

# Legislative Update

## Monday, August 15, 2011



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
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### Rules of Organization and Procedure

(Reference: *Pre-Assembly Report I:5-22*)

During its first plenary session, the 2011 Churchwide Assembly acted on the proposed Rules of Organization and Procedure.

**ASSEMBLY**

*TWO-THIRDS VOTE REQUIRED*

**ACTION:**

*YES-958; NO-29*

**CA11.01.01**

To adopt the Rules of Organization and Procedure for the 2011 Churchwide Assembly (exclusive of quoted and highlighted constitutional provisions and bylaws that already are in force), except for the material in Part Three, "Speeches," that was removed for separate consideration.

**ASSEMBLY**

*TWO-THIRDS VOTE REQUIRED*

**ACTION:**

*YES-947; NO-35*

**CA11.01.02**

To adopt the following section of Part Three of the Rules of Organization and Procedure for the 2011 Churchwide Assembly (exclusive of quoted and highlighted constitutional provisions and bylaws that already are in force):

#### Part Three: Quorum and Procedure Speeches

Unless otherwise determined by a majority vote of the assembly, all speeches during discussion shall be limited to two minutes. A signal shall be given one minute before the speaker's time ends. A second signal shall be given one minute later, and the speaker shall then sit down.

### Adoption of the Order of Business

(Reference: Order of Business, page 3)

The 2011 Churchwide Assembly at its first plenary session also adopted the Order of Business, as orally revised by Secretary David D. Swartling.

**ASSEMBLY**

**ACTION:**

*YES-963; NO-30*

**CA11.01.03**

To approve the Order of Business, as revised, as the agenda of the 2011 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, in keeping with the provisions of the Rules of Organization and Procedure for the calling of items of business before the assembly.

### ELCA Malaria Campaign

(Reference: *Pre-Assembly Report IV: 27-28; V:97-98*)

In its second plenary session, the 2011 Churchwide Assembly approved an action on the ELCA Malaria Campaign.

**ASSEMBLY**

**ACTION:**

*YES-968; NO-19*

**CA11.01.04**

To launch the ELCA Malaria Campaign under the auspices of ELCA World Hunger as a major fundraising effort of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, its synods and congregations, and its affiliated ministries, auxiliaries, and individual members, that will encompass the best efforts of this church to join companion churches in Africa and ELCA full-communion partners to contain deaths related to malaria by 2015;

To join with domestic and global partners to address malaria as a disease intensified by poverty within the context of comprehensive and sustainable community development and in close cooperation and partnership with this church's companion churches in Africa and The Lutheran World Federation;

To invite every congregation, synod, affiliated ministry, auxiliary, and individual member of this church to make a contribution toward the goal of \$15 million over the next four years (2011–2015) while emphasizing that gifts to the ELCA Malaria Campaign are not intended to replace giving to ELCA World Hunger but demonstrate commitment above and beyond normal ELCA World Hunger giving;

To develop the ELCA Malaria Campaign in ways that complement efforts of ELCA World Hunger to achieve and grow beyond its own annual goals;

To authorize continued receipt of designated ELCA Malaria Campaign gifts under the auspices of ELCA World Hunger, with such funds to be allocated for the purposes of this campaign;

To request that reports be submitted annually to the ELCA Church Council and to each Churchwide Assembly during the duration of the campaign and that public announcements of accomplishments be made as appropriate; and

To give thanks that God's work of bringing healing to the nations can continue to be accomplished through our hands as we share the abundance with which God has blessed us.

*Note: This action was subsequently amended. See CA11.05.29 on Motion A in the Legislative Update for Friday, August 19, for the final Churchwide Assembly action on the ELCA Malaria Campaign.*

# Legislative Update

## Tuesday, August 16, 2011



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
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### LIFT Implementing Resolutions

(Reference: *Pre-Assembly Report IV:29-30*)

During its third plenary session, the 2011 Churchwide Assembly considered implementing resolutions recommended by the Church Council concerning the report and recommendations of the task force for Living into the Future Together: Renewing the Ecology of the ELCA (LIFT).

