

Voted: **CC17.11.19**

To approve the following citation by acclamation:

The Rev. Linda Norman has for six years devoted generous amounts of time and steadfast commitment and offered her exceptional gifts of leadership in her calling as treasurer of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. As treasurer, she has shared her financial expertise and has conducted her work with conscientious ability and a gracious manner. We are grateful for Linda's sound financial advice, collaborative spirit, effective stewardship of resources and support of the mission of this church. During her tenure, Linda demonstrated forthright commitment to the faith and genuine compassion for the people in congregations and communities throughout the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

We give thanks to God for the contributions Linda has made to the life of this church.

Voted: **CC17.11.20**

To accept and affirm the report of the Task Force on the Structure and Governance of the ELCA Foundation;
and

To express appreciation to the members of the Task Force for their diligent and thoughtful work.

Voted:

CC17.11.21

To approve the proposed governance structure and organizational structures by functions as outlined in the “Report of the Task Force on the Structure and Governance of the ELCA Foundation.”

Voted:

CC17.11.22

To approve and start the process of transferring the activities of the ELCA Foundation to the Endowment Fund of the ELCA, including authorizing the churchwide organization staff to proceed with the following:

- transferring trusteeship of the existing charitable remainder trusts from the ELCA to the Endowment Fund of the ELCA;
- gradually transferring ownership of the existing charitable gift annuities from the ELCA to the Endowment Fund of the ELCA;
- as the ownership of the charitable gift annuities is gradually transferred, gradually transferring the asset pools supporting the charitable gift annuities from the ELCA to the Endowment Fund of the ELCA;
- as the ownership of the charitable gift annuities is gradually transferred, gradually transferring sufficient additional assets from the ELCA to the Endowment Fund of the ELCA, to ensure that the Endowment Fund of the ELCA does not incur any unfunded liabilities (currently estimated at \$2,150,000 for the entire annuity pool);
- transferring assets from the ELCA to the Endowment Fund of the ELCA of an amount, currently estimated to be \$3,200,000, reasonably believed to be sufficient to render the Endowment Fund fully operational on January 1, 2018, after taking into account its expanded functions and responsibilities; and
- entering into the Memorandum of Understanding that sets forth how contingent future liabilities under the charitable gift annuity program are to be shared between the ELCA and the Endowment Fund of the ELCA.

Vice President Horne declared the motion was adopted.

Mr. James M. Hushagen made a motion on behalf of the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee to amend certain continuing resolutions. He explained that the committee had reviewed the proposal, its timing and structural liability protection.

Secretary Boerger added that the continuing resolutions would need to be amended to implement the proposal. The 2019 Churchwide Assembly could consider including the ELCA Foundation among separately incorporated ministries established in Chapter 17 of the ELCA constitution.

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

Voted: Two-Thirds Vote

CC17.11.23

To adopt the following amendments to continuing resolutions in the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*:

15.14.A1017. Responsibilities of the Office of the Treasurer

- a. This office shall be related to the treasurer, who shall be its full-time executive officer.
- b. This office shall have the sole authority and responsibility to establish and maintain banking relationships for the churchwide organization.

...

j. This office, in consultation with the Foundation-Endowment Fund of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, shall recommend:

- 1) approved policy for the valuation process for noncash gifts;
- 2) the management of assets of its life-income agreements;
- 3) gift acceptance policies for the establishment and management of memorial funds received-administered by the foundation-Endowment Fund of the ELCA in cooperation with the Mission Advancement unit; and
- 4) the distribution of earned-income payments to remainder beneficiaries as regulated by the life-income, trust, and other fiduciary donor agreements held by the churchwide organization.

15.15.A17. The Endowment Fund of the ELCA shall:

- a. offer, promote, administer, and oversee endowment, deferred giving, life income, and similar planned giving programs for individual donors, congregations, synods, the churchwide organization and related institutions and agencies in support of ELCA ministries;

- b. offer pooled investment services for endowment funds of this church and its congregations, synods, churchwide organization and related institutions and agencies;
- c. manage assets of endowment, deferred giving, life-income agreements, donor advised funds, and funds held for external participants;
- d. oversee the administration of earned-income payments to donors and to remainder beneficiaries as regulated by life-income, trust, and other fiduciary donor agreements;
- e. determine annual endowment fund distribution rate;
- f. set fees associated with endowment and deferred giving programs;
- g. hire and oversee such managers, service providers, consultants, advisors, and sub-advisors as it deems appropriate;
- h. develop and approve an annual budget that will be financed through revenue from its gift planning and investment activities and programs; and
- i. coordinate programs and ministries with the priorities of the ELCA and other stewardship and financial-resource development activities of this church.
- j. Constitutional provision 16.12. and bylaws 11.34.01., 14.21.02., 14.21.03., 14.21.06. and 14.21.07. shall apply to the operation of the Endowment Fund of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

16.12.C1517. Mission Advancement Unit

The Mission Advancement unit shall be responsible for planning, coordinating and carrying out this church's communications through publications and other tools. It shall also be responsible for mission support interpretation and consultations, the management of constituent data and shall lead its fundraising and development efforts including current, major and planned gifts. The Mission Advancement unit shall be responsible for planning, coordinating and executing this church's strategic communications activities and for its fundraising and development efforts, in coordination with the Endowment Fund of the ELCA.

16.12.D1117.

The ELCA Foundation shall provide major gift and deferred giving programs, including educational and support services, for individual donors, congregations, synods, agencies, and related institutions, and shall promote pooled investment services for endowment funds of this church, its congregations, synods, agencies, and affiliated institutions. The ELCA Foundation shall also:

- a. ~~conduct on behalf of this church, its congregations, synods, churchwide units, and related institutions a program of major gifts and deferred giving;~~
- b. ~~provide educational materials and resources in the area of deferred giving;~~
- c. ~~provide advice to the Office of the Treasurer in the recommendation and establishment within that office of policies and procedures for processes governing valuation of noncash gifts, the management of assets of life-income agreements and endowment funds, and the distribution of earned income payments to donors and to remainder beneficiaries as regulated by life-income, trust, and other fiduciary donor agreements;~~
- d. ~~engage in cooperation with congregations, synods, agencies, and institutions of this church in efforts to:~~
 - 1) ~~identify and cultivate prospective major and deferred gift donors;~~
 - 2) ~~seek gifts, bequests, and investments for the Mission Investment Fund of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America;~~
 - 3) ~~seek gifts, bequests, and investments for endowment funds that support ministries of this church; and~~
 - 4) ~~coordinate its programs and ministries with the objectives and programs of other stewardship and financial resource development activities of this church.~~

The Mission Advancement unit shall:

- a. guide churchwide strategic communications through publications, digital media, social media, direct mail, and other communication tools;
- b. oversee brand, messaging and content development and management;
- c. provide for Mission Support interpretation and consultations;

- d. develop and execute programs to seek current, major, and deferred gifts, bequests, and endowment funds to support ministries of this church;
- e. engage members, congregations, synods, agencies, and institutions of this church in efforts to raise financial support for the ministries of the ELCA;
- f. provide advice to the Office of the Treasurer in the recommendation and establishment within that office of policies and procedures for gift acceptance and management;
- g. manage ELCA constituent data; and
- h. coordinate its programs with other stewardship and financial-resource development activities of this church and in alignment with its mission objectives.

Voted: **CC17.11.24**
 To approve the amended bylaws of the Endowment Fund of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Voted: **CC17.11.25**
 To approve a revised 2018 fiscal year current fund spending authorization of \$67,140,670; and
 To approve a revised 2018 ELCA World Hunger spending authorization of \$23,750,000.

Voted: **CC17.11.26**
 To adopt the revised social message on “Human Rights” of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Voted: **CC17.11.27**
 To receive the progress report from the Domestic Mission unit regarding the implementation of the Strategy Toward Authentic Diversity within the ELCA (Motion B);
 To appoint Bishop Abraham D. Allende [Northeastern Ohio Synod], the Rev. Rani Abdulmasih, Mr. C. Abel Arroyo Traverso, the Rev. Priscilla N. Paris-Austin, Mr. Joseph Castañeda Carrera, Ms. Cheryl T. Chatman, the Rev. Joan A. Conroy, Ms. Grace Kuttub El-Yateem, the Rev. Maria G. Sijera Grant, the Rev. Moses P.P. Penumaka, Ms. Jennifer Kirby, Ms. Maribel Lorenzana, Ms. Vickie L. Murph, the Rev. Surekha Nelavala, the Rev. Lorenzo (Larry) T. Thiele, Mr. Kevin O. Vandiver and the Rev. Lamont A. Wells to the task force assigned with providing benchmarks, accountability and support for attaining diversity goals in all expressions of this church toward becoming an authentic diverse church; and
 To request a progress report be submitted to the Church Council at its April 2018 meeting.

Voted: **CC17.11.28**
 To request that the churchwide organization prepare a plan for the process by which “where needed most” dollars in *Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA* will be allocated and that the plan be reported to the Budget and Finance Committee at the April 2018 Church Council meeting for approval.

Moved;
Seconded: To request that the Church Council undertake consideration of changing the makeup of the Church Council to include:

- liaison bishops
- representatives of the ethnic associations

as voting members of the Church Council.

Voted: **CC17.11.29**
 To refer this motion to the Office of the Secretary for consideration as one of the potential amendments that will be shared at the April 2018 meeting of the Church Council and for final presentation at the November 2018 meeting.

Voted: Two-Thirds Vote **CC17.11.30**
 To adopt the following amendments to a continuing resolution in the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*:

14.41.F137. Board Development Committee

A Board Development Committee—composed of six to eight members, at least one of whom shall be a member of the Executive Committee, and of which at least two shall be from each elected class of the Church Council—shall be appointed by the Executive Committee of the Church Council for ~~two~~ three-year, renewable terms to assist the presiding bishop and the Church Council in developing and implementing efforts to help members of the Church Council to demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of the council's role and fiduciary responsibility as the board of directors of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The executive for administration shall relate to this committee, with staff services provided by the Office of the Presiding Bishop. Members appointed to the Board Development Committee shall be eligible for service on other committees of the Church Council.

Voted: **CC17.11.31**
To approve the revised Board Development Committee charter.

Voted: **CC17.11.32**
To receive the response from the Office of the Secretary regarding “Compensation for the Vice President”; and
To refer the motion to the Office of the Secretary for further review and study and to request a response be submitted to the April 2018 and November 2018 Church Council meeting for further consideration.

Voted: **CC17.11.33**
To take *en bloc* action on the following items listed in *En Bloc* Items, Responses to Churchwide Assembly Actions and Responses to Synodical Resolutions.

Voted: En Bloc **CC17.11.33a**
To approve the reappointment of the following to the ELCA Audit Committee for a two-year term expiring in 2019: Ms. Ingrid S. Stafford, Mr. Clarence M. Smith and Ms. Meri Jo Petrivelli.

Voted: En Bloc **CC17.11.33b**
To approve the report of the ELCA Audit Committee describing its review of the audited financial statements, management letter, and response of management for the churchwide organization's fiscal year ended January 31, 2017.

Voted: En Bloc **CC17.11.33c1**
As a grateful church that affirms the partnership of congregation, synod and churchwide expressions, we affirm the percentage of sharing or dollar amount of sharing of 2018 Mission Support by congregations for synodical and churchwide ministries:

Northwestern Ohio, Southern Ohio, Slovak Zion, Allegheny;

As a Church Council, we thank the bishops and synod leaders of every synod as they strive to be faithful to shared commitments within the ELCA and to direct synod and churchwide staff, including the directors for evangelical mission, to deepen their partnership in efforts to strengthen financial support for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; and

We will steward these gifts to maximize their impact in mission for the sake of “God’s work. Our hands.” in the world.

Voted: En Bloc **CC17.11.33c2**
To acknowledge with appreciation the action of the following synods to maintain the percentage of sharing of 2018 Mission Support contributions by congregations for synodical and churchwide ministries but estimating an adjustment in the projected amount to be shared:

Pacifica, Northwestern Minnesota, Northern Illinois, Northwest Synod of Wisconsin; and

To further affirm that we will steward these gifts to maximize their impact in mission for the sake of “God’s work. Our hands.” in the world.

Voted: En Bloc

CC17.11.33c3

As a grateful church that affirms the partnership of congregation, synod and churchwide expressions, we affirm the percentage of sharing of 2018 Mission Support by congregations for synodical and churchwide ministries:

Montana, Metropolitan Chicago, New England, Upper Susquehanna;

As a Church Council, we thank the bishops and synod leaders of every synod as they strive to be faithful to shared commitments within the ELCA and to direct synod and churchwide staff, including the directors for evangelical mission, to deepen their partnership in efforts to strengthen financial support for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; and

We will steward these gifts to maximize their impact in mission for the sake of “God’s work. Our hands.” in the world.

Voted: En Bloc

CC17.11.33d

To approve closing the Special Needs Retirement Fund Functioning as Endowment and repurpose its current balance to meet the 2017 churchwide contribution to the ELCA Post-Retirement Medical Benefits Contribution Trust.

Voted: En Bloc

CC17.11.33e

To establish a Church Council designated fund functioning as endowment entitled LAMPa (Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in Pennsylvania) Fund; to be funded by current assets of LAMPa; established withdrawals will be allocated from the fund functioning as endowment by LAMPa; and distributions from the fund are available to support operations of LAMPa.

Voted: En Bloc

CC17.11.33f

To revise all existing ELCA Endowment Authorizations for which the ELCA Church Council is the governing authority as follows:

Strike the words “Division for Outreach” and replace with the words “Domestic Mission unit”;

Strike the words “Division for Ministry” and replace with the words “Domestic Mission unit”;

Strike the words “CSM (Congregational and Synodical Mission)” and replace with the words “Domestic Mission unit”;

Strike the words “Editor for The Lutheran (Magazine)” and replace with the words “Executive Director for Mission Advancement unit”;

Strike the words “LLM (Lutheran Laity Movement) Executive Committee (or its successor)” and replace with the words “Written request of the Executive Director of the Domestic Mission unit”;

To revise the required authorization for the Mission Development Fund as follows:

Strike the words “Office of the Presiding Bishop in consultation with the ELCA Treasurer, ELCA Foundation President and in consultation with the ELCA Cabinet of Executives” and replace with the words “Office of the Presiding Bishop in consultation with the ELCA Treasurer and the Churchwide Administrative Team”; and

To revise the required authorization for LLM Stewardship/Life Inc as follows:

Strike the words “Director of Stewardship and Finance” and replace with the words “Domestic Mission unit.”

Voted: En Bloc

CC17.11.33g

To allocate for the 2019 Churchwide Assembly one additional voting member to the West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod (8H), making a total of six voting members; and

To allocate for the 2019 Churchwide Assembly two additional voting members to the Alaska Synod (1A), Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod (4C), Slovak Zion Synod (7G), and Caribbean Synod (9F), making a total of six voting members per synod.

Voted: En Bloc

CC17.11.33h

To approve the amended bylaws of the Deaconess Community of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Voted: En Bloc

CC17.11.33i1

To ratify the following amendments to the constitution of the Northwest Washington Synod:

S8.42. The treasurer shall provide and be accountable for:

...

- e. Rendering at each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly a full, detailed, and duly audited report of receipts and disbursements in the several accounts of this synod for the preceding fiscal year, together with the tabulation, for record and publication in the minutes to be made available on request, of the contributions from the congregations.

...

~~**S9.07.** If the Treasurer is elected, the Synod Council shall nominate at least one person for treasurer; additional nominations may be made from the floor.~~

Voted: En Bloc

CC17.11.33i2

To ratify the following amendments to the constitution of the Saint Paul Area Synod:

S7.13. Notice of the time and place of all meetings of the Synod Assembly shall be given by the secretary of this synod Office the Bishop.

~~**S8.33.** The secretary shall verify with the treasurer annually that a fidelity bond for persons handling synod funds is in place and secured, as required in S8.42.f).~~

S8.42. The treasurer shall provide and be accountable for:

...

- f) Obtaining a fidelity bond in the amount determined by the Synod Council for persons handling synod funds, which bond shall be in the custody of the secretary secured against loss, theft, fire, and natural disaster. The premium for the bond shall be paid by this synod. Fidelity coverage provided by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America shall be deemed a fulfillment of this requirement.

S8.52. The term of the bishop shall begin on the first day of the second third month following election. The terms of the other officers and members of committees elected by the Synod Assembly shall begin immediately following the adjournment of the assembly at which they were elected. The terms of officers shall, in special circumstances, begin at a time designated by the Synod Council.

~~**S11.11.** [becomes a bylaw]~~

~~**S11.10.01.** This synod shall in its bylaws or by continuing resolution establish a process to ensure that the members of its committees and other organizational units will be persons possessing the necessary knowledge and competence to be effective members of such units, and to meet the requirements of †S6.04. With the exception of ministers on the rosters of this synod who reside outside the territory of this synod, each member of a committee of this synod, or any other organizational unit created by this synod, shall be a voting member of a congregation of this synod.~~

~~**S11.20.** Synod Council Committees~~

~~**S11.20.30.** Task Forces~~

~~**S11.24.31.** A task force is a temporary unit of the synod which that is assigned responsibility for an identified portion of the work of this synod. Such assignment may be made by the Synod Assembly or by the Synod Council. Normally its term of existence is defined by the unit which establishes it. It, which shall define the charge, membership composition, term length, and appoint members. A task force is subject to annual review by the initiating unit. Membership is determined by the initiating unit Synod Council.~~

S15.14. Except when such procedure would jeopardize current operations, in the interest of making possible a more even flow of income to such causes, a reserve ~~amounting to no more than 16 percent of the sum of the amounts of 2.8 to 3.3 months' value of the average monthly amount~~ scheduled in the next year's budget for regular distribution to synodical causes shall be carried forward annually for disbursement in the following year in the interest of making possible a more even flow of income to such causes. The exact number of dollars to be held in reserve shall be determined by the Synod Council.

S18.40. Technical Corrections to Constitution, Bylaws, or Continuing Resolutions
Technical corrections to the constitution, bylaws, or continuing resolutions that do not alter the substance of the document may be proposed by the bishop and approved by the Synod Council.

Voted: En Bloc

CC17.11.33i3

To ratify the following amendments to the constitution of the Nebraska Synod:

S7.22. ~~Retired ordained ministers, retired associates in ministry, retired deaconesses, and retired diaconal ministers on the roster of this Synod, registered in attendance at the Synod Assembly, shall serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly consistent with the representation requirements of †S7.21.c. The synod may establish processes that permit ordained ministers, associates in ministry, deaconesses, and diaconal ministers who are on leave from call, or those designated as disabled, on the roster of the synod to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly, consistent with †S7.21.c. above. If the synod does not establish processes to permit the rostered leaders specified above to serve as voting members, they shall have voice but not vote in the meetings of the Synod Assembly.~~

In addition to those individuals listed in †S7.21, the following individuals shall serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly, consistent with the provisions of †S7.21.c. and provided they are registered in attendance at the Synod Assembly:

a. Retired ministers of Word and Sacrament.

b. Retired ministers of Word and Service.

c. Ministers of Word and Sacrament and ministers of Word and Service who are on leave from call or designated as disabled, provided that they are currently rostered in this synod.

d. Parish ministry associates who have been authorized by the Bishop of the Nebraska Synod to serve a congregation in lieu of a rostered minister.

e. One youth or young adult from each mission cluster unit in this synod, consistent with the provisions of †S6.04.02.

S8.52. The terms of the officers shall begin on the first day of ~~the third month September~~ following election or, in special circumstances, at a time designated by the Synod Council.

S9.03. There shall be a Nominating Committee consisting of fourteen representatives of mission cluster units with consideration given to geographical representation and gender balance, alternating between clergy and lay persons. There shall be seven clergy and seven lay people from the mission cluster units. The members of the committee shall be elected by the Synod Council. Terms shall be for two years with one-half being elected annually. No person shall be eligible to serve more than two consecutive terms. ~~At least one of the pastors serving on the committee shall be female.~~ There shall also be an officer from each synod organization for men, women and youth on the committee. The Synod Council shall appoint one of its members to serve on the committee.

S9.08. In all elections of officers, except for the bishop, the names of the persons receiving the highest number of legal votes after the second ballot, but not elected by a majority of the legal votes cast on either the first or the second ballot, shall be entered on the next ballot to the number of two for each vacancy unfilled. On any ballot when only two names appear, a majority of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election.

S9.09. The result of each ballot in every election shall be announced ~~in detail~~ to the assembly.

~~S9.11. [becomes a bylaw]~~

~~S9.11.01.~~ The Synod Council shall elect representatives to the coordinating council of its regional center for mission.

S10.08. No member of the Synod Council shall simultaneously ~~be a member of a synod committee and administrative staff member~~ ~~be an employee and called staff member~~ of a financial beneficiary institution or agency of this synod. ~~This section shall not apply to temporary or seasonal employees.~~

S14.15. Each minister of Word and Sacrament on the roll of this synod shall submit a written report of his or her ministry to the bishop of the synod ~~at least 90 days prior to each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly by June 1 of each year. Such reports shall become a part of the permanent file for both the congregation and the minister.~~

S14.34. Each minister of Word and Service on the roll of this synod shall submit a written report of his or her ministry to the bishop of the synod ~~by June 1 of each year. Such reports shall become a part of the permanent file for both the congregation and the minister.~~

S15.13. On the basis of estimated income, the Synod Council shall authorize expenditures within the budget for the fiscal year. Expenditure Budget and expenditure authorizations shall be subject to revision, in light of changing conditions, by the Synod Council.

~~S15.14. Except when such procedure would jeopardize current operations, a reserve amounting to no more than 16% of the sum of the amounts scheduled in the next year's budget for regular distribution to synodical causes shall be carried forward annually for disbursement in the following year in the interest of making possible a more even flow of income to such causes. The exact number of dollars to be held in reserve shall be determined by the Synod Council.~~

~~Except when such procedure would jeopardize current operations, the Synod shall maintain a reserve in the unrestricted Operations Fund in an amount not to exceed 16 percent of the following year's operating expense budget, to maintain a consistent availability of resources to fund such expenses. The exact amount to be held in reserve shall be determined by the Treasurer of the Synod and shall be approved by the Synod Council.~~

S19.02. This synod accepts and sustains a supporting relationship to ~~Dana College of Blair, Nebraska, and Midland Lutheran College-University~~ of Fremont, Nebraska, as a recognized ~~colleges college~~ of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America with a threefold concern for ~~their its~~ character as a Christian ~~institutions institution~~ of learning, ~~their its~~ academic excellence, and ~~their its~~ material welfare.

~~S20.01. The persons elected as officers and Synod Council members of this synod at the constituting convention shall serve in such positions for legal and organizational purposes beginning at the conclusion of the constituting convention and for the terms to which they are elected beginning January 1, 1988.~~

Voted: En Bloc

CC17.11.33i4

To ratify the following amendments to the constitution of the Western Iowa Synod:

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

S10.06. If a member of the Synod Council ceases to meet the requirements of the position to which she or he was elected, the office filled by such member shall at once become vacant. ~~If a Synod Council member misses three consecutive meetings without notice, the office will be considered vacant and a replacement may be appointed by the Synod Council immediately, or elected at the next Synod Assembly to finish the term.~~

S15.14. A reserve shall be established (of not less than two months nor more than four months) to cover operating expenses in case of catastrophic conditions.

Voted: En Bloc

CC17.11.33i5

To ratify the following amendments to the constitution of the Upstate New York Synod:

S8.52. The terms of the offices other than Bishop shall begin upon election and qualification. The term of the bishop shall begin on the first day of September following election, or, in special circumstances, at a time designated by the Synod Council.

S13.26. The parish records (including membership, baptism, confirmation, marriage and funeral records) of a congregation that disbands, is declared defunct by the Synod Council, or leaves the ELCA by any of the provisions of the Chapter 6 of the *Model Constitution for Congregations*, become property of this synod and shall be placed in the synod archives as designated by the Synod Council for reference and safekeeping.

Voted: En Bloc

CC17.11.33i6

To ratify the following amendments to the constitution of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod:

S7.22. c. All ordained pastors from other denominations who are our full-communion partners and who have been appointed or authorized by the Bishop and/or Synod Council to serve congregations of this Synod shall have voice and vote in the meetings of the Synod Assembly.

Voted: En Bloc

CC17.11.33j

To approve the Asset Transfer Agreement for the Reunion of Capital University and Trinity Lutheran Seminary; and

To approve the revised Bylaws of Capital University as they relate to Trinity Lutheran Seminary, in particular Articles VI, XXII and XXIX.

Voted: En Bloc

CC17.11.33k

To receive the response from the Corporate Social Responsibility table regarding “Toward a Responsible Energy Future”;

To approve the amendments to the following corporate social responsibility economic social criteria investment screen: Environment Social Criteria Investment Screen; and

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

Voted: En Bloc

CC17.11.33l

To defer the question of developing social messages on aging or the U.S. National Drug Policy until 2018.

Voted: En Bloc

CC17.11.33m

To adopt “Vision, Process, and Practice of ELCA Campus Ministry: Guidelines and Recommendations” to serve as the operation of and support for campus ministry in the ELCA; and

To request that “Policies and Procedures for Campus Ministry” be archived for historical and research purposes.

Voted: En Bloc

CC17.11.33n1

To elect to the board of directors of the Board of Pensions of the ELCA — Portico Benefit Services — for a term ending in August 2019: Ms. Helen Doerpinghaus;

To elect to the board of directors of the Publishing House of the ELCA — 1517 Media — for a term ending in August 2019: The Rev. Mark G. Vitalis Hoffman and Ms. Lisa J. Peck;

To re-elect to the board of directors of Wartburg Theological Seminary for a six-year term ending in December 2023: The Rev. Stephen J. Cornils and the Rev. Kathryn A. Kleinhans;

To elect to the board of directors of Mosaic, Inc. for a three-year term ending in 2020: Ms. Megan M. Gustafson; and

To approve the 2017 designation of the following members of the board of directors of The Evangelical Lutheran Good Samaritan Society as representatives to the ELCA: Mr. David J. Horazdovsky [president], Mr. H. Theodore Grindal [term ending in 2018], Dr. Gwen Wagstrom Halaas [term ending in 2019] and Mr. Dale M. Thompson [term ending in 2018].

Voted: En Bloc

CC17.11.33n2

To reappoint the Rev. Linda Nou as the Church Council advisor to the Justice for Women Consulting Committee for a two-year term, expiring in 2019.

Voted: En Bloc

CC17.11.33n3

To nominate to the advisory council of Trinity Lutheran Seminary as part of Capital University for a one-year term expiring in 2018: Ms. Barbara J. Burgie, Mr. Roderick G.W. Chu and Ms. Judy K. Leidy;

To nominate to the advisory council of Trinity Lutheran Seminary as part of Capital University for a two-year term expiring in 2019: Mr. James A. McCoy and Mr. Aaron Schmalzle; and

To nominate to the advisory council of Trinity Lutheran Seminary as part of Capital University for a three-year term expiring in 2020: Ms. Danette Miller.

Voted: En Bloc

CC17.11.33n4

To elect to the board of trustees of the Endowment Fund of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for a six-year term expiring in November 2023: Ms. Kristy Albrecht and the Rev. Glenn D. Miller; and

To authorize the Executive Committee of the Church Council, pursuant to 14.41.01.a. and 15.15.01 of the Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the ELCA, to elect up to four trustees to fill vacancies on the board of trustees for the Endowment Fund of the ELCA between now and the next meeting of the Church Council, bringing the board up to its maximum complement of 12 trustees.

Voted: En Bloc

CC17.11.33o

To thank the Western North Dakota Synod for its resolution regarding “Dakota Access Pipeline Protest”;

To receive the report from the Domestic Mission unit and to encourage the staff’s continued efforts to better understand the historical, environmental and other issues; and

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

Voted: En Bloc

CC17.11.33p

To thank the Southeastern Synod for its resolution regarding “The Role of the Church in Combating Antimicrobial Resistance”;

To receive the report from the Office of the Presiding Bishop and to request a further response from the Global Mission unit by the April 2018 Church Council meeting; and

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

Voted: En Bloc

CC17.11.33q

To thank the Southeastern Minnesota Synod for its resolution regarding “Mission Support and Benevolence”;

To anticipate proposed constitutional amendments replacing “benevolence” with “mission support” that may be recommended to the 2019 Churchwide Assembly; and

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

Voted: En Bloc

CC17.11.33r

To thank the Indiana-Kentucky Synod for its resolution regarding “Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service” and to receive the report from the Domestic Mission unit;

To thank ELCA Advocacy and Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service for their ongoing strategic work in support of refugees and protection of migrants;

To thank the presiding bishop for her continued communications to the U.S. President and members of Congress regarding this church’s commitment and support for the resettlement of refugees;

To encourage the staff of the churchwide organization and Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service to continue to choose strategic opportunities to communicate to the U.S. President and members of Congress of this church’s resolute commitment; and

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

Voted: En Bloc

CC17.11.33s

To thank the Northwest Washington Synod for its resolution regarding “Ministry Support and Protection for Immigrants, Refugees and Asylum Seekers” and to receive the report from the Domestic Mission unit;

To thank ELCA Advocacy and Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service for its ongoing strategic work in support of refugees and protection of migrants;

To thank the presiding bishop for her continued communications to the U.S. President and members of Congress regarding this church’s commitment and support for the resettlement of refugees;

To encourage the staff of the churchwide organization and Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service to continue to choose strategic opportunities to communicate to the U.S. President and members of Congress of this church’s resolute commitment; and

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

Voted: En Bloc

CC17.11.33t

To thank the Northwest Washington Synod for its resolution regarding “Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust”; and

To ask the secretary of this church to communicate to the synod that the actions it requests of the Church Council are not possible for it to consider according to the protocol of “Policies and Procedures of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for Addressing Social Concerns.”

Voted: En Bloc

CC17.11.33u

To receive the response from the Domestic Mission unit on “Increase Suicide Prevention Research Funding”; and

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

Voted: En Bloc

CC17.11.33v

To receive the response from the Office of the Presiding Bishop on “Time of Prayer and Worship Resources on Human Trafficking”;

To commend the resources created for National Human Trafficking Day to congregations; and

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

Voted: En Bloc

CC17.11.33w

To thank the Office of the Secretary and the Domestic Mission unit for its responses to “Examining the Implications of Becoming a Sanctuary Denomination”;

To decline the request for the ELCA to declare itself a sanctuary denomination;

To support the spirit of the sanctuary movement by encouraging congregations to serve and support the protection of migrants in their communities;

To request the churchwide organization to provide guidance and information regarding the new sanctuary movement under the umbrella of the AMMPARO Strategy; and

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

Voted: En Bloc

CC17.11.33x

To receive the report from the Domestic Mission unit in response to the 2013 Churchwide Assembly action related to the implementing resolutions for the social statement “The Church and Criminal Justice: Hearing the Cries” (2013).

Voted: En Bloc

CC17.11.33y

To receive the Office of the Presiding Bishop response on “Peace with Justice in the Holy Land”;

To encourage the staff to continue to find strategic moments to address the specific Israel and Palestine issues noted in the 2016 Churchwide Assembly action CA16.05.15 with the U.S. President and members of Congress; and

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

Voted: En Bloc

CC17.11.33z

To receive the progress report from the Office of the Secretary regarding “Gender Identity”; and
To anticipate a further response by the April 2018 Church Council meeting.

Voted: En Bloc

CC17.11.33aa

To receive the report from the Conference of Bishops Executive Committee regarding “Resolution on Call Process”;

To encourage the Conference of Bishops to continue to engage in conversation regarding rostered minister vacancies throughout this church as part of its work as a conference;

To encourage the Conference of Bishops to continue to engage in conversation regarding the work of facilitating and always reforming the call process for congregations and institutions in changing contexts;

To commend the Conference of Bishops for its call to prayer and ongoing work in raising up leaders for this church; and

To ask the Executive Committee of the Church Council and the Executive Committee of the Conference of Bishops to discuss how and in what form a mutual review of the status of this work every year and a half for three years would be most helpful and fruitful.

Voted: En Bloc

CC17.11.33bb

To receive the progress report from the Domestic Mission unit regarding African descent Lutherans;

To affirm the recommendations adopted at the African Descent Lutheran Association biennial gathering related to a process for relationship building and systematic analysis in response to a public apology;

To urge the Office of the Secretary and the Domestic Mission unit to continue its work in reviewing current governing documents to address contributions to racial harassment and discrimination against people of African descent;

To request a further response be brought to the April 2019 meeting of the Church Council; and

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

The ninetieth meeting of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America adjourned Sunday, Nov. 12, 2017, at 2:34 p.m.

April 5-8, 2018

The ninety-first meeting of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) was convened in the Council Room of the Lutheran Center at Chicago, Ill. Mr. William B. Horne II, vice president of the ELCA and chair of the Church Council, called the meeting to order on Thursday, April 5, 2018, at 3:05 p.m.

Voted: **CC18.04.01**

To adopt the agenda and to permit the chair to call for consideration of agenda items in the order the chair deems most appropriate.

Voted: **CC18.04.02**

To approve the minutes of the November 9-12, 2017, meeting of the Church Council; and
To ratify actions of the council's Executive Committee as indicated in the minutes of the November 9, 2017, December 6, 2017, January 30, 2018, February 21, 2018, and March 23, 2018, meetings.

Voted: **CC18.04.03**

To elect Ms. Sonja Wolfe, Kenosha, Wis. (5J), to the Church Council for a term ending in 2022.

Voted: **CC18.04.04**

To approve the proposal for a process to develop an Evangelical Lutheran Church in America governance policy manual.

Voted: **CC18.04.05**

To affirm the 2018-2019 Operational Plan of the churchwide organization.

Voted: **CC18.04.06**

To receive with gratitude the report of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group and thank them for their work;
To approve the change from self-insured medical and pharmacy plans for the retirees to fully insured medical and pharmacy plans;
To approve the conversion of the retiree medical subsidy calculation from a fixed percentage of the monthly premium to a fixed dollar discount amount equal to the 2018 subsidy for the Medicare Standard Option plan, increasing by 3 percent per year starting in 2020;
To approve the use of excess discounts (subsidies exceeding the monthly premium) to provide notional accounts to fund future discounts for the retirees in the event that future premiums exceed future subsidies;
To approve the resolution of additional issues as set forth in Appendix A;
To request Portico Benefit Services to draft revised plan language to accomplish these plan changes;
To authorize the Executive Committee to receive, review, and approve revised plan language drafted by Portico;
To acknowledge Portico's collection of the 0.7 percent surcharge from participating employers through 2019 to help fund the Trust;
To acknowledge Portico's collection of \$7,000,000 in surcharges from participating employers from 2020-2022 to help fund the Trust, with Portico to determine the rate and duration best suited to collect those surcharges;
To authorize the ELCA to expend \$11,000,000 between now and 2022 to fund the Trust, with the expectation that these amounts, together with amounts contributed from participating employers via Portico, will fully fund the Trust, but recognizing that this is a funding estimate; and
To terminate the *Aide-memoire* and replace it with the understanding set forth herein.

Voted: **CC18.04.07**

To approve the policy and procedure for the allocation of "where needed most" dollars in *Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA*; and
To report results to the Budget and Finance Committee as part of the regular campaign reporting.

Voted:

CC18.04.08

To receive with gratitude the report and proposed recommendations from the Entrance Rite Discernment Group;
To refer the proposed recommendations to the Office of the Secretary for preliminary work on possible amendments to the *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*;

To encourage the Entrance Rite Discernment Group to share the proposed recommendations throughout the church and with full communion partners for further conversation; and

To request the Entrance Rite Discernment Group present final recommendations to the November 2018 Church Council meeting.

Voted:

CC18.04.09

To create a task force composed of Church Council members, churchwide organization staff and liaison bishops to consider a future ELCA campaign and a strategic focus on generating additional revenue for this church; and

To authorize the Executive Committee of the Church Council to appoint members to the task force; and

To request that the task force present a timeline at the November 2018 meeting and report at the April 2019 meeting of the Church Council.

Voted:

CC18.04.10

To appoint Ms. Maren Hulden, Mr. Joseph T. Nolte, Mr. Clarence M. Smith, Mr. Gary A. Pederson, Mr. James J.F. Jennings, the Rev. Wm Chris Boerger, the Rev. M. Wyvetta Bullock, Ms. Christina Jackson-Skelton and Bishop R. Guy Erwin to an *ad hoc* governance policy committee; and

To authorize the Executive Committee of the Church Council to make additional appointments as necessary.

Voted: Two-Thirds Vote

CC18.04.11

To approve the following amendments to the *Constitution, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*.

15.15.A1718.

Responsibilities of the Endowment Fund of the ELCA

The Endowment Fund of the ELCA—also known as the ELCA Foundation—shall:

- a. offer, promote, administer, and oversee endowment, deferred giving, life-income, and similar planned giving programs for individual donors, congregations, synods, the churchwide organization, and related institutions and agencies in support of ELCA ministries;
- b. offer pooled investment services for endowment funds of this church and its congregations, synods, churchwide organization, and related institutions and agencies;
- c. manage assets of endowment, deferred giving, life-income agreements, donor-advised funds, and funds held for external participants;
- d. oversee the administration of earned-income payments to donors and to remainder beneficiaries as regulated by life-income, trust, and other fiduciary donor agreements;
- e. determine annual endowment fund distribution rate;
- f. set fees associated with endowment and deferred giving programs;
- g. hire and oversee such managers, service providers, consultants, advisors, and sub-advisors as it deems appropriate;
- h. develop and approve an annual budget that will be financed through revenue from its gift planning and investment activities and programs;
- i. coordinate programs and ministries with the priorities of the ELCA and other stewardship and financial-resource development activities of this church; and
- j. act in accordance with constitutional provision 16.12. and bylaws 11.34.01., 14.21.02., 14.21.03., 14.21.06., and 14.21.07.

19.01.A1518.

In a year when the vice president or secretary shall be elected, the voting members of elected to serve at the Churchwide Assembly shall be invited to identify the names of up to three persons who might be considered for election as vice president or secretary. Names shall be submitted to the Office of the Secretary at least four months prior to the assembly. The Office of the Secretary shall contact those persons identified and request biographical information. At least 60 days prior to

the Churchwide Assembly, the biographical information received from those persons open to consideration shall be distributed to the voting members.

Voted: **CC18.04.12**

To take *en bloc* action on the following items listed in *En Bloc* Items, Responses to Churchwide Assembly Actions and Responses to Synodical Resolutions.

Voted: En Bloc **CC18.04.12a**

To approve the report of the ELCA Audit Committee describing its review of the audited financial statements, management letter, and response of management for the Endowment Fund Pooled Trust's year ending December 31, 2017.

Voted: En Bloc **CC18.04.12b1**

As a grateful church that affirms the partnership of congregation, synod and churchwide expressions, we affirm the percentage of sharing of 2018 Mission Support by congregations for synod and churchwide ministries:

Eastern Washington-Idaho, Rocky Mountain and Western Iowa synods;

As a Church Council, we thank the bishops and synod leaders of every synod as they strive to be faithful to shared commitments within the ELCA and to direct synod and churchwide staff, including the directors for evangelical mission, to deepen their partnership in efforts to strengthen financial support for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

We will steward these gifts to maximize their impact in mission for the sake of "God's work. Our hands." in the world.

Voted: En Bloc **CC18.04.12b2**

To acknowledge with appreciation the action of the following synods to maintain the percentage of sharing of 2018 Mission Support contributions by congregations for synod and churchwide ministries but estimating an adjustment in the projected amount to be shared:

Eastern North Dakota, East-Central Synod of Wisconsin, Northern Great Lakes and Pacifica synods;

To further affirm that we will steward these gifts to maximize their impact in mission for the sake of "God's work. Our hands." in the world.

Voted: En Bloc **CC18.04.12b3**

As a grateful church that affirms the partnership of congregation, synod and churchwide expressions, we affirm the percentage of sharing or dollar amount of sharing of 2019 Mission Support by congregations for synod and churchwide ministries:

Alaska, Allegheny, Arkansas-Oklahoma, Caribbean, Central/Southern Illinois, Central States, Delaware-Maryland, Eastern North Dakota, Eastern Washington-Idaho, East-Central Synod of Wisconsin, Florida-Bahamas, Grand Canyon, Greater Milwaukee, Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast, Indiana-Kentucky, La Crosse Area, Lower Susquehanna, Metropolitan Chicago, Metropolitan Washington, D.C., Metropolitan New York, Minneapolis Area, Montana, Northern Great Lakes, Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana, Northwest Washington, North/West Lower Michigan, Northeastern Iowa, Northeastern Ohio, Northeastern Pennsylvania, Northeastern Minnesota, Nebraska, New England, New Jersey, North Carolina, Northern Illinois, Northwestern Ohio, Northwestern Pennsylvania, Northwestern Minnesota, Northwest Synod of Wisconsin, Oregon, Pacifica, Rocky Mountain, Southern Ohio, Southwestern Washington, Southwestern Texas, Southeastern Iowa, Southeastern Pennsylvania, Southeast Michigan, Southeastern Minnesota, Sierra Pacific, Slovak Zion, South Carolina, South Dakota, South-Central Synod of Wisconsin, Southeastern, Saint Paul Area, Southwest California, Southwestern Pennsylvania, Southwestern Minnesota, Upper Susquehanna, Upstate New York, Virginia, Western North Dakota, West Virginia-Western Maryland and Western Iowa synods;

As a Church Council, we thank the bishops and synod leaders of every synod as they strive to be faithful to shared commitments within the ELCA and to direct synod and churchwide staff, including the directors for evangelical mission, to deepen their partnership in efforts to strengthen financial support for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; and

We will steward these gifts to maximize their impact in mission for the sake of "God's work. Our hands." in the world.

Voted: En Bloc

CC18.04.12c

To affirm that the process for determining synod-specific mission support goals is consistent with the actions taken by the Church Council at its April 2015 meeting;

To thank all bishops and churchwide staff who participated in the formulation of this process in a contextually sensitive, substantive and collaborative spirit; and

To request that the Budget and Finance Committee of the Church Council continue to receive the results of synod consultations and synod-specific mission support goals.

Voted: En Bloc

CC18.04.12d

To revise all existing ELCA Endowment authorizations for which the Church Council is the governing authority as follows:

Strike the words, ‘executive director of the Commission on Multicultural Ministries’, and replace with the words ‘director for American Indian Alaska Native ministry’;

Strike the words, ‘or appropriate designee’, and replace with the words ‘the director for Ethnic Specific Multicultural Ministries’;

Strike the words, ‘executive director’ of the ELCA Foundation, and replace with the word ‘president’ of the ELCA Foundation.

Voted: En Bloc

CC18.04.12e

To adopt the following amendments.

Appointment of Assistant Officers

RESOLVED, that for the sole purpose of executing, when necessary, documents approved and authorized in accordance with actions of the Church Council, the following are hereby appointed as assistant vice presidents of this corporation: M. Wyvetta Bullock, Walter S. May, **Marcus R. Kunz**, **Kathryn M. Lohre**, and Jodi L. Slattery, to serve until replaced or removed by subsequent appointments, with such subsequent appointments to be based upon the nomination and recommendation of the presiding bishop;

RESOLVED, that for the sole purpose of executing, when necessary, documents approved and authorized in accordance with actions of the Church Council, the following are hereby appointed as assistant treasurers of this corporation: Cecilia Favela, Christina Jackson-Skelton, Christopher Carpenter, and Annette Roman, to serve until replaced or removed by subsequent appointments, with such subsequent appointments to be based upon the nomination and recommendation of the treasurer;

RESOLVED, that for the sole purpose of executing or attesting, when necessary, documents approved and authorized in accordance with actions of the Church Council, the following are hereby appointed as assistant secretaries of this corporation: Thomas A. Cunniff, Sue E. Rothmeyer, **Phillip H. Harris** and **Aja M. Favors** to serve until replaced or removed by subsequent appointments, with such subsequent appointments to be based upon the nomination and recommendation of the secretary.

RESOLVED, that prior resolutions adopted by this Council, including CC15.04.31b and the prior actions identified in CC15.04.31b, addressing the appointment of assistant officers are hereby rescinded and replaced by this action.

Voted: En Bloc

CC18.04.12f

To approve a Church Council Designated Fund in the amount of \$2,750,000 representing the excess revenue over expenses from fiscal year 2017 to be released to fund the post-retirement medical benefit obligations of the churchwide organization.

Voted: En Bloc

CC18.04.12g

To designate the persons identified in the “2018 Synod Assemblies by Synod” grid with voice but not vote in the meetings of the assigned Synod Assembly.

Voted: En Bloc

CC18.04.12h

To approve the revised constitution and bylaws of the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, Illinois.

Voted: En Bloc ***CC18.04.12i***
To approve the “Political and Civil Human Rights: Equal Access and Participation” Social Criteria Investment Screen; and
To request that the secretary of this church inform the synods of this action.

Voted: En Bloc ***CC18.04.12j***
To adopt the identified changes to the social message on Immigration (1998) as an editorial update that will provide accurate information from the ELCA’s strategy to Accompany Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities (AMMPARO).

Voted: En Bloc ***CC18.04.12k1***
To elect to the board of directors of the Publishing House of the ELCA — 1517 Media — for a term ending in August 2019: Mr. Joel Peterson.

Voted: En Bloc ***CC18.04.12k2***
To re-elect to the board of directors of The Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago for a three-year term expiring in 2021: Ms. Rebecca R. Pallmeyer.

Voted: En Bloc ***CC18.04.12k3***
To nominate to the advisory council of Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary as part of Lenoir-Rhyne University for a term coterminous with his service as chair: The Rev. Lowell G. Almen.

Voted: En Bloc ***CC18.04.12k4***
To nominate to the advisory council of Trinity Lutheran Seminary at Capital University for a term coterminous with her service as chair: Ms. Judy K. Leidy; and
To nominate to the advisory council of Trinity Lutheran Seminary at Capital University for a three-year term expiring in 2021: Ms. Barbara J. Burgie and Mr. Roderick G.W. Chu.

Voted: En Bloc ***CC18.04.12k5***
To elect to the board of directors of Wartburg Theological Seminary for a three-year term expiring in 2021: Mr. Andrew N. Nuffer;
To elect to the board of directors of Wartburg Theological Seminary for a four-year term expiring in 2022: Ms. Elizabeth Lucht Jones; and
To elect to the board of directors of Wartburg Theological Seminary for a five-year term expiring in 2023: The Rev. Mary B. Froiland.

Voted: En Bloc ***CC18.04.12k6***
To elect to the board of trustees of United Lutheran Seminary for a three-year term expiring in 2021: The Rev. R. Guy Erwin, Mr. David A. Russell and the Rev. Mark K. Tyler; and
To authorize the Executive Committee to elect trustees to fill, until the November 2018 meeting of the Church Council, vacancies in the board of trustees of United Lutheran Seminary.

Voted: En Bloc ***CC18.04.12l***
To appoint the Rev. Logan T. Vang and Ms. Kelly Sherman-Conroy to the Strategic Task Force Toward Authentic Diversity; and
To authorize the Executive Committee of the Church Council to make additional appointments as necessary.

Voted: En Bloc ***CC18.04.12m***
To receive the progress report from the Domestic Mission unit regarding the implementation of the Strategy Toward Authentic Diversity within the ELCA (Motion B); and
To request that the Domestic Mission unit provide periodic reports to the Church Council on the work of the Strategic Task Force Toward Authentic Diversity leading up to a final report to the 2019 Churchwide Assembly.

Voted: En Bloc

CC18.04.12n

To receive the report from the Domestic Mission unit on “Gun Violence Prevention”; and
To request that the secretary of this church notify the synods of this action.

Voted: En Bloc

CC18.04.12o

To receive the response from the Office of the Presiding Bishop regarding “Deepening Relationships with Historic Black Churches”;
To commend the work of building and strengthening relations given the existing budget and capacity and to encourage the continued multi-faceted strategy of engagement; and
To request that the secretary of this church notify the synod of this action.

Voted: En Bloc

CC18.04.12p

To receive the response from the Mission Advancement unit regarding the “Find a Congregation” feature on the ELCA website;
To commend the Mission Advancement unit for its efforts to revise and update the information about congregations available through “Find a Congregation” on the ELCA website; and
To request that the secretary of this church inform the synod of this action.

Voted: En Bloc

CC18.04.12q

To receive the report from the Global Mission unit on “The role of the church in combating antimicrobial resistance”;
To commend the efforts of the Global Mission unit to engage ELCA companions and partners on the topic of antimicrobial resistance and to explore the best practices for combating it;
To encourage the churchwide organization to promote awareness around the reasons for concern about antibiotic resistance;
To encourage the Global Mission and the Domestic Mission units to identify advocacy possibilities connected to this topic; and
To request that the secretary of this church inform the synod of this action.

The ninety-first meeting of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America adjourned Sunday, April 8, 2018, at 2:48 p.m.

November 8-11, 2018

The ninety-second meeting of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) was convened in the Council Room of the Lutheran Center at Chicago, Ill. Mr. William B. Horne II, vice president of the ELCA and chair of the Church Council, called the meeting to order on Thursday, November 8, 2018, at 3:00 p.m.

Voted: **CC18.11.13**

To adopt the agenda and to permit the chair to call for consideration of agenda items in the order the chair deems most appropriate.

Voted: **CC18.11.14**

To approve the minutes of the April 5-8, 2018, meeting of the Church Council; and
To ratify actions of the council's Executive Committee as indicated in the minutes of the April 5, 2018, May 15, 2018, June 19, 2018, July 26, 2018, August 28, 2018, September 21, 2018, and October 16, 2018, meetings.

Voted: **CC18.11.15**

To approve the Preface and Part 1 of the ELCA Church Council Governance Policy Manual; and
To authorize the Office of the Presiding Bishop, in consultation with the Office of the Secretary, to make any necessary corrections for accuracy.

Voted: **CC18.11.16**

To thank the Rev. Stephen Bouman for his faithful service as the executive director of the Domestic Mission unit; and
To extend the council's appreciation for his wisdom and insights which have assisted the Church Council in its work.

Voted: **CC(ES)18.11.17**

To re-elect the Rev. Rafael Malpica Padilla to a four-year renewable term as executive director of the Global Mission unit, beginning February 1, 2019.

Voted: **CC18.11.19**

To recommend the following for adoption by the 2019 Assembly of the ELCA to adopt the proposed policy statement, *A Declaration of Inter-Religious Commitment: A policy statement of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*.

Voted: **CC(ES)18.11.18**

To elect the Rev. Philip C. Hirsch to a four-year renewable term as executive director of the Domestic Mission unit, beginning February 1, 2019.

Voted: **CC18.11.20**

To approve a 2019 fiscal year current fund spending authorization of \$67,164,676.

Voted: **CC18.11.21**

To approve a 2019 ELCA World Hunger spending authorization of \$21,500,000.

Voted: **CC18.11.22**

To extend the Mission Support Experiment with the five synods (Nebraska Synod, Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod, New England Synod, Lower Susquehanna Synod, and Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod) through January 31, 2021; and

To request the five synod leaders and appropriate churchwide staff bring an initial report to the Church Council by the April 2019 meeting and a final report and recommendations to the Church Council by November 2019 that:

- Clearly states the impact that the experiment(s) have had on Mission Support through the first three years of the experiment;

- Clearly states the impact that the experiments(s) have had on management and oversight of grants for congregation vitality and the position of director for evangelical mission;
- Clearly states how synodical cultures have been changed by greater nimbleness in overall decision making, articulating the various strategies implemented by the experiment synods in achieving this goal;
- Addresses the broader implications if the specifics of this experiment were to become permanent for these five synods; and
- Addresses the broader implications if the specifics of this experiment were to be adopted by other synods.

Voted:

CC18.11.23

To form a working group composed of five members, of whom two shall be members of the Church Council, to draft a declaration to people of African descent;

To direct this working group to develop in this document a confession of this church's bondage to the sins of slavery, racism, discrimination, white supremacy, and quietism, and begin the work of repentance, which this church confesses to be "the chief topic of Christian teaching" [Apology of the Augsburg Confession XXIV.46];

To direct this working group to bring a draft of this declaration to the April 2019 meeting of the Church Council in preparation for its proposal to the 2019 Churchwide Assembly;

To direct the Executive Committee of the Church Council to appoint members to this working group at its January meeting; and

To direct the Office of the Presiding Bishop to provide administrative and budgetary support for this work, including one in-person meeting if deemed necessary by the working group.

Voted:

CC18.11.24

To receive with gratitude the report and recommendations from the Entrance Rite Discernment Group and thank the discernment group members for their faithful service;

To define the symbols of this ministry as a deacon's stole and cross, both to be presented at the entrance rite, and to request the Office of the Presiding Bishop worship staff share information about the appropriate use of the deacon stole and facilitate a conversation among deacons regarding a unified cross design;

To encourage synods, congregations, and the churchwide organization to increase opportunities for lifting up, recognizing, fostering, and encouraging recognition of deacons for the mission and witness of the church in the world;

To continue Domestic Mission unit funding for transition events and ongoing leadership and formation events to ensure growth and understanding of the roster of Ministers of Word and service; and

To approve the implementation of the following actions, subject to the approval of the governing documents establishing the rite of ordination as the entrance rite for deacons entering the roster of Ministers of Word and Service:

- request the Office of the Presiding Bishop worship staff develop an appropriate rite and rubrics for the ordination of deacons;
- request the Domestic Mission unit, in consultation with appropriate churchwide organization offices and units, review the ELCA candidacy process for appropriate modifications as necessary;
- continue, through the appropriate churchwide organization office or unit in consultation with ecumenical partners, the preparation of appropriate and informative materials for the ongoing study of how this church lives into its diaconal vocation.

Voted:

CC18.11.25

To take *en bloc* action on the following items listed in *En Bloc* Items, Responses to Churchwide Assembly Actions and Responses to Synodical Resolutions.

Voted: En Bloc

CC18.11.25a

To approve the report of the ELCA Audit Committee describing its review of the audited financial statements, management letter, and response of management for the churchwide organization's fiscal year ended January 31, 2018.

Voted: En Bloc

CC18.11.25b

To approve the re-appointment of Mr. Richard D. Wehrheim III to the ELCA Audit Committee for a two-year term expiring in November 2020.

Voted: En Bloc

CC18.11.25c1

To acknowledge with appreciation the action of the following synods to maintain the percentage of sharing of 2018 Mission Support contributions by congregations for synod and churchwide ministries but estimating an adjustment in the projected amount to be shared:

Northwest Washington, Southwestern Minnesota, Nebraska, Northern Illinois, Southeastern Iowa, Southern Ohio, Upper Susquehanna, Southeastern; and

To further affirm that we will steward these gifts to maximize their impact in mission for the sake of “God’s work. Our hands.” in the world.

Voted: En Bloc

CC18.11.25c2

To acknowledge with appreciation the action of the following synods to maintain the percentage of sharing of 2019 Mission Support contributions by congregations for synod and churchwide ministries but estimating an adjustment in the projected amount to be shared:

Northwest Washington, Southwestern Minnesota, Minneapolis Area, Southeastern Minnesota, Nebraska, Northern Illinois, Northwest Ohio, Southwestern Pennsylvania, Upper Susquehanna; and

To further affirm that we will steward these gifts to maximize their impact in mission for the sake of God’s work. Our hands. in the world.

Voted: En Bloc

CC18.11.25d

To approve a Church Council Designated Fund in the range of \$1,500,000 to \$2,500,000 representing both planned operating underspending and excess revenue over expenses from fiscal year 2018 for release in fiscal year 2019 for the budgeted operations of the ELCA churchwide organization.

Voted: En Bloc

CC18.11.25e

To approve the revised ELCA Core Investment Policy.

Voted: En Bloc

CC18.11.25f

To amend the number of Theological Education Advisory Committee members to allow for 10 members, adding a representative from the embedded seminaries.

Voted: En Bloc

CC18.11.25g

To appoint the members of the Memorials Committee for the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly:

1. Ms. Cheryl Chatman [3G, person of color or language other than English] (co-chair)
2. Pr. Dena Gable [8C]
3. Mr. Reid Christopherson [3C] (co-chair)
4. Mr. Joseph Nolte [5D]
5. Bp. Tracie Bartholomew [7A]
6. Bp. Abraham Allende [6E, person of color or language other than English]
7. Ms. Emily Brown [1B]
8. Mr. Peter Metcalf [1F]
9. Ms. Erin La Haye [2D; young adult]
10. Mr. Thomas Askegaard [4C; young adult]
11. Mr. Robert Rivera [4F, person of color or language other than English]
12. Mr. Clyde Walter [5A]
13. Mr. Larry Johnson [6C, person of color or language other than English]
14. Ms. Elizabeth Burgess [7B]; and
15. Ms. Diana Haywood [9B, person of color or language other than English]; and

To authorize the Executive Committee of the Church Council to appoint additional members to the Memorials Committee for the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly as needed.

Voted: En Bloc

CC18.11.25h

To appoint the members of the Committee of Reference and Counsel for the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly:

1. Ms. Ingrid Stafford [5A]
2. Ms. Emma Wagner [8F, young adult] (co-chair)
3. Mr. Clarence Smith [3H, person of color or primary language other than English]
4. Mr. Jim Jennings [7E] (co-chair)
5. Bp. Jon Anderson [3F]
6. Bp. Suzanne Dillahunt [6F]
7. Pr. Julia Seymour [1A]
8. Ms. Cheyenne Boykin [2B, person of color or primary language other than English, young adult]
9. Deacon Erin Power [2E]
10. Deacon Stephanie Varnum [4D]
11. Mr. Connor Ashley [6B, young adult]
12. Pr. Moacir Weirich [7A, person of color or primary language other than English]
13. Ms. Vivian Dawson-Hamer [8A, person of color or primary language other than English]
14. Deacon Andrew More [9C]
15. Mr. Imran Siddiqui [9D, person of color or primary language other than English]; and

To authorize the Executive Committee of the Church Council to appoint additional members to the Reference and Counsel Committee for the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly as needed.

Voted: En Bloc

CC18.11.25i

To delegate to the Executive Committee of the Church Council (excluding the presiding bishop) responsibility for review and evaluation of and recommendations for Part Sixteen of the draft Rules of Organization and Procedure for the 2019 Churchwide Assembly, particularly the assembly discernment process; and

To bring to the Church Council recommendations for Part Sixteen of the Rules of Organization and Procedure for the 2019 Churchwide Assembly no later than its April 2019 meeting.

Voted: En Bloc

CC18.11.25j

To approve the revised Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation of Theological Seminary, Dubuque, Iowa.

Voted: En Bloc

CC18.11.25k1

To ratify the following amendments to the constitution of the Oregon Synod:

S14.33. The minister of Word and Service is encouraged to become a member of the congregation upon receipt and acceptance of the letter of call. In a parish of multiple congregations, the minister of Word and Service is encouraged to hold membership in one of the congregations.

S14.47. All ministers of Word and Service under a call shall attend meetings of the Synod Assembly, and the ministers of Word and Service of congregations are encouraged to attend the meetings of the cluster to which the congregation belongs.

Voted: En Bloc

CC18.11.25k2

To ratify the following amendments to the constitution of the Rocky Mountain Synod:

~~S11.06. The Nominating Committee—see S9.03. and S9.03.01.~~

~~S11.07. The Synod Council as in Chapter 10.~~

~~S11.10.~~

S11.07. General Provisions for all ministry teams:

- a) Each ministry team, board, commission and committee shall submit a report to the Office of the Bishop no less than forty-five days prior to each year's Synod Assembly for publication to the Assembly.

- b) Any ministry team, board, commission or committee requesting financial support shall submit a request to the Finance Committee of this synod as part of the annual budgeting process.
- c) Each member of a ministry team, board, commission or committee shall be a voting member of a congregation of this synod.
- d) In the event that a vacancy on a required ministry team or committee occurs, that vacancy shall be filled by appointment of the Synod Council to fulfill the unexpired term.
- e) Any member of a ministry team, board, commission or committee who is employed by an agency or institution related to such board, committee, ministry team or commission shall abstain from voting on any issue related to their employer.
- f) One or more members of the Synod Council may be appointed by the Council to serve as liaison to each ministry team. This liaison shall include notice of meetings, agenda items and minutes. The Council liaison may have voice and vote.
- g) A member of the synod staff may be assigned to teams as needed. The staff person shall have voice but no vote.
- h) No ministry team shall issue any public statement purporting to speak for this synod.

S11.08. Additional Committees and Boards

~~S11.51.~~

~~S11.09.~~ To promote interdependent relations and to further the total mission of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and synodical units, this synod shall accord to the Churchwide units the privilege of presenting their causes through reports to the regular Synod Assemblies and shall accord the privilege of representation with voice but not vote at meetings of the Synod Council.

~~Such groups shall include but are not limited to:~~

- a. ~~The synodical women's organization;~~
- b. ~~The organizations for men and youth, Lutheran Men in Mission and Lutheran Youth Organization (LYO);~~
- c. ~~The Publishing House of the ELCA;~~
- d. ~~The Board of Pensions;~~
- e. ~~The church periodical;~~
- f. ~~The ELCA Foundation;~~
- g. ~~The Mission Investment Fund of the ELCA;~~
- h. ~~Members of churchwide or regional entities of the ELCA.~~

~~S11.11.~~ This synod shall in its bylaws or by continuing resolution establish a process to assure that the members of its committees and other organizational units will be persons possessing the necessary knowledge and competence to be effective members of such units, and to meet the requirements of †S6.04. With the exception of ministers on the rosters of this synod who reside outside the territory of this synod, each member of a committee of this synod, or any other organizational unit created by this synod, shall be a voting member of a congregation of this synod.

~~S11.16. ELCA Region 2 Council~~

~~S11.18. Reference and Counsel Committee. See S7.32.11., S7.32.A06., and S7.32.11.B06.~~

~~S11.20. Catalyst Ministry Teams.~~

~~S11.21. Oversight Ministry Teams~~

~~S11.40. Self-Organizing Ministry Teams~~

~~S11.50. Relation to Other Churchwide Units~~

Voted: En Bloc

CC18.11.25k3

To ratify the following amendments to the constitution of the Eastern North Dakota Synod:

~~S8.52. The terms of the bishop, vice president, secretary, and treasurer shall begin on the first day of the third month following election.~~

~~S9.11. The Synod Assembly shall elect a representative to the steering committee of Region 3.~~

S11.06. There shall be a Candidacy Committee which shall ~~be a standing committee and shall relate to the Leadership Growth Board as appropriate.~~

a. ~~Consist of one person from each conference elected at the Conference Assembly plus three persons appointed by the Synod Council for a term of six years eligible for one consecutive re-election.~~

b. ~~Be responsible for:~~

1) ~~Recruitment and preparation for professional leadership.~~

2) ~~Recommendations for certification of ministers of Word and Sacrament and of ministers of Word and Service.~~

~~A candidate meeting with the Candidacy Committee may request that his or her pastor meet with the committee as appropriate.~~

S11.20. Synod Ministry ~~Boards-Committees~~

~~The synod council or bishop may endorse additional committees to help fulfill the synod's mission statement, as is necessary.~~

S13.24. If any congregation of this synod has disbanded without making provision for the upkeep of its property, or if the members of a congregation agree that it is no longer possible for it to function as such, or if it is the opinion of the Synod Council that the membership of a congregation has become so scattered or so diminished in numbers as to make it impractical for such a congregation to fulfill the purposes for which it was organized or that it is necessary for this synod to protect the congregation's property from waste and deterioration, the Synod Council, itself or through trustees appointed by it, may take charge and control of the property of the congregation to hold, manage, and convey the same on behalf of this synod. ~~Such action shall require a two-thirds vote of the Synod Council.~~ The congregation shall have the right to appeal the decision to the Synod Assembly.

Voted: En Bloc

CC18.11.25k4

To ratify the following amendments to the constitution of the Central States Synod:

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

~~S15.14. Except when such procedure would jeopardize current operations, a reserve amounting to no more than 16 percent of the sum of the amounts scheduled in the next year's budget for regular distribution to synodical causes shall be carried forward annually for disbursement in the following year in the interest of making possible a more even flow of income to such causes. The exact number of dollars to be held in reserve shall be determined by the Synod Council.~~

Voted: En Bloc

CC18.11.25k5

To ratify the following amendments to the constitution of the Western Iowa Synod:

S9.03. There shall be a Nominating Committee consisting of five ~~to seven~~ members to serve for each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly. ~~From the twelve conferences, the Synod Council shall designate, on a rotating basis, five conferences, each of which shall submit two or more names to be placed on the ballot for election of the Nominating Committee. The Synod Assembly shall then elect five persons to serve the next regular Synod Assembly as the Nominating Committee. A sixth member may be appointed by the Synod Council to serve on the committee at the next regular Synod Assembly to meet the criteria of~~ *S6.04. Persons placed on the ballot for the Nominating Committee should represent different conferences

and comply with criteria of †S6.04. Additional nominations may be made from the floor for all elections for which the nominations are made by the Nominating Committee.

- S9.05. The Nominating Committee shall nominate at least one person for vice president; additional nominations may be made from the floor.
- a. The Nominating Committee shall nominate at least four persons at large from within the synod, at least four youth, and at least four persons of color or language other than English to the Synod Council.

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

- S10.06. If a member of the Synod Council ceases to meet the requirements of the position to which she or he was elected, the office filled by such member shall at once become vacant. If a Synod Council member misses three consecutive meetings without notice, the office will be considered vacant and a replacement may be appointed by the Synod Council immediately, or elected at the next Synod Assembly to finish the term.

S15.14. A reserve shall be established (of not less than two months nor more than four months) to cover operating expenses in case of catastrophic conditions.

Voted: En Bloc

CC18.11.25k6

To ratify the following amendments to the constitution of the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin:

- S7.14. One half of the members of the Synod Assembly shall constitute a quorum. One half of the number of members of the Synod Assembly registered at a regular meeting of the Synod Assembly shall constitute a quorum for that meeting and any special meeting of the Synod Assembly meeting thereafter until the next regular meeting.

Voted: En Bloc

CC18.11.25k7

To ratify the following amendments to the constitution of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod:

- S7.22. This synod may establish processes that permit retired ordained ministers, or those designated as disabled, or on leave from call, on the roster of this synod to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly, consistent with *S7.21.c. If the synod does not establish processes to permit the rostered ministers specified above to serve as voting members, they shall have voice but not vote in the meetings of the Synod Assembly.
- a. All retired ministers of Word and Sacrament on the roster of this Synod who register for the Synod Assembly, and all retired ministers of Word and Service on the roster of this Synod who register for the Synod Assembly shall be voting members of the Assembly, consistent with the provision that 60% of the voting membership shall be laypersons.
- b. All ministers of Word and Sacrament on the roster of this Synod who are on leave from call and who register for the Synod Assembly, and all ministers of Word and Service on the lay roster of this Synod who are on leave from call and who register for the Synod Assembly shall be voting members of the Assembly, consistent with the provision that 60% of the voting membership shall be laypersons.
- c. All ordained pastors from other denominations who are our full-communion partners and who have been appointed or authorized by the Bishop and/or Synod Council to serve congregations of this Synod shall have voice and vote in the meetings of the Synod Assembly.

Voted: En Bloc

CC18.11.25k8

To ratify the following amendments to the constitution of the Upper Susquehanna Synod:

- S9.06. The Synod Council Nominating Committee shall nominate two persons for secretary; additional nominations may be made from the floor.

Voted: En Bloc

CC18.11.25k9

To ratify the following amendments to the constitution of the West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod:

- S7.14. ~~One half of the members of the Synod Assembly shall constitute a quorum.~~
A majority of the registered members of the Synod Assembly shall constitute a quorum.

Voted: En Bloc

CC18.11.25l

To recommend the following for adoption by the 2019 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:

To adopt, *en bloc*, with the exception of such amendments as may be considered separately, the amendments to the *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*; and

To authorize the Office of the Secretary to make appropriate changes in the *Constitution for Synods* and the *Model Constitution for Congregations* congruent with the ELCA constitution as amended.

Chapter 4: Statement of Purpose

- 4.02 c. Serve in response to God's love to meet human needs, caring for the sick and the aged, advocating dignity and, justice, and equality for all people, working for peace and reconciliation among the nations, caring for the marginalized, embracing and welcoming racially and ethnically diverse populations, and standing with the poor and powerless and committing itself to their needs.

CHAPTER 5: PRINCIPLES OF ORGANIZATION

- 5.01 c. The congregations, synods, and churchwide organization of this church are interdependent partners expressions sharing responsibly in God's mission. In an interdependent relationship, primary responsibility for particular functions will vary between the partners among the expressions. Whenever possible, the entity most directly affected by a decision shall be the principal party responsible for decision and implementation, with the other entities facilitating and assisting. Each congregation, synod, and separately incorporated ministry, as well as the churchwide organization itself, is a separate legal entity and is responsible for exercising its powers and authorities.
- d. Each congregation and synod in its governing documents shall include the Confession of Faith and Statement of Purpose and such structural components as are required in this constitution the *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*. Beyond these common elements, congregations and synods shall be free to organize in such manner as each deems appropriate for its jurisdiction.
- e. ~~The Church Council shall establish an ongoing process to review the function of the structural organization of this church and to develop recommendations for changes.~~
- f. Except as otherwise provided in this constitution and bylaws, the appropriate office or unit of the churchwide organization, through the Church Council, shall establish processes that will ensure that at least 60 percent of the members of its assemblies, councils, committees, boards, and other organizational units shall be laypersons; that as nearly as possible, 50 at least 45 percent of the lay members of these assemblies, councils, committees, boards, or other organizational units shall be female women and 50 at least 45 percent shall be male men, and that, where possible, the representation of ministers of Word and Sacrament shall be both female and male include both women and men. At least 10 percent of the members of these assemblies, councils, committees, boards, or other organizational units shall be persons of color and/or persons whose primary language is other than English. Processes shall be developed that will assure that in selecting staff there will be a balance of women and men, persons of color and persons whose primary language is other than English, laypersons, and persons on the rosters of this church. This balance is to be evident in the selection of staff consistent with the inclusive policy of this church.
- gf. Except as otherwise provided in this constitution and bylaws, synods, through synodical councils, shall establish processes that will ensure that at least 60 percent of the members of their assemblies, councils, committees, boards, and other organizational units shall be laypersons; that, as nearly as possible, 50 at least 45 percent of the lay members of their assemblies, councils, committees, boards, or other organizational units shall be female women and 50 at least 45

percent shall be ~~male men~~, and that, where possible, the representation of ministers of Word and Sacrament shall ~~be both female and male~~ **include both women and men**. Each synod shall establish processes that will enable it to reach a minimum goal that 10 percent of the membership of its assemblies, councils, committees, boards, or other organizational units be persons of color and/or persons whose primary language is other than English.

g. A layperson is a person who is not on the roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament or the roster of Ministers of Word and Service of this church.

5.01.B169. Each synod shall submit its **goals** and strategies to the appropriate churchwide unit or office and shall annually submit a report on progress toward its goals to ~~the Church Council~~ **such unit or office**.

5.01.E19. *The Church Council shall establish triennial percentage goals for this church to meet the commitment expressed in 5.01.A16. The minimum goal shall be that at least 10 percent of the members of this church shall be persons of color or whose primary language is other than English.*

5.01.F19. *It is the goal of this church that at least 10 percent of the voting members of the Churchwide Assembly, Church Council, and churchwide boards and committees be youth and young adults. The Church Council shall establish a plan for implementing this goal. For purposes of the Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the ELCA, the term "youth" means a voting member of a congregation who has not reached the age of 18 at the time of election or appointment for service. The term "young adult" means a voting member of a congregation between the ages of 18 and 30 at the time of election or appointment for service.*

CHAPTER 6: MEMBERSHIP

6.02. **Membership status and the obligations and rights of congregation members are determined by reference to Chapter 8 of the Model Constitution for Congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.**

6.03. **The synods of this church and the churchwide organization have no individual members except for those congregation members who serve as voting members of the synod corporations and churchwide organization corporation.**

6.04. The voting members of the **synods and** churchwide organization shall be those **persons elected to serve congregation members serving** as members of the **synod assemblies and the** Churchwide Assembly **respectively**. Membership in a congregation does not, in **and of** itself, confer voting rights in **this these** corporations.

6.02.A09. *It is the goal of this church that at least 10 percent of the voting members of the Churchwide Assembly, Church Council, and churchwide boards and committees be youth and young adults. The Church Council shall establish a plan for implementing this goal. For purposes of the Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the ELCA, the term "youth" means a voting member of a congregation who has not reached the age of 18 at the time of election or appointment for service. The term "young adult" means a voting member of a congregation between the ages of 18 and 30 at the time of election or appointment for service.*

CHAPTER 7: MINISTRY

7.25. **Ministers of Word and Sacrament shall be subject to discipline as set forth in Chapter 20 of this constitution.**

7.31.02 a. Every minister of Word and Sacrament shall:

- 6) impart knowledge of this church and its wider ministry through ~~distribution of its periodicals and other publications~~ **available channels of effective communication;**
- 8) **speak publicly to the world in solidarity with the poor and oppressed, calling for justice and proclaiming God's love for the world publicly advocate dignity, justice, and equality for all**

people, working for peace and reconciliation among the nations, caring for the marginalized, embracing and welcoming racially and ethnically diverse populations, and standing with the poor and powerless.

- b. Each pastor with a congregational call shall, within the congregation:
- 4) with the council, administer discipline; ~~and~~
 - 5) endeavor to increase the support given by the congregation to the work of the ELCA churchwide organization and ~~its~~ the synod; and
 - 6) encourage adherence to covenantal relationships with this church as expressed in the *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.*

7.31.05. Roster status in more than one church body is precluded in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. As required by constitutional provision 7.22. and bylaw 7.31.01., ministers on the Word and Sacrament roster of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America must accept and adhere to this church's Confession of Faith, as well as abide by this church's standards and policies for ministers of Word and Sacrament.

7.31.06. Reinstatement. A person seeking reinstatement as a minister of Word and Sacrament, whether having served previously in this church or in one of its predecessor bodies, shall be registered by the pastor and council of the congregation of which such a person is a member with the candidacy committee of the synod in which the person was last rostered or, upon mutual agreement of the synodical bishops involved, after consultation with and approval by the secretary of this church, with the candidacy committee of the synod of current residence. The person then shall be interviewed, examined, and approved for reinstatement by the candidacy committee under criteria, policies, and procedures recommended by the appropriate churchwide unit, reviewed by the Conference of Bishops, and adopted by the Church Council. In this process, the committee shall review the circumstances related to the termination of earlier service together with subsequent developments. The person is reinstated after receiving and accepting a letter of call to serve as a minister of Word and Sacrament in this church.

7.31.067. On Leave from Call. A minister of Word and Sacrament of this church, serving under a regularly issued letter of call, who leaves the work of that ministry without accepting another regularly issued letter of call, may be retained on the roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament of this church, upon endorsement by the synodical bishop, by action of the Synod Council in the synod of which the minister of Word and Sacrament is a member, under policy developed by the appropriate churchwide unit, reviewed by the Conference of Bishops, and adopted by the Church Council.

- a. Normative Pattern: By annual action of the Synod Council in the synod of which a member, upon endorsement by the synodical bishop, a minister of Word and Sacrament who is without a current letter of call may be retained on the roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament of this church for a maximum of three years, beginning at the completion of an active call.
- b. Study Leave: By annual action of the Synod Council in the synod of which a member, with the approval of the synodical bishop and in consultation with the appropriate churchwide unit, a minister of Word and Sacrament engaged in graduate study, in a field of study that will enhance service in the ministry of Word and Sacrament, may be retained on the roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament of this church for a maximum of six years.
- c. Family Leave: A minister of Word and Sacrament who has been in active service under call for at least three years may request leave for family responsibilities. By annual action of the Synod Council in the synod of which a member, upon endorsement by the synodical bishop, such a minister of Word and Sacrament who is without a current letter of call and who requests leave for the birth or care of a child or children of the minister of Word and Sacrament or the care of an immediate family member (child, spouse, or parent) with a serious health condition may be retained on the roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament of this church—under policy developed by the appropriate churchwide unit, reviewed by the Conference of Bishops, and adopted by the Church Council—for a maximum of six years, beginning at the completion of an active call.

- d. Exception to these limits for the purpose of serving the needs of this church may be granted in accordance with established policy of this church by the Synod Council in the synod of current roster after having received approval by the Conference of Bishops.

7.31.078. Ordination in Unusual Circumstances. For pastoral reasons in unusual circumstances, a **synodical** bishop may provide for the ordination by another minister of Word and Sacrament of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America of an approved candidate who has received and accepted a properly issued, duly attested letter of call for the office of ministry of Word and Sacrament. Prior to authorization of such an ordination, the bishop of the synod of the candidate's first call shall consult with the presiding bishop as this church's chief ecumenical officer and shall seek the advice of the Synod Council. The pastoral decision of the **synodical** bishop shall be in accordance with policy developed by the appropriate churchwide unit, reviewed by the Conference of Bishops, and adopted by the Church Council.

7.31.089. Invitation to Service. In accord with bylaw **8.62.11-8.63.01.** and following, a minister of Word and Sacrament of a church body with which a relationship of full communion has been established by the Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America may serve contractually in a ministry setting of this church under a "Letter of Invitation to Service" upon the authorization of the bishop of the synod in which such service occurs.

7.31.0910. ~~Licensure and Synodically Authorized~~ Synod-authorized Ministry. When need exists to render Word and Sacrament ministry for a congregation or ministry of this church where it is not possible to provide appropriate pastoral leadership, the synod bishop—acting with the consent of the congregation or ministry, in consultation with the Synod Council, and in accord with standards and qualifications developed by the appropriate churchwide unit, reviewed by the Conference of Bishops, and approved by the Church Council—may authorize a person who is a member of a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to offer this ministry. Such an individual shall be supervised by a minister of Word and Sacrament appointed by the synod bishop; such service shall be rendered during its duration under the sacramental authority of the bishop as the synod's pastor. Such an individual will be trained **and licensed** to fulfill this ministry for a specified period of time and in a given location only. Authorization, remuneration, direct supervision, and accountability are to be determined by the appropriate **synodical** leadership according to churchwide standards and qualifications for this type of ministry. Authorization for such service shall be reviewed annually and renewed only when a demonstrated need remains for its continuation.

7.31.11. No person who currently belongs to any organization such as a lodge or fraternal order which claims to possess in its teachings and ceremonies that which the Lord has given solely to the Church shall be called and received onto the roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament or otherwise received into the ministry of this church, nor shall any person so called and received onto the roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament or otherwise received by this church be retained in its ministry who subsequently joins or is discovered to be a current member of such an organization.

7.41.01. Service under Call. A minister of Word and Sacrament of this church shall serve under a letter of call properly extended by a congregation, a Synod Council, a Synod Assembly, the Church Council, or the Churchwide Assembly.

- a. Calls may be extended for stated periods of time and for shared-time ministry by the appropriate calling body under criteria recommended by the appropriate churchwide unit, reviewed by the Conference of Bishops, and adopted by the Church Council for service in a congregation, synod, or churchwide unit, in an institution or agency of this church, or in another setting in a category of work as provided by continuing resolution **7.44.A169.**
- c. Ministers of Word and Sacrament serving in interim ministry appointed by the **synodical** bishop may serve under a letter of call, according to policies developed by the appropriate churchwide unit, reviewed by the Conference of Bishops, and approved by the Church Council. A call to interim

ministry shall be a term call extended by the Synod Council upon recommendation of the **synodical** bishop.

- 7.41.02. Initial Call to Congregational Service.** Because the responsibilities of the office of the ministry of Word and Sacrament are most clearly focused in the congregational pastorate, experience in which is deemed by this church to be invaluable for all other ministry of Word and Sacrament, initial service of at least three years shall be in a congregation of this church or, with the approval of the **synodical** bishop, a congregation of a church body with which a relationship of full communion exists. Exceptions to the three-year requirement may be granted under criteria and procedures recommended by the appropriate churchwide unit, reviewed by the Conference of Bishops, and adopted by the Church Council.
- 7.41.03. Calls to Non-Congregational Service.** Calls to serve in institutions, agencies, and other entities inside and outside this church may be extended where there is an identifiable relationship of the work to the purpose of the ministry of Word and Sacrament. Such calls involve, for example, the care of the Word, the administration of the sacraments, pastoral care, and activities closely associated with those tasks including oversight in the church and in inter-Lutheran and inter-church agencies and institutions. Care is to be exercised so that positions in the church and in the world that can be filled adequately and appropriately by the laity not be filled by ministers of Word and Sacrament for their convenience, ~~or status,~~ **or personal preference. A call to non-congregational service is to be reviewed at least annually by the Synod Council or Church Council and continued only as warranted for the ministry needs of this church. Such a call may be terminated when it is no longer serving the mission needs of this church.** **Synodical** councils and the Church Council may seek the advice of the Conference of Bishops in specific situations.
- 7.41.04. Non-Stipendiary Service Under Call.** When it is deemed necessary for the mission needs of this church, a letter of call may be issued by the Synod Council—according to criteria, policies, and procedures recommended by the appropriate churchwide unit, reviewed by the Conference of Bishops, and adopted by the Church Council—to a minister of Word and Sacrament for non-stipendiary service after the Synod Council has sought and received approval by the Conference of Bishops. Care is to be exercised so that positions in the church and in the world that can be filled adequately and appropriately by the laity not be filled by ministers of Word and Sacrament for their convenience, status, or personal preference. A call to non-stipendiary service is to be reviewed at least annually by the Synod Council and continued only as warranted for the ministry needs of this church. Such a call may be terminated by the Synod Council when it is ~~deemed to be fulfilling~~ no longer **servicing** the mission needs of this church.
- 7.41.05. Calls to Serve in Unusual Circumstances.** When it is deemed to be in the interests of this church in the care of the Gospel, ministers of Word and Sacrament may be called for a stated period of time, not to exceed three years, to minister on behalf of this church while employed in an occupation outside the traditional range of the ministry of Word and Sacrament. Such calls may be extended by a Synod Council or the Church Council upon recommendation by the Conference of Bishops according to criteria and procedures recommended by the appropriate churchwide unit, reviewed by the Conference of Bishops, and adopted by the Church Council. ~~Such calls shall be reviewed annually. A call to serve in unusual circumstances is to be reviewed at least annually by the Synod Council or Church Council and continued only as warranted for the ministry needs of this church. Such a call may be terminated when it is no longer serving the mission needs of this church.~~
- 7.41.06. Calls in Predecessor Church Bodies.** ~~Calls extended in predecessor church bodies that have not terminated are to be treated as current calls issued by and responsible to the appropriate expression of this church. Accountability for specific calls to service extended in predecessor church bodies shall be exercised according to the in compliance with the governing documents,~~ **calls extended in predecessor church bodies that have not terminated are to be treated as current calls issued by and responsible to the appropriate expression of this church.** Accountability for specific calls to service extended in predecessor church bodies shall be exercised ~~according to the in compliance with the governing documents,~~ **calls extended in predecessor church bodies that have not terminated are to be treated as current calls issued by and responsible to the appropriate expression of this church.** and procedures of this church.
- 7.41.07. Retirement.** Ministers of Word and Sacrament may retire upon attainment of age 60, or after 30 years on the roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament of this church or one of its predecessor bodies, and continue to be listed on the roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament of this church, upon endorsement by the

synodical bishop, by action of the Synod Council in the synod in which the minister of Word and Sacrament is listed on the roster.