A total of 17 proposed actions, including amendments to the council recommendations and requests for separate consideration, had been received from assembly voting members prior to Monday night's deadline. Nine pertained to paragraph 10 of the first proposed action:

10. To bring, with the exception of the social statement *Genetics, Faith and Responsibility*, no social statements to Churchwide Assemblies until a review of the process for addressing social concerns based on a spirit of communal discernment is completed; and . . .

The 2011 Churchwide Assembly supported the recommendation of the Reference and Counsel Committee and voted to defer consideration of all proposed amendments to paragraph 10 until Thursday, August 18.

Moved; Yes-821; No-143  
Carried: To defer consideration of any proposed amendments to paragraph 10 of the first LIFT implementing resolution until Thursday, August 18, 2011, when the social statement on genetics will be considered.

Assembly voting members also approved the committee's recommendation that the proposed amendment to paragraph 2, submitted by the Rev. Michael F. Keys, bishop of the Alaska Synod, be referred to the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit of the churchwide organization. The proposed amendment is as follows:

2. To support and strengthen synods so that they become catalysts for mission planning in an intentional way with congregation mission plans through consultation, coaching on implementation, and providing criteria/methods to evaluate implementation and effectiveness of the congregation's mission plan;

Moved; Yes-594; No-365  
Carried: To receive the proposed amendment with thanks; and  
To refer the proposed amendment to the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit.

The voting members of the 2011 Churchwide Assembly also voted, upon the recommendation of the Reference and Counsel Committee, to refer a proposed amendment to add a new paragraph to the first LIFT implementing resolution to the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit.

That proposed amendment, submitted by Mr. James L. Pence, is as follows:

2. To support and strengthen synods so that they become catalysts for mission planning;  
To make support for the work of parish pastors one of the highest priorities of this church;  
To request congregations, in collaboration with synods, to include in their unique mission plans specific provisions designed to provide for the ongoing professional development of and regular formative feedback for rostered clergy serving in ELCA congregations;

Moved; Yes-620; No-350  
Carried: To refer the proposed amendment for expansion of support for pastors to the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit.

The assembly also began consideration of a proposed amendment to paragraph 8 of the first LIFT implementing resolution, which had been submitted by the Rev. Serena S. Sellers. That amendment read as follows:

8. To support and utilize networking as an organizational principle and practice that embodies interdependence, values the abundant human resources found in the congregation, synods, the churchwide expression, and institutions of this church, and enhances increased collaboration and connections for missional purposes across this church;

Voting members were unable to complete action on the proposed amendment due to moving to the orders of the day, which called for consideration of constitutional amendments related to the LIFT report and recommendations.

## Constitutional Amendments Related to Living into the Future Together (LIFT)

(Reference: Pre-Assembly Report IV:32-36)

The 2011 Churchwide Assembly also acted on proposed amendments to the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* recommended by the task force on Living into the Future Together: Renewing the Ecology of the ELCA (LIFT) during its third plenary session.

Since proposed amendments on the Churchwide Assembly, the Church Council and Conference of Bishops, and networking had been removed from the *en bloc* action, and additional amendments to the constitution in these areas had been submitted by voting members, the assembly considered proposed constitutional amendments in section C, pp. 34-36, concerning program committees.

The 2011 Churchwide Assembly took the following action:

**ASSEMBLY ACTION:** EN BLOC; TWO-THIRDS VOTE REQUIRED  
YES-890; NO-69  
CA11.02.05

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

### C. Program Committees

**11.35.** Each separately incorporated unit shall be governed by a board.

**12.41.31.** Members of the Church Council, unless otherwise elected as voting members, shall serve as advisory members of the Churchwide Assembly. In addition, executive 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.

**13.52.A05. 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.

c. This office shall have the authority to borrow; issue bonds, notes, certificates, or other evidence of obligation; or increase contingent liabilities within the overall limits determined by the Churchwide Assembly and the more restrictive limits established by the Church Council. No churchwide board shall make a commitment that binds the churchwide organization to an outside lending or other similar institution or which creates a liability of this church to such an institution without prior approval of the Office of the Treasurer.

[Note: An amendment was adopted at the November 2010 Church Council meeting and it was renumbered as 15.14.A10.]