- b. If a minister of Word and Sacrament who has been granted retired status resides at too great a distance from any congregation of this church to be able to sustain an active relationship with that congregation, or if there are no **ELCA** congregations **of this church** in the vicinity, other than a congregation previously served, the bishop of the synod in which the minister of Word and Sacrament is listed on the roster may grant permission for the minister of Word and Sacrament to hold membership in a congregation of a church body with which a relationship of full communion has been declared and established by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

7.41.08. Disability. Ministers of Word and Sacrament may be ~~designated as disabled~~ **granted disability status** and continue to be listed on the roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament of this church, upon endorsement by the **synodical** bishop, by action of the Synod Council in the synod in which the minister of Word and Sacrament is listed on the roster.

- a. The policies and procedures for designation of disability on the roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament shall be developed by the appropriate churchwide unit, reviewed by the Conference of Bishops, and adopted by the Church Council.
- b. If a minister of Word and Sacrament who has been granted ~~disabled~~ **disability** status resides at too great a distance from any congregation of this church to be able to sustain an active relationship with that congregation, or if there are no **ELCA** congregations **of this church** in the vicinity, other than a congregation previously served, the bishop of the synod in which the minister of Word and Sacrament is listed on the roster may grant permission for the minister of Word and Sacrament to hold membership in a congregation of a church body with which a relationship of full communion has been declared and established by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

7.41.09. Retention of Roster Records. When a minister of Word and Sacrament resigns or is removed from the roster of this church, the roster record shall be retained by the secretary of this church, and the **synodical** bishop shall invite the person at the time of resignation or removal to provide, annually, appropriate current information for the roster record.

7.42. Each person on the roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament of this church shall be related to that synod:

- d. **on whose roster the minister of Word and Sacrament, if a seminary teacher or administrator, was assigned by the seminary board, subject to approval by the **synodical** bishop and Synod Council of each affected synod, to promote proportionate representation of faculty and administration in each synod of its region;**
- e. **on whose roster the minister of Word and Sacrament was listed at the time of the issuance of a call to federal chaplaincy or on the roster of the synod of current address, if approved by the **synodical** bishop and received by the Synod Council;**
- g. **on whose roster the minister of Word and Sacrament ~~was listed when placed on leave from call, if granted on-leave-from-call status, was listed when last called or the synod of current address, upon application by the minister of Word and Sacrament for transfer and the mutual agreement of the synod bishops involved after consultation with and approval by the secretary of this church;~~**
- h. **on whose roster the minister of Word and Sacrament, if ~~designated as disabled~~ **granted disability status**, was listed when last called or the synod of current address, upon application by the minister of Word and Sacrament for transfer and the mutual agreement of the **synodical** bishops involved after consultation with and approval by the secretary of this church; or**
- i. **on whose roster the minister of Word and Sacrament, if granted retired status, was listed when last called or the synod of current address, upon application by the minister of Word and Sacrament for transfer and the mutual agreement of the **synodical** bishops involved after consultation with and approval by the secretary of this church.**

7.42.01. If the service of a minister of Word and Sacrament who receives and accepts a letter of call from this church, under 7.42.c., would be enhanced through transfer of roster status from the previous synod of roster to the synod of current address, such a transfer may be authorized upon mutual agreement of the **synodical** bishops involved after consultation with and approval by the secretary of this church.

7.42.02. In unusual circumstances, the transfer of a minister of Word and Sacrament who is on leave from call may be authorized upon mutual agreement of the synodical bishops involved after consultation with and approval by the secretary of this church.

7.42.032. In certain circumstances for the sake of the ministry and mission needs of this church, the transfer **of roster status** of a minister of Word and Sacrament serving under call in the churchwide organization may be authorized, at the initiative of the presiding bishop of this church, upon mutual agreement of the **synodical** bishops involved in such a transfer after consultation with and approval by the secretary of this church.

7.44. **Each synod shall maintain a roster containing the names of those ministers of Word and Sacrament who are related to it on the basis of 7.42. of this constitution. All additions, deletions, changes, and corrections to this roster shall be reported promptly to the Office of the Secretary.**

7.44.A169. Sources of Calls for Ministers of Word and Sacrament

b. Table of Sources of Calls for Ministers of Word and Sacrament

	Setting	Calling Body
1.0	<i>Congregational ministry</i>	
1.1	<i>Single congregation</i>	<i>Congregation meeting</i>
	1.11 <i>Pastor</i>	
	1.12 <i>Senior pastor</i>	
	1.13 <i>Associate/assistant pastor</i>	
	1.14 <i>Co-pastor</i>	
	1.15 <i>Shared-time pastor</i>	
1.2	<i>Multiple-congregation parish</i>	<i>Congregation meetings, acting on a common proposal</i>
	1.21 <i>Pastor</i>	<i>One of the participating congregations</i>
	1.22 <i>Other pastoral arrangements</i>	<i>One of the participating congregations</i>
1.3	<i>Coalition and cluster ministry</i>	<i>Synod Council</i>
1.4	<i>Congregations beyond ELCA this church</i>	
	1.41 <i>Independent Lutheran congregation</i>	<i>Synod Council</i>
	1.42 <i>Overseas independent Lutheran congregation</i>	<i>Church Council upon request of appropriate churchwide unit</i>
	1.43 <u>Full communion congregation</u>	<u>Synod Council</u>
	<u>1.44 Other</u>	<i>Synod Council or Church Council</i>
1.5	<i>Interim pastor</i>	<i>Synod Council</i>
1.6	<u>Pastor in a congregation under development synod-authorized ministry</u>	<i>Synod Council</i>

- 2.0 **Synodical** ministry
 - 2.1 Bishop Synod Assembly
 - 2.2 Assistant to bishop Synod Council
 - 2.3 Shared staff by two or more synods Synod Council of one of the participating synods
 - 2.4 Synod staff partially supported by grants from churchwide units Synod Council
- 3.0 Regional ministry
 - 3.1 Staff Church Council
 - 3.2 Shared **synodical** churchwide staff Church Council
- 4.0 Churchwide ministry
 - 4.1 Presiding bishop and secretary Churchwide Assembly
 - 4.2 Treasurer Church Council
 - 4.3 Staff of the churchwide organization Church Council
- 5.0 Chaplaincy and institutional ministry
 - 5.1 Institution/agency related or unrelated to a synod Synod Council
 - 5.2 Institution/agency related to more than one synod Synod Council of one of the synods
 - 5.3 ELCA-related institution/agency Church Council upon request of appropriate churchwide unit
 - 5.4 Federal agency/institution Church Council
 - 5.5 Military Church Council
- 6.0 Campus ministry
 - 6.1 Staff Synod Council
- 7.0 Outdoor ministry
 - 7.1 Staff Synod Council
- 8.0 Ecumenical/**Inter-religious** ministry
 - 8.1 Related to a synod Synod Council
 - 8.2 Related to more than one synod Synod Council of one of the synods
 - 8.3 National/international organization Church Council
- 9.0 Inter-Lutheran ministry
 - 9.1 Related to a synod Synod Council
 - 9.2 Related to more than one synod Synod Council of one of the synods
 - 9.3 National/International Church Council
- 10.0 Educational ministry
 - 10.1 ELCA-related seminary chaplain/faculty/administrator Church Council upon request of appropriate churchwide unit
 - 10.2 Chaplain/faculty/administrator of seminary unrelated to ELCA Church Council upon request of appropriate churchwide unit
 - 10.3 ELCA-related college chaplain/faculty/administrator Synod Council of the synod in which college is located

10.4	Chaplain/faculty/ administrator of a college unrelated to ELCA	Synod Council of the synod in which college is located
10.5	ELCA-related school chaplain/faculty/ administrator	Congregation of which the school is a part or, if related to several congregations, Synod Council of the synod in which the school is located
10.6	Chaplain/faculty of a school unrelated to ELCA	Synod Council of the synod in which school is located
10.7	Director/staff of a continuing education center related to a churchwide unit	Synod Council in which the main office of center is located upon the request of appropriate churchwide unit
11.0	Missionary ministry	
11.1	Outside United States	Church Council upon request of appropriate churchwide unit
11.2	Within United States	Church Council upon request of appropriate churchwide unit
12.0	<u>Independent Lutheran Organization</u>	<u>Church Council upon request of appropriate churchwide unit</u>
13.0	<u>Separately Incorporated Ministry</u>	<u>Church Council</u>
14.0	Other	
124.1	Non-stipendiary service under call	<u>Synod Council upon approval by the Conference of Bishops</u>
124.2	Unusual ministries (as in conjunction with occupations and in approved situations not otherwise specified)	<u>Synod Council or Church Council upon recommendation by the Conference of Bishops</u>

7.46. The provisions for termination of the mutual relationship between a minister of Word and Sacrament and a congregation shall be as follows:

- a. **The call of a congregation, when accepted by a pastor, shall constitute a continuing mutual relationship and commitment which shall be terminated only by the pastor's death or, following consultation with the synodical bishop, for the following reasons:**
- c. **In case of alleged physical disability or mental incapacity under paragraph a.4) above, the bishop's committee shall obtain and document competent medical opinion concerning the pastor's condition. When a disability or incapacity is evident to the committee, the bishop of this synod may declare the pastorate vacant. When the pastorate is declared vacant, the Synod Council shall list the pastor on the roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament as disabled with disability status. Upon removal of the disability and restoration of the pastor to health, the bishop shall take steps to enable the pastor to resume the ministry, either in the congregation last served or in another appropriate call.**
- e. **If either party fails to assent to the recommendations of the bishop's committee concerning the pastor's call, the congregation may dismiss the pastor only at a legally called meeting after consultation with the bishop, either (a) by a two-thirds majority vote of the voting members present and voting where the bishop and the committee did not recommend termination of the call, or (b) by**

a ~~simple~~ majority vote of the voting members present and voting where the bishop and the committee recommended termination of the call.

- f. If, in the course of proceedings described in paragraph c. or paragraph d. above, the bishop's committee concludes that there may be grounds for discipline, the committee shall make recommendations concerning disciplinary action in accordance with the provisions of this church's constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions.

7.47. Ministers of Word and Sacrament shall be subject to discipline as set forth in Chapter 20 of this constitution.

7.47.01. — No person who belongs to any organization other than the Church which claims to possess in its teachings and ceremonies that which the Lord has given solely to the Church shall be called and received onto the roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament or otherwise received into the ministry of this church, nor shall any person so called and received onto the roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament or otherwise received by this church be retained in its ministry who subsequently joins such an organization.

7.52. A minister of Word and Service of this church shall be a person whose commitment to Christ, soundness in the faith, aptness to serve, teach, and witness, and educational qualifications have been examined and approved in the manner prescribed in the documents of this church; who has been properly called and **received onto the roster ordained**; who accepts and adheres to the Confession of Faith of this church; who is diligent and faithful in the exercise of ministry; and whose life and conduct are above reproach. A minister of Word and Service shall comply with this church's constitutions, bylaws, and continuing resolutions.

7.54.A16. — Those persons rostered in predecessor church bodies as commissioned church staff (The American Lutheran Church), deaconesses (The Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches), deaconesses (The American Lutheran Church), deacons (The Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches), lay professional leaders (the Lutheran Church in America), and commissioned teachers (The Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches) shall be retained as deacons of this church (except for removals in accord with the governing documents, criteria, policies, and procedures of this church). Accountability for specific calls shall be exercised according to the policies and procedures of this church.

7.54.BA16. Those persons previously rostered as associates in ministry, deaconesses, or diaconal ministers in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America shall be retained as deacons of this church (except for removals in accord with the governing documents, criteria, policies, and procedures of this church). Accountability for specific calls shall be exercised according to the policies and procedures of this church.

7.55. Ministers of Word and Service of this church shall be subject to discipline as set forth in Chapter 20 of this constitution.

- 7.61.02 c. speak publicly to the world in solidarity with the poor and oppressed, calling for justice and proclaiming God's love for the world, witnessing to the realm of God in the community, the nation, and abroad **advocate publicly dignity, justice, and equality for all people, working for peace and reconciliation among the nations, caring for the marginalized, embracing and welcoming racially and ethnically diverse populations, and standing with the poor and powerless;**
- h. share knowledge of **the ELCA—this church** and its wider ministry of the gospel, and advocate for the work of all expressions of this church;

7.61.05. **No person who currently belongs to any organization such as a lodge or fraternal order which claims to possess in its teachings and ceremonies that which the Lord has given solely to the Church shall be called and received onto the roster of Ministers of Word and Service or otherwise received into the ministry of this church, nor shall any person so called and received onto the roster of Ministers of**

Word and Service or otherwise received by this church be retained in its ministry who subsequently joins or is discovered to be a current member of such an organization.

7.61.06. Roster status in more than one church body is precluded in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. As required by constitutional provision 7.52. and bylaw 7.61.01., ministers on the Word and Service roster of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America must accept and adhere to this church's Confession of Faith, as well as abide by this church's standards and policies for ministers of Word and Service.

7.61.07. **Reinstatement.** A person seeking reinstatement as a minister of Word and Service shall be registered by the pastor and council of the congregation of which such a person is a member with the candidacy committee of the synod in which the person was last rostered or, upon mutual agreement of the synodical bishops involved, after consultation with and approval by the secretary of this church, with the candidacy committee of the synod of current residence. The person then shall be interviewed, examined, and approved for reinstatement by the candidacy committee under criteria, policies, and procedures recommended by the appropriate churchwide unit, reviewed by the Conference of Bishops, and adopted by the Church Council. In this process, the committee shall review the circumstances related to the termination of earlier service together with subsequent developments. The person is reinstated after receiving and accepting a letter of call to serve as a minister of Word and Service in this church.

7.61.068. **On Leave from Call.** A minister of Word and Service of this church, serving under a regularly issued letter of call, who leaves the work of that ministry without accepting another regularly issued letter of call, may be retained on the roster of Ministers of Word and Service of this church, upon endorsement by the synodical bishop, by action of the Synod Council in the synod of which the minister of Word and Service is a member, under policy developed by the appropriate churchwide unit, reviewed by the Conference of Bishops, and adopted by the Church Council.

- a. Normative Pattern: By annual action of the Synod Council in the synod of which a member, upon endorsement by the synodical bishop, a minister of Word and Service who is without a current letter of call may be retained on the roster of Ministers of Word and Service of this church for a maximum of three years, beginning at the completion of an active call.
- b. Study Leave: By annual action of the Synod Council in the synod of which a member, with the approval of the synodical bishop and in consultation with the appropriate churchwide unit a minister of Word and Service engaged in graduate study, in a field of study that will enhance service in the ministry of Word and Service in this church, may be retained on the roster of Ministers of Word and Service of this church for a maximum of six years.
- c. Family Leave: A minister of Word and Service who has been in active service under call for at least three years may request leave for family responsibilities. By annual action of the Synod Council in the synod of which a member, upon endorsement by the synodical bishop, such a minister of Word and Service who is without a current letter of call and who requests leave for the birth or care of a child or children of the minister of Word and Service or the care of an immediate family member (child, spouse, or parent) with a serious health condition may be retained on the roster of Ministers of Word and Service of this church—under policy developed by the appropriate churchwide unit, reviewed by the Conference of Bishops, and adopted by the Church Council—for a maximum of six years, beginning at the completion of an active call.

7.71.01. **Service under Call.** A minister of Word and Service of this church shall serve under a letter of call properly extended by a congregation, the Synod Council, the Synod Assembly, a synod council, a synod assembly, the Church Council, or the Churchwide Assembly.

- a. Calls may be extended either for stated periods of time and for shared-time ministry by the appropriate calling body under criteria recommended by the appropriate churchwide unit, reviewed by the Conference of Bishops, and adopted by the Church Council for service in a congregation, synod, or churchwide unit, in an institution or agency of this church, or in another setting in a category of work as provided by continuing resolution 7.74.A169.

- b. A minister of Word and Service serving under call to a congregation shall be a member of that congregation. In a parish of multiple congregations, a minister of Word and Service shall be a member of one of the congregations being served.

7.71.02. **Calls to Non-Congregational Service.** Calls to serve in institutions, agencies, and other entities inside and outside this church may be extended where there is an identifiable relationship of the work to the purpose of the ministry of Word and Service. Such calls involve, for example, the care of the Word, spiritual care, and activities closely associated with those tasks including oversight in the church and in inter-Lutheran and inter-church agencies and institutions. Care is to be exercised so that positions in the church and in the world that can be filled adequately and appropriately by the laity not be filled by ministers of Word and Service for their convenience, status, or personal preference. A call to non-congregational service is to be reviewed at least annually by the Synod Council or Church Council and continued only as warranted for the ministry needs of this church. Such a call may be terminated when it is no longer serving the mission needs of this church. Synod councils and the Church Council may seek the advice of the Conference of Bishops in specific situations.

7.71.03. **Non-Stipendiary Service Under Call.** When it is deemed necessary for the mission needs of this church, a letter of call may be issued by the Synod Council—according to criteria, policies, and procedures recommended by the appropriate churchwide unit, reviewed by the Conference of Bishops, and adopted by the Church Council—to a minister of Word and Service for non-stipendiary service after the Synod Council has sought and received approval by the Conference of Bishops. A call to non-stipendiary service is to be reviewed at least annually by the Synod Council and continued only as warranted for the ministry needs of this church. Such a call may be terminated by the Synod Council when it is deemed to be fulfilling no longer serving the mission needs of this church.

7.71.034. **Calls in Predecessor Church Bodies.** Calls extended in predecessor church bodies that have not terminated are to be treated as current calls issued by and responsible to the appropriate expression of this church. Accountability for specific calls to service extended in predecessor church bodies shall be exercised according to the in compliance with the governing documents, policies and procedures of this church.

7.71.045. **Retirement.** Ministers of Word and Service may retire upon attainment of age 60, or after 30 years on a roster of this church or one of its predecessor bodies, and continue to be listed on the roster of Ministers of Word and Service of this church, upon endorsement by the synodical bishop, by action of the Synod Council in the synod in which the minister of Word and Service is listed on the roster.

b. If a minister of Word and Service who has been granted retired status resides at too great a distance from any congregation of this church to be able to sustain an active relationship with that congregation, or if there are no ELCA congregations of this church in the vicinity besides the other than a congregation previously served, the bishop of the synod in which the minister of Word and Service is listed on the roster may grant permission for the minister of Word and Service to hold membership in a congregation or parish of a church body with which a relationship of full communion has been declared and established by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

7.71.056. **Disability.** Ministers of Word and Service may be designated as disabled granted disability status, and continue to be listed on the roster of Ministers of Word and Service of this church, upon endorsement by the synodical bishop, by action of the Synod Council in the synod in which the minister of Word and Service is listed on the roster.

a. The policies and procedures for designation of disability on the official roster of Ministers of Word and Service shall be developed by the appropriate churchwide unit, reviewed by the Conference of Bishops, and adopted by the Church Council.

b. If a minister of Word and Service who has been granted disabled-disability status resides at too great a distance from any congregation of this church to be able to sustain an active relationship with that congregation, or if there are no ELCA congregations of this church in the vicinity

besides the, other than a congregation previously served, the bishop of the synod in which the minister of Word and Service is listed on the roster may grant permission for the individual minister of Word and Service to hold membership in a congregation of a church body with which a relationship of full communion has been declared and established by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

7.71.067. **Retention of Roster Records.** When a minister of Word and Service resigns or is removed from the roster of this church, the roster record shall be retained by the secretary of this church, and the synodical bishop shall invite the person at the time of resignation or removal to provide, annually, appropriate current information for the roster record.

7.72. Each person on the roster of Ministers of Word and Service of this church shall be related to that synod:

- d. on whose roster the minister of Word and Service, if a seminary teacher or administrator, was assigned by the seminary board, subject to approval by the synodical bishop and Synod Council of each affected synod, to promote proportionate representation of faculty and administration in each synod of its region;
- f. on whose roster the minister of Word and Service ~~was listed when placed on leave from call, if granted on-leave-from-call status, was listed when last called or the synod of current address, upon application by the minister of Word and Sacrament for transfer and the mutual agreement of the synod bishops involved after consultation with and approval by the secretary of this church;~~
- g. on whose roster the minister of Word and Service, if ~~designated as disabled~~ **granted disability status**, was listed when last called, or the synod of current address, upon application by the minister of Word and Service for transfer and the mutual agreement of the synodical bishops involved after consultation with and approval by the secretary of this church; or
- h. on whose roster the minister of Word and Service, if granted retired status, was listed when last called, or the synod of current address, upon application by the minister of Word and Service for transfer and the mutual agreement of the synodical bishops involved after consultation with and approval by the secretary of this church.

7.72.01. If the service of a minister of Word and Service who receives and accepts a letter of call from this church, under 7.72.c., would be enhanced through transfer of roster status from the previous synod of roster to the synod of current address, such a transfer may be authorized upon mutual agreement of the synodical bishops involved after consultation with and approval by the secretary of this church.

~~**7.72.02.** In unusual circumstances, the transfer of a minister of Word and Service who is on leave from call may be authorized upon mutual agreement of the synodical bishops involved after consultation with and approval by the secretary of this church.~~

7.72.032. In certain circumstances for the sake of the ministry and mission needs of this church, the transfer of roster status of a minister of Word and Service serving under call in the churchwide organization may be authorized, at the initiative of the presiding bishop of this church, upon mutual agreement of the synodical bishops involved in such a transfer after consultation with and approval by the secretary of this church.

7.74. Each synod shall maintain a roster containing the names of those ministers of Word and Service who are related to it on the basis of 7.72. of this constitution. **All additions, deletions, changes, and corrections to this roster shall be reported promptly to the Office of the Secretary.**

7.74.A169. *Sources of Calls for Ministers of Word and Service*

b. Table of Sources of Call for Ministers of Word and Service

	Setting	Calling Body
1.0	Congregational ministry	
1.1	Single congregation	Congregation meeting

1.4	Congregations beyond the ELCA -this church	
1.41	Independent Lutheran congregations	Synod Council
1.42	Full communion congregation	Synod Council
1.43	Deacon in a synod-authorized ministry	Synod Council
1.44	Other	Synod Council
2.0	Synodical ministry	
3.0	Regional ministry	
3.1	Staff	Church Council
3.2	Shared synodical -churchwide staff	Church Council
8.0	Ecumenical/ Inter-religious ministry	
12.0	Independent Lutheran Organization	Church Council
13.0	Separately Incorporated Ministry	Church Council
14.0	Other	
124.1	Non-stipendiary service under call	Synod Council upon approval by the Conference of Bishops
124.2	Unusual ministries (as in conjunction with occupations and in approved situations not otherwise specified)	Synod Council or Church Council upon recommendation by the Conference of Bishops

- 7.75.** The provisions for termination of the mutual relationship between a minister of Word and Service and a congregation shall be as follows:
- a. The call of a congregation, when accepted by a minister of Word and Service, shall constitute a continuing mutual relationship and commitment which shall be terminated only by ~~the deacon's~~ death or following consultation with the ~~synodical~~ bishop for the following reasons:
 - c. In case of alleged physical disability or mental incapacity under paragraph a.4) above, the bishop's committee shall obtain and document competent medical opinion concerning the minister of Word and Service's condition. When a disability or incapacity is evident to the committee, the bishop of this synod may declare the position vacant. When the position is declared vacant, the Synod Council shall list the deacon on the roster of Ministers of Word and Service ~~as disabled with disability status~~. Upon removal of the disability and restoration of the minister of Word and Service to health, the bishop shall take steps to enable the minister of Word and Service to resume the ministry, either in the congregation last served or in another appropriate call.
 - e. If either party fails to assent to the recommendations of the bishop's committee concerning the minister of Word and Service's call, the congregation may dismiss the minister of Word and Service only at a legally called meeting after consultation with the bishop, either (a) by a two-thirds ~~majority~~ vote of the voting members present and voting where the bishop and the committee did not recommend termination of the call, or (b) by a ~~simple~~ majority vote of the voting members present and voting where the bishop and the committee recommended termination of the call.

7.76. ~~Ministers of Word and Service of this church shall be subject to discipline as set forth in Chapter 20 of this constitution.~~

~~7.76.01. No person who belongs to any organization other than the Church which claims to possess in its teachings and ceremonies that which the Lord has given solely to the Church shall be called and received onto the roster of Ministers of Word and Service or otherwise received into the ministry of this church, nor shall any person so called and received onto the roster of Ministers of Word and Service or otherwise received by this church be retained in its ministry who subsequently joins such an organization.~~

CHAPTER 8: RELATIONSHIPS

8.11. This church shall seek to function as people of God through congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization, all of which shall be interdependent. Each part, while fully the church, recognizes that it is not the whole church and therefore lives in a partnership-an interdependent relationship with the others.

8.15. ~~Since The three expressions of this church—congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization—are partners that share in God’s mission,~~ all share in the responsibility to develop, implement, and strengthen the financial support program of this church.

8.18. This church shall not, in any manner, be responsible for the debts or liabilities of other religious or charitable organizations, institutions, or agencies, whether independent of or affiliated with this church, or whether denominated as Lutheran or related to any Lutheran church body.

8.19. This church affirms the relationship established through The Lutheran World Federation as a communion of churches that confess the triune God, agree in the proclamation of the Word of God, and are united in pulpit and altar fellowship.

8.182.01. The bylaws on ecumenical availability of ministers of Word and Sacrament under relationships of full communion shall apply to such service within this church of such ministers of other member churches of The Lutheran World Federation.

8.19.02. The bylaws on ecumenical availability of ministers of Word and Sacrament under relationships of full communion shall apply to such ministers of churches who have established a full communion relationship with a member church of The Lutheran World Federation provided that church is a member of a World Christian Communion that has a member church that is in full communion with this church.

8.21.07. ~~The seminaries shall receive churchwide and synodical~~ financial support. The amount of such support shall be determined through a consultation process involving seminaries, synods, and the appropriate churchwide unit. To implement financial support by this church, synods shall be assigned to specific seminaries in such manner as to attain equitable distribution of synods. Normally, all synods in a given region will be assigned to one seminary. Churchwide funds shall be distributed according to a formula developed by the appropriate churchwide unit and approved by the Church Council. Seminaries shall provide for their remaining financial requirements through tuition, fees, endowment income, and fundraising programs. Fundraising in the congregations of supporting synods, however, shall be conducted only upon approval of the synods.

8.21.08. Aid to students preparing for the ministries of this church shall be administered by the seminaries under guidelines developed by the appropriate churchwide units in consultation with the presidents of the seminaries ~~and adopted by the Church Council.~~

8.22.02. Colleges and universities of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America may relate to this church in various ways, including relationship with the Churchwide Assembly, the Church Council, a synodical assembly, or a corporation whose voting members are, or have been elected by, synodical assemblies,

other organizational units (conferences, clusters, etc.), or congregations. Subject to approval by the appropriate synods, a college or university may be owned by a not-for-profit corporation (1) that has voting members, at least a majority of whom shall consist of members of the Churchwide Assembly or the Church Council, and (2) that shall hold the meeting of such a corporation in conjunction with the Churchwide Assembly or the Church Council for the purpose of approving amendments to the articles of incorporation, and approving amendments to other governing documents which affect the relationship between the college or university and this church. A majority of the members of the governing board of a corporation that meets in conjunction with the Churchwide Assembly or Church Council shall be members of this church or of a church body with which this church is in a relationship of full communion, but under no circumstances shall fewer than forty (40) percent of the members of such board be members of this church.

- 8.23.01.** ~~Through membership in Lutheran Services in America and the appropriate churchwide unit as designated by the Church Council, this church shall, with affiliated social ministry organizations, develop criteria for their ministries, establish affiliations and alliances within this church and within society, and carry out a comprehensive social ministry witness. Social ministry organizations affiliate with this church through criteria and policies developed by the appropriate churchwide unit and through membership in Lutheran Services in America.~~
- 8.42.** ~~This church shall not, in any manner, be responsible for the debts or liabilities of other Lutheran organizations, institutions, or agencies, whether independent of or affiliated with this church.~~
- 8.62.10.** ~~Ecumenical Availability of Ministers of Word and Sacrament and Ministers of Word and Service~~
- 8.63.** ~~The provisions governing ecumenical availability and service of ministers of Word and Sacrament and ministers of Word and Service shall be set forth in the bylaws.~~
- 8.623.401.** A minister of Word and Sacrament of this church ~~or a minister of Word and Service~~, serving temporarily in a church body with which a relationship of full communion has been declared and established by a Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, may be retained on the roster ~~of Ministers of Word and Sacrament~~ upon endorsement by the synodical bishop and by action of the Synod Council in the synod in which the minister ~~of Word and Sacrament~~ is listed on the roster—under policies developed at the direction of the presiding bishop and secretary, reviewed by the Conference of Bishops, and adopted by the Church Council. ~~A minister of Word and Service of this church serving temporarily in a church body with which a relationship of full communion has been declared and established by a Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, may be retained on the roster—upon endorsement by the synodical bishops and by action of the Synod Council in the synod in which the minister of Word and Service is listed on the roster—under policies developed at the direction of the presiding bishop and secretary, reviewed by the Conference of Bishops, and adopted by the Church Council.~~
- a. A letter of call may be issued to a minister of Word and Sacrament of this church, serving temporarily in such a church body, by the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America or a Synod Council, in accord with the Table of Sources of Calls (~~ELCA churchwide continuing resolution 7.44.A169.b.~~).
 - b. A letter of call may be issued to a minister of Word and Service of this church, serving temporarily in such a church body, by the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America or a Synod Council, in accord with the Table of Sources of Calls (~~ELCA churchwide continuing resolution 7.74.A169.b.~~).
 - c. A letter of call issued by the Church Council or a Synod Council for service in a church body with which a relationship of full communion has been established by the Churchwide Assembly shall be governed by ~~churchwide constitutional~~ provision 7.43. and ~~churchwide~~ bylaw 7.43.01.

8.623.102. A minister of Word and Sacrament of a church body with which a relationship of full communion has been declared and established by a Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America may be authorized by the **synodical** bishop to serve in a congregation or employing entity of this church. Such service shall be rendered under a contract between the congregation or employing entity and the minister of Word and Sacrament in a form proposed by the **synodical** bishop and approved by the congregation or employing entity. Any such service shall be in accord with churchwide policies developed at the direction of the presiding bishop and secretary, reviewed by the Conference of Bishops, and adopted by the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

8.623.103. Whenever a rostered minister of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is to serve or is serving in a church body with which a relationship of full communion has been declared and established by the Churchwide Assembly, or whenever a minister of Word and Sacrament of a church body with which a relationship of full communion has been so declared and established is to serve or is serving in this church, a full sharing of relevant information concerning such rostered minister's experience and fitness for ministry is expected between the **synodical** bishop (or other appropriate office or entity) of this church and the appropriate person, office, or entity in the other church. Relevant information related to fitness for ministry shall include, but is not limited to, any information concerning disciplinary proceedings or allegations that could result, or could have resulted, in disciplinary proceedings.

8.623.104. A minister of Word and Sacrament from a church body with which a relationship of full communion has been declared and established by a Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America may be granted the privilege of both voice and vote in the Synod Assembly during the period of that minister's service in a congregation of this church, in accord with **ELCA churchwide bylaw 8.62.12: 8.63.02.**

8.623.105. The availability of a minister of Word and Sacrament from a church body with which a relationship of full communion has been declared and established by a Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America shall be understood normally in three categories: availability to serve in an occasional situation; availability to meet an extended need, including service in "yoked parish" settings; and availability for a transfer of roster status.

- a. *Occasional service:* An occasional situation is defined as one in which a minister of Word and Sacrament of a church body with which a relationship of full communion exists may be asked to preach or administer the sacraments in **an ELCA-a congregation of this church** on an occasional basis with the authorization of the **synodical** bishop.
- b. *Extended service:* A minister of Word and Sacrament of a church body with which a relationship of full communion exists may be invited to serve as the pastor of **an ELCA-a congregation of this church** for an extended period of time, yet remain a minister of Word and Sacrament of his or her present church body. Such a person would be expected to preach, teach, and administer the sacraments in **an ELCA-a congregation of this church** in a manner that is consistent with the Confession of Faith of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and to live in a manner consistent with the ministerial policy of this church. Such service shall be rendered only as authorized by the **synodical** bishop in order to serve the ministry and mission needs of **the ELCA-this church** in a given situation.
- c. *Transfer:* A minister of Word and Sacrament of a church body with which a relationship of full communion exists who seeks to serve indefinitely within the ministry of Word and Sacrament of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America may apply for admission to the roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and be approved through the candidacy process for admission to the roster. Such a minister would then become **an ELCA-pastor-a minister on the roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament of this church** upon receipt and acceptance of a regular call and installation in **an ELCA-a congregation or other setting in this church**.

~~d.—Roster status in more than one church body is precluded in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. As required by ELCA churchwide constitutional provision 7.22. and bylaw 7.31.01., ministers on the Word and Sacrament roster of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America must accept and adhere to this church's Confession of Faith, as well as abide by this church's standards and policies for ministers of Word and Sacrament.~~

8.623.106. Rostered ministers of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, while serving in an ecumenical setting, remain subject to the standards, policies, and discipline of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. A minister of Word and Sacrament of a church body with which a relationship of full communion exists is understood by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as subject to the standards, policies, and discipline of the church body in which the minister is rostered or holds ministerial membership. Such a minister, while serving in ~~an ELCA a~~ congregation or other ministry ~~of this church~~, is expected to abide by the standards and policies of this church related to ministers of Word and Sacrament.

8.623.107. When a minister of Word and Sacrament from a church body with which a relationship of full communion has been declared and established by a Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America completes a contract for extended service, the ~~synodical~~ file on that minister shall be sent to and retained by the Office of the Secretary.

8.634. **This church, in accord with constitutional provision 2.05., acknowledges as one with it in faith and doctrine all churches that accept the teaching of the Unaltered Augsburg Confession and understands that altar and pulpit fellowship with congregations and other entities of such churches may be locally practiced. Local practice of altar and pulpit fellowship, in accord with churchwide constitutional provision 2.05., is subject to the approval of the Synod Council, upon endorsement by the ~~synodical~~ bishop. Notice of such approval is to be given to the presiding bishop as the chief ecumenical officer of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.**

8.634.01. The approval is granted initially for one year only and must be reviewed and approved annually by the Synod Council. Any time that the local practice of altar and pulpit fellowship no longer serves the mission and ministry needs of this church, the ~~synodical~~ bishop may withdraw endorsement and the Synod Council may withdraw the approval.

8.634.02. A minister of Word and Sacrament of a church body ~~with which the ELCA is~~ not in full communion ~~who is with this church, while~~ serving in a ministry involving the local practice of altar and pulpit fellowship with ~~an ELCA a~~ congregation ~~of this church~~, is understood to be subject to the standards, policies, and discipline of the church body in which the minister is rostered or holds ministerial membership. Such a minister, while serving ~~an ELCA a~~ congregation or other ministry ~~of this church~~, is expected to abide by the standards and policies of this church related to ministers of Word and Sacrament. A minister of Word and Sacrament of this church, while serving in a ministry involving the local practice of altar and pulpit fellowship with a non-ELCA congregation, remains subject to the standards, policies, and discipline of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

8.645. **Synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and units of the churchwide organization are encouraged to engage in cooperative work, wherever possible, with churches that accept the teachings of the Unaltered Augsburg Confession. Units engaging in this work shall advise the presiding bishop of such developments.**

CHAPTER 9: CONGREGATIONS

9.21. **This church shall recognize, receive, and maintain on the roster those congregations which by their practice as well as their governing documents:**

- d. agree to call pastoral leadership from the roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament of this church in accordance with the call procedures of this church, except in special**

circumstances as defined in the bylaws accompanying this provision, and with the approval of the **synodical** bishop;

e. agree to be responsible for their life as a Christian community; ~~and~~

f. agree to support the life and work of this church; ~~and~~

g. adhere to the additional commitments expressed in this chapter of the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.*

9.21.01. Approval of the **synodical** bishop, as required in 9.21.d., involves the bishop's attesting that a candidate for the roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament of this church has been approved, in conformity with the governing documents and policies of this church, through the **synodical** candidacy process for first call as a seminary graduate or for call in this church through approval for reception into this church from another Lutheran church body or another Christian church body. Consultation with the **synodical** bishop in accordance with the call procedures and governing documents of this church and the synod is required for the calling of pastoral leadership from among persons on the roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament of this church or persons who are approved as eligible candidates for the roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament of this church.

9.21.02. Under special circumstances, subject to the approval of the **synodical** bishop and the concurrence of the congregation, a minister of Word and Sacrament of a church body with which the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America officially has established a relationship of full communion by action of a Churchwide Assembly may serve temporarily under contract as pastor of a congregation of this church.

9.22. ~~All congregations of this church shall abide by the provisions of 9.21., 9.62., and 7.46. The judgment on whether a congregation meets the criteria listed in 9.21. shall be made by this church through the synod of this church to which the congregation relates.~~
In addition to this Chapter 9, all congregations of this church shall abide by the provisions of 6.01., 7.46., and 7.75., and bylaws 20.41.01. through 20.41.11.

9.23. In accord with constitutional provision 9.21.d. and bylaw 9.21.01. and without invoking the provisions of Chapter 20, a congregation that maintains as its pastor a minister of Word and Sacrament who has resigned or been removed from this church's roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament or that calls as its pastor one who has not been approved for the roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament may be removed from the roster of congregations of this church by the Synod Council upon recommendation of the **synodical** bishop.

9.25. A congregation newly formed by this church and any congregation seeking recognition and reception by this church shall:

a. Accept the criteria for recognition and reception as a congregation of this church, fulfill the functions of the congregation, and accept the governance provisions as provided in Chapter 9 ~~of the ELCA constitution and bylaws~~ **this constitution.**

c. Accept the commitments expected of all congregations of ~~the ELCA this church~~ **as stated in *C6.01., *C6.02., and *C6.03. of the *Model Constitution for Congregations.***

~~If a congregation is a member of another church body, the leaders of the congregation first should consult with the appropriate authorities of that church body before taking action to leave its current church body. After such consultation, leaders of the congregation should make contact with the ELCA synod bishop or staff where the congregation is located.~~

9.26. Recognition and reception into this church of transferring or independent congregations by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is based on the judgment of the synod and action by the synod through the Synod Council and Synod Assembly. The synod bishop shall provide for prompt reporting of such additions to the secretary of this church for addition to the **register roster** of congregations.

- a. If a congregation is a member of another church body, the leadership of the congregation first should consult with the appropriate authorities of that church body before taking action to leave its current church body. After such consultation, leaders of the congregation should contact the synod bishop or synod staff in this church where the congregation is located.
- b. The synod bishop or synod staff where the transferring or independent congregation is located shall confer with the congregation to assure its understanding and acceptance of commitment to and affiliation with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

9.27. Each congregation, except those which are in relationship with the Slovak Zion Synod, shall establish a relationship with the synod in whose territory it is located.

9.51. Each congregation shall structure itself in such a way as to involve its members in fulfilling the definition, purpose, and functions of a congregation of this church.

9.52. The governing documents of congregations recognized at the establishment of this church shall continue to govern such congregations until amended. When such a congregation wishes to amend any provision of its governing documents, the governing documents of that congregation shall be so amended to conform to 9.25.b. The synod responsible for the review of such amendments may permit, for good cause, a congregation to retain particular unamended provisions in the congregation's governing documents that were in force at the establishment of this church.

~~9.52.A93. The Church Council, in cooperation with the synods, shall provide an ongoing process for congregations whose governing documents have been accepted into this church under 9.52. to review those documents and compare them with the required elements of the Model Constitution for Congregations listed in 9.25.b., applicable to the extent provided in 9.52. to congregations recognized and received by this church as of January 1, 1988. Congregations are encouraged to resolve significant conflicts between their governing documents and the Model Constitution for Congregations.~~

9.53. Each congregation shall have governing documents, no terms of which shall conflict with provision 9.21. Subject to the provisions of 9.52., these documents shall contain the elements listed in the bylaws. The judgment on whether a congregation meets the criteria listed in 9.21. shall be made by the synod to which the congregation relates.

9.53.01. The governing documents of congregations shall include:

- d. a process for calling a pastor rostered minister;
- e. a listing of the duties of a pastor rostered minister;
- f. provisions describing the role of the pastor rostered minister in the governance of the congregation;
- g. a process for removal of a pastor rostered minister;
- h. provisions regulating the disposition of property;
- k. a definition of each structural organizational component (e.g., committees, boards);

9.53.02. A *Model Constitution for Congregations* shall be provided by this church. Amendments to the *Model Constitution for Congregations* shall be made in the same manner as prescribed in Chapter 22 for amendments of the bylaws of this church. Congregations are expected to resolve conflicts between their current governing documents and the *Model Constitution for Congregations*.

9.53.03. Each congregation shall provide a copy of its governing documents to the synod. All proposed changes in the constitution or incorporation documents of a congregation shall be referred to the synod with which the congregation is affiliated. The synod shall notify the congregation of its decision to approve or disapprove the proposed changes; the changes shall go into effect upon

notification that the synod has approved them. The synod shall recognize that congregations may organize themselves in a manner which they deem most appropriate, consistent with this chapter.

9.53.04. Each congregation shall take the necessary steps to protect its members and this church from liability, including incorporation as indicated in 9.24., appropriate insurance coverage, indemnification, and similar actions.

9.53.07. A congregation considering development of an additional site to be used regularly for worship shall confer with the bishop of the synod in which it is territorially located before any steps are taken leading to such action.

9.53.08. Congregations shall have the right to petition this church. Such petitions will be presented as resolutions or memorials in the form prescribed by the secretary of this church. Any petition resolution or memorial shall be addressed to the synod to which the congregation relates for response by the synod. By action of the Synod Council or Synod Assembly, petitions-resolutions or memorials may be forwarded to the Church Council or Churchwide Assembly.

~~9.53.08.~~ A congregation considering development of an additional site to be used regularly for worship shall confer with the bishop of the synod in which it is territorially located and the appropriate unit of the churchwide organization before any steps are taken leading to such action.

9.61. The relationship between a congregation and this church may be is terminated in one of the following ways:

e. The congregation is removed by the synod pursuant to 9.23.

~~f. The membership of the congregation becomes so scattered or diminished in numbers as to make it impracticable for such congregation to fulfill the purposes for which it was organized. In such case, the synod, in order to protect the property from waste and deterioration, through the Synod Council or trustees appointed by it, may take~~

The synod takes charge and control of the property of the congregation to hold, manage, and convey the same on behalf of the synod pursuant to †S13.24. of the synod constitution. The congregation shall have the right to appeal the decision to the next Synod Assembly.

9.62. A congregation may terminate its relationship with this church by the following procedure:

a. A resolution indicating the intent to terminate its relationship must be adopted at a-two legally called and conducted special meetings of the congregation by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present at each meeting. ~~Such~~ The first such meeting may be held no sooner than 30 days after written notice of the meeting is received by the bishop of the synod, during which time the congregation shall consult with the bishop and the bishop's designees, if any. The times and manner of the consultation shall be determined by the bishop in consultation with the Congregation Council. Unless he or she is a voting member of the congregation, the bishop and the bishop's designees, if any, shall have voice but not vote at the meeting.

b. ~~The~~ Within 10 days after the resolution has been voted upon, the secretary of the congregation shall submit a copy of the resolution to the bishop, attesting that the special meeting was legally called and conducted and certifying the outcome of the vote, and shall mail a copy send copies of the resolution and certification to the voting members of the congregation. ~~This notice shall be submitted within 10 days after the resolution has been adopted.~~

c. ~~The~~ If the resolution was adopted by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present at the meeting, the bishop of the synod and the congregation shall continue in consultation, as specified in paragraph a. above, during a period of at least 90 days after receipt by the synod-bishop of the notice-attestation and certification as specified in paragraph b. above.

d. If the congregation, after such consultation, still seeks to terminate-is still considering termination of its relationship with this church, such action may be taken at a legally called and conducted special meeting by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present. Notice

of the meeting shall be ~~mailed-sent~~ to all voting members and to the bishop at least 10 days in advance of the meeting. Unless he or she is a voting member of the congregation, the bishop and the bishop's designees, if any, shall have voice but not vote at the meeting.

- e. ~~A-Within 10 days after the resolution has been voted upon, the secretary of the congregation shall submit a copy of the resolution to the bishop, attesting that the second special meeting was legally called and conducted and certifying the outcome of the vote, shall be sent to the bishop within 10 days after the resolution has been adopted, at which time and shall send copies of the resolution and certification to the voting members of the congregation. If the resolution was adopted by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present at the meeting,~~ the relationship between the congregation and this church shall be terminated, subject to Synod Council approval as required by paragraphs g., h., and i. below.
- f. Unless this notification to the bishop also certifies that the congregation has voted ~~by a two-thirds vote~~ to affiliate with another Lutheran denomination, the congregation ~~will be conclusively presumed to be~~ shall be deemed an independent or non-Lutheran church, in which case 9.71.e. shall apply.
- f. ~~Notice of termination shall be forwarded by the bishop to the secretary of this church, who shall report the termination to the Churchwide Assembly.~~
- h. Congregations which had been members of the Lutheran Church in America shall be required, in addition to complying with the foregoing provisions in 9.62., to receive synodical approval before terminating their membership in this church.
- j. If a congregation fails to achieve the required two-thirds vote ~~of voting members present~~ at the congregation's first meeting as specified in paragraph a. above, another special meeting first meeting as specified in paragraph a. above to consider termination of relationship with this church may be called no sooner than six months after that first meeting. If a congregation fails to achieve the required two-thirds vote of voting members present at the congregation's second meeting as specified in paragraph d. above, another attempt to consider termination of relationship with this church must follow all requirements of 9.62. and may begin no sooner than six months after that second meeting.
- k. Notice of a congregation's termination of its relationship with this church shall be forwarded by the bishop to the secretary of this church, who shall report the termination to the Churchwide Assembly.

9.71. Subject to the provisions of 9.52., the following shall govern the ownership of property by congregations of this church:

- d. Title to the property of a congregation that has acted to terminate its relationship with this church by the provisions of 9.62. and has ~~acted by a two-thirds vote~~ voted to relate to another Lutheran church body shall continue to reside in the congregation.
- e. Title to the property of a congregation that has acted to terminate its relationship with this church by the provisions of 9.62. and has ~~acted by a two-thirds vote~~ voted to become independent or to relate to a non-Lutheran church body shall continue to reside in the congregation only with the consent of the Synod Council. The Synod Council, after consultation with the congregation by an established synodical process, may give approval to the request to become independent or to relate to a non-Lutheran church body, in which case title shall remain with the majority of the congregation. If the Synod Council fails to give such approval, title shall remain with those members who desire to continue as a congregation of this church. In neither case does title to the congregation's property transfer to the synod.

9.80. FEDERATED OR UNION OR FEDERATED CONGREGATIONS

9.81.01. A federated union congregation is one congregation that is formed and maintained with the approval of both the synod in which the congregation is located and the comparable ecclesiastical entity of one or more church bodies with which a relationship of full communion has been established. A

~~federated-union~~ congregation shall conduct its life and work under a plan of agreement adopted by the ~~federated-union~~ congregation in accord with policy of the synod in which the ~~federated-union~~ congregation is located and the comparable entity or entities of a church body or church bodies with which a relationship of full communion has been declared by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, in accord with 8.61. and 9.81.

- a. The plan of agreement shall follow, as clearly as is practicable, the model provisions developed by the secretary of this church, after consultation with the appropriate churchwide unit or units and ~~the~~ Conference of Bishops, ~~and approved by the Church Council, and such.~~ ~~Such~~ a plan of agreement shall be subject to the constitutions of each church body involved.
 - 1) Whenever the constitutions of the respective church bodies differ, the mandatory provisions of one shall apply in all cases when the others are permissive.
 - 2) Whenever conflicting mandatory provisions or conflicting permissive provisions exist, petition shall be made to the appropriate governing bodies of the church bodies involved to resolve the conflict under the internal procedures of the respective church bodies.
- b. The plan of agreement of a ~~federated-union~~ congregation shall be consistent with the commitments made by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in church-to-church resolutions and documents for the continuing relationship of full communion.
- c. The plan of agreement of each ~~federated-union~~ congregation shall be subject to review and ratification by the Synod Council of the synod in which the ~~federated-union~~ congregation is located.
- d. Implementation of the plan of agreement of a ~~federated-union~~ congregation shall be guided by policies and procedures developed in consultation with the appropriate churchwide unit or units by the Office of the Secretary, reviewed by the Conference of Bishops, and approved by the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- e. A ~~federated-union~~ congregation shall be incorporated, when legally possible, under the laws of the state of location. A ~~federated-union~~ congregation shall take the necessary steps to protect its members and the related church bodies from liability.

9.81.02.

A ~~union-federated~~ congregation may be formed by two separate congregations that shall continue to exist as separate but cooperating entities. The separate congregations in a ~~union-federated~~ congregation shall be related to their respective church bodies that have established a relationship of full communion in accord with 8.61. and 9.81. A ~~union-federated~~ congregation shall conduct its life and work under a plan of agreement approved by the two separate congregations upon recommendation of the synod in which the congregation is located, with the synod acting in concert with the comparable ecclesiastical entity of a church body with which a relationship of full communion exists.

- a. The plan of agreement of a ~~union-federated~~ congregation shall follow, as clearly as is practicable, the model provisions of such a plan of agreement developed by the secretary of this church, after consultation with the appropriate churchwide unit or units and ~~the~~ Conference of Bishops, ~~and approved by the Church Council, and such.~~ ~~Such~~ a plan of agreement for a ~~union-federated~~ congregation shall be subject to the constitutions of each church body involved.
- b. The plan of agreement of a ~~union-federated~~ congregation shall be consistent with the commitments made by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in church-to-church resolutions and documents for the continuing relationship of full communion.
- c. The plan of agreement of a ~~union-federated~~ congregation shall be subject to review and ratification by the Synod Council of the synod in which the ~~union-federated~~ congregation is located.
- d. Implementation of the plan of agreement of a ~~union-federated~~ congregation shall be guided by policies and procedures developed in consultation with the appropriate churchwide unit or units by the Office of the Secretary, ~~and~~ reviewed by the Conference of Bishops, ~~and approved by the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.~~
- e. Each congregation in a ~~union-federated~~ congregation shall take the necessary steps to protect its members and the related church body from liability.

CHAPTER 10: SYNODS

10.01. **This** ~~The territory of this~~ church shall be divided into **geographic** synods, **except the Slovak Zion Synod**, the names and boundaries of which shall be determined by the Churchwide Assembly and included in the bylaws.

10.01.01.

Names and Boundaries. The names and boundaries of the synods shall be:

Synod 1.D—Eastern Washington-Idaho. The state of IDAHO; the counties of Adams, Asotin, Benton, Chelan, Columbia, Douglas, Ferry, Franklin, Garfield, Grant, Kittitas, Klickitat, Lincoln, Okanogan, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens, Walla Walla, Whitman, Yakima in the state of WASHINGTON; ~~the congregation Shepherd of the Mountains, Teton County, and the congregation Star Valley United, Lincoln County, in the state of WYOMING~~ the counties of Lincoln and Teton in the state of WYOMING; ~~the congregation St. Paul, Malheur County, in the state of OREGON.~~

...
Synod 2.D—Grand Canyon. The state of ARIZONA; the counties of Clark, Esmeralda, Lincoln, Nye in the state of NEVADA; ~~the congregation New Promise, Washington County, in the state of UTAH.~~
Synod 2.E—Rocky Mountain. The states of COLORADO; NEW MEXICO; UTAH; ~~and WYOMING, excluding the counties of Big Horn, Park, Sheridan, and Washakie;~~ and the counties of Brewster, Culberson, El Paso, Hudspeth, Jeff Davis, Loving, Presidio, Reeves, Ward, Winkler in the state of TEXAS; ~~the counties of Albany, Campbell, Carbon, Converse, Crook, Fremont, Goshen, Hot Springs, Johnson, Laramie, Natrona, Niobrara, Platte, Sublette, Sweetwater, Uinta, Weston in the state of WYOMING.~~

Synod 3.A—Western North Dakota. The counties of Adams, ~~Benson (the town/parishes of Esmond),~~ Billings, Bottineau, Bowman, Burke, Burleigh, Divide, Dunn, Emmons, Golden Valley, Grant, Hettinger, Kidder ~~(excluding the Woodworth Parish of Pettibone),~~ Logan ~~(excluding the towns/parishes of Fredonia and Gackle),~~ McHenry, McIntosh, McKenzie, McLean, Mercer, Morton, Mountrail, Oliver, Pierce, Renville, ~~Rolette,~~ Sheridan, Sioux, Slope, Stark, ~~Towner,~~ Ward, Wells, Williams in the state of NORTH DAKOTA; ~~the congregation Leeds Evangelical, Benson County, in the state of NORTH DAKOTA; the congregation and the parishes of Lemmon, Lodgepole, Ralph, and Shadehill Perkins County, and the congregation Ralph, Harding County, in the state of SOUTH DAKOTA; the congregation Trinity, Wibaux County, in the state of MONTANA.~~

Synod 3.B—Eastern North Dakota. The counties of Barnes, Benson ~~(east of and including the towns/parishes of Maddock and Leeds),~~ Cass, Cavalier, Dickey, Eddy, Foster, Grand Forks, Griggs, Kidder ~~(the Woodworth Parish of Pettibone),~~ LaMoure, Logan ~~(the towns/parishes of Fredonia and Gackle),~~ Nelson, Pembina, Ramsey, Ransom, Richland, ~~Rolette,~~ Sargent, Steele, Stutsman, ~~Towner,~~ Traill, Walsh in the state of NORTH DAKOTA; ~~the congregations Martin Luther and Emmanuel, Logan County, in the state of NORTH DAKOTA.~~

...
Synod 3.E—Northeastern Minnesota. The counties of Aitkin, Carlton, Cass, Cook, Crow Wing, Itasca, Kanabec, Koochiching, Lake, Mille Lacs ~~(part),~~ Morrison, Pine, St. Louis in the state of MINNESOTA.

Synod 3.F—Southwestern Minnesota. The counties of Benton, Big Stone, ~~Blue Earth (part),~~ Brown, Chippewa, Cottonwood, Jackson, Kandiyohi, Lac qui Parle, Lincoln, Lyon, McLeod, Martin, Meeker, ~~Mille Lacs (part),~~ Murray, Nicollet, Nobles, Pipestone, Pope, Redwood, Renville, Rock, Sherburne (part), Sibley, Stearns, Stevens, Swift, Watonwan, Wright (part), Yellow Medicine in the state of MINNESOTA.

Synod 3.I—Southeastern Minnesota. The counties of Blue Earth ~~(part),~~ Dodge, Faribault, Fillmore, Freeborn, Goodhue, Houston, Le Sueur, Mower, Olmsted, Rice, Steele, Wabasha, Waseca, Winona in the state of MINNESOTA.

...
Synod 4.D—Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana. . . in the state of LOUISIANA; ~~the congregation Trinity, Curry County, in the state of NEW MEXICO.~~ . .

...
Synod 5.E—Western Iowa. The counties of Adair, Adams, Audubon, Buena Vista, Calhoun, Carroll, Cass, Cherokee, Clay, Crawford, Dallas (west), Dickinson, Emmet, Fremont, Greene, Guthrie,

Hamilton (west), Hancock (west), Harrison, Humboldt, Ida, Kossuth, Lyon, Mills, Monona, Montgomery, O'Brien, Osceola, Page, Palo Alto, Plymouth, Pocahontas, Pottawattamie, Ringgold, Sac, Shelby, Sioux, Taylor, Union, Webster, Winnebago (west), Woodbury, Wright (west) in the state of IOWA.

Synod 5.F—Northeastern Iowa. The counties of Allamakee, Black Hawk, Bremer, Buchanan, Butler, Cerro Gordo, Chickasaw, Clayton, Delaware, Dubuque, Fayette, Floyd, Franklin, Grundy, Hamilton (east), Hancock (east), Hardin, Howard, Jackson (north), Mitchell, Story (north), Tama (north), Winnebago (east), Winneshiek, Worth, Wright (east) in the state of IOWA.

...

Synod 5.I—East-Central Synod of Wisconsin. The counties of Brown, Calumet, Door, Fond Du Lac, Green Lake, Kewaunee, Langlade, Lincoln, Manitowoc, Marathon (east), Marquette, Menominee, Oconto, Outagamie, Portage, Shawano, Waupaca, Waushara, Winnebago, Wood (southeast) in the state of WISCONSIN; the congregation Redeemer, Sheboygan County, in the state of WISCONSIN.

Synod 5.J—Greater Milwaukee. The counties of Kenosha, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine, Sheboygan, Washington, Waukesha in the state of WISCONSIN; the congregations of Cross and St. Matthew, Jefferson County, and the congregations St. Olaf and Zion, Dodge County, in the state of WISCONSIN.

...

Synod 6.A—Southeast Michigan. The counties of Genesee, Lapeer, Lenawee, Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, Saint Clair, Shiawasee, Washtenaw, Wayne in the state of MICHIGAN; the congregation Trinity, Sanilac County, in the state of MICHIGAN.

...

Synod 6.D—Northwestern Ohio. The counties of Allen, Auglaize, Crawford, Defiance, Erie, Fulton, Hancock, Hardin, Henry, Huron, Lucas, Marion, Mercer, Morrow, Ottawa, Paulding, Putnam, Sandusky, Seneca, Van Wert, Williams, Wood, Wyandot in the state of OHIO; the congregation St. James, Jay County, in the state of INDIANA.

...

Synod 8.A—Northwestern Pennsylvania. The counties of Armstrong (part), Cameron, Clarion, Crawford, Elk, Erie, Forest, Indiana (part), Jefferson, McKean, Mercer, Potter, Venango, Warren in the state of PENNSYLVANIA.

Synod 8.B—Southwestern Pennsylvania. The counties of Allegheny, Armstrong (part), Beaver, Butler, Fayette, Greene, Indiana (part), Lawrence, Washington, Westmoreland in the state of PENNSYLVANIA.

Synod 8.C—Allegheny. The counties of Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Centre, Clearfield, Huntingdon, Somerset in the state of PENNSYLVANIA; the congregation Christ, Garrett County, in the state of MARYLAND.

...

MARYLAND; the state of WEST VIRGINIA; the congregation Mount Calvary, Allegany County, the congregations Holy Trinity Memorial and Salem in, Washington County in the state of MARYLAND; the congregation Fairview, Frederick County, in the state of VIRGINIA.

10.02. — Each congregation, except those which are in partnership with the Slovak Zion Synod, shall establish a relationship with the synod in whose territory it is located.

10.02.01.

10.01.02.

The Slovak Zion Synod shall continue as a non-geographic synod of this church. In all other respects it shall be bound by the provisions of the constitutions, bylaws, and continuing resolutions of this church. In addition, it shall enter into relationships with geographic synods in order to provide opportunities for congregations, rostered ministers, and other leaders to share in the programmatic services of such synods, workshops, and conferences. It shall also periodically review and evaluate its ministries to ascertain their continuing effectiveness.

10.02.02.

10.01.03. Any congregation in a border area desiring to change its synod relationship may do so upon approval of the synod assemblies of the synods concerned, which shall report any such change to the Churchwide Assembly.

~~10.02.03.~~

10.01.04. Within the territory of each geographic synod, the synod—in keeping with criteria, policies, and procedures proposed by the secretary of this church, after consultation with the appropriate churchwide unit or units, and approved by the Church Council—may acknowledge certain authorized worshiping communities such as developing ministries, preaching points, or chapels as related to the synod and part of the synod’s life and mission. Such authorized worshiping communities of the synod shall accept and adhere to the Confession of Faith and Statement of Purpose of this church, shall be served by leadership under the criteria of this church, and shall be subject to the discipline of this church.

~~10.11.A13.~~ *[This continuing resolution becomes a bylaw.]*

10.11.01. Any synod contemplating amending articles of incorporation or undertaking other fundamental changes such as dissolution, merger, partition into multiple synods, creating a new synod corporation, incorporating in another jurisdiction, or any similar or related action, especially those that may affect relationships with other expressions of this church, must first consult with the Office of the Presiding Bishop, the Office of the Secretary, and with the bishops of any synods affected before seeking ratification by the Church Council.

10.21. Each synod, in ~~partnership-cooperation~~ with the churchwide organization, shall bear primary responsibility for the oversight of the life and mission of this church in its territory. In fulfillment of this role and consistent with policies and procedures of this church, the synod shall:

10.21.01. ~~In providing for pastoral care of congregations and rostered ministers in the synod, the~~ The responsibilities of the synod include the following:

- a. providing for pastoral care of congregations, ministers of Word and Sacrament, and ministers of Word and Service in the synod, including:
 - 1) approving candidates for the ministry of Word and Sacrament in cooperation with the appropriate seminaries of this church, which may be done through ~~multi-synodical~~ committees;
 - 2) authorizing ordinations and ordaining ministers of Word and Sacrament on behalf of this church;
 - 3) approving ministers of Word and Service, which may be done through ~~multi-synodical~~ committees;
 - 4) authorizing ~~consecrations and consecrating ordinations and ordaining~~ ministers of Word and Service on behalf of this church; and

10.21.03. In strengthening interdependent relationships among congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization, and in fostering relationships with agencies and institutions affiliated with or related to this church as well as with ecumenical and global ~~partners companions~~, the responsibilities of the synod include the following:

- a. promoting interdependent relationships among congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization, and entering into ~~partnership~~ mutually beneficial relationships with other synods in the region;
- b. fostering organizations for youth, women, and men, and organizations for language or ethnic communities;
- c. developing relationships with social ministry organizations and ministries, participating in their mission planning, and providing ~~partnership~~ supportive funding;
- d. supporting relationships with and providing ~~partnership~~ funding on behalf of colleges, universities, and campus ministries;

- e. maintaining relationships with and providing ~~partnership~~ funding on behalf of seminaries and continuing education centers;
- f. fostering relationships with camps and other outdoor ministries;
- g. fostering relationships with preschools, elementary schools, and secondary schools operated by congregations of the synod;
- h. fostering relationships with ecumenical and global ~~partners~~ companions;

- 10.31. The officers of each synod shall be a bishop, a vice president, a secretary, and a treasurer.**
- 7) **Preside at all meetings of the Synod Assembly and be the chief executive officer of the synod; provide for the preparation of the agenda of the Synod Assembly, Synod Council, and the Executive Committee; see to it that the constitution and bylaws of the synod are duly observed, and that the actions of the synod in conformity therewith are carried into effect; coordinate the work of all ~~synodical~~ staff members; and appoint all committees for which provision is not otherwise made.**
 - 9) **Exercise solely this church's power to ordain (or provide for the ordination by another ~~synodical~~ bishop of) approved candidates who have received and accepted a properly issued, duly attested letter of call for the office of ministry of Word and Sacrament (and as provided in the bylaws of this church); and to ~~consecrate-ordain~~ (or provide for the ~~consecration-ordination~~ of) approved candidates who have received and accepted a properly issued, duly attested letter of call for service as a minister of Word and Service (and as provided in the bylaws of this church); and to install (or provide for the installation of) rostered ministers whose calls the bishop has attested.**

10.31.A19. *When authorized by the Synod Council in order to address special circumstances, the synod bishop may be compensated as an employee or contractor for specified services to another expression of this church. Such an arrangement may be terminated by the Synod Assembly or Synod Council if determined to be detrimental to the function of the office or if the special circumstances no longer apply.*

10.32. The procedures governing matters of potential conflicts of interest for ~~synodical~~ bishops shall be set forth in the bylaws.

10.32.01. Whenever a ~~synodical~~ bishop determines that a matter of the kind described in 10.32.02. may require his or her determination or action with respect to a related individual as defined in 10.32.03., the ~~synodical~~ bishop shall withdraw from personal involvement in such matter and shall so notify the presiding bishop. The presiding bishop shall then appoint another ~~synodical~~ bishop from the same region to handle the matter to conclusion. In dealing with such matter, the appointed bishop shall exercise all of the functions and authority to the same extent as if the appointed bishop were the elected bishop of the withdrawing bishop's synod.

10.32.02. Matters include any proceedings under Chapter 20, proceedings under provision 7.46. (†S14.18.), candidacy, reinstatement, and similar matters where determinations or actions by the ~~synodical~~ bishop could change, limit, restrict, approve, authorize, or deny the related individual's ministry on one of the rosters of this church.

10.32.03. A related individual is one who, with respect to the ~~synodical~~ bishop, is a spouse, parent, son, daughter, sibling, uncle, aunt, niece, nephew, grandparent, grandchild, including corresponding members of blended families, and in-laws (parent, son, daughter, or sibling of a spouse, spouse of a sibling, or the parent or sibling of the spouse of a sibling).

10.41. Each synod shall have a Synod Assembly, ~~which shall be its highest legislative authority, and which shall meet at least triennially. Special meetings may be called as needed. With the exception of ministers on the rosters of synods other than their synod of residence, each member of the Synod Assembly, the Synod Council, a board, committee, or other organizational unit of the synod shall be a voting member of a congregation of the synod.~~

- b. All ministers of Word and Service under call on the roster of the synod shall be voting members in the Synod Assembly, ~~in addition to the voting membership of lay members of congregations provided in item 10.41.01.e.~~
- c. A minimum of one lay member elected by each congregation with fewer than 175 baptized members and a minimum of two lay members elected by each congregation with 175 or more baptized members related to the synod, ~~normally typically~~ one of whom shall be ~~male a man~~ and one of whom shall be ~~female a woman~~, shall be voting members. The Synod Council shall establish a formula to provide additional lay representation from congregations on the basis of the number of baptized members in the congregation. The Synod Council shall seek to ensure that, ~~as nearly as possible, 50 at least 45~~ percent of the lay members of the assembly shall be ~~female women~~ and ~~50 at least 45~~ percent shall be ~~male men~~. ~~Additional members from each congregation normally shall be equally divided between male and female.~~

10.41.02. Synods may establish processes that permit retired rostered ministers, or those ~~designated as disabled granted disability status~~, on the roster of the synod to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly, consistent with bylaw 10.41.01.

10.41.04. Synods may establish processes that permit representatives of ~~congregations under development and synodically authorized~~ worshipping communities, under bylaw ~~10.02.03, 10.01.04,~~ to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly, consistent with bylaw 10.41.01.

10.61. Each synod may establish conferences, clusters, coalitions, area subdivisions, and networks as appropriate within its territory and in collaboration with other synods and ~~partners organizations~~ as specified in the bylaws and continuing resolutions. The purpose of such groupings shall be to foster interdependent relationships for missional purposes among congregations, synods, the churchwide organization, and other ~~partners affiliates~~.

10.71.02. The percentage or amount determined by consultation shall ~~come be reported~~ to the Church Council ~~for approval or a request to reopen consultation~~.

10.72. Each synod shall arrange to have an annual audit of its financial records conducted by a certified public accountant firm selected by the Synod Council. The audited annual financial report shall be submitted by the synod to the churchwide Office of the Treasurer and to the congregations of the synod. ~~Synodical~~ financial reports shall be in a format approved by the churchwide Office of the Treasurer in order to attain uniformity in reporting.

10.81.B14. **Organization of the Conference of Bishops**
The Conference of Bishops may establish committees as the members, from time to time, may determine to assist in fulfillment of assigned responsibilities. Quadrennially, the Conference of Bishops shall elect a chair and vice chair to preside at meetings and serve as ex officio members of the executive committee of the conference with the presiding bishop and secretary. The Conference of Bishops shall establish criteria and terms for three ~~synodical~~ bishops to be elected by the conference as members of the executive committee.

10.81.C13. **Staff Services for the Conference of Bishops**
Staff services for meetings of the Conference of Bishops shall be provided by the Office of the Presiding Bishop and the Office of the Secretary. The assistant to the presiding bishop for ~~synodical~~ relations shall coordinate the operation of the Conference of Bishops.

CHAPTER 11: CHURCHWIDE ORGANIZATION—DEFINITION AND PURPOSES

11.32. The Church Council shall exercise interim legislative authority and shall serve as the board of directors of the ~~corporation churchwide organization~~.

- 11.33. Leadership of this church shall be vested in the churchwide officers, the Churchwide Assembly, the Church Council, the Conference of Bishops, and executive directors of churchwide units. The full-time officers shall be the presiding bishop, secretary, and treasurer. The vice president shall be non-salaried and shall serve as chair of the Church Council, may perform such other tasks for the benefit of this church as the Church Council directs, and may be compensated as the Church Council determines.

CHAPTER 12: CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY

- 12.41.11. Each synod shall elect one voting member of the Churchwide Assembly for every 6,000 baptized members in the synod. In addition, each synod shall elect one voting member for every 50 congregations in the synod. The synodical bishop, who is *ex officio* a member of the Churchwide Assembly, shall be included in the number of voting members so determined. Unless otherwise determined by the synod, the synodical vice president shall serve as an *ex officio* member of the Churchwide Assembly and be included in the number of the synod's voting members. The voting members elected by each synod shall comply with the principles of organization, commitment to inclusiveness, and interdependence as specified in Chapter 5 of this Constitution. In addition, each synod shall elect one additional voting member who is a youth or young adult at the time of the election and one additional voting member who is a person of color or a person whose primary language is other than English. The Church Council may allocate up to 10 additional voting members among synods, but no single synod may be allocated more than two additional voting members. The secretary shall notify each synod of the number of assembly members it is to elect.
- 12.41.12. The secretary of each synod shall submit to the secretary of this church at least nine months before each regular Churchwide Assembly a certified list of the voting members elected by the Synod Assembly. If a voting member elected by the Synod Assembly is unable to serve, the name of an eligible person chosen by the Synod Council shall be submitted by the secretary of the synod to the secretary of this church. If a vacancy occurs or exists within 30 days or less of the convening of the Churchwide Assembly or during the meeting of the Churchwide Assembly, the synodical bishop may submit the name of an eligible person to the secretary of this church. The individual whose name is submitted to the secretary of this church shall be registered and seated by the Credentials Committee as a voting member from the synod.
- 12.41.13. Each voting member of the Churchwide Assembly shall be a voting member of a congregation of this church. Any such voting member (except a rostered minister described in 7.42. or 7.72.) shall cease to be a member of the assembly if no longer a voting member of a congregation of this church within the synod from which elected. The criterion for voting membership in the congregation from which the voting member is elected shall be in effect regarding minimum age for that voting member.
- 12.41.16. **Ex Officio Members.** The officers of the churchwide organization, the members of the Church Council, and the bishops of the synods shall serve as *ex officio* members of the Churchwide Assembly. Unless otherwise determined by a synod, the synodical vice presidents shall also serve as *ex officio* members of the Churchwide Assembly. *Ex officio* members shall have voice and vote.
- 12.41.17. **Advisory Members.** Members of the Church Council, unless otherwise elected as voting members, shall serve as advisory members of the Churchwide Assembly. In addition, executive-Excutive directors of units of the churchwide organization, the executive for administration, and other persons from the churchwide organization designated by the presiding bishop shall serve as advisory members of the Churchwide Assembly. The Church Council also may designate other persons as advisory members of the Churchwide Assembly. Advisory members shall have voice but not vote.
- 12.51.02. **Memorials Committee.** A Memorials Committee, appointed by the Church Council, shall review memorials from synodical assemblies and make appropriate recommendations for assembly action.

CHAPTER 13: OFFICERS

- 13.21. The presiding bishop shall be a minister of Word and Sacrament of this church who, as its pastor, shall be a teacher of the faith of this church and shall provide leadership for the life and witness of this church. The presiding bishop shall:
- c. In collaboration with the leadership of each group, provide ~~Provide~~ for the preparation of the agenda for the Churchwide Assembly, Church Council, Executive Committee, and Conference of Bishops, and preside at the Churchwide Assembly
 - h. Coordinate ~~Appoint~~ and supervise the work of executives directors of churchwide units.
 - k. Serve as an advisory member, with voice but not vote, on all committees of this church and all boards or committees of churchwide units, or designate a person to serve as the presiding bishop's representative.
- 13.32.02. The vice president shall serve without salary may perform such other tasks for the benefit of this church as the Church Council directs, and may be compensated as the Church Council determines.
- 13.32.03. Staff services for the work of the vice president shall be provided by the Office of the Presiding Bishop and the Office of the Secretary, as needed.
- 13.41.05. The secretary shall provide staff services to the Nominating Committee of the Churchwide Assembly and the nomination process of the Church Council; shall be responsible for declaring an interim vacancy resulting from the resignation, death, or disability of a member of a board, committee, or council; and shall arrange for an election by the Church Council to fill the vacancy consistent with Chapter 19 14.

CHAPTER 14: CHURCH COUNCIL

- 14.11. ~~The Church Council shall be the board of directors and shall serve as the interim legislative authority between meetings of the Churchwide Assembly.~~
The Church Council shall exercise interim legislative authority and shall serve as the board of directors of the churchwide organization.
- 14.13. "Interim legislative authority" is defined to mean that between meetings of the churchwide assemblies, the Church Council may exercise the authority of the Churchwide Assembly, including dealing with all matters which are necessary in pursuit of the purposes and functions of this church, so long as:
- a. the actions of the Church Council do not conflict with the actions of and policies established by the Churchwide Assembly; provided, however, that nothing in this constitution and bylaws precludes the Church Council from establishing policies concerning areas where the Churchwide Assembly has not acted; and
 - b. the Church Council is not precluded by constitutional or bylaw provisions the Articles of Incorporation or this constitution and bylaws from taking action on the matter.
- 14.15. ~~The Church Council shall fulfill responsibilities for elections as provided in the Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and, in the event that a vacancy on the council or on a board or committee of the churchwide organization is declared by the secretary, the Church Council shall elect a member to serve the balance of the term.~~
- 14.16. The Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America may remove for cause a voting member of the Church Council, other than an officer, at a duly held regular meeting by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the voting members of the Church Council, provided that at least 30 days written notice shall be given to each voting member of the Church Council that removal of a specific member of the Church Council will be on the agenda for such a meeting. The Church Council may remove an advisory member for cause, provided notice has been given as specified in this provision, by a majority vote of the voting members of the council.

14.21.01. The Church Council shall act on the policies proposed by churchwide units, subject to review by the Churchwide Assembly when requested by the presiding bishop or the churchwide unit. The Church Council shall ensure that the actions of the Churchwide Assembly are implemented by the applicable unit or office.

14.21.02. The Church Council shall review the procedures and programs of the churchwide units to assure that churchwide purposes, policies, and objectives are being fulfilled. Each unit shall recommend policy and develop strategies in its particular areas of responsibility after consultation with other units of the churchwide organization and affected synods, congregations, agencies, and institutions.

a. Policies related to the day to day functioning of the unit or to the specific responsibilities of the unit that have no implications for other units, congregations, synods, agencies, or institutions may be approved by the unit, subject to ratification by the Church Council.

b. All other policies shall be submitted to the Church Council for approval.

The Church Council shall receive from the Office of the Presiding Bishop regular reports on the programs and procedures of the churchwide units. The Church Council, through the presiding bishop, shall ensure that the purposes, policies and objectives of this church are being fulfilled.

a. Specific policies identified in this constitution and bylaws, developed by the appropriate churchwide unit, and reviewed by the Conference of Bishops, shall be submitted to the Church Council for approval.

b. Separately incorporated ministries of this church, as defined in Chapter 17, shall submit a report to the Church Council on their policies and programs. The Church Council shall act to approve those policies and programs as required in this constitution and bylaws.

14.21.03. The Church Council shall review all recommendations from churchwide units for possible consideration by the Churchwide Assembly and determine which, if any, should be forwarded to the Churchwide Assembly for action.

14.21.12. The Church Council shall provide for the installation of the churchwide officers. At the installation of a newly elected presiding bishop of this church, the presiding minister shall be the previous presiding bishop of this church or, where that is not possible, a synodical bishop designated by the Church Council.

14.21.15. The Church Council shall determine, unless otherwise specified in the constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions, the appropriate churchwide unit for the fulfillment of particular program or policy responsibilities identified in the bylaws.

14.21.16. The Church Council shall establish the criteria and policies for the relationship between the churchwide organization and independent, cooperative, and related Lutheran organizations. The policies adopted by the Church Council shall be administered by the appropriate unit of the churchwide organization. The determination of which organization shall relate to a specific unit of the churchwide organization shall be made by the Church Council.

14.21.20. ELECTIONS BY THE CHURCH COUNCIL

14.21.21. Unless otherwise specified in the constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions, the Church Council shall elect the executive director for each churchwide unit to a four-year term in consultation with and with the approval of the presiding bishop. Nomination of a candidate for election shall be made by the presiding bishop. The presiding bishop, as chief executive officer, shall arrange within the personnel policies of the churchwide organization for an annual review of each executive director. A unit executive director shall be eligible for re-election. The employment of the executive director may be terminated jointly by the presiding bishop and the Executive Committee of the Church Council.

~~14.21.22.~~ The Church Council shall arrange the process for all elections as specified in this constitution and bylaws for churchwide units to assure conformity with established criteria.

14.22. The Church Council shall fulfill responsibilities for elections as provided in the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* and, in the event that a vacancy on the council or on a board or committee of the churchwide organization is declared by the secretary, the Church Council shall elect an individual to serve the balance of the term.

14.22.01. Before electing an individual to fill a vacancy on a board or committee, the Church Council shall consult with the board or committee.

14.32.01. The Church Council shall have as liaison members nine ~~synodical~~ bishops, each elected by the Conference of Bishops to one four-year term. One bishop shall be elected from each region.

14.41.01. **Executive Committee.** The Church Council shall have an Executive Committee composed of the churchwide officers, the chair of the Conference of Bishops, and seven members of the Church Council elected by the council. The vice president of this church shall chair this committee. The Executive Committee shall:

- a. perform those functions of the Church Council assigned to it by the Church Council, which shall include acting for the Church Council between meetings of the council

14.41.02. Liaison bishops, ecumenical guests, and other advisors to the Church Council may serve as advisory members to the council's committees with voice but not vote.

CHAPTER 15: CHURCHWIDE OFFICES AND ADMINISTRATION

~~15.11.03.~~ **Responsibility for Planning and Evaluation.** The Office of the Presiding Bishop shall provide coordinated, strategic planning for, and review and evaluation of, the work of the churchwide organization and shall coordinate this planning process with the budget development process.

15.12.E109. **Responsibility for Planning, Research, and Evaluation**
Responsibility for planning, research, and evaluation shall be exercised by the Office of the Presiding Bishop to provide reliable and valid research, relevant information, and appropriate evaluation related to the purposes of this church in order to assist the presiding bishop, other leaders, and staff of the churchwide organization to accomplish their duties to provide coordinated, strategic planning for, and review and evaluation of, the work of the churchwide organization and shall coordinate this planning process with the budget-development process. This work assists the presiding bishop and other leaders, and staff of the churchwide organization to accomplish their duties. The executive for planning, research, and evaluation shall be appointed by the presiding bishop.

15.12.F13. **Responsibility for Synodical Relations**
Responsibility for ~~synodical~~ relations shall be exercised by the Office of the Presiding Bishop in order to coordinate the relationships between the churchwide organization and synods, render support for ~~synodical~~ bishops and ~~synodical~~ staff, and provide staff services for the Conference of Bishops. To fulfill these responsibilities, an assistant to the presiding bishop/executive for ~~synodical~~ relations, appointed by the presiding bishop, shall:

- c. plan and coordinate churchwide participation in ~~synodical~~ assemblies;
- d. provide for ~~synodical~~ services, including assistance to synods for organizational concerns, long-range planning, and ongoing evaluation; and
- e. coordinate the interaction of churchwide units with ~~synodical~~ responsibilities and programs; and

15.12.G16. **Responsibility for Theological Discernment**
Responsibility shall be exercised in the Office of the Presiding Bishop for serving the Church's theological work by promoting, coordinating, and facilitating theological discernment of the

Church's message and its theological foundations in collaboration with all who share in the responsibilities to be teachers of the faith in the Church, including the Conference of Bishops, the seminary faculties, the convocation of teaching theologians, networks such as Lutheran ethicists and women theologians, the editorial staff of the **ELCA** publishing ministry and publications, and all rostered ministers. This responsibility for serving the Church's theological work also shall encompass theological work in and commitment to discern, understand, and respond to racism, classism, and sexism and issues of justice for women in the Church and in society in order to advance full participation, equal opportunity, and justice for all. To fulfill these responsibilities, the presiding bishop shall appoint an assistant to the presiding bishop/executive for theological discernment, who will assist the presiding bishop and coordinate the service of staff groups that provide theological resources and assistance in programmatic implementation.

15.12.H1619. Responsibility for Worship

- 5) assist the synods, congregations and churchwide units of this church in carrying out the ministry of worship, maintaining a network of **partners-colleagues** in order to be responsive to the diversity of worship practices of this church;

15.14.A17. Responsibilities of the Office of the Treasurer

- d. This office, through the Budget and Finance Committee of the Church Council, shall recommend to the Church Council a certified public accounting firm to audit the financial records of the churchwide organization. **Synodical** financial reports shall be submitted to this office for compilation.

15.15. — This church shall have a separately incorporated ministry, known as the Endowment Fund of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, which shall hold and manage endowment assets and offer pooled investment services for endowment funds of this church and its related congregations, synods, agencies, and institutions.