**19.04.** Other than elections of officers and executive directors of units, elections shall be for one six-year term, without consecutive reelection, and with approximately one-third of the members of the Church Council and of each board, or advisory committee elected each biennium.

**19.05.01.** Each voting member of the Church Council, board, or advisory committee of this church 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 be declared vacant by the secretary of this church, who shall arrange for election by the Church Council to fill the unexpired term.

**19.05.02.** For purposes of nomination to and service on the Church Council or a board of a churchwide unit, "synodical membership" shall be defined as follows:

...  
**19.11.01.** In the nomination and election process the following general considerations shall be observed:

...  
f. The Conference of Bishops shall select one bishop from each region to serve a four-year term as a liaison member of the Church Council. Each biennium the Conference of Bishops shall select a bishop to serve as an advisory member of

each board 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.

**19.51.01.** The Churchwide Assembly shall elect all members of the board of trustees of the Publishing House of the ELCA, the board of trustees of the Mission Investment Fund, and the board of trustees of the Board of Pensions. The Nominating Committee shall seek to ensure that these boards have within their membership persons with the expertise and experience essential to the fulfillment of the work of the unit.

**19.61.02.** No member of the Church Council, a committee of the Church Council, a board, or other 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 or board of the churchwide organization.

*Note: The above amendments do not include those items deleted from the constitution by the assembly's action.*

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# Legislative Update

## Wednesday, August 17, 2011



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
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### Memorials Committee

(Reference: *Pre-Assembly Report VI:1-64*)

The 2011 Churchwide Assembly began its consideration of the Report of the Memorials Committee by approving those responses to memorials included in the *en bloc* resolution.

**ASSEMBLY**

**EN BLOC**

**ACTION:**

**YES-930; NO-50**

**CA11.03.06**

To approve *en bloc*, with the exception of those memorials considered separately, the following responses to 2010 and 2011 synodical memorials printed in the Report of the Memorials Committee (*2011 Pre-Assembly Report, Section VI, pages as listed*):

Category A4: Energy Stewardship .....	37
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#### Category A4: Energy Stewardship

(Reference: *Pre-Assembly Report VI:30-37*)

**ASSEMBLY**

**EN BLOC**

**ACTION:**

**YES-930; NO-50**

**CA11.03.06a**

To receive with gratitude the memorials of the Sierra Pacific, Rocky Mountain, Northeastern Minnesota, Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast, Metropolitan Chicago, Northern Illinois, Northeastern Iowa, South-Central Synod of Wisconsin, North/West Lower Michigan, New Jersey, New England, Metropolitan New York, Southeastern Pennsylvania, and Metropolitan Washington, D.C. synods related to energy stewardship;

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

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

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

#### Category A5: ELCA Malaria Campaign

(Reference: *Pre-Assembly Report VI:37*)

**ASSEMBLY**

**EN BLOC**

**ACTION:**

**YES-930; NO-50**

**CA11.03.06b**

To receive with gratitude the memorial of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod in response to the ELCA Malaria Campaign; and

To acknowledge the action of the 2011 Churchwide Assembly related to the ELCA Malaria Campaign as the response of the Churchwide Assembly to the memorial of this synod.

#### Category B2: Synodical Ratification Procedure

(Reference: *Pre-Assembly Report VI:45-46*)

**ASSEMBLY**

**EN BLOC**

**ACTION:**

**YES-930; NO-50**

**CA11.03.06c**

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

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

To encourage further exploration of existing means of discussion and decision-making as well as new means, such as communal discernment and

non-legislative gatherings, as recommended by the LIFT task force; and

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

#### Category C2: Social Statement on Genetics

(Reference: Pre-Assembly Report VI:52-53)

ASSEMBLY EN BLOC

ACTION: YES-930; NO-50

##### CA11.03.06d

To receive with gratitude the memorials of the Nebraska and West Virginia-Western Maryland synods as thoughtful expressions of this church's commitment to the development of social statements in a way that invites response and dialogue; and

To acknowledge the action of the 2011 Churchwide Assembly related to the proposed social statement, *Genetics, Faith, and Responsibility*, as the response of the Churchwide Assembly to the memorials of these synods.