15.15.01. — The Endowment Fund shall have a board of trustees that shall be composed of at least nine but not more than 12 persons elected to six year terms by the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, with no consecutive re-election and with approximately one third of the members elected each biennium. The board of trustees shall have advisory members as specified in the bylaws of the Endowment Fund.

15.15.02. — The president of the Endowment Fund shall be elected by the board of trustees to a four year term in consultation with and with the approval of the presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The president shall be eligible for re-election. The employment of the president may be terminated jointly by the board of trustees and the presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

15.15.03. — Constitutional provision 16.12. and bylaws 11.34.01., 14.21.02., 14.21.03., and 16.11.01. shall apply to the operation of the Endowment Fund of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

15.15.04. — In addition to management of endowment assets and pooled investments, specific responsibilities of the Endowment Fund of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America may be enumerated in a continuing resolution.

15.15.A18. — Responsibilities of the Endowment Fund of the ELCA

- The Endowment Fund of the ELCA — also known as the ELCA Foundation — shall:*
- a. *offer, promote, administer, and oversee endowment, deferred giving, life income, and similar planned giving programs for individual donors, congregations, synods, the churchwide organization, and related institutions and agencies in support of ELCA ministries;*

- b. offer pooled investment services for endowment funds of this church and its congregations, synods, churchwide organization, and related institutions and agencies;
- c. manage assets of endowment, deferred giving, life income agreements, donor advised funds, and funds held for external participants;
- d. oversee the administration of earned income payments to donors and to remainder beneficiaries as regulated by life income, trust, and other fiduciary donor agreements;
- e. determine annual endowment fund distribution rate;
- f. set fees associated with endowment and deferred giving programs;
- g. hire and oversee such managers, service providers, consultants, advisors, and sub advisors as it deems appropriate;
- h. develop and approve an annual budget that will be financed through revenue from its gift planning and investment activities and programs;
- i. coordinate programs and ministries with the priorities of the ELCA and other stewardship and financial resource development activities of this church; and
- j. act in accordance with constitutional provision 16.12. and bylaws 11.34.01., 14.21.02., 14.21.03., 14.21.06., and 14.21.07.

CHAPTER 16: UNITS OF THE CHURCHWIDE ORGANIZATION

16.12. Each unit shall report to the Churchwide Assembly and will report to the Church Council in the interim. ~~The policies, procedures, and operation of each unit shall be reviewed by the Church Council in order to assure conformity with the constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions and with Churchwide Assembly actions.~~

16.12.02. Executive directors of each unit shall be appointed by the presiding bishop to a four-year term. The presiding bishop, as chief executive officer, shall arrange within the personnel policies of the churchwide organization for an annual review of each executive director. A unit executive director shall be eligible for re-appointment. The employment of the executive director may be terminated in accordance with the personnel policies of the churchwide organization.

16.12.A169. Domestic Mission Unit

The Domestic Mission unit shall foster and facilitate the work of synods, congregations, and ~~partners~~ others in making congregations vital centers for mission and in creating coalitions and networks to promote justice and peace. Its work includes creating and revitalizing congregations; leadership development; enhancing discipleship; supporting multicultural ministries and the commitment of this church to inclusivity; fostering relationships with educational ~~partners institutions~~; facilitating the engagement of this church in advocacy; and related activities that serve the evangelical mission of synods and congregations. The Domestic Mission unit shall relate to the Deaconess Community, Lutheran Men in Mission, National Lutheran Campus Ministry, Inc., Educational and Institutional Insurance Administrators, Inc., and the Evangelical Lutheran Education Association.

- a. The Deaconess Community of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is a separately incorporated ministry of theologically trained, professionally prepared women called to ~~ministry and service by intentional community and serving as ministers of Word and Service in~~ congregations, synods, and agencies of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada. Its mission is "Compelled by the love of Christ and sustained by community, we devote our lives to proclaiming the Gospel through ministries of mercy and servant leadership." ~~Deaconesses are consecrated by the ELCA and the ELCIC.~~

16.12.B1319. Global Mission Unit

- 2. Mission Formation and Relationships: mutual learning and growth with companion churches and ELCA synods and congregations in the accompaniment model for mission, companion synod relationships, young adults in global mission, relationships with independent Lutheran organizations related to global mission, and mission efforts for full communion ~~partners~~ churches; and

3. *Diakonia: meeting human need and working collaboratively with ~~partners~~ others toward the flourishing of human community through engagement in international development and disaster response.*

16.12.C17. Mission Advancement Unit

- e. *engage members, congregations, synods, and agencies and institutions of this church in efforts to raise financial support for the ministries of ~~the ELCA this church~~;*
- g. *manage ~~ELCA~~ constituent data ~~of this church~~;*

CHAPTER 17: SEPARATELY INCORPORATED MINISTRIES

17.20. This church shall have a separately incorporated ministry, known as the Board of Pensions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, to provide church retirement and other benefits ~~plans, and complementary services within and beyond this church~~. The president of the corporation shall serve as its chief executive officer.

17.20.01. The Churchwide Assembly shall:

- a. approve the documents governing the ~~ELCA~~ Pension and Other Benefits Program that have been referred by the Church Council; and
- b. refer any amendments to the ~~ELCA~~ Pension and Other Benefits Program initiated by the Churchwide Assembly to the Board of Pensions for recommendation before final action by the Church Council, assuring that no amendment shall abridge the rights of ~~members with respect to their retirement accumulations~~ sponsored members in the ELCA Retirement Plan.

17.20.02. The Church Council shall:

- a. review policy established by the board and take action on any policy that would change significantly the documents establishing and governing the ~~ELCA~~ Pension and Other Benefits Program.
- b. approve any changes in the ~~ELCA~~ Pension and Other Benefits Program when there is to be:
 - 1) a significant increase in cost to ~~the ELCA~~ employers or sponsored members; or
 - 2) a significant ~~increase or~~ decrease in benefits to ~~the members~~ sponsored members in the ~~Pension and Other Benefits Program~~.
- c. refer any amendments to the ~~ELCA~~ Pension and Other Benefits Program initiated by the Church Council to the board for recommendation before final action by the Church Council, assuring that no amendment shall abridge the rights of ~~members with respect to their retirement accumulations~~ sponsored members in the ELCA Retirement Plan.
- d. refer, as it deems appropriate, proposed amendments to the ~~ELCA~~ Pension and Other Benefits Program to the Churchwide Assembly for final action.

17.20.03. The Board of Pensions shall have a board of trustees composed of 14–18 persons elected by the Churchwide Assembly for three-year terms with the possibility of two consecutive re-elections. The terms of members of the board of trustees elected by the Churchwide Assembly shall begin at the commencement of the first board meeting following the assembly.

- a. The composition of the board of trustees shall comply with the representational principles described in constitutional provision ~~5.01.f.~~ ~~5.01.c.~~ The board of trustees of the Board of Pensions shall include persons with expertise in investments, insurance, and retirement plans, and at least four persons who are members of the plan, at least one of whom shall be a lay plan member or lay recipient of plan benefits and at least one of whom shall be a minister of Word and Sacrament who is a plan member. Up to two trustees may be members of congregations of church bodies with which this church is in a relationship of full communion, provided that both are not from the same church body.

17.20.05. ~~Constitutional provision 16.12. and bylaws 11.34.01., 14.21.02., and 14.21.07. shall apply to this board.~~
Constitutional provision 16.12. and bylaws 11.34.01., 14.21.02., and 16.11.01. shall apply to the operation of this organization.

17.20.A149. Responsibilities of the Board of Pensions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

The Board of Pensions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America —also known as Portico Benefit Services—shall:

- a. manage and operate the Pension and Other Benefits Program for this church and plans for other organizations operated exclusively for religious purposes, and shall invest the assets according to fiduciary standards set forth in the plans and trusts.*
- b. provide retirement, health, and other benefits ~~exclusively~~ for the benefit of eligible members working within the structure of this church and other organizations operated exclusively for religious purposes.*
- c. provide summary plan descriptions outlining all benefits to be provided as a part of the ~~ELCA Pension and Other Benefits Program~~.*
- d. ~~provide complementary services within and beyond this church.~~*
- e. report to the appropriate committee of the Church Council on the financial effect of changes to the ~~ELCA Pension and Other Benefits Program~~.*
- ef. report to the Churchwide Assembly through the Church Council, with the Church Council making comments on all board actions needing approval of the Churchwide Assembly.*
- fg. maintain appropriate communication with other units of this church.*
- gh. be self-supporting, except for certain ELCA minimum pensions and post-retirement health benefits of certain ELCA retirees, with all costs being paid from the administrative and management charges to the employers and members utilizing the plans and from investment income.*
- hi. manage its finances in a manner that assures an efficient and effective administration of the plans for retirement and other benefits. The board shall maintain its own accounting, data processing, personnel, and other administrative functions essential to the ongoing work of this organization.*
- ij. not be responsible, nor assume any liability for, health-insurance programs provided by colleges and universities of this church through voluntary employees' beneficiary associations or similar arrangements.*
- jk. manage and operate those portions of The American Lutheran Church and Lutheran Church in America plans requiring continuation in this church.*
- kl. provide an appeal process with the Board of Pensions to enable members in the plans to appeal decisions.*
- lm. make editorial and administrative changes and routine modifications to the ~~ELCA Pension and Other Benefits Program~~ ~~benefits programs~~, as well as changes required to comply with federal and state law.*
- mn. set contribution rates for the ELCA Survivor Benefits Plan, the ELCA Disability Benefits Plan, and the ELCA Medical and Dental Benefits Plan, and establish interest crediting rates for the ELCA Retirement Plans.*
- no. manage assets, as requested, for ~~the ELCA this church~~ and other organizations operated exclusively for religious purposes.*

17.30.01. The Mission Investment Fund of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America shall have a board of trustees composed of 9–12 persons elected by the Churchwide Assembly for three-year terms with the possibility of two consecutive re-elections. The terms of members of the board of trustees elected by the Churchwide Assembly shall begin at the commencement of the first board meeting following the assembly. The composition of the board of trustees shall comply with the representational principles described in constitutional provision ~~5.01.f.~~ **5.01.e.** Up to two trustees may be members of congregations of church bodies with which this church is in a relationship of full communion, provided that both are not from the same church body.

17.30.02. ~~Unless the Church Council determines that the treasurer of this church shall be the president of the Mission Investment Fund corporation, the~~ **The** president shall be elected by the board of trustees of the Mission Investment Fund

- 17.30.03. ~~Constitutional provision 16.12. and bylaws 11.34.01., 14.21.02., 14.21.03., 14.21.06., and 14.21.07. shall apply to the operation of the Mission Investment Fund of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.~~
Constitutional provision 16.12. and bylaws 11.34.01., 14.21.02., 14.21.06., and 16.11.01. shall apply to the operation of this organization.
- 17.30.A159.** *Operation of the Mission Investment Fund of the ELCA Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*
f. offer building and architectural consultative services to new congregations entering first-unit construction, to congregations relocating with synodical approval, to other congregations, and to other organizations and institutions that are affiliated with this church;
- 17.40.01. This publishing house shall have a board of trustees composed of 11–15 persons elected by the Churchwide Assembly for three-year terms with the possibility of two consecutive re-elections. The terms of members of the board of trustees elected by the Churchwide Assembly shall begin at the commencement of the first board meeting following the assembly.
 a. The composition of the board of trustees shall comply with the representational principles described in constitutional provision ~~5.01.f.~~ 5.01.e. Laypersons on the board of trustees shall include persons with expertise in publishing, education, business management, finance and investment. Ministers of Word and Sacrament shall include persons with expertise in rural, urban, and suburban parish ministry in small and large congregations and advanced theological study. Up to two trustees may be members of congregations of church bodies with which this church is in a relationship of full communion, provided that both are not from the same church body.
- 17.40.02. ~~Constitutional provision 16.12. and bylaws 11.34.01., 14.21.02., and 14.21.03. shall apply to this publishing house.~~
Constitutional provision 16.12. and bylaws 11.34.01., 14.21.02., and 16.11.01. shall apply to the operation of this organization.
- 17.40.03. The president shall be elected by the board of trustees of the Publishing House ~~of the ELCA~~ to a four-year term in consultation with and with the approval of the presiding bishop of this church. Nomination of a candidate for president shall be made jointly by the presiding bishop and the search committee of the board. The board, together with the presiding bishop, shall arrange for an annual review of the president. The president shall be eligible for re-election. The board shall establish the compensation of the president with the concurrence of the presiding bishop. The president may be terminated at any time jointly by the board of trustees of the Publishing House ~~of the ELCA~~ and the presiding bishop of this church, following recommendation by the executive committee of the board of trustees.
- 17.40.A169.** *Responsibilities of the Publishing House of the ELCA Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*
- 17.50.01. Membership of this organization shall be women of this church who wish to participate through local and other groupings that affirm the purposes of this organization. This organization shall function in local, synodical, and churchwide settings.
- 17.50.03. Constitutional provision 16.12. and bylaws 11.34.01., 14.21.02., ~~14.21.03.,~~ and 14.21.06. shall apply to this organization. Bylaw 16.11.01. shall apply to the women’s organization with the exception of the balance provisions for women and men, and for laypersons and ~~persons on the roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament~~ rostered ministers.
- 17.60.** This church shall have a separately incorporated ministry, the Endowment Fund of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, to hold and manage endowment assets, to offer pooled investment services for endowment funds of this church and its related congregations,

synods, agencies, and institutions, and to provide planned giving programs that support this church's mission and ministry. The Endowment Fund shall be incorporated.

- 17.60.01.** The Endowment Fund shall have a board of trustees composed of the presiding bishop of this church and 9–15 persons elected by the Churchwide Assembly for three-year terms with the possibility of two consecutive re-elections. Any vacancies occurring because of the death, resignation, or removal of a member of the board of trustees shall be filled by the Church Council for the unexpired term of such member of the board of trustees. The composition of the board of trustees shall comply with the representational principles described in constitutional provision 5.01.e. Up to two trustees may be members of congregations of church bodies with which this church is in a relationship of full communion, provided that both are not from the same church body.
- 17.60.02.** The advisory members of the board of trustees of the Endowment Fund shall have no vote and shall include: the treasurer of this church, a synod bishop elected by the Conference of Bishops of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and such other persons as may be designated by the board of trustees.
- 17.60.03.** The presiding bishop of this church shall be a member of the board of trustees, *ex officio*, with voice and vote.
- 17.60.04.** The president of the Endowment Fund shall be elected to a four-year term by the board of trustees in consultation with and with the approval of the presiding bishop of this church. Nomination of a candidate for president shall be made jointly by the presiding bishop and the executive committee of the board. The board, together with the presiding bishop, shall arrange for an annual review of the president. The president shall be eligible for re-election. The employment of the president may be terminated jointly by the board of trustees and the presiding bishop of this church, following recommendation by the executive committee of the board of trustees. The executive committee of the board of trustees, with the concurrence of the presiding bishop, shall establish the compensation of the president.
- 17.60.05.** Constitutional provision 16.12. and bylaws 11.34.01., 14.21.02., 14.21.06., and 16.11.01. shall apply to the operation of this organization.
- 17.60.06.** The specific responsibilities of the Endowment Fund shall be enumerated in a continuing resolution.
- 17.60.A19.** ***Operation of the Endowment Fund of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America***
The Endowment Fund of the ELCA—also known as the ELCA Foundation—shall:
- a. offer, promote, administer, and oversee endowment, deferred giving, life-income, and similar planned giving programs for individual donors, congregations, synods, the churchwide organization, and related institutions and agencies in support of ELCA ministries;***
 - b. offer pooled investment services for endowment funds of this church and its congregations, synods, churchwide organization, and related institutions and agencies;***
 - c. manage assets of endowment, deferred giving, life-income agreements, donor-advised funds, and funds held for external participants;***
 - d. oversee the administration of earned-income payments to donors and to remainder beneficiaries as regulated by life-income, trust, and other fiduciary donor agreements;***
 - e. determine annual endowment fund distribution rate;***
 - f. set fees associated with endowment and deferred giving programs;***
 - g. hire and oversee such managers, service providers, consultants, advisors, and sub-advisors as it deems appropriate;***
 - h. develop and approve an annual budget that will be financed through revenue from its gift planning and investment activities and programs; and***
 - i. coordinate programs and ministries with the priorities of this church and other stewardship and financial-resource development activities of this church.***

17.60.B19 Initial Election of Board of Trustees of Endowment Fund Under Chapter 17

For the first election of members of the board of trustees of the Endowment Fund under this Chapter 17, the Church Council shall divide the currently serving trustees, other than the presiding bishop, into three classes: one class which shall be deemed to have served one full term and be eligible for election to two more terms; one class which shall be deemed to have served two full terms and be eligible for election to one more term; and one class which shall be deemed to have served three full terms and not be eligible for further election.

CHAPTER 18: REGIONS

18.01. This church shall have regions as ~~a partnership between an association among nine specific~~ groups of synods and the churchwide organization for the purpose of exercising mutual responsibilities **for mission and ministry throughout this church.**

18.01.B9419. *In fulfilling the region's function and the purposes of this church, each region may assist in:*

- d. facilitating, when requested, relationships with colleges, universities, and campus ministries and ~~partnership-supportive~~ funding responsibilities of the synods and churchwide organization on behalf of colleges, universities, and campus ministries;*
- e. facilitating gatherings of ~~synodical~~ bishops, ~~synodical~~ staff, and regional staff;*

19.01.C9419. Ecclesiastical Ballot. An "ecclesiastical ballot" for the election of officers (other than treasurer) of the churchwide organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is an election process:

- c. that precludes spoken floor nominations **but allows nomination of persons not in attendance at the meeting;***
- d. **in which those casting ballots have primary responsibility to nominate persons willing to serve if elected;***
- ~~d.~~ in which the first ballot is the nominating ballot if no election occurs on the first ballot;*
- ~~ef.~~ in which the first ballot defines the total slates of nominees for possible election on a subsequent ballot, with no additional nominations;*
- ~~g.~~ in which each synod bishop will seek to inform nominees from that synod that they have been nominated and that they may withdraw if they do not seek election;*
- ~~fl.~~ that ~~does not preclude allows~~, after the reporting of the first ballot, the ~~right of~~ persons nominated to withdraw their names prior to the casting of the second ballot;*
- ~~gi.~~ in which any name appearing on the second ballot may not be subsequently withdrawn;*
- ~~hi.~~ that does not preclude an assembly's adoption of rules that permit, at a defined point in the election process and for a defined period of time, speeches to the assembly by nominees or their representatives and/or a question-and-answer forum in which the nominees or their representatives participate; and*
- ~~ik.~~ in which the number of names that appear on any ballot subsequent to the second ballot shall be determined in accordance with provisions of the governing documents.*

19.01.D0719. Election Procedures Utilizing the Ecclesiastical Ballot

- a. For each election by ecclesiastical or nominating ballot, the exact number of appropriate ballot sets equal to the number of voting members from each synod will be given to the bishop of that synod. **The Unless an electronic or computerized voting system is being utilized, the** bishop of the synod, or his or her designee, will be responsible for distributing the ballot sets to each of the voting members from the synod.*
- b. ~~Unless otherwise~~ **The chair will announce what type of voting system is to be used for the election. If ordered by the chair to use paper ballots,** one of the numbered ballots from the appropriate ballot set is to be used on each ballot ~~for elections determined by ecclesiastical or nominating ballot~~. The chair will announce the number of the ballot from the appropriate ballot set that is to be used for each ballot. Failure to use the correct numbered ballot will result in an illegal ballot.*
- c. On the first two ballots for each office being selected by ecclesiastical or nominating ballot, both the first and last names of a nominee should be used. Members should endeavor to use correct*

spelling and should provide, on the first ballot, any additional accurate information identifying the nominee, such as title, **position**, **synod**, **congregation**, or residence.

~~j.~~ Whenever the number of names of nominees that will appear on a ballot is nine or less, on recommendation of the chair and with the consent of the assembly, voting may be by means of **electronic device**.

~~ki.~~ When voting by electronic device, the first position on each ballot shall be given to the nominee who received the greatest number of votes on the immediately preceding ballot, with the remaining positions assigned to the other nominees in descending order of the number of votes received on the immediately preceding ballot. If two or more nominees were tied with the same vote on the immediately preceding ballot, their respective positions shall be determined by draw by the chair of the Elections Committee.

~~hk.~~ On each ticket for which balloting is conducted by electronic device, the polls will remain open for a reasonable time, as determined by the chair, to permit voting members to record their votes.

19.02. The members of the Church Council, except the chair of the Conference of Bishops and the treasurer of this church, shall be elected by the Churchwide Assembly. In preparation for the Churchwide Assembly, the Church Council shall determine how this church's commitment to inclusive representation will affect the next election to the Church Council. For 32 of the council members, the Nominating Committee shall invite each eligible synod to submit suggested nominees and shall then nominate persons who fulfill the categories assigned by the Church Council. With respect to the other nominees, the Church Council shall review its size and composition and take into consideration the experience and expertise of existing members and **synodical** nominees as well as the needs of the council in seeking to fulfill its duties and responsibilities. Based upon this analysis, the Church Council shall instruct the Nominating Committee to provide nominations in specific categories for the remaining positions up to 13. Excluding the churchwide officers and the chair of the Conference of Bishops, there shall not be more than two members of the Church Council from a synod. The Church Council shall have at least two members from each region. The terms of office of persons elected to regular terms on the Church Council by the Churchwide Assembly shall begin at the conclusion of the Churchwide Assembly at which such persons were elected. **If there is no Churchwide Assembly in the year when terms are scheduled to conclude, they end on August 31.**

~~19.02.A13.~~ ~~The Nominating Committee shall strive to ensure that at least 10 percent of the voting membership of the Church Council shall be youth or young adults. Youth members shall be younger than 18 at the time of their election, and young adults shall be older than 18 and younger than 30 years of age at the time of their election.~~

19.02.BA11. On behalf of the Nominating Committee, the secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America—in the year preceding each regular meeting of the Churchwide Assembly—shall solicit from eligible synods on a rotating basis the names of two persons in specified categories, in keeping with the representation principles of this church, for possible election to the Church Council. Upon their selection by the assemblies of the respective synods, the names of the two persons shall be presented to the Nominating Committee for submission to the Churchwide Assembly. In the event that any nominee withdraws or is disqualified from possible service, the Nominating Committee shall submit a replacement name from the same synod as the original nominee. In the event that the vacancy occurs subsequent to the preparation of the report of the Nominating Committee to the Churchwide Assembly, a floor nomination shall be provided from the same synod as the original nominee. Except as provided herein, no floor nominations for positions on the Church Council shall be permitted at the Churchwide Assembly.

19.02.CB05. For purposes of nominations for the Church Council on a rotating basis, the following pairing of synods shall be observed insofar as possible: Alaska Synod and Northwest Washington Synod; Eastern Washington-Idaho Synod and Montana Synod; Southwestern Washington Synod and Oregon

Synod; Sierra Pacific Synod and Southwest California Synod; Pacifica Synod and Grand Canyon Synod; Rocky Mountain Synod and South Dakota Synod; Western North Dakota Synod and Eastern North Dakota Synod; Northwestern Minnesota Synod and Northeastern Minnesota Synod; Southwestern Minnesota Synod and Southeastern Minnesota Synod; Minneapolis Area Synod and Saint Paul Area Synod; Nebraska Synod and Central States Synod; Arkansas-Oklahoma and Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Synod; Southwestern Texas Synod and Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod; Northwest Synod of Wisconsin and Northern Great Lakes Synod; East-Central Synod of Wisconsin and South-Central Synod of Wisconsin; La Crosse Area Synod and Northeastern Iowa Synod; Western Iowa Synod and Southeastern Iowa Synod; Northern Illinois Synod and Central/Southern Illinois Synod; Metropolitan Chicago Synod and Greater Milwaukee Synod; North/West Lower Michigan Synod and Southeast Michigan Synod; Indiana-Kentucky Synod and Northwestern Ohio Synod; Northeastern Ohio Synod and Southern Ohio Synod; New Jersey Synod and New England Synod and Slovak Zion Synod; Metropolitan New York Synod and Upstate New York Synod; Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod and Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod; Northwestern Pennsylvania Synod and Allegheny Synod; Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod and West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod; Upper Susquehanna Synod and Lower Susquehanna Synod; Delaware-Maryland Synod and Metropolitan Washington, D.C., Synod; Virginia Synod and North Carolina Synod; South Carolina Synod and Southeastern Synod; Florida-Bahamas Synod and Caribbean Synod.

19.03. ~~In the event an interim vacancy on a board, committee, or the Church Council is declared by the secretary, the Church Council shall elect a member to serve the balance of the term.~~

19.03.01. ~~Before electing a member to fill a vacancy on a board or committee, the Church Council shall consult with the board or committee.~~

19.043. ~~Unless otherwise specified in the Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions this church's constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions,~~ elections shall be for one six-year term, without consecutive re-election, and with approximately one-half of the members of the Church Council and of each board or ~~advisory~~ committee elected each triennium.

19.043.01. The terms of office of persons elected to regular terms on the Nominating Committee of the Churchwide Assembly, the Committee on Discipline, and the Committee on Appeals shall begin at the conclusion of the Churchwide Assembly at which such persons were elected, except as may be specified in continuing resolutions with respect to particular pending discipline matters.

19.043.A91. *With respect to committees that consider disciplinary cases or appeals:*

b. Any member of the ~~synodical~~ Committee on Discipline who is serving at the time that the Executive Committee of the Church Council appoints members from the churchwide Committee on Discipline to a discipline hearing committee shall continue as a member of that discipline hearing committee for the particular pending case, notwithstanding that his or her successor has been subsequently elected at a Synod Assembly.

19.054. Each nominee for an elected position in the churchwide organization and each nominee for a position on the board of a separately incorporated ministry elected by the Churchwide Assembly shall be a voting member of a congregation of this church, unless otherwise specified in the ~~Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions~~ **constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions** of this church.

19.054.01. Each voting member of the Church Council, board, or ~~advisory~~ committee of the churchwide organization shall cease to be a member of the Church Council, board, or ~~advisory~~ committee if no longer a voting member of a congregation of this church. Upon two successive absences that have not been excused by the Church Council, board, or ~~advisory~~ committee, a member's position ~~shall~~ **may** be declared vacant by the secretary of this church, who shall arrange for election by the Church Council to fill the unexpired term.

- 19.054.02.** For purposes of nomination to and service on the Church Council or a board of a separately incorporated ministry, “synodical membership” shall be defined as follows:
- 19.054.03.** A board of directors or trustees of a separately incorporated ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America may remove a director or trustee from the board, if done in accordance with the governing documents of such corporation after at least 30 days’ prior notice to the secretary of this church. The decision to remove a director or trustee shall be reported to the Church Council by the secretary.
- 19.065.** **Further procedures for elections and qualifications for office may be set forth in the bylaws and continuing resolutions, provided that such provisions do not conflict with any other provisions in this constitution.**
- 19.065.01.** It shall be the responsibility of the Church Council to assure that this church maintains its commitment to inclusive representation.
- 19.065.02.** In all elections by the Churchwide Assembly, other than for the presiding bishop, vice president, and secretary, a majority of the votes cast on the first ballot shall be necessary for election. If an election does not occur on the first ballot, the names of the two persons receiving the highest number of votes cast shall be placed on the second ballot. On the second ballot, a majority of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election.
- 19.065.03.** Each triennium the Conference of Bishops shall select a bishop to serve as an advisory member of each board of a separately incorporated ministry and advisory committee of the churchwide organization. No synodical bishop, with the exception of the chair of the Conference of Bishops, shall serve as a voting member of the Church Council.
- 19.065.04.** The Church Council shall from time to time, by continuing resolution, establish committees and procedures for the conduct of elections at the Churchwide Assembly.
- 19.065.05.** No member of the Church Council, a committee of the Church Council, a board of a separately incorporated ministry, or committee of the churchwide organization shall receive emolument for such service, nor shall any member be simultaneously an officer of this church, an elected member of the Church Council, or a voting member of a committee of the churchwide organization or board of a separately incorporated ministry. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit the payment of salaries and benefits of the officers of this church, nor to prohibit the payment of the costs of insurance on behalf of a person who is or was a member of the Church Council, a committee of the Church Council, or committee against any liability asserted against and incurred by such person in or arising from that capacity, whether or not the churchwide organization would have been required to indemnify such person against the liability under provisions of law or otherwise.
- 19.065.06.** No employee of the churchwide organization of this church or its regions, nor any individual under contract to any unit of the churchwide organization or a region shall be eligible for nomination to or membership on the Church Council, an advisory committee, a board of a separately incorporated ministry, the Committee on Appeals, the Committee on Discipline, or the churchwide Nominating Committee during the period of employment or service under contract, except the full-time salaried officers as specified in the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*. (The phrase “under contract” shall not mean short-term contracts for specific, limited purposes, usually not to exceed six months.)
- 19.065.07.** No person related to a staff member of the churchwide organization shall be eligible for nomination to or membership on the Church Council or a committee that advises the unit in which the person’s relative is employed. For this purpose, a related individual is one who, with respect to the

churchwide employee, is a spouse, parent, son, daughter, sibling, uncle, aunt, niece, nephew, grandparent, grandchild, including corresponding members of blended families and in-laws (parent, son, daughter, or sibling of a spouse, spouse of a sibling, or the parent or sibling of the spouse of a sibling).

19.065.A02. Election Procedures Utilizing the Common Ballot

- a. The common ballot is used in those elections when the ecclesiastical or nominating ballot is not used.
- b. For the first common ballot, the exact number of ballot forms equal to the number of voting members from each synod will be given to the bishop of that synod. The bishop of the synod, or his or her designee, will be responsible for distributing the ballot forms to each of the voting members from the synod.
- c. Upon recommendation of the chair and with the consent of the assembly, the second common ballot may be conducted by electronic device. Unless the second common ballot is conducted by electronic device, the distribution of ballot forms for the second common ballot will be in the same manner as the first common ballot.
- d. Any discrepancy between the number of ballots given to a synodical bishop and the number of voting members (including the synodical bishop) from such synod must be reported by the synodical bishop to the Elections Committee.
- e. Each ticket for which an election is held will be considered a separate ballot.
- f. A voting member may vote for only one nominee on each ticket.
- g. Failure to vote for a nominee for every ticket does not invalidate a ballot for the tickets for which a nominee is marked.
- h. Ballots must be marked in accordance with the instructions presented in plenary session.
- i. Ballot forms should not be folded.
- j. Marked ballot forms must be deposited at the designated Ballot Stations at certain exits of the hall in which plenary sessions are held.
- k. If a ballot is damaged so that it cannot be scanned, a replacement ballot may be obtained at the Ballot Station upon surrender of the damaged ballot.
- l. Unless otherwise ordered by the assembly, polls for the first common ballot close at the time designated in the assembly's Rules of Organization and Procedure.
- m. On each ticket for which balloting is conducted by electronic device, the polls will remain open for a reasonable time, as determined by the chair, to permit members to record their votes.
- n. Unless the second ballot is conducted by electronic device, polls for the second common ballot close at the time designated in the assembly's Rules of Organization and Procedure or as otherwise ordered by the assembly.
- o. On the second ballot, whether by common ballot or by electronic device, the first position on each ticket shall be given to the nominee who received the greatest number of votes on the first ballot. If two nominees are tied for the highest vote, the first position on the ticket shall be determined by draw by the chair of the Elections Committee.

19.06.B98. Breaking Ties in Elections

- a. On the ballot for the election of the presiding bishop, vice president, and secretary, when only two names appear, the marked ballot of the treasurer shall be held by the chair of the Elections Committee and shall be counted only where necessary to break a tie that would otherwise exist.
- b. On the first common ballot, the blank ballots of the treasurer and vice president shall be held by the chair of the Elections Committee to be presented to the treasurer for her or his vote only in those elections where a tie would otherwise exist, and to be presented to the vice president for his or her vote only in those elections to break a tie remaining after the ballot of the treasurer has been counted.
- c. On the second common ballot, the marked ballot of the treasurer shall be held by the chair of the Elections Committee and shall be counted only where necessary to break a tie that would otherwise exist.

19.06.C13.

19.05.A13. *A former full-time or part-time employee shall not be eligible for a minimum of six years subsequent to such employment, for nomination or election to the board of the separately incorporated ministry or committee related to the churchwide unit in which the employee served.*

19.11.03. The Nominating Committee shall nominate at least one person for **each position on** the board of trustees of each of the separately incorporated ministries identified in Chapter 17 of this constitution, according to the process described in continuing resolutions, for which an election will be held by the Churchwide Assembly. Nominations from the floor, where permitted in the nomination process, shall be presented as an alternative to a specific category named by the Nominating Committee and shall therefore meet the same criteria as the persons against whom the nominee is nominated. In the materials provided in advance to each member of the assembly, the Nominating Committee shall set forth the criteria applicable to each category that must be met by persons nominated from the floor.

19.11.05. The Church Council shall endeavor to ensure that every synod has at least one person serving on the Church Council or churchwide boards, committees, task forces, or other groups. Among those persons elected by the assembly, **excluding the officers,** no more than two persons from any one synod shall serve on the Church Council or any one board, committee, task force, or other group.

19.11.A16. *Nominations Desk and Nominations Form*

*c. The required form to be used in making nominations from the floor shall include the nominee's name, address, phone number, **gender,** lay or rostered status, white or person of color or primary language other than English status, congregational membership, **synodical** membership, and affirmation of willingness to serve, if elected; the name, address, and **synodical** membership of the voting member who is making the nomination; and such other information as the secretary of this church shall require.*

*d. For purposes of nomination procedures, "**synodical** membership" means:*

19.11.B0519. *Floor Nominations*

*a. **Floor nominations for positions on a board or committee of a churchwide unit require, in addition to the nominator, the written support of at least 10 other voting members. Floor nominations for the Church Council, the Nominating Committee, or other **churchwide** committee or board to be elected by the Churchwide Assembly require, in addition to the nominator, the written support of at least 20 other voting members.***

19.11.F19. *Election Procedures Utilizing the Common Ballot*

*a. **The common ballot is used in those elections when the ecclesiastical or nominating ballot is not used.***

*b. **Unless an electronic or computerized voting system is being utilized, the exact number of ballot forms equal to the number of voting members from each synod will be given to the bishop of that synod. When instructed by the chair, the bishop of the synod, or his or her designee, will be responsible for distributing the ballot forms to each of the voting members from the synod. The vice president of this church will be responsible for distributing the ballot forms to each member of the Church Council serving as an ex officio voting member of the assembly.***

*c. **Upon recommendation of the chair and with the consent of the assembly, the second common ballot may be conducted by electronic device. If the second common ballot is not conducted by electronic means, the distribution of ballot forms for the second common ballot will be in the same manner as the first common ballot.***

*d. **Any discrepancy between the number of ballots given to a synod bishop and the number of voting members (including the synod bishop) from such synod must be reported by the synod bishop to the Elections Committee.***

*e. **Each ticket for which an election is held will be considered a separate ballot.***

*f. **A voting member may vote for only one nominee on each ticket.***

*g. **Failure to vote for a nominee for every ticket does not invalidate a ballot for the tickets for which a nominee is marked.***

- h. Ballots must be marked in accordance with the instructions presented in plenary session.*
- i. If a paper common ballot is utilized, ballot forms should not be folded.*
- j. Completed paper ballots must be deposited at the designated Ballot Stations at certain exits of the hall in which plenary sessions are held.*
- k. If a paper ballot is damaged so that it cannot be scanned, a replacement ballot may be obtained at the Ballot Station upon surrender of the damaged ballot.*
- l. Unless otherwise ordered by the assembly, polls for the first common ballot close at the time designated in the assembly's Rules of Organization and Procedure.*
- m. On each ticket for which balloting is conducted by electronic device, the polls will remain open for a reasonable time, as determined by the chair, to permit members to record their votes.*
- n. Unless the second ballot is conducted electronically, polls for the second common ballot close at the time designated in the assembly's Rules of Organization and Procedure or as otherwise ordered by the assembly.*
- o. On the second ballot, whether by paper ballot or electronically, the first position on each ticket shall be given to the nominee who received the greatest number of votes on the first ballot. If two nominees are tied for the highest vote, the first position on the ticket shall be determined by draw by the chair of the Elections Committee.*

19.11.G98. Breaking Ties in Elections

- a. On the ballot for the election of the presiding bishop, vice president, and secretary, when only two names appear, the marked ballot of the treasurer shall be held by the chair of the Elections Committee and shall be counted only where necessary to break a tie that would otherwise exist.*
- b. On the first common ballot, the blank ballots of the treasurer and vice president shall be held by the chair of the Elections Committee to be presented to the treasurer for her or his vote only in those elections where a tie would otherwise exist, and to be presented to the vice president for his or her vote only in those elections to break a tie remaining after the ballot of the treasurer has been counted.*
- c. On the second common ballot, the marked ballot of the treasurer shall be held by the chair of the Elections Committee and shall be counted only where necessary to break a tie that would otherwise exist.*

CHAPTER 20: CONSULTATION, DISCIPLINE, APPEALS, AND ADJUDICATION

20.20. **There shall be a Committee on Appeals to which may be referred appeals from disciplinary proceedings and petitions for the recall of an officer. The Committee on Appeals shall be comprised of six rostered ministers, at least one of whom shall be a minister of Word and Service, and six laypersons, elected by the Churchwide Assembly for a term of six years, without consecutive re-election. The Committee on Appeals shall elect its own officers.**

20.21. **The Committee on Appeals shall establish definitions and guidelines, subject to approval by the Church Council, to enable clear and uniform application of the grounds for discipline of officers, rostered ministers, congregations, and members of congregations. The Church Council shall appoint three members from the Committee on Appeals who shall recommend rules of procedure for the performance of its duties. The rules shall become effective when ratified by the Church Council.**

20.21.01. **The churchwide Committee on Discipline shall consist of 24–36 members, half of whom should be rostered ministers (including at least two ministers of Word and Service) and half of whom should be laypersons, elected by the Churchwide Assembly for a term of six years. Each member will serve until a successor is elected, without consecutive re-election, and will serve as needed on a discipline hearing committee in any of the synods in this church.**

20.21.02. **The churchwide Committee of Hearing Officers shall consist of six to nine persons elected by the Church Council for a term of six years, each without consecutive re-election, to serve as needed on a discipline hearing committee in any of the synods of this church.**

20.242. The disciplinary process for ministers of Word and Sacrament shall be set forth in the bylaws.

20.242.01. Ministers of Word and Sacrament shall be subject to discipline for:

- d. willfully disregarding the provisions of the constitutions, bylaws, and continuing resolutions of this church; or
- e. willfully failing to comply with the requirements ordered by a discipline hearing committee under ~~20.23.08~~; 20.24.08.

20.242.02. The disciplinary actions which may be imposed are:

20.242.03. Charges against a minister of Word and Sacrament which could lead to discipline must be specific and in writing, subscribed to by the accuser(s), and be made by one or more of the following:

- a. at least two-thirds of the members of the congregation's council, submitted to the synodical bishop;
- b. at least one-third of the voting members of the congregation, submitted to the synodical bishop;
- c. at least two-thirds of the members of the governing body to which the minister of Word and Sacrament, if not a congregational pastor, is accountable, submitted to the synodical bishop;
- d. at least 10 ministers of Word and Sacrament or ministers of Word and Service of the synod on whose roster the accused minister of Word and Sacrament is listed, submitted to the synodical bishop;
- e. the synodical bishop; or
- f. the presiding bishop of this church, but only with respect to an accused who is a synodical bishop (or who was a synodical bishop at any time during the 12 months preceding the filing of written charges), submitted to the secretary of this church.

20.242.04. When there are indications that a cause for discipline may exist and before charges are made, efforts shall be made by the bishop of the synod to resolve the situation by consultation; for assistance in these efforts, the bishop may utilize either a consultation panel or an advisory panel as herein provided:

- a. When requested by the synodical bishop, a consultation panel consisting of five persons (three ministers of Word and Sacrament and two laypersons) appointed from the members of the Consultation Committee of the synod by the synodical bishop, or, at the request of the synodical bishop, by the Synod Council's Executive Committee or other committee authorized to do so by the Synod Council, shall assist the synodical bishop in efforts to resolve a situation by consultation.
- b. When requested by the synodical bishop, an advisory panel consisting of five persons (three ministers of Word and Sacrament and two laypersons) appointed by the synodical bishop shall assist the synodical bishop in efforts to resolve a situation by consultation.

20.242.05. If appointed, a consultation panel or advisory panel shall advise the synodical bishop as to whether or not the bishop should bring charges or may make other recommendation for resolution of the controversy that would not involve proceedings before a discipline hearing committee. To these ends, the panel may meet with complaining witnesses as well as with the concerned minister of Word and Sacrament. If requested by the synodical bishop, members of the panel also may assist, as representatives of the accuser, in the presentation of evidence and examination of witnesses before a discipline hearing committee.

20.242.06. When charges are brought other than by the synodical bishop or the presiding bishop of this church, the synodical bishop may refer such charges to a consultation panel as provided in ~~20.21.04.a~~; 20.22.04.a.

- a. If as a result of meeting with a consultation panel the charges are withdrawn by the accuser(s), no further proceedings shall be required.
- b. Upon recommendation of the consultation panel that the charges be dismissed, the synodical bishop may dismiss the charges, in which case no further proceedings shall be required.

- c. Upon recommendation of the consultation panel that some of the allegations supporting the charges be stricken, the **synodical** bishop may strike some or all of such allegations, and further proceedings shall be required on the remaining allegations.
- d. In the case of charges that do not anticipate disciplinary action, the consultation panel shall submit a report in writing to the **synodical** bishop that sets forth the action or actions recommended by the consultation panel, and the **synodical** bishop shall convey the recommendations to the parties. If either party does not accept the recommendations, that party may appeal to the Synod Council, whose decision shall be final.
- e. In the case of charges that anticipate disciplinary action that have not been withdrawn or dismissed as a result of **20.21.06.a, 20.22.06.a**, or b. above, the charges shall be referred to a discipline hearing committee for a hearing.

20.21.07. When charges are brought by a **synodical** bishop or the presiding bishop of this church, or when charges are brought other than by a **synodical** bishop and have not been withdrawn or dismissed or otherwise disposed of as provided in **20.21.06, 20.22.06**, the **synodical** bishop or the presiding bishop, as appropriate, shall deliver a copy of the charges to the accused and the secretary of this church.

20.21.08. A discipline hearing committee shall be convened to conduct a hearing. The voting members of this committee shall be composed of 12 persons of whom six shall be selected by the Synod Council's Executive Committee from the Committee on Discipline of the synod and six shall be selected from the churchwide Committee on Discipline under the process described in **20.21.12, 20.22.11**. The rules authorized in **20.21.16, 20.22.14**, shall establish the method, based upon the remainder of the term, for determining which members of the **synodical** committee shall serve as the voting members and which shall serve as alternates. A hearing officer selected from the churchwide Committee of Hearing Officers under the process described in **20.21.14, 20.22.12**, shall preside as the non-voting chair of the discipline hearing committee.

~~**20.21.11.** The Churchwide Committee on Discipline shall consist of 24-36 members, half of whom should be ministers of Word and Sacrament and half of whom should be laypersons, elected by the Churchwide Assembly for a term of six years. Each member will serve until a successor is elected, without consecutive re-election, and will serve as needed on a discipline hearing committee in any of the synods in this church.~~

~~**20.21.12.**~~
~~**20.22.11.** The accused shall have the privilege of selecting two persons (one **rostered** minister of Word and Sacrament and one layperson) and their alternates of the six persons from the churchwide Committee on Discipline to serve on a discipline hearing committee. The remaining four persons (two **rostered** ministers of Word and Sacrament and two laypersons) and their alternates, or six, if the accused does not exercise the privilege, and their alternates shall be selected by the Executive Committee of the Church Council.~~

~~**20.21.13.** The churchwide Committee of Hearing Officers shall consist of nine persons elected by the Church Council for a term of six years, each without consecutive re-election, to serve as needed on a discipline hearing committee in any of the synods of this church.~~

~~**20.21.14.**~~
~~**20.22.12.** The presiding bishop of this church shall select one member of the churchwide Committee of Hearing Officers to serve as the non-voting chair of a discipline hearing committee.~~

~~**20.21.15.**~~
~~**20.22.13.** The presiding bishop of this church may appoint one or more persons as facilitators to make arrangements for, and to provide technical assistance to, a discipline hearing committee.~~

20.21.16.
20.22.14.

The Church Council shall appoint three members from the Committee on Appeals who shall recommend rules of procedure for the performance of the duties of hearing officers and discipline hearing committees. The rules shall become effective when ratified by the Church Council.

20.21.17.
20.22.15.

~~In each specific case for which a discipline hearing committee has been constituted, the~~ **The discipline hearing** committee shall, within 60 days after the secretary of this church has given notice of the selection by the Executive Committee of the Church Council of the members of the churchwide Committee on Discipline to serve on a discipline hearing committee, meet with the accused and the accuser(s) to hold a hearing. The committee shall render its written decision within 15 days after the committee concludes the hearing. The 60-day period may be extended one or more times to a specified date by a written stipulation signed by the accuser(s), the accused, and the hearing officer prior to the expiration of the original 60-day period or prior to the extended specified date.

20.21.18.
20.22.16.

Written notice of the date, time, and place of the hearing and a copy of the charges shall be delivered to the accused and to the accuser(s) at least 20 days prior to the date of the hearing.

20.21.19.
20.22.17.

At the hearing, the accuser(s) may present evidence in support of the charges and thereafter the accused shall be entitled to present evidence. The accused and the accuser(s), or other person acting on behalf of either of them, shall be entitled to question the other party or any of the witnesses appearing on behalf of the other party. A verbatim record shall be made by a stenographer or court reporter or by audio or video recording of the hearing.

20.242.21.

The discipline hearing committee shall render its decision in writing. The written decision shall be in two parts:

20.242.22.

The decision of the discipline hearing committee shall be made by a majority vote of its members who were present at the hearing. The decision of the discipline hearing committee shall be final on the date it is issued by the committee. Within 30 days, one of the parties may appeal to the Committee on Appeals and may request the Committee on Appeals to stay the effective date of the decision. A stay may be granted in whole or in part and subject to such conditions, if any, as the Committee on Appeals may require. The decisions of the Committee on Appeals shall be final.

20.242.23.

If there are indications that a cause for discipline exists or if in the course of the proceedings it should become apparent to the bishop of the synod that the pastoral office cannot be conducted effectively in the congregation(s) being served by the minister of Word and Sacrament due to local conditions or that local conditions may be adversely affected by the continued service by the minister of Word and Sacrament, the bishop of the synod may temporarily suspend the pastor from service in the congregation(s) without prejudice and with pay provided through a joint **synodical** and churchwide fund and with housing provided by the congregation(s).

20.242.24.

If there are indications that a cause for discipline exists or if, in the course of proceedings, it becomes apparent to the bishop of the synod that the circumstances require, the bishop of the synod may temporarily suspend a minister of Word and Sacrament serving under letter of call issued other than by a congregation from the office and functions of the ministry of Word and Sacrament without prejudice and without affecting compensation and housing.

20.223.

The disciplinary process for ministers of Word and Service shall be set forth in the bylaws.

20.223.01.

Ministers of Word and Service shall be subject to discipline for:

- d. willfully disregarding the provisions of the constitutions, bylaws, and continuing resolutions **of this church**; or

- e. willfully failing to comply with the requirements ordered by a discipline hearing committee under ~~20.23.08, 20.24.08.~~

20.223.02. The disciplinary actions that may be imposed are:

20.223.03. Charges against a minister of Word and Service of this church that could lead to discipline must be specific and in writing, subscribed to by the accuser(s), and be made by one or more of the following:

- a. at least two-thirds of the members of the Congregation Council of the congregation in which the minister of Word and Service is serving, submitted to the ~~synodical~~ bishop;
- b. at least one-third of the voting members of the congregation in which the minister of Word and Service is serving, submitted to the ~~synodical~~ bishop;
- c. at least two-thirds of the members of the governing body to which the minister of Word and Service is accountable, submitted to the ~~synodical~~ bishop;
- d. at least 10 ministers of Word and Sacrament or ministers of Word and Service on the rosters of the synod on whose roster the accused minister of Word and Service is listed, submitted to the ~~synodical~~ bishop; or
- e. the ~~synodical~~ bishop.

20.223.04. When there are indications that a cause for discipline exists, efforts shall be made by the bishop of the synod to resolve the situation by consultation in the same manner as set forth above for ministers of Word and Sacrament in ~~20.21.04-20.22.04.~~ through ~~20.21.06-20.22.06.~~

20.223.05. If those efforts fail, the procedures for discipline shall be the same as that set forth above for ministers of Word and Sacrament in ~~20.21.07-20.22.07.~~ through ~~20.21.22-20.22.22.~~

20.223.06. If there are indications that a cause for discipline exists or if in the course of the proceedings it should become apparent to the bishop of the synod that the role and function of a minister of Word and Service cannot be conducted effectively in the congregation(s) being served by the minister of Word and Service due to local conditions or that local conditions may be adversely affected by the continued service by the minister of Word and Service, the bishop of the synod may temporarily suspend the minister of Word and Service from service in the congregation(s) without prejudice and with pay provided through a joint churchwide-~~synodical~~-congregation fund.

20.223.07. If there are indications that a cause for discipline exists or if in the course of proceedings it becomes apparent to the bishop of the synod that the circumstances require, the bishop of the synod may temporarily suspend a minister of Word and Service serving under letter of call issued other than by a congregation from the office and functions of a minister of Word and Service without prejudice and without affecting compensation.

20.234. **A process for limited discipline of rostered ministers shall be set forth in the bylaws.**

20.234.01. Where the written charges specify that the accuser will not seek the rostered minister's removal from the ministry of this church or suspension from the office/role and functions of the ministry of this church for a period not exceeding three months, ~~20.23.01. through 20.23.09. shall apply to the exclusion of 20.21.08. through 20.21.24. and 20.22.05. through 20.22.07-20.24.01. through 20.24.09. shall apply to the exclusion of 20.22.08. through 20.22.24. and 20.23.05. through 20.23.07.~~

20.234.02. The voting members of a discipline hearing committee convened to conduct a hearing on charges described in ~~20.23.01-20.24.01.~~ shall be six members of the synod's Committee on Discipline selected by the Executive Committee of the Synod Council. A hearing officer selected from the churchwide Committee of Hearing Officers by the secretary of this church shall preside as the nonvoting chair of the discipline hearing committee described in this ~~20.23.02-20.24.02.~~

- 20.234.03.** The secretary of this church may appoint one or more persons as facilitators to make arrangements for, and to provide technical assistance to, a discipline hearing committee considering charges described in ~~20.23.01, 20.24.01.~~
- 20.234.04.** Three members of the Committee on Appeals, appointed by the Church Council, shall develop rules of procedure for the performance of the duties of hearing officers and discipline hearing committees considering charges described in ~~20.23.01, 20.24.01.~~ The rules become effective when adopted by the Church Council.
- 20.234.05.** In each case for which a discipline hearing committee has been constituted, the committee shall, within 60 days after the secretary of this church has given notice of the selection of the hearing officer to serve on a discipline hearing committee, commence a meeting or series of meetings with the accused and the accuser(s) to receive testimony or other evidence offered by the accused or the accuser(s). The 60-day period may be extended one or more times to a specified date by a written stipulation signed by the accuser(s), the accused, and the hearing officer prior to the expiration of the original 60-day period or prior to the extended specified date.
- 20.234.06.** Written notice of the date, time, and place of the first meeting of the discipline hearing committee at which testimony will be received, and a copy of the charges, shall be delivered to the accused and to the accuser(s) at least 20 days prior to the date of the meeting.
- 20.234.07.** The discipline hearing committee shall decide, consistent with rules adopted under ~~20.23.04, 20.24.04,~~ to what extent the accused shall be able to confront or cross-examine witnesses testifying on behalf of the accuser and to what extent the accuser shall be able to confront or cross-examine witnesses testifying on behalf of the accused. A verbatim record shall be made by a stenographer or court reporter or by audio or video recording of all meetings of the committee at which testimony is presented. The accused and the accuser may be accompanied at the meeting(s) by a friend or advisor. Such friend or advisor shall not participate in the proceedings before the committee.
- 20.234.08.** The discipline hearing committee shall conclude its meeting(s) and render its decision in writing within 45 days of the commencement of the meeting for which written notice was given under ~~20.23.06, 20.24.06.~~ The written decision shall be in two parts:
- 1) private censure and admonition by the ~~synodical~~ bishop.
 - 4) referral of written charges (amended to reflect additional evidence presented to the committee) to a discipline hearing committee convened under ~~20.21.08. through 20.21.24. or 20.22.05. through 20.22.07, 20.22.08. through 20.22.24. or 20.23.05. through 20.23.07.~~
- 20.234.09.** The decision of the discipline hearing committee shall be made by a majority vote of its members who were present at the hearing. The decision of the discipline hearing committee shall be final on the date it is issued by the committee. Within 30 days of that date, one of the parties may appeal to the Committee on Appeals and may request the Committee on Appeals to stay the effective date of the decision. A stay may be granted in whole or in part and subject to such conditions, if any, as the Committee on Appeals may require. The decisions of the Committee on Appeals shall be final.
- 20.31. The disciplinary process for congregations shall be set forth in the bylaws.**
- 20.31.01.** Congregations shall be subject to discipline for:
- c. willfully disregarding or violating the provisions of the constitutions, bylaws, and continuing resolutions ~~of this church.~~
- 20.31.03.** Charges against a congregation which could lead to discipline must be specific and in writing, subscribed to by the accuser(s), and be made by one or more of the following:
- a. at least one-fifth of the voting members of the congregation, submitted to the ~~synodical~~ bishop;
 - b. at least three other congregations of the synod, submitted to the ~~synodical~~ bishop;
 - d. the ~~synodical~~ bishop.

20.31.04. When there are indications that a cause for discipline exists, efforts shall be made by the bishop of the synod to resolve the situation by consultation in the same manner as set forth above for ministers of Word and Sacrament in ~~20.21.04, 20.22.04,~~ and ~~20.21.05, 20.22.05.~~

20.31.05. If those efforts fail, the procedures for discipline shall be the same as that set forth above for ministers of Word and Sacrament in ~~20.21.07, 20.22.07,~~ through ~~20.21.22, 20.22.22.~~

20.51.A169. Recall or Dismissal of an Officer

- a. *The petition for recall or dismissal described in ~~20.52, 20.51.02,~~ shall be filed with the chair of the Committee on Appeals (in care of the secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, 8765 West Higgins Road, Chicago, Illinois 60631, except if the subject of the petition is the secretary, the petition shall be in care of the presiding bishop of this church at the same address).*
- c. *If the officer is a minister of Word and Sacrament, grounds for recall or dismissal include those set forth in 20.21.01. and as defined under the process described in 20.20. for discipline. If the officer is a minister of Word and Service, grounds for recall or dismissal include those set forth in 20.22.01. and as defined under the process described in 20.71.11. and 20.20. as grounds for discipline. If the officer is a layperson, grounds for recall or dismissal include those set forth in 20.41.01. and as defined under the process described in 20.20. as grounds for discipline. The grounds and process for recall or dismissal of an officer are as described in Chapter 20 of this constitution.*
- d. *In the case of alleged willful disregard or violation of the constitutions, bylaws, and continuing resolutions or of alleged conduct as would subject the officer to disciplinary action, the following procedures shall apply:*
 - 1) *The petition shall be referred to the Committee on Appeals which shall function as the discipline hearing committee that shall conduct a hearing in accordance with the rules provided for in ~~20.21.16, 20.22.14,~~ except to the extent that those rules are in conflict with ~~20.51., 20.52., 20.53, 20.51.01., 20.51.02., 20.51.03.,~~ or with the provisions of this continuing resolution; and*

~~20.60. COMMITTEE ON APPEALS~~

~~20.61. There shall be a Committee on Appeals to which may be referred appeals from disciplinary proceedings and petitions for the recall of an officer. The Church Council shall appoint three members from the Committee on Appeals who shall recommend rules of procedure for the performance of its duties. The rules shall become effective when ratified by the Church Council.~~

~~20.62. The Committee on Appeals shall be comprised of six ministers of Word and Sacrament and six laypersons, elected by the Churchwide Assembly for a term of six years, without consecutive re-election.~~

~~20.62.A16. In the event that the term of any member of the Committee on Appeals expires before that member's successor is elected, the Church Council may elect an individual in the same category—minister of Word and Sacrament or layperson—to serve on the Committee until the next Churchwide Assembly. A member elected by the Church Council who serves less than one half of a term shall be eligible for election to a full term by the Churchwide Assembly.~~

~~20.63. The Committee on Appeals shall elect its own officers.~~

20.641. The decision of a discipline hearing committee may be appealed to the Committee on Appeals by:

20.641.A13. Rules of the Committee on Appeals

- f. *The persons or entities who may appeal to the Committee on Appeals are set forth in ~~20.64.20.61.~~*
- g. *The circumstances for which the Committee on Appeals may reverse or set aside the decision of a discipline hearing committee are set forth in ~~20.65.01.20.62.01.~~ and consequences of such circumstances are set forth in ~~20.65.02.20.62.02.~~*
- j. *Notice of decisions of the Committee on Appeals shall be given in writing to the accused, the accuser(s), the chair of the discipline hearing committee, the ~~synodical~~ bishop, and the secretary of this church.*
- q. *See ~~20.51.A16-A19.~~ and †S8.57. for additional rules of procedure applicable in proceedings for recall or dismissal.*
- r. *See ~~20.64.B95.20.61.B95.~~ for additional rules of procedure applicable to stays*

20.641.B95. *Any party who has appealed to the Committee on Appeals for review of a decision of a discipline hearing committee may request a stay in the effective date or other provision contained in said decision pending the appeal. Such request shall be in writing and shall set forth the reasons why the requested stay is advisable. The request shall be forwarded to the Committee on Appeals, c/o ELCA Secretary, 8765 West Higgins Road, Chicago, Illinois 60631, with copy to the other party. The Committee on Appeals may grant the other party an opportunity to respond in writing. The Committee on Appeals may grant a stay for such period, and may renew the stay for such further periods, as it determines to be appropriate. The Committee on Appeals may make the grant of a stay subject to such conditions as it determines to be appropriate. Such determinations shall be final.*

20.652. **The circumstances for which the Committee on Appeals may reverse or set aside the decision of a discipline hearing committee and the consequences of such action shall be set forth in the bylaws.**

20.652.01. The judgment of a discipline hearing committee must be sustained unless the Committee on Appeals finds that one of the following conditions exists:

- 20.652.02.** When the Committee on Appeals has decided to reverse or set aside the decision of the discipline hearing committee, the Committee on Appeals shall proceed as follows:
- a. If the Committee on Appeals has determined that one of the conditions listed in ~~20.65.01.a.1) or 20.65.01.a.2)20.62.01.a.1) or 20.62.01.a.2)~~ exists, the Committee on Appeals may return the matter to the discipline hearing committee for further proceedings or render its own decision, which shall be final and unappealable.
 - b. If the Committee on Appeals has determined that the condition listed in ~~20.65.01.a.3)20.62.01.a.3)~~ exists, it shall render its own decision, which shall be final and unappealable.
 - c. If the Committee on Appeals has determined that one of the conditions listed in ~~20.65.01.b., 20.65.01.c., or 20.65.01.d.20.62.01.b., 20.62.01.c., or 20.62.01.d.~~ exists, it shall return the matter to the discipline hearing committee for further proceedings.

20.663. **Decisions of the Committee on Appeals shall be final; an affirmative vote by at least two-thirds of those present and voting shall be necessary to render a decision or opinion. Each decision or opinion shall be reported as soon as practical in writing to the parties concerned, and a summary of action taken shall be reported to the Churchwide Assembly.**

20.70. **CONSULTATION AND ADJUDICATION**

20.71. **The presiding bishop and the Executive Committee of the Church Council shall be available to give guidance and counsel when disputes arise within among the three expressions of this church.**

20.72. **When there is disagreement on a substantive issue between or among churchwide units or between or among synods of this church and offices of the churchwide organization that cannot be resolved by the parties, the aggrieved party or parties may appeal to the presiding bishop**

~~and the Executive Committee of the Church Council, or his or her designee,~~ for consultation. If this consultation fails to resolve the issue, a petition may be addressed by the parties to the Church Council requesting it to resolve a resolution of the matter.

- 20.73. When ~~a component of a churchwide unit or office has a~~ there is disagreement on a substantive issue ~~which it cannot resolve within the unit or office, it~~ between or among synods which cannot be resolved by the parties, the synod affected may address an appeal to the presiding bishop and the Executive Committee of the Church Council. In this case, the decision of the Executive Committee shall prevail, ~~except that unless,~~ upon the motion of a member of the Church Council, the decision ~~shall be is~~ referred to the Church Council for final action.
- 20.74. When there is disagreement on a substantive issue between a synod or synods and the churchwide organization that cannot be resolved by the parties, ~~the aggrieved any party or parties~~ may appeal to the Committee on Appeals for consultation ~~and adjudication~~. If this ~~appeal consultation~~ fails to resolve the issue, a petition may be addressed by the parties to the Churchwide Assembly, ~~whose decision shall be final for a final decision.~~
- 20.75. ~~When there is disagreement among factions within a congregation on a substantive issue which cannot be resolved by the parties, members of a congregation shall have access to the synodical bishop for consultation after informing the chair of the Congregation Council of their intent. If the consultation fails to resolve the issue(s), the Consultation Committee of the synod shall consider the matter. If the Consultation Committee of the synod shall fail to resolve the issue(s), the matter shall be referred to the Synod Council, whose decision shall be final.~~ When there is disagreement between or among congregations in the same synod on a substantive issue which cannot be resolved by the parties, the council of an affected congregation may petition the synod bishop for consultation after informing the other affected congregation(s) of its intent to do so. The synod bishop shall seek a timely resolution of the dispute. If the bishop's consultation fails to resolve the issue(s), the bishop shall refer the matter to the Consultation Committee of the synod, which shall undertake efforts to find an appropriate solution. If the Consultation Committee's efforts fail to resolve the issue(s), the entire matter shall be referred to the Synod Council for adjudication by whatever process the Council deems necessary. The Synod Council's decision shall be final.
- 20.76. When there is disagreement between or among factions within a congregation on a substantive issue which cannot be resolved by the parties, members of the congregation may petition the synod bishop for consultation after informing the president of the Congregation Council of their intent to do so. The synod bishop shall seek a timely resolution of the dispute. If the issue relates directly to the pastor, the bishop may begin the process in †S14.18.d. In all other matters, if the bishop's consultation fails to resolve the issue, the bishop shall refer the matter to the Consultation Committee of the synod, which shall undertake efforts to find an appropriate solution. If the Consultation Committee's efforts fail to resolve the dispute, the entire matter shall be referred to the Synod Council for adjudication by whatever process the Council deems necessary. The Synod Council's decision shall be final.

CONSTITUTION FOR SYNODS

CHAPTER 3: TERRITORY

- †S3.02. “Determined by the Churchwide Assembly,” as stipulated by †S3.01., is understood to include the reported changes in synod relationship made by any congregation in a border area agreed under ELCA bylaws 10.01.01. and ~~10.02.02, 10.01.03.~~

CHAPTER 6: STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

- †S6.02. To participate in God’s mission, this synod as a part of the Church shall:
- c. ~~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 and committing itself to their needs.~~
Serve in response to God’s love to meet human needs, caring for the sick and the aged, advocating dignity, justice and equality for all people, working for peace and reconciliation among the nations, caring for the marginalized, embracing and welcoming racially and ethnically diverse populations, standing with the poor and powerless and committing itself to their needs.
- †S6.03. ~~Each This~~ synod, in ~~partnership-cooperation~~ with the churchwide organization, shall bear primary responsibility for the oversight of the life and mission of this church in its territory. In fulfillment of this role and consistent with policies and procedures of this church, the synod shall:
- †S6.03.01. ~~In providing for pastoral care of congregations and rostered ministers in the synod, the~~ The responsibilities of the synod include the following:
- a. providing for pastoral care of congregations, ministers of Word and Sacrament, and ministers of Word and Service in the synod, including:
 - 1) approving candidates for the ministry of Word and Sacrament in cooperation with the appropriate seminaries of this church, which may be done through ~~multi-synodical~~ committees;
 - 2) authorizing ordinations and ordaining ministers of Word and Sacrament on behalf of this church;
 - 3) approving ministers of Word and Service, which may be done through ~~multi-synodical~~ committees;
 - 4) authorizing ~~consecrations and consecrating ordinations and ordaining~~ ministers of Word and Service on behalf of this church; and
- †S6.03.03. In strengthening interdependent relationships among congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization, and in fostering relationships with agencies and institutions affiliated with or related to this church as well as with ecumenical partners, the responsibilities of the synod include the following:
- a. promoting interdependent relationships among congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization, and entering into ~~partnership-relationships~~ with other synods in the region;
 - c. developing relationships with social ministry organizations and ministries, participating in their mission planning, and providing ~~partnership supportive~~ funding;
 - d. supporting relationships with and providing ~~partnership supportive~~ funding on behalf of colleges, universities, and campus ministries;
 - e. maintaining relationships with and providing ~~partnership supportive~~ funding on behalf of seminaries and continuing education centers;
 - h. fostering relationships with ecumenical and global ~~partners companions~~
- †S6.04. Except as otherwise provided in this constitution and bylaws, the Synod Council shall establish processes that will ensure that at least 60 percent of the members of the synod assemblies, councils, committees, boards, and other organizational units shall be laypersons; and that, ~~as nearly as possible,~~ ~~50 at least 45~~ percent of the lay members of assemblies, councils, committees, boards, or other organizational units shall be ~~female-women~~ and ~~50-at least 45~~ percent shall be ~~male men~~; and that, where possible, the representation of ministers of Word and Sacrament shall ~~be both male and female~~ ~~include both men and women~~. This synod shall establish processes that will enable it to reach a minimum goal that 10 percent of its assemblies, councils, committees, boards, or other organizational units be persons of color and/or persons whose primary language is other than English.
- †S6.05. Each assembly, council, committee, board, commission, task force, or other body of this synod or any ~~synodical~~ units shall be conclusively presumed to have been properly constituted, and neither the method of selection nor the composition of any such assembly, council, committee, board, commission,

task force, or other body may be challenged in a court of law by any person or be used as the basis of a challenge in a court of law to the validity or effect of any action taken or authorized by any such assembly, council, committee, board, commission, task force, or other body.

CHAPTER 7: SYNOD ASSEMBLY

- †S7.21. The membership of the Synod Assembly, of which at least 60 percent of the voting membership shall be composed of laypersons, shall be constituted as follows:
- b. All ministers of Word and Service, under call, on the roster of this synod shall be voting members in the Synod Assembly, in addition to the voting membership of lay members of congregations provided in item †S7.21.e.
 - c. A minimum of one lay member elected by each congregation with fewer than 175 baptized members and a minimum of two lay members elected by each congregation with 175 or more baptized members related to this synod, normally one of whom shall be male a man and one of whom shall be female a woman, shall be voting members. The Synod Council shall establish a formula to provide additional lay representation from congregations on the basis of the number of baptized members in the congregation. The Synod Council shall seek to ensure that, as nearly as possible, 50 at least 45 percent of the lay members of the assembly shall be female women and 50 at least 45 percent shall be male men. Additional members from each congregation normally shall be equally divided between male and female.

†S7.21.02. If a special Synod Assembly is called and voting members at the previous assembly are unable to serve as voting members, where permitted by state law, the congregation through the Congregation Council may elect new members who shall continue to serve until the next Synod Assembly.

- S7.22. This synod may establish processes that permit retired rostered ministers, or those designated as disabled granted disability status, or on leave from call, on the roster of the synod to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly, consistent with †S7.21.c. If the synod does not establish processes to permit the rostered ministers specified above to serve as voting members, they shall have voice but not vote in the meetings of the Synod Assembly.

[The following provision becomes required.]

†S7.23. The presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and such other official representatives of this church the churchwide organization as may be designated from time to time by the Church Council presiding bishop, shall have voice but not vote in the meetings of the Synod Assembly. Like privileges shall be accorded to those additional persons whom the Synod Assembly or the Synod Council shall from time to time designate.

- S7.26. This synod may establish processes through the Synod Council that permit representatives of congregations under development and authorized worshipping communities of the synod, which have been authorized under ELCA bylaw 10.02.03, 10.01.04, to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly, consistent with †S7.21.

†S7.31. Proxy and absentee voting shall not be permitted in the transaction of any business of this synod the Synod Assembly.

CHAPTER 8: OFFICERS

†S8.11. The bishop shall be elected by the Synod Assembly. The bishop shall be a minister of Word and Sacrament of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The bishop shall be a full-time, salaried officer.

S8.11.01. When authorized by the Synod Council in order to address special circumstances, the synod bishop may be compensated as an employee or contractor for specified services to another expression of this church. Such an arrangement may be terminated by the Synod Assembly or Synod Council if

determined to be detrimental to the function of the office or if the special circumstances no longer apply.

- c. Exercise solely this church's power to ordain (or provide for the ordination by another synodical bishop of) approved candidates who have received and accepted a properly issued, duly attested letter of call for the office of ministry of Word and Sacrament (and as provided in the bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America).
- d. Consecrate (or provide for the consecration of) Ordain (or provide for the ordination of) approved candidates who have received and accepted a properly issued, duly attested letter of call for service as ministers of Word and Service of this church.
- h. Practice leadership in strengthening the unity of the Church and in so doing:
 - 4) consult be a member of the Conference of Bishops and consult regularly with other synodical bishops and the Conference of Bishops;
- i. Oversee and administer the work of this synod and in so doing:
 - 5) coordinate the work of all synodical staff members;
 - 8) provide for preparation and maintenance of synodical rosters containing the names and addresses of all rostered ministers of this synod and a record of the calls under which they are serving or the date on which they become retired or disabled their retired or disability status took effect;
 - 10) provide for prompt reporting to the secretary of this church of:
 - a) additions to and subtractions from the rosters of this synod and the register of congregations;
 - 11) provide for preparation and maintenance of a register-roster of the congregations of this synod and the names of the laypersons who have been elected to represent them; and

†S8.13. The synodical bishop may appoint an attorney, admitted to the bar within the territory of the synod or the state where the synod is located, to be Synod Attorney. The appointment must be approved by the Synod Council and reported to the Synod Assembly and to the ELCA secretary of this church. The appointment continues until resignation or until a successor is appointed. The Synod Attorney provides legal advice and counsel to the synodical officers and the Synod Council. The Synod Attorney is expected to be familiar with the governing documents and policies of the synod and, as necessary, to attend meetings of the Synod Council. The Synod Attorney serves without salary but may be retained and compensated for specific legal services requested by the synod.

S8.14. The synodical bishop may have such assistants as this synod shall from time to time authorize.

†S8.15. The presiding bishop of this church, or the appointee of the presiding bishop, shall install into office, in accord with the policy and approved rite of this church, each newly elected synodical bishop.

†S8.16. **Conflicts of Interest**

- †S8.16.01. The following procedures shall govern matters of potential conflicts of interest for synodical bishops:
- a. Whenever a synodical bishop determines that a matter of the kind described in †S8.16.01.b. may require his or her determination or action with respect to a related individual as defined in †S8.16.01.c., the synodical bishop shall withdraw from personal involvement in such matter and shall so notify the presiding bishop. The presiding bishop shall then appoint another synodical bishop from the same region to handle the matter to conclusion. In dealing with such matter, the appointed bishop shall exercise all of the functions and authority to the same extent as if the appointed bishop were the elected bishop of the withdrawing bishop's synod.
 - b. Matters include any proceedings under Chapter 20, proceedings under provision 7.46. of the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* (†S14.18.), candidacy, reinstatement, and similar matters where determinations or actions by the synodical bishop could change, limit, restrict, approve, authorize, or deny the related individual's ministry on one of the official rosters of this church.
 - c. A related individual is one who, with respect to the synodical bishop, is a spouse, parent, son, daughter, sibling, uncle, aunt, niece, nephew, grandparent, grandchild, including corresponding

members of blended families and in-laws (parent, son, daughter, or sibling of a spouse, spouse of a sibling, or the parent or sibling of the spouse of a sibling).

[The following provision becomes required.]

†S8.23. In the event of the death, resignation, or disability of the bishop, the vice president, after consultation with the presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, shall convene the Synod Council to arrange for the conduct of the duties of the bishop until a new bishop shall be elected or, in the case of temporary disability, until the bishop resumes full performance of the duties of the office.

S8.30. Secretary

†S8.31. The secretary shall be elected by the Synod Assembly. The secretary shall be a voting member of a congregation of this synod. The secretary may be either a layperson or a rostered minister of Word and Sacrament.

S8.40. Treasurer

†S8.41. The treasurer may be elected by the Synod Assembly or may be appointed by the Synod Council. The treasurer shall be a voting member of a congregation of this synod. The treasurer may be either a layperson or a rostered minister of Word and Sacrament.

S8.50. General Provisions

†S8.51. The terms of office of the officers of this synod shall be as follows:

- b. The vice president and secretary of this synod shall be elected to a term of _____ years and may be re-elected. The officer shall serve until his or her successor takes office.
- c. The treasurer of this synod shall be [elected] [appointed] to a _____-year term and may be re-elected or reappointed. The treasurer shall serve until his or her successor takes office.

†S8.57. The recall or dismissal of an officer and the vacating of office may be effected for willful disregard or violation of the constitutions, bylaws, and continuing resolutions of this church; for such physical or mental disability as renders the officer incapable of performing the duties of office; or for such conduct as would subject the officer to disciplinary action as a rostered minister or as a member of a congregation of this church.

- a. Proceedings for the recall or dismissal of a synodical bishop shall be instituted by written petition by:
 - 3) at least 10 synodical bishops; or
- b. Proceedings for the recall or dismissal of an officer of a synod, other than the synodical bishop, shall be instituted by written petition by:
 - 3) the synodical bishop.
- f. If the synod officer is a minister of Word and Sacrament, grounds for recall or dismissal include those set forth in ELCA bylaw 20.21.01, 20.22.01, and as defined under the process described in ELCA constitutional provisions 20.20, and 20.21, and 20.22, as grounds for discipline. If the officer is a minister of Word and Service, grounds for recall or dismissal include those set forth in ELCA bylaw 20.22.01, 20.23.01, and as defined under the process described in ELCA constitutional provisions 20.20, and 20.21, and 20.22, as grounds for discipline.
- h. If the case of alleged willful disregard or violation of the constitutions, bylaws, and continuing resolutions or of alleged conduct as would subject the officer to disciplinary action, the following procedures shall apply:
 - 1) the petition shall be referred to the Committee on Appeals, which shall function as the discipline hearing committee that shall conduct a hearing in accordance with the rules provided for in ELCA bylaw 20.21.16, 20.22.14, except to the extent that those rules are in conflict with the provisions of this bylaw; and

CHAPTER 9: NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

†S9.12. Background checks and screening shall be required and completed for persons nominated as ~~synodical~~ officers prior to their election, if possible, or as soon as practical after their election. The specific procedures and timing of background checks and screening shall be determined by the Synod Council.

CHAPTER 10: SYNOD COUNCIL

S10.08. *Robert's Rules of Order*, latest edition, shall govern parliamentary procedure of all meetings of the Synod Council.

S10.078.01. To the extent permitted by state law, meetings of the Synod Council and its committees may be held electronically or by telephone conference, and notice of all meetings may be provided electronically.

CHAPTER 11: COMMITTEES

†S11.05. The Audit Committee of this synod shall consist of three to six persons, none of whom ~~are members is~~ a member of the synod staff.

CHAPTER 12: CONFERENCES, CLUSTERS, COALITIONS, AREA SUBDIVISIONS, AND NETWORKS

†S12.01. This synod may establish conferences, clusters, coalitions, area subdivisions, and networks as appropriate within its territory and in collaboration with other synods and ~~partners entities~~, as specified in the bylaws and continuing resolutions. The purpose of such groupings shall be to foster interdependent relationships for missional purposes among congregations, synods, the churchwide organization, and other ~~partners affiliates~~.

CHAPTER 13: CONGREGATIONS

†S13.01. Each congregation, except those certified as congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America by the uniting churches, prior to being listed in the ~~register-roster~~ of congregations of this synod, shall adopt the *Model Constitution for Congregations* or one acceptable to this synod that is not in contradiction to the constitution and bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

- a. **New congregations.** A congregation newly formed by this church and any congregation seeking recognition and reception by this church shall:
 - 1) Accept the criteria for recognition and reception as a congregation of this church, fulfill the functions of the congregation, and accept the governance provisions as provided in Chapter 9 of the ~~ELCA~~ constitution and bylaws of this church.
 - 3) Accept the commitments expected of all congregations of ~~the ELCA this church~~ as stated in *C6.01., *C6.02., and *C6.03. of the *Model Constitution for Congregations*.
- b. **Congregations from another church body.** If a congregation is a member of another church body, the ~~leaders-leadership~~ of the congregation first should consult with the appropriate authorities of that church body before taking action to leave its current church body. After such consultation, leaders of the congregation should ~~make contact with~~ the ELCA synod bishop or staff where the congregation is located. The synod bishop or synod staff where the transferring or independent congregation is located shall confer with the congregation to assure its understanding and acceptance of commitment to and affiliation with this church.
- c. **Recognition and reception.** Recognition and reception into this church of transferring or independent congregations by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is based on the judgment of the synod and action by the synod through the Synod Council and Synod Assembly. The synod bishop shall provide for prompt reporting of such additions to the secretary of this church for addition to the ~~register-roster~~ of congregations.

†S13.02. It shall be the responsibility of each congregation of this synod ~~annually~~ to choose from among its voting members laypersons to serve as members of the Synod Assembly as well as persons to represent it at meetings of any conference, cluster, coalition, or other area subdivision of which it is a member. The number of persons to be elected by each congregation and other qualifications shall be as prescribed in guidelines established by this synod.

~~†S13.19.~~

~~†S13.20.~~

A congregation considering a relocation shall confer with the bishop of the synod in which it is territorially located and the appropriate unit of the churchwide organization before any steps are taken leading to such action. The approval of the Synod Council shall be received before any such action is effected.

~~†S13.20.~~

~~†S13.21.~~

A congregation considering development of an additional site to be used regularly for worship shall confer with the bishop of the synod in which it is territorially located and the appropriate unit of the churchwide organization before any steps are taken leading to such action.

~~S13.21. The alignment of congregations in pastoral charges, and all alterations in any alignment, shall be subject to approval by the Synod Assembly or by the Synod Council.~~

†S13.23.

Provision 9.71. of the ELCA constitution of this church shall govern the relationship of this synod and a congregation of this synod regarding the property of the congregation. This synod may transfer or convey property to a congregation of the synod, subject to restrictions accepted by the congregation, including provision that if the Synod Council, in its sole and exclusive discretion, determines (1) that the property is not being used to serve the mission and ministry needs of this church, or (2) that the congregation has transferred, encumbered, mortgaged, or in any way burdened or impaired any right, title, or interest in the property without the prior approval of the Synod Council, then title to the property shall revert to the synod, and the congregation, upon written demand, shall reconvey the property to the synod.

~~S13.24.~~

~~If any congregation of this synod has disbanded, or if the members of a congregation agree that it is no longer possible for it to function as such, or if it is the opinion of the Synod Council that the membership of a congregation has become so scattered or so diminished in numbers as to make it impractical for such a congregation to fulfill the purposes for which it was organized or that it is necessary for this synod to protect the congregation's property from waste and deterioration, the Synod Council, itself or through trustees appointed by it, may take charge and control of the property of the congregation to hold, manage, and convey the same on behalf of this synod. The congregation shall have the right to appeal the decision to the Synod Assembly.~~

~~†S13.24.~~

~~The Synod Council, itself or through trustees appointed by it, may take charge and control of the property of a congregation of this synod to hold, manage, and convey the same on behalf of this synod, if any of the following apply:~~

- ~~a. The congregation has disbanded, ceased to worship, or otherwise ceased to exist as a congregation.~~
- ~~b. The congregation has abandoned its property.~~
- ~~c. The remaining members of the congregation decide that it is no longer possible to function as a congregation or that they are unable to provide required governance.~~
- ~~d. The Synod Council determines that the membership of a congregation has become so scattered or so diminished in numbers that it cannot provide required governance or that it has become impractical for the congregation to fulfill the purposes for which it was organized.~~
- ~~e. The Synod Council determines that it is necessary for this synod to protect and preserve the congregation's property from waste and deterioration.~~

~~The congregation shall have the right to appeal any such decision to the next Synod Assembly.~~

S13.25.

This synod may temporarily assume administration of a congregation upon its request or with its concurrence. Such synod administration shall continue only so long as necessary to complete the purposes for which it was requested by the congregation or until the congregation withdraws consent to continued administration.

†S13.31.

Congregations and members of congregations are subject to discipline in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 20 of the ELCA constitution and bylaws: Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing

Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The synod's involvement in and responsibility for such disciplinary processes shall be as set forth in that chapter.

S13.40. ~~Synodically Authorized~~ Synod-authorized ~~Worshiping Communities~~

CHAPTER 14: ROSTERED MINISTERS

†S14.11. The time and place of the ordination of those persons properly called to ~~congregations or non-congregational service of ministry in~~ this synod shall be authorized by the bishop of this synod.

†S14.12. Consistent with the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America,

- a. Every minister of Word and Sacrament shall:
 - 6) impart knowledge of this church and its wider ministry through ~~distribution of its communications and publications~~ available channels of effective communication;
 - 8) speak publicly to the world in solidarity with the poor and oppressed, calling for justice and proclaiming God's love for the world
publicly advocate dignity, justice, and equality for all people, working for peace and reconciliation among the nations, caring for the marginalized, embracing and welcoming racially and ethnically diverse populations, and standing with the poor and powerless.
- b. Each pastor with a congregational call shall, within the congregation:
 - 4) with the council, administer discipline; ~~and~~
 - 5) endeavor to increase the support given by the congregation to the work of the ELCA churchwide organization and of this synod; and
 - 6) encourage adherence to covenantal relationship with this church as expressed in the *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.*

S14.14. Whenever members of a congregation move to such a distance that regular attendance at its services becomes impractical, it shall be the duty of the pastor to commend them, upon their consent, to the pastoral care of a Lutheran congregation nearer to their place of residence.

S14.17. No minister of Word and Sacrament shall accept a call without first conferring with the bishop of this synod. A minister of Word and Sacrament shall respond with an answer of acceptance or declination to a letter of call within 30 days of receipt of such call. In exceptional circumstances with the approval of the bishop of this synod and the chair-president of the Congregation Council of the congregation issuing the call, an additional 15 days may be granted to respond to a letter of call.

†S14.18. The provisions for termination of the mutual relationship between a minister of Word and Sacrament and a congregation shall be as follows:

- a. The call of a congregation, when accepted by a pastor, shall constitute a continuing mutual relationship and commitment which shall be terminated only by the pastor's death or, following consultation with the synodical bishop, for the following reasons:
- c. In case of alleged physical disability or mental incapacity under paragraph a.4) above, the bishop's committee shall obtain and document competent medical opinion concerning the pastor's condition. When a disability or incapacity is evident to the committee, the bishop of this synod may declare the pastorate vacant. When the pastorate is declared vacant, the Synod Council shall list the pastor on the roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament as disabled with disability status. Upon removal of the disability and restoration of the pastor to health, the bishop shall take steps to enable the pastor to resume the ministry, either in the congregation last served or in another appropriate call.

†S14.24. With the approval of the synodical bishop expressed in writing, which sets forth a clear statement of the purpose to be served by such a departure from the normal rule of permanency of the call as expressed in †S14.18., a congregation may call a pastor for a specific term. Details of such calls shall be in writing setting forth the purpose and conditions involved. Prior to the completion of a term, the

bishop of this synod or a representative of the bishop shall meet with the pastor and representatives of the congregation for a review of the call. Such call may also be terminated before its expiration in accordance with the provisions of †S14.18.

†S14.31. The time and place of the ~~consecration-ordination~~ of those persons properly called to ~~congregations or non-congregational service of ministry in~~ this synod shall be authorized by the bishop of this synod.

†S14.32. Consistent with the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, every minister of Word and Service shall:

c. ~~Speak publicly to the world in solidarity with the poor and oppressed, calling for justice and proclaiming God's love for the world, witnessing to the realm of God in the community, the nation, and abroad~~

Advocate publicly dignity, justice, and equality for all people, working for peace and reconciliation among the nations, caring for the marginalized, embracing and welcoming racially and ethnically diverse populations, and standing with the poor and powerless;

h. Share knowledge of ~~the ELCA-this church~~ and its wider ministry of the gospel, and advocate for the work of all expressions of this church;

S14.42. No minister of Word and Service shall accept a call without first conferring with the bishop of this synod. A minister of Word and Service shall respond with an answer of acceptance or declination to a letter of call within 30 days of receipt of such call. In exceptional circumstances with the approval of the bishop of this synod and the ~~chair-president~~ of the Congregation Council of the congregation issuing the call, an additional 15 days may be granted to respond to a letter of call

†S14.43. The provisions for termination of the mutual relationship between a minister of Word and Service and a congregation shall be as follows:

a. The call of a congregation, when accepted by a minister of Word and Service, shall constitute a continuing mutual relationship and commitment which shall be terminated only by the deacon's death or, following consultation with the ~~synodical~~ bishop, for the following reasons:

c. In case of alleged physical disability or mental incapacity under paragraph a.4) above, the bishop's committee shall obtain and document competent medical opinion concerning the minister of Word and Service's condition. When a disability or incapacity is evident to the committee, the bishop of this synod may declare the position vacant. When the position is declared vacant, the Synod Council shall list the deacon on the roster of Ministers of Word and Service ~~as disabled with~~ disability status. Upon removal of the disability and restoration of the minister of Word and Service to health, the bishop shall take steps to enable the minister of Word and Service to resume the ministry, either in the congregation last served or in another appropriate call.

†S14.46. With the approval of the ~~synodical~~ bishop expressed in writing, which sets forth a clear statement of the purpose to be served by such a departure from the normal rule of permanency of the call as expressed in †S14.43., a congregation may call a minister of Word and Service for a specific term. Details of such calls shall be in writing setting forth the purpose and conditions involved. Prior to the completion of a term, the bishop of this synod or a representative of the bishop shall meet with the minister of Word and Service and representatives of the congregation for a review of the call. Such call may also be terminated before its expiration in accordance with the provisions of †S14.43.

CHAPTER 15: FINANCIAL MATTERS

†S15.11. Since the congregations, synods, and churchwide organization are interdependent ~~units-expressions~~ that share ~~responsibly~~ in God's mission, all share in the responsibility to develop, implement, and strengthen the financial support ~~program~~ of the whole church. The gifts and offerings of the members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America are given to support all parts of this church ~~and thus partnership in~~, the unity of this church should be evidenced in determining each part's share of the gifts and offerings.

†S15.12. The annual budget of this synod shall reflect the entire range of its own activities and its commitment to ~~partnership-supportive~~ funding with other synods and the churchwide organization.

S15.14. Except when such procedure would jeopardize current operations, a reserve amounting to no more than 16 percent of the sum of the amounts scheduled in the next year's budget for regular distribution to ~~synodical~~ causes shall be carried forward annually for disbursement in the following year in the interest of making possible a more even flow of income to such causes. The exact number of dollars to be held in reserve shall be determined by the Synod Council.

CHAPTER 15: FINANCIAL MATTERS

†S16.04. When written charges against a rostered minister of this church are made in disciplinary proceedings under Chapter 20 of the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* by the ~~synodical~~ bishop or when written charges against a congregation are made in disciplinary proceedings by the Synod Council or the ~~synodical~~ bishop, and the discipline hearing committee determines that no discipline shall be imposed, then if such determination is not reversed or set aside on appeal, indemnification shall be made by the synod to the accused for reasonable attorney's fees and other reasonable expenses related to the defense of the charges. The determination of the reasonableness of such fees and expenses shall be decided by the Synod Council.

CHAPTER 17: ~~CONSULTATION AND ADJUDICATION~~

†S17.01. The ~~synodical~~ bishop and the Executive Committee of the Synod Council shall be available to give counsel when disputes arise within this synod.

†S17.02. The ~~synodical~~ bishop and the Executive Committee of the Synod Council shall receive expressions of concern from rostered ministers of this church, congregations, and organizations within this synod; provide a forum in which the parties concerned can seek to work out matters causing distress or conflict; and make appropriate recommendations for their resolution. ~~When a concern relates directly to the synod bishop, the synod vice president will lead the Executive Committee's efforts at resolving the matter.~~ When the matter at issue cannot be resolved in this manner, ~~the prescribed applicable~~ procedures for investigation, decision, appeal, and adjudication shall be followed. Allegations or charges that could lead to the discipline of a rostered minister of this church shall not be addressed by the Executive Committee but shall be resolved through the disciplinary process set forth in the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*.

†S17.03. ~~When there is disagreement among units of this synod on a substantive issue that cannot be resolved by the parties, the aggrieved party or parties may appeal to the synodical bishop and the Executive Committee of the Synod Council for a consultation. If this consultation fails to resolve the issue, a petition may be addressed by the parties to the Synod Council requesting it to arbitrate the issue. The decision of the Synod Council shall be final.~~

~~When there is disagreement between or among congregations of this synod on a substantive issue that cannot be resolved by the parties, the council of an affected congregation may petition the synod bishop for a consultation after informing the other affected congregation(s) of its intent to do so. If this consultation fails to resolve the issue, the bishop shall refer the matter to the Consultation Committee of the synod, which shall undertake efforts to find an appropriate solution. If the Consultation Committee's efforts fail to resolve the issue(s), the entire matter shall be referred to the Synod Council for adjudication by whatever process the council deems necessary. The decision of the Synod Council shall be final.~~

†S17.04. ~~When a component or beneficiary of a synod has a disagreement on a substantive issue that it cannot resolve, it may address an appeal to the synodical bishop and the Executive Committee of the Synod Council. In this case the decision of the Executive Committee shall prevail, except that upon the motion of a member of the Synod Council, the decision shall be referred to the Synod Council for final action.~~ When conferences, clusters, coalitions, or area subdivisions of this synod have a disagreement on a substantive issue that they cannot resolve, the aggrieved party or parties may petition the synod

bishop and the Executive Committee of the Synod Council requesting a consultation after informing the other affected parties of their intent to do so. In this case the decision of the Executive Committee shall prevail, except that, upon the motion of a member of the Synod Council, the decision shall be referred to the Synod Council for final action.

†S17.11. When there is disagreement among factions within a congregation on a substantive issue that cannot be resolved by the parties, members of a congregation shall have access to the synodical bishop for consultation after informing the chair of the Congregation Council of their intent. If the consultation fails to resolve the issue(s), the Consultation Committee of this synod shall consider the matter. If the Consultation Committee of this synod shall fail to resolve the issue(s), the matter shall be referred to the Synod Council, whose decision shall be final.

When there is disagreement between or among factions within a congregation on a substantive issue which cannot be resolved by the parties, members of the congregation may petition the synod bishop for consultation after informing the president of the Congregation Council of their intent to do so. The synod bishop shall seek a timely resolution of the dispute. If the issue relates directly to the pastor, the bishop may begin the process in †S14.18.d. In all other matters, if the bishop's consultation fails to resolve the issue, the bishop shall refer the matter to the Consultation Committee of the synod, which shall undertake efforts to find an appropriate solution. If the Consultation Committee's efforts fail to resolve the dispute, the entire matter shall be referred to the Synod Council for adjudication by whatever process the council deems necessary. The Synod Council's decision shall be final.

CHAPTER 18: AMENDMENTS, BYLAWS, AND CONTINUING RESOLUTIONS

†S18.13. Other amendments to this constitution may be adopted by this synod through either of the following procedures:

- a. An amendment may be adopted by a two-thirds vote at a regular meeting of the Synod Assembly after having been presented in writing at the previous regular meeting of the Synod Assembly over the signatures of at least _____ members and having been approved by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present and voting at such a regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.
Introduced with the support of at least _____ voting members and having been approved by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present and voting at a regular meeting of the Synod Assembly, an amendment may be adopted unchanged by a two-thirds vote at the next regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.

MODEL CONSTITUTION for CONGREGATIONS of the EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

CHAPTER 4: STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

*C4.02. To participate in God's mission, this congregation as a part of the Church shall:

- d. 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, standing with the poor and powerless, and committing itself to their needs.
Serve in response to God's love to meet human needs, caring for the sick and the aged, advocating dignity, justice and equality for all people, working for peace and reconciliation among the nations, caring for the marginalized, embracing and welcoming racially and ethnically diverse populations, standing with the poor and powerless and committing itself to their needs.

*C4.03. To fulfill these purposes, this congregation shall:

- g. Motivate its members to provide financial support for ~~the~~this congregation's ministry and the ministry of ~~other parts~~the other expressions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

*C4.05. This congregation shall, ~~from time to time~~, adopt and periodically review a mission statement which will provide specific direction for its programs.

CHAPTER 5: POWERS OF THE CONGREGATION

- *C5.03. Only such authority as is delegated to the Congregation Council or other organizational units in this congregation's governing documents is recognized. All remaining authority is retained by ~~the~~-this congregation. ~~The~~-This congregation is authorized to:
- *C5.04. This congregation shall ~~choose~~-elect from among its voting members laypersons to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly as well as persons to represent it at meetings of any conference, cluster, coalition, or other area subdivision of which it is a member. The number of persons to be elected by ~~the~~-this congregation and other qualifications shall be as prescribed in guidelines established by the (insert name of synod) of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

CHAPTER 6: CHURCH AFFILIATION

- *C6.01. This congregation shall be an interdependent part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America or its successor, and of the (insert name of synod) ~~Synod~~ of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. This congregation is subject to the discipline of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- *C6.03. This congregation acknowledges its relationship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in which:
- d. This congregation agrees to consider ministers of Word and Service for call to other staff positions in ~~the~~-this congregation according to the procedures of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- *C6.04. Affiliation with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America ~~may be~~-is terminated as follows:
- c. This congregation is removed from membership in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America according to the procedures for discipline of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America or in accordance with provision 9.23. of the constitution and bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- d. The (insert name of synod) takes charge and control of the property of this congregation to hold, manage, and convey the same on behalf of the synod pursuant to †S13.24. of the synod constitution. This congregation shall have the right to appeal the decision to the next Synod Assembly.
- ~~de.~~ This congregation follows the procedures outlined in *C6.05.
- *C6.05. This congregation may terminate its relationship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America by the following procedure:
- a. A resolution indicating the intent to terminate its relationship must be adopted at ~~a~~-two legally called and conducted special meetings of ~~the~~-this congregation by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present at each meeting. ~~Such~~-The first such meeting may be held no sooner than 30 days after written notice of the meeting is received by the bishop of the synod, during which time ~~the~~-this congregation shall consult with the bishop and the bishop's designees, if any. The times and manner of the consultation shall be determined by the bishop in consultation with the Congregation Council. Unless he or she is a voting member of ~~the~~-this congregation, the bishop and the bishop's designees, if any, shall have voice but not vote at the first meeting.
- b. The ~~Within 10 days after the resolution has been voted upon at the first meeting, the~~ secretary of ~~the~~-this congregation shall submit a copy of the resolution to the bishop, attesting that the special meeting was legally called and conducted and certifying the outcome of the vote, and shall ~~mail a copy~~-send copies of the resolution and certification to voting members of ~~the~~-this congregation. ~~This notice shall be submitted within 10 days after the resolution has been adopted.~~
- c. ~~The~~-If the resolution was adopted by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present at the first meeting, the bishop of the synod and ~~the~~-this congregation shall continue in consultation, as specified in paragraph a. above, during a period of at least 90 days after receipt by the ~~synod of the notice~~-bishop of the attestation and certification as specified in paragraph b. above.
- d. If ~~the~~-this congregation, after such consultation, still seeks to terminate its relationship is still considering termination of its relationship with this church, such action may be taken at a legally

called and conducted special meeting by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present. Notice of the second meeting shall be mailed-sent to all voting members and to the bishop at least 10 days in advance of the meeting. Unless he or she is a voting member of the this congregation, the bishop and the bishop's designees, if any, shall have voice but not vote at the second meeting.

- e. A copy of the resolution, attesting that the special meeting was legally called and conducted and certifying the outcome of the vote, shall be sent to the bishop within 10 days after the resolution has been adopted, at which time the relationship between the congregation and this church shall be terminated subject to paragraph g. below.
Within 10 days after the resolution has been voted upon, the secretary of this congregation shall submit a copy of the resolution to the bishop, attesting that the second special meeting was legally called and conducted and certifying the outcome of the vote, and shall send copies of the resolution and certification to the voting members of the congregation. If the resolution was adopted by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present at the second meeting, the relationship between the congregation and this church shall be terminated subject to Synod Council approval as required by paragraphs f. and g. below.
- f. Unless this notification to the bishop also certifies that the this congregation has voted by a two-thirds vote to affiliate with another Lutheran denomination, the this congregation will be conclusively presumed to be shall be deemed an independent or non-Lutheran church, in which case *C7.04. shall apply.
- f. Notice of termination shall be forwarded by the bishop to the secretary of the ELCA, who shall report the termination to the Churchwide Assembly.
- g. This congregation shall abide by these covenants by and among the three expressions of this church:
2) Congregations which had been members of the Lutheran Church in America shall be required, in addition to complying with the foregoing provisions in *C6.05., to receive synodical approval before terminating their membership in this church.
- h. If this congregation fails to achieve the required two-thirds vote of voting members present at the this congregation's first meeting as specified in paragraph a. above, another special meeting to consider termination of relationship with this church may be called no sooner than six months after that first meeting. If this congregation or fails to achieve the required two-thirds vote of voting members present at the this congregation's second meeting as specified in paragraph d. above, another attempt to consider termination of relationship with this church must follow all requirements of *C6.05. and may begin no sooner than six months after that second the meeting at which the two-thirds vote was not achieved.

- *C6.06. If this congregation considers relocation, it shall confer with the bishop of the synod in which it is territorially located and the appropriate unit of the churchwide organization before any steps are taken leading to such action. The approval of the Synod Council shall be received before any such action is effected taken.

CHAPTER 7: PROPERTY OWNERSHIP

- *C7.01. If this congregation ceases to exist, title to undisposed property shall pass to the (insert name of synod) Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- *C7.02. If this congregation is removed from membership in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America according to its procedure for discipline or pursuant to 9.23. of the constitution and bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, title to property shall continue to reside in this congregation.
- *C7.03. If two-thirds of the voting members of this congregation present at a legally called and conducted special meeting of this congregation vote to transfer to another Lutheran church body, title to property shall continue to reside in this congregation, provided the process for termination of relationship in *C6.05. has been followed. Before this congregation takes action to transfer to another Lutheran church body, it shall consult with representatives of the (insert name of synod) Synod.

- *C7.04. If ~~two-thirds of~~ the voting members of this congregation present at a legally called and conducted special meeting of this congregation vote to become independent or relate to a non-Lutheran church body and have followed the process for termination of relationship in *C6.05., title to property of this congregation shall continue to reside in this congregation only with the consent of the Synod Council. The Synod Council, after consultation with this congregation by the ~~established synodical~~ process established by the synod, may give approval to the request to become independent or to relate to a non-Lutheran church body, in which case title shall remain with the majority of this congregation. If the Synod Council fails to give such approval, title shall remain with those members who desire to continue as a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. In neither case does title to this congregation's property transfer to the synod.

[The following provision becomes required.]

- *C7.05. Notwithstanding the provisions of *C7.02. and *C7.03. above, where this congregation has received property from the synod pursuant to a deed or other instrument containing restrictions under provision 9.71.a. of the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*, this congregation accepts such restrictions and:

CHAPTER 8: MEMBERSHIP

- *C8.02. Members shall be classified as follows:

- c. **Voting** members are confirmed members. Such confirmed members, during the current or preceding calendar year, shall have communed in this congregation and shall have made a contribution of record to this congregation. Members of this congregation who have satisfied these basic standards shall have the privilege of voice and vote at every regular and special meeting of ~~the this~~ congregation as well as the other rights and privileges ascribed to voting members by the provisions of this constitution and its bylaws. They shall not have voted as a seasonal member of another congregation of this church in the previous two calendar months.
- e. **Seasonal** members are voting members of other ~~ELCA~~ congregations of this church who wish to retain such membership but desire to participate in the life and mission of this congregation, including exercising limited voting rights in this congregation. The Congregation Council may grant seasonal membership to such persons provided that this congregation is a member of a synod where the Synod Council has approved seasonal member voting on its territory. Such seasonal members shall have all the privileges and duties of voting members except that:
 - 3) they shall not have the right to vote on any matter concerning or affecting the affiliation of this congregation with the ELCA this church;

- *C8.05. Membership in this congregation shall be terminated by any of the following:

- d. disciplinary action in accordance with ~~ELCA constitutional provision 20.41. and the accompanying bylaws Chapter 20 of the constitution and bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America~~;

CHAPTER 9: ROSTERED MINISTER

- *C9.02. Only a member of the roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America or a candidate for the roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament who has been recommended for ~~the this~~ congregation by the ~~synodical~~ bishop may be called as a pastor of this congregation.

- *C9.03. Consistent with the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America,

- a. Every minister of Word and Sacrament shall:
 - 6) impart knowledge of this church and its wider ministry through ~~distribution of its communications and publications~~ available channels of effective communication;
 - 8) ~~speaking publicly to the world in solidarity with the poor and oppressed, calling for justice and proclaiming God's love for the world~~

publicly advocate dignity, justice, and equality for all people, working for peace and reconciliation among the nations, caring for the marginalized, embracing and welcoming racially and ethnically diverse populations, and standing with the poor and powerless.

- b. Each pastor with a congregational call shall, within the congregation:
 - 4) with the council, administer discipline; ~~and~~
 - 5) endeavor to increase the support given by the congregation to the work of the ELCA churchwide organization and of the *(insert name of synod)* Synod of the ELCA; and
 - 6) encourage adherence to covenantal relationship with this church as expressed in the *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.*

***C9.05.** The provisions for termination of the mutual relationship between a minister of Word and Sacrament and this congregation shall be as follows:

- a. The call of this congregation, when accepted by a pastor, shall constitute a continuing mutual relationship and commitment, which shall be terminated only by the pastor's death or, following consultation with the synodical bishop, for the following reasons:
 - 3) inability to conduct the pastoral office effectively in ~~the this~~ congregation in view of local conditions;
 - 7) termination of the relationship between this church and ~~the this~~ congregation;
 - 8) dissolution of ~~the this~~ congregation or the termination of a parish arrangement; or
 - 9) suspension of ~~the this~~ congregation through discipline for more than six months.
- b. When allegations of physical disability or mental incapacity of the pastor under paragraph a.4) above, or ineffective conduct of the pastoral office under paragraph a.3) above, have come to the attention of the bishop of this synod,
 - 2) when such allegations have been brought to the synod's attention by an official recital of allegations by the Congregation Council or by a petition signed by at least one-third of the voting members of ~~the this~~ congregation, the bishop personally shall investigate such conditions together with a committee of two rostered ministers and one layperson.
- c. In case of alleged physical disability or mental incapacity under paragraph a.4) above, the bishop's committee shall obtain and document competent medical opinion concerning the pastor's condition. When a disability or incapacity is evident to the committee, the bishop of this synod may declare the pastorate vacant. When the pastorate is declared vacant, the Synod Council shall list the pastor on the roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament as disabled with disability status. Upon removal of the disability and the restoration of the pastor to health, the bishop shall take steps to enable the pastor to resume the ministry, either in the congregation last served or in another appropriate call.
- d. In the case of alleged local difficulties that imperil the effective functioning of ~~the this~~ congregation under paragraph a.3) above, the bishop's committee shall endeavor to hear from all concerned persons, after which the bishop together with the committee shall present their recommendations first to the pastor and then to ~~the this~~ congregation. The recommendations of the bishop's committee must address whether the pastor's call should come to an end and, if so, may suggest appropriate severance arrangements. The committee may also propose other actions that should be undertaken by ~~the this~~ congregation and by the pastor, if appropriate. If the pastor and congregation agree to carry out such recommendations, no further action need be taken by the synod.
- e. If either party fails to assent to the recommendations of the bishop's committee concerning the pastor's call, ~~the this~~ congregation may dismiss the pastor only at a legally called meeting after consultation with the bishop, either (a) by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present and voting where the bishop and the committee did not recommend termination of the call, or (b) by a majority vote of the voting members present and voting where the bishop and the committee recommended termination of the call.

***C9.07.** During the period of service, an interim pastor shall have the rights and duties in ~~the this~~ congregation of a regularly called pastor and may delegate the same in part to a supply pastor with the consent of the

bishop of the synod and this congregation or Congregation Council. The interim pastor and any rostered minister providing assistance shall refrain from exerting influence in the selection of a pastor. Unless previously agreed upon by the Synod Council, an interim pastor is not available for a regular call to the congregation served.

- *C9.08. This congregation shall make satisfactory settlement of all financial obligations to a former pastor before calling a successor. A pastor shall make satisfactory settlement of all financial obligations to this congregation before beginning service in a call to another congregation or employment in another ministry setting ~~related to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.~~
- *C9.11. With the approval of the bishop of the synod, ~~the this~~ congregation may depart from *C9.05.a. and call a pastor for a specific term. Details of such calls shall be in writing setting forth the purpose and conditions involved. Prior to the completion of a term, the bishop or a designated representative of the bishop shall meet with the pastor and representatives of ~~the this~~ congregation for a review of the call. Such a call may also be terminated before its expiration in accordance with the provisions of *C9.05.a.
- *C9.12. The pastor of this congregation:
 - a. shall keep accurate parochial records of all baptisms, confirmations, marriages, burials, communicants, members received, members dismissed, or members excluded from ~~the this~~ congregation;
- *C9.14. The parochial records of this congregation shall be maintained by the pastor and shall remain the property of ~~the this~~ congregation. The secretary of this congregation shall attest in writing to the bishop of this synod that such records have been placed in his or her hands in good order by a departing pastor before the installation of that pastor in another ~~field of labor or the granting by the synod of retired status to the pastor call or approval of a request for change in roster status.~~
- C9.15. Under special circumstances, subject to the approval of the ~~synodical~~ bishop and the concurrence of this congregation, a minister of Word and Sacrament of a church body with which the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America officially has established a relationship of full communion may serve temporarily as pastor of this congregation under a contract between ~~the this~~ congregation and the pastor in a form proposed by the ~~synodical~~ bishop and approved by ~~the this~~ congregation.
- *C9.21. Authority to call a ~~minister of Word and Service deacon~~ shall be in this congregation by at least a two-thirds vote of voting members present and voting at a meeting legally called for that purpose. Before a call is issued, the officers, or a committee elected by [this congregation][the Congregation Council] to recommend the call, shall seek the advice and help of the bishop of the synod.
- *C9.22. Only a member of the roster of Ministers of Word and Service of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America or a candidate for the roster of Ministers of Word and Service who has been recommended for this congregation by the ~~synodical~~ bishop may be called as a deacon of this congregation.
- *C9.23. Consistent with the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, every minister of Word and Service shall:
 - c. ~~Speak publicly to the world in solidarity with the poor and oppressed, calling for justice and proclaiming God's love for the world, witnessing to the realm of God in the community, the nation, and abroad~~
Advocate publicly dignity, justice, and equality for all people, working for peace and reconciliation among the nations, caring for the marginalized, embracing and welcoming racially and ethnically diverse populations, and standing with the poor and powerless;
 - h. Share knowledge of ~~the ELCA this church~~ and its wider ministry of the gospel and advocate for the work of all expressions of this church;

- *C9.25. The provisions for termination of the mutual relationship between a minister of Word and Service and this congregation shall be as follows:
- a. The call of this congregation, when accepted by a deacon, shall constitute a continuing mutual relationship and commitment, which shall be terminated only by the deacon's death or, following consultation with the synodical bishop, for the following reasons:
 - c. In case of alleged physical disability or mental incapacity under paragraph a.4) above, the bishop's committee shall obtain and document competent medical opinion concerning the deacon's condition. When a disability or incapacity is evident to the committee, the bishop of this synod may declare the position vacant. When the position is declared vacant, the Synod Council shall list the deacon on the roster of Ministers of Word and Service as disabled with disability status. Upon removal of the disability and the restoration of the deacon to health, the bishop shall take steps to enable the deacon to resume the ministry, either in the congregation last served or in another appropriate call.

- *C9.26. The deacon shall make satisfactory settlement of all financial obligations to a former congregation before:
- a. installation in another field of labor, or
 - b. the issuance of a certificate of dismissal or transfer.
- This congregation shall make satisfactory settlement of all financial obligations to a former deacon before calling a successor. A deacon shall make satisfactory settlement of all financial obligations to this congregation before beginning service in a call to another congregation or employment in another ministry setting.

CHAPTER 10: CONGREGATION MEETING

- C10.01. The [annual][semi-annual][quarterly] meeting of this congregation shall be held at a time specified in the bylaws.
This congregation shall have at least one regular meeting per year. The regular meeting(s) of the congregation shall be held at the time(s) specified in the bylaws. Consistent with the laws of the State of _____, the bylaws shall designate one regular meeting per year as the annual meeting of this congregation.
- C10.02. A special Congregation Meeting may be called by the [senior] pastor, the Congregation Council, or the president of this congregation, and shall be called by the president of the-this congregation upon the written request of _____ [number][percent] of the voting members. The president of the Congregation Council shall call a special meeting upon request of the synodical bishop.
- C10.06. All actions approved by the-this congregation shall be by majority vote of those voting members present and voting, except as otherwise provided in this constitution or by state law.
- C10.08. This congregation may hold meetings by remote communication, including electronically and by telephone conference, as long as there is an opportunity for simultaneous aural communication. To the extent permitted by state law, notice of all meetings may be provided electronically.

CHAPTER 11: OFFICERS

- C11.01. The officers of this congregation shall be a president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer.
- b. The officers shall be voting members of the-this congregation.
- C11.02. The [congregation][Congregation Council] shall elect its officers and they shall be the officers of the this congregation. The officers shall be elected by written ballot and shall serve for one year or until their successors are elected. Their terms shall begin at the close of the annual meeting at which they are elected.
- or**

The officers shall be elected by the [congregation] [Congregation Council] by written ballot and shall serve for one year. The term shall begin on _____ (month and day) and end on _____ (month and day).

or

The pastor shall be *ex officio* president of ~~the this~~ congregation and the Congregation Council. The [congregation][Congregation Council] shall elect by written ballot the other officers of ~~the this~~ congregation who shall serve for one year or until their successors are elected. Their terms shall begin at the close of the annual meeting at which they are elected.

or

The pastor shall be *ex officio* president of ~~the this~~ congregation and the Congregation Council. The [congregation][Congregation Council] shall elect by written ballot the other officers of ~~the this~~ congregation who shall serve for one year or until their successors are elected. Their terms shall begin on _____ (month and day) and end on _____ (month and day).

CHAPTER 12: CONGREGATION COUNCIL

C12.01. The voting membership of the Congregation Council shall consist of the pastor(s) [~~the~~ ~~this~~ ~~deacon(s).~~] [~~;~~ the officers of ~~the this~~ congregation,] and [_____ members] [not more than _____ nor fewer than _____ members] of ~~the this~~ congregation, at least one of whom shall be a youth and at least one of whom shall be a young adult. Any voting member of ~~the this~~ congregation may be elected, subject only to the limitation on the length of continuous service permitted in that office. A member's place on the Congregation Council shall be declared vacant if the member a) ceases to be a voting member of this congregation or b) is absent from four successive regular meetings of the Congregation Council without cause. Consistent with the laws of the state in which this congregation is incorporated, ~~the this~~ congregation may adopt procedures for the removal of a member of the Congregation Council in other circumstances.

C12.02. The members of the Congregation Council except the pastor(s) ~~and~~ ~~deacon(s)~~ shall be elected by written ballot to serve for _____ years or until their successors are elected. Such members shall be eligible to serve no more than two full terms consecutively. Their terms shall begin at the close of the annual meeting at which they are elected.

or

The members of the Congregation Council except the pastor(s) ~~and~~ ~~deacon(s)~~ shall be elected at a legally called meeting of ~~the this~~ congregation during the month of _____. Their term of office shall be for _____ years, with the term of office beginning on _____ (month and day) and ending on _____ (month and day). Newly elected Congregation Council members shall be installed at worship ~~the Sunday prior to the date they assume office~~ at a time appointed by the Congregation Council.

C12.04. The Congregation Council shall have general oversight of the life and activities of this congregation, and in particular its worship life, to the end that everything be done in accordance with the Word of God and the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The duties of the Congregation Council shall include the following:

h. To emphasize ~~partnership with support of~~ the synod and churchwide organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as well as cooperation with other congregations, both Lutheran and non-Lutheran, subject to established policies of the synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

C12.05. The Congregation Council shall be responsible for the financial and property matters of this congregation.

b. The Congregation Council shall not have the authority to buy, sell, or encumber real property unless specifically authorized to do so by a meeting of ~~the this~~ congregation.

d. The Congregation Council shall prepare an annual budget for adoption by this congregation, shall supervise the expenditure of funds in accordance therewith following its adoption, and may incur obligations of more than \$ _____ in excess of the anticipated receipts only after approval by

a Congregation Meeting. The budget shall include this congregation's full indicated share in support of the wider ministry being carried on in ~~partnership-collaboration~~ with the synod and churchwide organization.

- e. The Congregation Council shall ascertain that the financial affairs of this congregation are being conducted efficiently, giving particular attention to the prompt payment of all obligations and to the regular forwarding of ~~benevolence-mission support~~ monies to the ~~synodical~~ treasurer.

C12.08. The Congregation Council shall be responsible for the employment and supervision of the staff of this congregation. Nothing in this provision shall be deemed to affect ~~the-this~~ congregation's responsibility for the call, terms of call, or termination of call of any employees who are on a roster of this church.

C12.12. A quorum for the transaction of business shall consist of a majority of the members of the Congregation Council, including the [senior] pastor or interim pastor, except when the [senior] pastor or interim pastor requests or consents to be absent and has given prior approval to the agenda for a particular regular or special meeting, which shall be the only business considered at that meeting. Chronic or repeated absence of the [senior] pastor or interim pastor who has refused approval of the agenda of a subsequent regular or special meeting shall not preclude action by the Congregation Council, following consultation with the ~~synodical~~ bishop.

CHAPTER 13: CONGREGATION COMMITTEES

C13.04. *Mutual Ministry Committee(s)* (in the absence of a mutual ministry committee, the duties shall be fulfilled by the executive committee) shall be appointed jointly by the president [vice president¹] and the rostered minister. Term of office shall be two years, with three members to be appointed each successive year.

C13.05. When a ~~pastoral~~ vacancy occurs ~~in a position for which this congregation calls a rostered minister~~, a *Call Committee* of six voting members shall be elected by [this congregation] [the Congregation Council]. Term of office will terminate upon installation of the newly called ~~pastor~~ ~~rostered minister~~.

C13.08. The [senior] pastor of this congregation shall be *ex officio* a member of all committees and boards of ~~the-this~~ congregation. [The president of this congregation shall be *ex officio* a member of all committees and boards of ~~the-this~~ congregation, except the Nominating Committee.]

CHAPTER 14: ORGANIZATIONS WITHIN ~~THE THIS~~ CONGREGATION

CHAPTER 15: DISCIPLINE OF MEMBERS AND ADJUDICATION

***C15.01.** Persistent and public denial of the Christian faith, willful or criminal conduct grossly unbecoming a member of the Church of Christ, continual and intentional interference with the ministry of ~~the-this~~ congregation, or willful and repeated harassment or defamation of member(s) of ~~the-this~~ congregation is sufficient cause for discipline of a member. Prior to disciplinary action, reconciliation and repentance will be attempted following Matthew 18:15-17, proceeding through these successive steps, as necessary: a) private counsel and admonition by the pastor, b) censure and admonition by the pastor in the presence of two or three witnesses, c) written referral of the matter by the Congregation Council to the vice president of the synod, who will refer it to a consultation panel drawn from the Consultation Committee of the synod, and d) written referral of the matter by the consultation panel to the Committee on Discipline of the synod. If, for any reason, the pastor is unable to administer the admonitions required by paragraphs a. and b. hereof, those steps may be performed by another pastor chosen by the Executive Committee of the Congregation Council.

¹ For use if the pastor is president of ~~the-this~~ congregation under two of the options in C11.02.

*C15.02. The process for discipline of a member of ~~the this~~ congregation shall be governed as prescribed by the chapter on discipline in the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*. If the counseling, censure, and admonitions pursuant to *C15.01. do not result in repentance and amendment of life, charges against the accused member(s) that are specific and in writing may be prepared by the Congregation Council, signed, and submitted to the vice president of the synod. The vice president shall select from the synod's Consultation Committee a panel of five members (three laypersons and two ministers of Word and Sacrament). A copy of the written charges shall be provided to the consultation panel and the accused member(s). The consultation panel, after requesting a written reply to the charges from the accused member(s), shall consider the matter and seek a resolution by means of investigation, consultation, mediation, or whatever other means may seem appropriate. The panel's efforts to reach a mutually agreeable resolution shall continue for no more than 45 days after the matter is submitted to it.

*C15.05. By the vote of at least two-thirds of the members of the discipline hearing panel who are present and voting, one of the following disciplinary sanctions can be imposed:
c. termination of membership in ~~the this~~ congregation; or
d. termination of membership in ~~the this~~ congregation and exclusion from the church property and from all congregation activities.

*C15.07. No member of ~~the this~~ congregation shall be subject to discipline a second time for offenses that a discipline hearing panel has heard previously and decided pursuant to this chapter.

*C15.10. **Adjudication**

*C15.11. ~~When there is disagreement among factions within this congregation on a substantive issue that cannot be resolved by the parties, members of this congregation shall have access to the synodical bishop for consultation after informing the chair of the Congregation Council of their intent. If the consultation fails to resolve the issue(s), the Consultation Committee of the synod shall consider the matter. If the Consultation Committee of the synod shall fail to resolve the issue(s), the matter shall be referred to the Synod Council, whose decision shall be final.~~

When there is disagreement between or among factions within this congregation on a substantive issue which cannot be resolved by the parties, members of this congregation may petition the synod bishop for consultation after informing the president of this congregation of their intent to do so. The synod bishop shall seek a timely resolution of the dispute. If the issue relates directly to the pastor, the bishop may begin the process in †S14.18.d. In all other matters, if the bishop's consultation fails to resolve the issue, the bishop shall refer the matter to the Consultation Committee of the synod, which shall undertake efforts to find an appropriate solution. If the Consultation Committee's efforts fail to resolve the dispute, the entire matter shall be referred to the Synod Council for adjudication by whatever process the Council deems necessary. The Synod Council's decision shall be final.

CHAPTER 16: AMENDMENTS

*C16.01. Unless provision *C16.04. is applicable, those sections of this constitution that are not required, in accord with the *Model Constitution for Congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*, may be amended in the following manner. Amendments may be proposed by at least _____ voting members or by the Congregation Council. Proposals must be filed in writing with the Congregation Council 60 days before formal consideration by this congregation at a regular or special Congregation Meeting called for that purpose. The Congregation Council shall notify ~~the this~~ congregation's members of the proposal together with the council's recommendations at least 30 days in advance of the meeting. Notification may take place by mail or electronic means, as permitted by state law.

*C16.02. An amendment to this constitution, proposed under *C16.01., shall:
a. be approved at ~~a any~~ legally called ~~Congregation Meeting according to this constitution meeting of this congregation~~ by a majority vote of those voting members present and voting;
b. be ratified without change at the next ~~annual meeting regular meeting of this congregation held pursuant to C10.01.~~ by a two-thirds vote of those voting members present and voting;

c. have the effective date included in the resolution² and noted in the constitution.

*C16.03. Any amendments to this constitution that result from the processes provided in *C16.01. and *C16.02. shall be sent by the secretary of this congregation to the synod. The synod shall notify ~~the~~-this congregation of its decision to approve or disapprove the proposed changes; the changes shall go into effect upon notification that the synod has approved them.

*C16.04. This constitution may be amended to bring any section into conformity with a section or sections, either required or not required, of the *Model Constitution for Congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* as most recently amended by the Churchwide Assembly. Such amendments may be approved by a majority vote of those voting members present and voting at any legally called meeting of ~~the~~-this congregation without presentation at a prior meeting of ~~the~~-this congregation, provided that the Congregation Council has submitted by mail or electronic means, as permitted by state law, notice to ~~the~~-this congregation of such an amendment or amendments, together with the council's recommendations, at least 30 days prior to the meeting. Upon the request of at least two (2) voting members of ~~the~~-this congregation, the Congregation Council shall submit such notice. Following the adoption of an amendment, the secretary of ~~the~~-this congregation shall submit a copy thereof to the synod. Such provisions shall become effective immediately following a vote of approval.

CHAPTER 17: BYLAWS

*C17.03. Changes to the bylaws may be proposed by any voting member, provided that such additions or amendments be submitted in writing to the Congregation Council at least 60 days before a regular or special Congregation Meeting called for that purpose. The Congregation Council shall notify ~~the~~-this congregation's members of the proposal with the council's recommendations at least 30 days in advance of the Congregation Meeting. Notification may take place by mail or electronic means, as permitted by state law.

*C17.04. ~~Approved changes to the Adopted or amended~~ bylaws shall be sent by the secretary of this congregation to the synod.

CHAPTER 18: CONTINUING RESOLUTIONS

*C18.01. ~~The This~~ congregation in a legally called meeting or the Congregation Council may enact continuing resolutions. Such continuing resolutions may not conflict with the constitution or bylaws of this congregation.

*C18.02. Continuing resolutions shall be enacted or amended by a majority vote of a meeting of ~~the~~-this congregation or a two-thirds vote of all voting members of the Congregation Council.

*C18.03. ~~Adopted or amended continuing resolutions shall be sent by the secretary of this congregation to the synod.~~

CHAPTER 20: PARISH AUTHORIZATION

[* Required provisions when congregation is part of a parish]

*C20.01. This congregation may unite ~~in partnership~~ with one or more other congregations recognized by the synod named in *C6.01. to form a parish. Except as provided in *C20.02. and *C20.03., a written agreement, developed in consultation with the synod and approved by the voting members of each congregation participating in the parish, shall specify the powers and responsibilities that have been delegated to the Parish Council. The Parish Agreement shall identify which congregation of the parish

² Such an effective date must be stated in relation to the requirements of *C16.03. to allow time for ~~the synodical's~~ review of the amendment.

issues calls on behalf of the member congregations or shall establish a process for identifying which congregation issues calls on behalf of the member congregations.

- *C20.02. One congregation of a parish shall issue a call on behalf of the member congregations to a minister of Word and Sacrament or a candidate for the roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament who has been recommended by the synodical bishop to serve the congregations of the parish. Such a call shall be approved prior to issuance by a two-thirds vote at a congregational meeting of each congregation forming the parish. If any congregation of the parish should fail to approve the call, the other congregations of the parish shall have the right to terminate the parish agreement.
- *C20.03. One congregation of a parish may issue a call on behalf of the member congregations to a minister of Word and Service or a candidate for the roster of Ministers of Word and Service who has been recommended by the synodical bishop to serve the congregations of the parish. Such a call shall be approved prior to issuance by a two-thirds vote at a congregational meeting of each congregation forming the parish. If any congregation of the parish should fail to approve the call, the other congregations of the parish shall have the right to terminate the parish agreement.
- *C20.04. Any one of the congregations of the parish may terminate their relationship with the pastor as provided in †S14.18.d. of the synodical constitution of the synod named in *C6.01. In such case, the other congregation(s) of the same parish shall have the right to terminate the parish agreement.
- *C20.05. Any one of the congregations of the parish may terminate their relationship with a minister of Word and Service as provided in †S14.43.d. of the synodical constitution of the synod named in *C6.01. In such case, the other congregation(s) of the same parish shall have the right to terminate the parish agreement.

Voted: En Bloc

CC18.11.25m

To approve the updated *Manual of Policies and Procedures for the Management of the Rosters of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* for use by synod bishops, synod staff members, and others who hold responsibilities for such matters in this church; and

To authorize the secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to provide periodic updates reflecting new or revised policies subsequently adopted by the Church Council.

2. Initial Call to Congregational Service/Exceptions

7.41.02. Initial Call to Congregational Service. Because the responsibilities of the office of the ministry of Word and Sacrament are most clearly focused in the congregational pastorate, experience in which is deemed by this church to be invaluable for all other ministry of Word and Sacrament, initial service of at least three years shall be in a congregation of this church or, with the approval of the synodical bishop, a congregation of a church body with which a relationship of full communion exists. Exceptions to the three-year requirement may be granted under criteria and procedures recommended by the appropriate churchwide unit, reviewed by the Conference of Bishops, and adopted by the Church Council.

- a. Requests for exceptions to the three-year requirement must be reviewed by the Roster Committee of the Conference of Bishops. The Roster Committee will present its recommendation to the Conference of Bishops for approval/denial of the request. *(See Appendix H for Roster Committee considerations.)*
 - 1) The bishop of the synod that desires to issue an initial call to a candidate for non-congregational service initiates the request to the Roster Committee.
 - 2) The request must include:
 - a) a statement by the candidate outlining the circumstances and reasons for the request **and how it will meet the Word and Sacrament ministry needs of this church;**
 - b) a letter from the synod bishop **explaining the need for Word and Sacrament ministry in this context;**

- c) a statement from the synod-related institution or organization that is seeking the person for service; ~~and~~
 - d) action by the Synod Council indicating a willingness to issue a call if approved by the Conference of Bishops; ~~and~~
 - e) written concurrence from the synod candidacy committee.
- b. While the bylaw regarding the “Initial Call to Congregational Service” presumes this is for candidates seeking a first call, candidates who received an initial call to congregational service but are seeking another call to non-congregational service prior to the completion of three years of service in a congregational setting must also request an exception in the same manner outlined above in paragraph a. omitting a.2.e).
- 1) The executive director for Global Mission (or designee) or the director for federal chaplaincy ministries initiates the request to the Roster Committee. Requests must include evidence of consultation with the home synod bishop or the bishop of assignment.
 - 2) The request must include:
 - a) a statement by the candidate/minister for Word and Sacrament outlining the circumstances and reasons for the request and how it will meet the Word and Sacrament ministry needs of this church;
 - b) a letter from the executive director for Global Mission (or designee) or director for federal chaplaincy ministries explaining the need for Word and Sacrament ministry in this context;
- *C9.06.** At a time of pastoral vacancy, an interim pastor shall be appointed by the bishop of the synod with the consent of this congregation or the Congregation Council.
- *C9.07.** During the period of service, an interim pastor shall have the rights and duties in the congregation of a regularly called pastor and may delegate the same in part to a supply pastor with the consent of the bishop of the synod and this congregation or Congregation Council. The interim pastor and any rostered minister providing assistance shall refrain from exerting influence in the selection of a pastor. Unless previously agreed upon by the Synod Council, an interim pastor is not available for a regular call to the congregation served.
- 2) Appointed or called interim ministry Appointment
 - a) An interim pastor ~~may either be is~~ appointed by the synod bishop ~~or (see *C9.06. above) and~~ may serve under a term call extended by the Synod Council. (See bylaw 7.41.01.c. above.)
 - i. Calls to interim ministry may not be extended by a congregation.
 - ii. A pastor serving ~~either~~ under appointment by the bishop ~~or under a term letter of call normally~~ serves the congregation in a contracted and compensated arrangement.

Voted: En Bloc **CC18.11.25n**
 To amend the Churchwide Organization Personnel Policies 6.3. Paid Vacation by substituting the following schedule for the current schedule effective January 1, 2019:

<u>Years of Service</u>	<u>Annual Vacation</u>	<u>Accrual</u>
First through second year	15 workdays/120 hours	1.25 days per month/ 5 hours per pay period
Third through fifth year	20 workdays/160 hours	1.67 days per month/ 6.67 hours per pay period
Fifth year and beyond	25 workdays/200 hours	2.08 days per month/ 8.33 hours per pay period

Voted: En Bloc **CC18.11.25o**
 To receive with gratitude from the Office of the Presiding Bishop and the Policies and Procedures Revision Consulting Group the proposed revisions to “Policies and Procedures of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for Addressing Social Concerns”;

To adopt the revised Policies and Procedures on behalf of the ELCA, per CA97.5.21; and

To authorize the Office of the Presiding Bishop, in consultation with the Office of the Secretary, to make necessary corrections whenever relevant changes occur to constitutional numbering and wording or churchwide office titles.

Voted: En Bloc

CC18.11.25p

To approve the revised Alcohol Social Criteria Investment Screen.

Voted: En Bloc

CC18.11.25q1

To elect to the board of trustees of the Board of Pensions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America — Portico Benefit Services — for a term expiring in 2019: Ms. Angela M. Dejene;

To re-elect to the board of directors of National Lutheran Campus Ministry, Inc. for a second four-year term expiring in 2023: The Rev. Galen F. Hora;

To elect to the board of directors of Mosaic, Inc., for a three-year term expiring in 2021: The Rev. Michael L. Cooper-White and Ms. Michelle Thompson;

To elect to the board of directors of Luther Seminary for a four-year term expiring in 2022: The Rev. Sean L. Forde, Mr. Robert Nesse, and the Rev. Donald Samuels;

To nominate to the advisory board of Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary as part of California Lutheran University for a six-year term expiring in 2024: The Rev. J. Mateo Chavez and the Rev. James E. Johnson;

To nominate to the advisory council of Trinity Lutheran Seminary at Capital University for a three-year term expiring in 2021: The Rev. Kimberly C. Hester;

To elect to the board of trustees of United Lutheran Seminary for a three-year term expiring in 2021: Ms. Karen E. Arnold, Bishop Tracie L. Bartholomew, the Rev. Peter D. Boehringer, the Rev. Theodore M. Cogar, the Rev. Sara E. Lilja, the Rev. Constance L. Mentzer, and the Rev. Craig A. Miller;

To elect to the board of directors of Wartburg Theological Seminary for a two-year term expiring in 2020: Mr. Anthony W. Goodman and the Rev. Michael D. Carlson;

To elect to the board of directors of Wartburg Theological Seminary for a six-year term expiring in 2024: The Rev. Andrea F. DeGroot-Nesdahl and the Rev. Nelson C. Meyer; and

To elect to the board of trustees of the Endowment Fund of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America — ELCA Foundation — for a six-year term expiring in 2024: Mr. John Quello.

Voted: En Bloc

CC18.11.25q2

To authorize the Executive Committee of the Church Council to fill vacancies on the board of trustees of the Endowment Fund of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America between now and the next meeting of the Church Council.

Voted: En Bloc

CC18.11.25q3

To elect as members of the Committee of Hearing Officers for one six-year term expiring in November 2024: Ms. Marjorie B. Ellis, Mr. George C. Watson and the Rev. Martin D. Wells.

Voted: En Bloc

CC18.11.25r

To appoint the Rev. Chad M. Huebner to the ELCA Philosophy of Benefits Task Force.

Voted: En Bloc

CC18.11.25s

To receive with gratitude the resolutions of the Pacifica Synod and the Upstate New York Synod titled “Toward an open and healthy articulation of human sexuality;”

To confirm the importance of updating and revising “Vision and Expectations” and “Definitions and Guidelines for Discipline”;

To report that the revision of “Vision and Expectations” is forthcoming, with the revision of “Definitions and Guidelines for Discipline” to follow;

To note that the revision of “Definitions and Guidelines for Discipline” is constitutionally committed to the Committee on Appeals;

To affirm that any revision to “Vision and Expectations” and “Definitions and Guidelines for Discipline” must follow the ELCA’s social statement, “Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust” (2009); and

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

Voted: En Bloc

CC18.11.25t

To receive the response from the Office of the Presiding Bishop and Domestic Mission unit on the “50th anniversary of the ordination of women”;

To encourage the efforts of the Office of the Presiding Bishop in its survey work related to its research on the achievements of strategies to promote and protect gender equity and justice and other matters pertinent to the full and just participation of ordained women;

To ask the 50th Anniversary of the Ordination of Women Committee, the Office of the Presiding Bishop, and the Domestic Mission unit to continue its efforts to engage synods, candidacy committees and congregations to address such concerns as compensation, debt and harassment; and

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

Voted: En Bloc

CC18.11.25u

To receive the response from the Domestic Mission unit on “The National Poor People’s Campaign”;

To recognize the importance of the Poor People’s Campaign in bringing an end to systemic racism, economic injustice, ecological devastation and related injustices;

To support the vision and goals of the Poor People’s Campaign that are in alignment with this church’s social teachings;

To encourage the churchwide organization, synods, congregations and members to become involved with the issues as a faithful witness to God’s call to do justice and show love for the neighbor; and

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

Voted: En Bloc

CC18.11.25v

To receive the timeline response from the Office of the Presiding Bishop on “Parental Leave Policy”;

To anticipate a further response by the April 2019 meeting of the Church Council; and

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

Voted: En Bloc

CC18.11.25w

To receive with gratitude the report from the Office of the Presiding Bishop on the round table “Day of Discernment” event;

To commend the forthcoming study guide on “For Peace in God’s World” to synods, congregations and members in their discernment on U.S. foreign and military policy; and

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

Voted: En Bloc

CC18.11.25x

To receive the progress report from the Domestic Mission unit on the implementation of the Strategy Toward Authentic Diversity within the ELCA (Motion B);

To affirm the creation of a small writing team within the task force for the purpose of revising “Multicultural Mission Strategy” and “Recommitment to a Strategy for the Proclamation of the Gospel”; and

To anticipate receiving these documents by the Spring 2019 meeting of the Church Council.

Voted: En Bloc

CC18.11.25y

To receive the report from the Domestic Mission unit on the progress for implementing the Repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery;

To commend the ongoing work of the American Indian Alaska Native Ministries;

To encourage the presiding bishop to acknowledge the work needed to build relationships and honor commitments established in CA16.02.04; and

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

The ninety-second meeting of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America adjourned Sunday, Nov. 12, 2018, at 2:51 p.m.

April 4-7, 2019

The ninety-third meeting of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) was convened in the Council Room of the Lutheran Center at Chicago, Ill. Mr. William B. Horne II, vice president of the ELCA and chair of the Church Council, called the meeting to order on Thursday, April 4, 2019, at 3:00 p.m.

Voted: **CC19.04.01**

To adopt the agenda and to permit the chair to call for consideration of agenda items in the order the chair deems most appropriate.

Voted: **CC19.04.02**

To approve the minutes of the November 8-11, 2018, meeting of the Church Council; and
To ratify actions of the council's Executive Committee as indicated in the minutes of the November 8, 2018, January 29, 2019, February 12, 2019, and March 12, 2019.

Voted: **CC19.04.03**

To elect Mr. Philip Wirtanen, Bergland, Michigan [5G], Ms. Lisa A. Burk, Torrington, Connecticut [7G], and the Rev. Ricardo E. Rivera, Caguas, Puerto Rico [9F], to the Church Council for a term ending in 2022.

Voted: **CC19.04.04**

To affirm "Towards a Faithful and Multidimensional Understanding of Sustainability" as an agreed understanding of sustainability and a joint commitment to further action around church sustainability; and
To approve the accompanying recommendations identified in the sustainability thought paper.

Voted: **CC19.04.05**

To designate [Greater Columbus Convention Center] Columbus, Ohio – subject to the satisfactory completion of negotiations in the judgment of the secretary of this church – as the site for the Sixteenth Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, August 8-August 13, 2022; and
To authorize the Executive Committee to select another venue, if negotiations are not successful.

Voted: **CC19.04.06**

To request the Executive Committee establish a process to assess the existing committee structure and future needs for Church Council, and for recommendations to be presented by the April 2021 Church Council meeting;
To request the Board Development Committee consider implementing the list of items for further consideration identified by the Ad Hoc Governance Policy Committee; and
To commend the work of the Ad Hoc Governance Policy Committee and to request the ad hoc committee present a final Governance Policy Manual no later than August 2019 Church Council meeting.

Voted: **CC19.04.07**

To request the churchwide organization lead broad fundraising efforts throughout the ELCA focused around the strategic priorities as outlined in *Future Directions 2025*, using its major foci to shape efforts;
To approve continuing fundraising for programs that have proven donor interest and where the churchwide organization has an ongoing obligation: ELCA World Hunger, ELCA Fund for Leaders, International Women Leaders, Young Adults in Global Mission, Missionary Sponsorship and Lutheran Disaster Response;
To support the completion of the specific appeals for Disability Ministries, New and Renewing Congregations, Youth and Young Adults, and Global Ministries as specific focus areas after the conclusion of Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, not precluding acceptance or distribution of funds offered by donors after the campaign; and
To affirm the continuation of the task force to consider how to grow resources to support the priorities of the churchwide organization, as outlined in *Future Directions 2025*.

Voted: **CC19.04.08**

To approve the revised ELCA Philosophy of Benefits; and
To encourage and invite plan members, congregations, synods, the churchwide organization, other ELCA-related agencies and institutions, and other employers to reflect upon, discuss, and employ the ELCA Philosophy of Benefits when they evaluate and implement benefit programs and engage in employment decisions involving benefits.

Voted: **CC19.04.09**

To amend the motion regarding *Trustworthy Servants of the People of God* to add “and a draft for consideration by fall 2020 meeting” to the end of the last sentence.

Voted: **CC19.04.10**

To end debate on *Trustworthy Servants of the People of God*.

Voted: **CC19.04.11**

To thank the Domestic Mission unit, the Conference of Bishops and all the people who have shared their perspectives regarding the document *Trustworthy Servants of the People of God*,
To decline to consider the document *Trustworthy Servants of the People of God*;
To refer the document *Trustworthy Servants of the People of God* back to the Domestic Mission Unit for further review and redrafting that is governed by this church’s social teaching documents (i.e., *Freed in Christ*, *Care for Creation*, *Human Sexuality*, etc.) Such further consideration shall include a roadmap that consists of a process that intentionally includes diverse voices, especially of those who have been most harmed by the misuse of *Vision and Expectations*;

To address, within the review, the current process of development and the faithful and just use of a policy document as a guide for this church;

To affirm the pastoral message regarding *Vision and Expectations* from the Conference of Bishops and support the conference in living into their commitment to apply the church’s standards for ministry with equity and compassion, to listen and take seriously the concerns of all our leaders—particularly those who historically have been marginalized—and to treat with dignity all those seeking to lead in our church; and

To request the Domestic Mission unit provide quarterly reports on the process to the Church Council and a draft for consideration by fall 2020 meeting.

Voted: **CC19.04.12**

To recommend the following for adoption by the 2019 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:

2020 Budget Proposal

To approve a 2020 current fund spending authorization of \$68,378,325;

To approve a 2020 ELCA World Hunger spending authorization of \$21,500,000;

and

To authorize the Church Council to revise the spending authorizations after periodic review of revised income estimates.

2021 Budget Proposal

To approve a 2021 current fund income proposal of \$68,442,034;

To approve a 2021 ELCA World Hunger income proposal of \$21,500,000; and

To authorize the Church Council to establish a spending authorization after periodic review of revised income estimates.

2022 Budget Proposal

To approve a 2022 current fund income proposal of \$68,507,018;

To approve a 2022 ELCA World Hunger income proposal of \$21,500,000; and

To authorize the Church Council to establish a spending authorization after periodic review of revised income estimates.

Voted:

CC19.04.13

To accept the following process to measure and communicate the results of the Mission Support Experiment which ends January 31, 2021 in the following synods (Lower Susquehanna, Metropolitan Washington, D.C., Nebraska, New England, Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast):

- 1) To approve the measurements and process presented at the April 2019 Church Council meeting;
- 2) To permit the chair of Budget and Finance Committee to formally communicate the measurements and process to the bishops of the Mission Support Experiment Synods as soon as practical after Church Council approval;
- 3) To request the Mission Support Experiment synod leaders and appropriate churchwide staff present an initial report at the November 2019 Church Council meeting covering the actions approved at the November 2018 meeting;
- 4) To provide updates at each Church Council and Conference of Bishops meeting between April 2019 and November 2021;
- 5) To ask the Mission Support Experiment synods that as part of ongoing Mission Support intent reporting to provide to the churchwide organization the dollar amounts withheld for the experiment for FY 2020 and FY 2021 for planning purposes;
- 6) To request final data/report from Mission Support Experiment Synods to be presented at the April 2021 Church Council meeting;
- 7) To request Mission Support Experiment synods to prepare two scenarios for their FY 2022 budget (Continue or End); and
- 8) To request a final report and decision from the Budget and Finance Committee to be presented for action at the November 2021 Church Council meeting.

Voted:

CC19.04.14

To amend the motion regarding the Strategic Authentic Diversity Task Force to add “and report regularly to the Church Council” to the last sentence of the motion.

Voted:

CC19.04.15

To recommend the following for adoption by the 2019 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:

To thank the Task Force for Strategic Authentic Diversity and all who contributed to its work to develop a report and recommendations on how this church exhibits authentic diversity and formulates its own goals and expectations for racial diversity and inclusion;

To call this church in all its expressions into a time of confession, reflection, and healing as its members renew an honest relational engagement in the body of Christ;

To urge the church in all its expressions and related agencies, organizations, and institutions to intentionally engage more deeply in the recommendations named in the report and to provide funds in support of these recommendations; and

To call upon the Office of the Presiding Bishop, in collaboration with appropriate units in the churchwide organization, to establish and oversee processes for consideration, assignment, implementation of, and accountability for these recommendations identified to the churchwide organization and to report regularly to the Church Council.

Voted:

CC19.04.16

To receive the ELCA Churchwide Organization Operational Plan Report for 2018; and

To thank the staff of the churchwide organization for their ongoing work, with particular thanks to those staff members who actively participated in the review of the report.

Voted:

CC19.04.17

To recommend the following social statement for adoption by the 2019 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:

To adopt the proposed social statement *Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Lutheran Call to Action* as a social statement of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in Accordance with the “Policies and Procedures of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for Addressing Social Concerns” (2018).

Voted:

CC19.04.18

To recommend the following implementing resolutions for adoption by the 2019 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:

1. To urge members, congregations, synods, churchwide ministries, social ministry organizations, church-related institutions, ecumenical partners, and all people of good will to be guided by this statement's convictions and commitments to resist and dismantle patriarchy and sexism, and to transform life in the church and in society;
2. To call upon members of this church to pray, work, and advocate for justice for all those affected by sexism and patriarchy and to draw upon this statement in forming their judgments and actions in daily life;
3. To encourage members to be guided by the ELCA social message on "Gender-based Violence" (2015) in taking action, such as urging their congregations to implement policies and to become intentional sites of advocacy and support for local efforts that serve those affected by such violence;
4. To call upon all members of this church to reflect on how mass media (films, video games, etc.) and social media distort sex, gender, and sexuality and to address this problem in their own actions (especially their care for children);
5. To call upon congregational leaders, rostered and lay, to encourage women and girls to pursue leadership roles within congregations and in discernment toward rostered ministry;
6. To encourage ELCA congregations to present positive gender roles in their educational activities, preschools, and day care, and to urge youth-related ministries within this church to adopt positive modeling of gender equity in all leadership, programs, and educational events;
7. To urge congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization (CWO) to address inequities (in pay, senior leadership, availability of second and third calls, etc.) for rostered and lay women of various backgrounds, identities, and personal experiences;
8. To call upon the Conference of Bishops, synods, and the churchwide organization to use gender-inclusive and expansive language for God, and to direct the ELCA worship team
 - a) to use such language whenever it commissions, curates, or develops new liturgical and related educational resources and
 - b) to supplement existing resources toward that end;
9. To direct the Mission Advancement unit of the CWO to collaborate with the Office of the Presiding Bishop in creating a single page at ELCA.org where readers can access the existing resources of the ELCA and the Lutheran World Federation related to the concerns of this statement and to work to make those resources available in languages other than English;
10. To call upon this church's advocacy and related ministries, such as ELCA Advocacy and ELCA World Hunger, to support and advocate for measures, policies, and laws consistent with this social statement and to give sustained attention to its convictions and commitments in the creation of programs and projects;
11. To recognize past and present CWO efforts to address institutional sexism and foster gender justice in this church, and to urge sustained devotion of resources, such as support for the CWO's Justice for Women program;
12. To commend the ongoing ministries of Women of the ELCA and Lutheran Men in Mission, and to encourage participation in their work, especially as they address the issues identified in this social statement;
13. To call upon those engaged in publishing activities throughout the ELCA to continue and extend their support for gender equity in ELCA resources and communications through such dimensions as language, images, stories, themes, and representation of contributors;
14. To urge faculty, staff, and administrators of ELCA-related colleges, universities, and seminaries to renew their efforts to develop syllabi and best practices that affirm and promote the gifts of women from varied identities and backgrounds;
15. To call upon rostered and lay congregational leaders, synod and CWO staff, social ministry organizations, and faculty and staff at ELCA colleges, seminaries, and universities to renew their efforts to welcome, care for, and support the lives and gifts of LGBTQIA persons and to oppose discrimination against these persons so that they may live into the promise of gender justice envisioned in this social statement;
16. To call for the church in all its expressions and related agencies, organizations, and institutions to embed and incorporate anti-sexism training and protocols in their ongoing work; and

17. To call upon the Office of the Presiding Bishop, in collaboration with appropriate units in the CWO, to establish and oversee processes for implementation of and accountability for these resolutions and to report to the fall meeting of ELCA Church Council in 2021.

Voted: **CC19.04.19**
To approve the archival of a social message as listed in *En Bloc* Items.

Voted: **CC19.04.20**
To take action *En Bloc* on the remaining items listed in *En Bloc* Items, Responses to Churchwide Assembly Actions and Responses to Synod Resolutions.

Voted: *En Bloc* **CC19.04.20a**
To approve the appointment of Mr. Gary Hecht as an at-large member to the ELCA Audit Committee for a two-year, renewable term beginning May 2019; and
To approve the appointment of Ms. Ingrid Stafford as an at-large member to the ELCA Audit Committee for a two-year, renewable term beginning September 2019.

Voted: *En Bloc* **CC19.04.20b1**
To acknowledge with appreciation the action of the following synods to maintain the percentage of sharing of 2019 Mission Support contributions by congregations for synod and churchwide ministries but estimating an adjustment in the projected amount to be shared:
Alaska, Eastern North Dakota, Lower Susquehanna, Metropolitan Chicago, New England, Northern Illinois, Northwestern Ohio, Saint Paul Area, Sierra Pacific, Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast synods;
To further affirm that we will steward these gifts to maximize their impact in mission for the sake of “God’s Work. Our Hands.” in the world.

Voted: *En Bloc* **CC19.04.20b2**
As a grateful church that affirms the partnership of congregation, synod and churchwide expressions, we affirm the percentage of sharing of 2019 Mission Support by congregations for synod and churchwide ministries:
Eastern Washington/Idaho, Rocky Mountain, Southwestern Texas, Virginia, Western Iowa synods;
As a Church Council, we thank the bishops and synod leaders of every synod as they strive to be faithful to shared commitments within the ELCA and to direct synod and churchwide staff, including the directors for evangelical -mission, to deepen their partnership in efforts to strengthen financial support for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; and
We will steward these gifts to maximize their impact in mission for the sake of “God’s Work. Our Hands.” in the world.

Voted: *En Bloc* **CC19.04.20c**
As a grateful church that affirms the partnership of congregation, synod and churchwide expressions, we affirm the percentage of sharing or dollar amount of sharing of 2020 Mission Support by congregations for synod and churchwide ministries:
Alaska, Allegheny, Arkansas-Oklahoma, Central/Southern Illinois, Central States, Delaware-Maryland, Eastern North Dakota, Eastern Washington-Idaho, East-Central Synod of Wisconsin, Florida-Bahamas, Grand Canyon, Greater Milwaukee, Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast, La Crosse Area, Lower Susquehanna, Metropolitan Washington D.C., Metropolitan New York, Minneapolis Area, Montana, Northern Great Lakes, Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana, Northwest Washington, Northeastern Iowa, Northeastern Ohio, Northeastern Pennsylvania, Northeastern Minnesota, Nebraska, New England, New Jersey, North Carolina, Northern Illinois, Northwestern Ohio, Northwestern Pennsylvania, Northwestern Minnesota, Northwest Synod of Wisconsin, Oregon, Pacifica, Rocky Mountain, Southern Ohio, Southwestern Washington, Southwestern Texas, Southeastern Iowa, Southeastern Pennsylvania, Southeast Michigan, Southeastern Minnesota, Sierra Pacific, Slovak Zion, South Carolina, South Dakota, Southeastern, Saint Paul Area, Southwest California, Southwestern Pennsylvania, Southwestern Minnesota, Upper Susquehanna, Upstate New York, Virginia, Western North Dakota, West Virginia-Western Maryland, Western Iowa synods;

As a Church Council, we thank the bishops and synod leaders of every synod as they strive to be faithful to shared commitments within the ELCA and to direct synod and churchwide staff, including the directors for evangelical mission, to deepen their partnership in efforts to strengthen financial support for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; and

We will steward these gifts to maximize their impact in mission for the sake of “God’s Work. Our Hands.” in the world.

Voted: En Bloc

CC19.04.20d

RESOLVED, that for the sole purpose of executing, when necessary, documents approved and authorized in accordance with actions of the Church Council, the following are hereby appointed as assistant vice presidents of this corporation: M. Wyvetta Bullock, Walter S. May, Kathryn M. Lohre, and Jodi L. Slattery, to serve until replaced or removed by subsequent appointments, with such subsequent appointments to be based upon the nomination and recommendation of the Presiding Bishop;

RESOLVED, that for the sole purpose of executing, when necessary, documents approved and authorized in accordance with actions of the Church Council, the following are hereby appointed as assistant treasurers of this corporation: Cecilia Favela, Christina Jackson-Skelton, Christopher Carpenter, Santiago Padilla, and Annette Roman, to serve until replaced or removed by subsequent appointments, with such subsequent appointments to be based upon the nomination and recommendation of the Treasurer;

RESOLVED, that for the sole purpose of executing or attesting, when necessary, documents approved and authorized in accordance with actions of the Church Council, the following are hereby appointed as assistant secretaries of this corporation: Thomas A. Cunniff, Sue E. Rothmeyer, and Aja M. Favors to serve until replaced or removed by subsequent appointments, with such subsequent appointments to be based upon the nomination and recommendation of the Secretary.

RESOLVED, that prior resolutions adopted by this Council, including CC15.04.31b and the prior actions identified in CC15.04.31b, addressing the appointment of assistant officers are hereby rescinded and replaced by this action.

Voted: En Bloc

CC19.04.20e

To approve a Church Council Designated Fund in the amount of \$1,554,686 representing the remaining excess revenue over expenses from fiscal year 2018 to be released to fund a portion of the projected budget shortfall in FY2020.

Voted: En Bloc

CC19.04.20f

To revise the 2019 fiscal year current fund spending authorization from \$67,164,676 to \$68,164,676.

Voted: En Bloc

CC19.04.20g

To declare that the newly elected chairs of the Budget and Finance Committee, the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee, the Planning and Evaluation Committee, and the Program and Services Committee shall be members of the Executive Committee of the Church Council beginning at the close of the Churchwide Assembly on August 10, 2019.

Voted: En Bloc

CC19.04.20h

To designate the persons identified in the “Synod Assembly Info BY SYNOD” 2019 grid with voice but not vote in the meetings of the assigned Synod Assembly, including like privileges accorded to those additional persons whom the Synod Assembly or the Synod Council has designated.

Voted: En Bloc

CC19.04.20i1

To recommend adoption of the following proposed action by the voting members of the 2019 Churchwide Assembly:

To adopt the “Rules of Organization and Procedure” for the 2019 Churchwide Assembly (exclusive of quoted and highlighted constitutional provisions and bylaws that are already in force).

Voted: En Bloc

CC19.04.20i2

To authorize the presiding bishop and secretary of this church to prepare further editing and scheduling revisions that may be found necessary for the “Rules of Organization and Procedure” prior to their publication in the *Pre-Assembly Report*; and

To report any changes to the Church Council at its August 2019 meeting.

Voted: En Bloc

CC19.04.20j1

To recommend the following for adoption by the 2019 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:

To adopt, *en bloc*, the following amendments to the *Constitutions, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*.

5.01.G19. *To implement 5.01.g., those deacons elected as layperson prior to the adoption of this provision may complete the term to which they were elected as a layperson. They would not be eligible for reelection as a layperson if such reelection were otherwise possible.*

8.31.03. d. completed at least one year of residency in a seminary of this church or of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, except when waived by the appropriate committee in consultation with the faculty of a seminary of this church or of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada;

e. been recommended for approval by the faculty of a seminary of this church or of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada or have received the waiver described in 7.31.03.d.

10.01.01. Names and Boundaries. The names and boundaries of the synods shall be:

...

Synod 5.D—Southeastern Iowa. The counties of Appanoose, Benton, Boone, Cedar, Clarke, Clinton, Dallas (east), Davis, Decatur, Des Moines, Henry, Iowa, Jackson (south), Jasper, Jefferson, Johnson, Jones, Keokuk, Lee, Linn, Louisa, Lucas, Madison, Mahaska, Marion, Marshall, Monroe, Muscatine, Polk, Poweshiek, Scott, Story (south), Tama (south), Van Buren, Wapello, Warren, Washington, Wayne in the state of IOWA.; the congregation St. John Lutheran Church, Schuyler County, in the state of MISSOURI.

Voted: En Bloc

CC19.04.20j2

To remove the previously adopted amendment to †S8.11. from the proposed amendments to the Constitution for Synods.

†**S8.11.** The bishop shall be elected by the Synod Assembly. The bishop shall be a minister of Word and Sacrament of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The bishop shall be a full time, salaried officer.

Voted: En Bloc

CC19.04.20k1

To ratify the following amendments to the constitution of the North/West Lower Michigan Synod:

S7.33.01A19 Resolutions presented to the Reference and Resolution Committee for referral to the Synod Assembly for action shall be supported by at least 25 confirmed members of the North/West Lower Michigan Synod whose signatures appear on the resolutions as submitted.

Voted: En Bloc

CC19.04.20k2

To ratify the following amendments to the constitution of the Upper Susquehanna Synod:

S7.21.e.A0718. The number of lay voting members to Synod Assembly from each congregation shall be based upon average worship attendance baptized membership as reported on the previous year’s

parochial report. Congregations with an average worship attendance baptized membership of 1 through 150 up to 500 shall be have be allowed 2 voting members; congregations with and average worship attendance baptized membership of 151-501 through 300-900 shall have be allowed 3 voting members and congregations with an average worship attendance baptized membership of 301-901 and above shall have be allowed 4 voting members.

Voted: En Bloc

CC19.04.20l

To affirm the following ethnic-specific ministry strategic plans: Asian and Pacific Islander Ministry Strategy of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Latino Ministry Strategy of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, African Descent Ministry Strategy of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and Arab and Middle Eastern Ministry Strategy of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Voted: En Bloc

CC19.04.20m

To approve the amended Corporate Social Responsibility Roles and Responsibilities Chart.

Voted: En Bloc

CC19.04.20n1

To archive “A Changing Europe: Peace and the Churches” social message (1990) to the category of historical documents, in accordance with the “Policies and Procedures of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for Addressing Social Concerns” (2018).

Voted: En Bloc

CC19.04.20n2

To recommend adoption of the following proposed en bloc action by the voting members of the 2019 Churchwide Assembly:

To archive the social policy resolutions identified in the “2019 Archival of Certain Social Policy Resolutions” document, in accordance with the “Policies and Procedures of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for Addressing Social Concerns” (2018).

Voted: En Bloc

CC19.04.20o

To elect to the board of trustees of the Publishing House of the ELCA — 1517 Media — to fill a vacancy with a term ending in August 2019: Ms. Linda J. Brown.

To re-elect to the board of directors of The Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago for a three-year term expiring in 2022: The Rev. Gordon A. Braatz.

To elect to the board of directors of Luther Seminary for a four-year term expiring in 2023: Mr. Bradbury A. Anderson, Ms. Tracey Gibson, Mr. Dean Gruner, and Ms. Christina Lien.

To elect to the board of directors of Wartburg Theological Seminary for a two-year term expiring in 2021: The Rev. Amsalu T. Geleta.

To elect to the board of trustees of United Lutheran Seminary for a three-year term expiring in 2022: The Rev. L. Michael Rhyne.

Voted: En Bloc

CC19.04.20p

To receive the written report of the Office of the Secretary on nominees for the Churchwide Nominating Committee;

To note that bylaw 19.21.01 states in regard to the Nominating Committee: “The Church Council shall place in nomination the names of two persons for each position. The committee shall consist of at least one member but no more than three members from any region. Nominations from the floor shall also be permitted, but each floor nomination shall be presented as an alternative to a specific category named by the Church Council and shall therefore meet the same criteria as the persons against whom the nominee is nominated. In the materials provided in advance to each member of the assembly, the Church Council shall set forth the criteria applicable to each category that must be met by persons nominated from the floor”;

To request, therefore, that the Church Council restrict the tickets to the following: lay female (Region 1); lay male (Region 8; Y/YA); lay female (Region 4); lay female (Region 9); rostered minister of Word and Sacrament (Region 5; PC/L); rostered minister of Word and Sacrament; lay male; lay female; female (Region 7; PC/L); and lay female (Y/YA); and

To request that the Church Council transmit the following slate of nominees to the 2019 Churchwide Assembly:

Churchwide Nominating Committee

Group 1: Lay Female (Region 1)

- A. Deacon Debra H. Mantey, Salem, Ore. (1E)
- B. Ms. Jessica Potts, Camas, Wash. (1C)

Group 2: Lay Male (Region 8; Y/YA)

- A. Mr. Adam Fairchild, Hampstead, Md. (8F)
- B. Mr. N. Uzoma Ariguzo, Bowie, Md. (8G)

Group 3: Lay Female (Region 4)

- A. Ms. Gwendolynn Edwards, Bellevue, Neb. (4A)
- B. Ms. Ann Hafften, Weatherford, Texas (4D)

Group 4: Lay Female (Region 9)

- A. Ms. Sandra Cline, Belmont, N.C. (9B)
- B. Ms. Doris Underwood, Montgomery, Ala. (9D)

Group 5: Rostered Minister of Word and Sacrament (Region 5; PC/L)

- A. Rev. Lawrence J. Clark, Chicago, Ill. (5A)
- B. Rev. Gus Barnes, Delevan, Wis. (5K)

Group 6: Rostered Minister of Word and Sacrament

- A. Rev. Andrew Tucker, Pickerington, Ohio (6F)
- B. Rev. Jared Witt, Orlando, Fla. (9E)

Group 7: Lay Male

- A. Deacon Jason Fisher, Champaign, Ill. (5C)
- B. Mr. Hierald Osorto, Ithica, N.Y. (7D)

Group 8: Lay Female

- A. Ms. Desta Goehner, Thousand Oaks, Calif. (2B)
- B. Ms. Marcia Riggers, Mercer, Wash. (1B)

Group 9: Female (Region 7; PC/L)

- A. Ms. Annette Sample, Philadelphia, Pa. (7F)
- B. Rev. Sarah C. Anderson, Drexel Hill, Pa. (7F)

Group 10: Lay Female (Y/YA)

- A. Ms. Hannah Barnard, Columbus, Ohio (2D)
- B. Ms. Caroline Parrot, Salisbury, N.C. (9B)

The ninety-third meeting of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America adjourned Sunday, April 7, 2019, at 11:50 a.m.

June 27, 2019

The ninety-fourth meeting of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) convened on June 27, 2019, in the Epiphany Conference Room of the Lutheran Center in Chicago, Illinois, and by conference call.

Voted: **CC19.04.21**

To adopt the agenda and to permit the chair to call for consideration of agenda items in the order the chair deems most appropriate.

Voted: **CC19.04.22**

To amend the language of the third and fourth paragraphs of the motion regarding “A Declaration of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to the People of African Descent” so that the first sentence of each paragraph reads “To call this church into a time of study and to **request direct** the presiding bishop,” “To **request direct** Planning, Research and Evaluation,” respectively.

Voted: **CC19.04.23**

To adopt “A Declaration of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to the People of African Descent” as a statement of apology for this church’s complicity in the legacy of slavery;

To thank the African Descent Lutheran Association for their 2015 biennial assembly resolution asking for a declaration of the ELCA to the people of African descent;

To call this church into a time of study and to direct the Office of the Presiding Bishop to consider developing educational resources to support the apology and encourage congregations, synods and the churchwide organization to find ways to share this apology broadly;

To direct Planning, Research and Evaluation to measure and report progress on the discriminatory treatment within the call process and to urge Portico to assist with providing information to the churchwide organization to measure and report progress on inequitable compensation of clergy of color by the November 2021 meeting of the Church Council;

To request the presiding bishop to name a Day of Repentance for congregations, synods and churchwide organization to observe annually and to request the Office of the Presiding Bishop worship team develop a liturgical resource of lamentation and repentance to accompany this annual Day of Repentance; and

To affirm the June 2019 Lutheran World Federation Council resolution “Commemorating the 2019 Quad-centennial of the Forced Transatlantic Voyage of Enslaved African Peoples to the Americas—Human Beings Not for Sale!” and, in particular, LWF’s call to engage in anti-racism and racial justice work, work toward economic justice (including the study of reparations), and work to address and end modern forms of slavery and human trafficking.

Voted: **CC19.04.24**

To amend the language of the third and fourth paragraphs on the motion relating to the ELCA Church Governance Policy Manual so that the first sentence of each paragraph reads “To **request direct** the Board Development Committee” and “To **request direct** the Executive Committee and Board Development Committee” respectively.

Voted: **CC19.04.25**

To approve the ELCA Church Council Governance Policy Manual as a whole (including the addition to Part 1 and Part 2);

To authorize the Office of the Presiding Bishop, in consultation with the Office of the Secretary, to make any necessary corrections for accuracy;

To direct the Board Development Committee, in consultation with the Office of the Presiding Bishop, to review and revise the “Orientation Manual for Church Council Members” in accordance with the Governance Policy Manual; and

To direct the Executive Committee and Board Development Committee to revise their committee charters to reflect each committee’s governance function as noted in the Governance Policy Manual, consistent with the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*.

Voted:

CC19.04.26

To take action *en bloc* on the item listed in *En Bloc* items.

Voted: En Bloc

CC19.04.26a

To recommend the following for adoption by the 2019 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:

To adopt, *en bloc*, with the exception of such amendments as may be considered separately, the amendments to the *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*; and

To authorize the Office of the Secretary to make appropriate changes in the Constitution for Synods and the Model Constitution for Congregations congruent with the ELCA Constitution as amended.

10.01.01. Names and Boundaries. The names and boundaries of the synods shall be:

Synod 1.A—Alaska. The state of ALASKA.

Synod 1.B—Northwest Washington. The counties of Island, King (north), San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish, Whatcom in the state of WASHINGTON; the congregation Bethany, Kitsap County, in the state of WASHINGTON.

Synod 1.C—Southwestern Washington. The counties of Clallam, Clark, Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, King (south), Kitsap, Lewis, Mason, Pacific, Pierce, Skamania, Thurston, Wahkiakum in the state of WASHINGTON.

Synod 1.D—~~Eastern Washington-Idaho~~ **Northwest Intermountain**. The state of IDAHO; the counties of Adams, Asotin, Benton, Chelan, Columbia, Douglas, Ferry,

...

18.01.A08. *The regions shall be numbered 1 through 9 and comprised of the following synods (as designated in bylaw 10.01.01.):*

*Region 1—Alaska Synod; Northwest Washington Synod; Southwestern Washington Synod; ~~Eastern Washington-Idaho~~ **Northwest Intermountain** Synod; Oregon Synod; and Montana Synod.*

...

19.02.C05. *For purposes of nominations for the Church Council on a rotating basis, the following pairing of synods shall be observed insofar as possible: Alaska Synod and Northwest Washington Synod; ~~Eastern Washington-Idaho~~ **Northwest Intermountain** Synod and Montana Synod; Southwestern Washington*

The ninety-fourth meeting of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America adjourned at 1:47 p.m. on Thursday, June 27, 2019.