#### Category D1: Confession of Faith

(Reference: Pre-Assembly Report VI:53-54)

ASSEMBLY EN BLOC

ACTION: YES-930; NO-50

##### CA11.03.06e

To receive with gratitude the memorial of the South Carolina Synod regarding the ELCA Confession of Faith;

To decline to establish a hierarchy of the statements in the Confession of Faith; and

To commend the continuing affirmation of the Confession of Faith through the living and public witness of every member.

#### Category D2: Holy Communion

(Reference: Pre-Assembly Report VI:54-55)

ASSEMBLY EN BLOC

ACTION: YES-930; NO-50

##### CA11.03.06f

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

To refer the memorial to the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit in consultation with the Conference of Bishops for consideration of actions that will promote more frequent reception of Holy Communion by ELCA members and weekly

observance of Holy Communion as the primary worship service of each ELCA congregation.

#### Category D3: LIFT Report

(Reference: Pre-Assembly Report VI:55-57)

ASSEMBLY EN BLOC

ACTION: YES-930; NO-50

##### CA11.03.06g

To receive with gratitude the memorials of the Nebraska and West Virginia-Western Maryland synods related to the Living into the Future Together (LIFT) report and the presentation of concerns related to magisterial authority, mission support, and future social statements;

To note that the report of the LIFT task force is provided as information to the Churchwide Assembly and is not subject to amendment, but to refer the memorials as information for the continuing work of LIFT; and

To acknowledge the actions taken by the 2011 Churchwide Assembly related to the LIFT report and recommendations as the response to the memorials of these synods.

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

(Reference: Pre-Assembly Report VI:57-58)

ASSEMBLY EN BLOC

ACTION: YES-930; NO-50

##### CA11.03.06h

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

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

To decline to reconsider this social statement; and

To request that the report to be prepared for the November 2012 meeting of the Church Council on the implementation of this social statement also be provided as information for the 2013 ELCA Churchwide Assembly.

#### Category E2: Ministry Policies

(Reference: Pre-Assembly Report VI:58-60)

ASSEMBLY EN BLOC

ACTION: YES-930; NO-50

##### CA11.03.06i

To receive with gratitude the memorials of the Western Iowa, Metropolitan New York, Metropolitan

Washington, D.C., and South Carolina synods related to ministry policies;

To acknowledge both the sorrow and joy resulting from the decisions of the 2009 Churchwide Assembly that led to changes in ministry policies;

To encourage this church to engage in continuing conversation and communal discernment about difficult and contentious issues; and

To decline to direct the Church Council to rescind the actions on ministry policies taken following the 2009 Churchwide Assembly.

### Category F1: Special Needs Retirement Fund

(Reference: Pre-Assembly Report VI:60-63)

ASSEMBLY

EN BLOC

ACTION:

YES-930; NO-50

CA11.03.06j

To receive with gratitude the memorials of the Northwestern Pennsylvania, Southwestern Pennsylvania, Allegheny, Upper Susquehanna, West Virginia-Western Maryland, and Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast synods related to the Special Needs Retirement Fund;

To acknowledge the commitment of this church for "a special fund to provide both for additional pension contributions for pastors in situations of low compensation, and for pensioners who are receiving at or near the minimum pension [through] a churchwide program to encourage support throughout the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America" [CA93.8.100];

To express gratitude for the generous support throughout this church for the Special Needs Retirement Fund and to encourage continued gifts; and

To thank the ELCA Board of Pensions and the Special Needs Retirement Fund Managing Committee for the ongoing efforts both to increase the monthly payments of those currently receiving income from this fund and to provide supplemental income to additional retired servants of this church who are living with the greatest need.

### LIFT Implementing Resolutions

(Reference: Pre-Assembly Report IV:29-30)

During its fourth plenary session, the 2011 Churchwide Assembly continued its consideration of implementing resolutions recommended by the Church Council concerning the report and recommendations of the task force for Living into the Future Together: Renewing the Ecology of the ELCA (LIFT).

A total of 17 proposed actions, including amendments to the council recommendations and requests for separate consideration, had been received from assembly voting members prior to Monday night's deadline.

During the third plenary session on Tuesday, the assembly had begun consideration of a proposed amendment to paragraph 8 of the first LIFT implementing resolution, which had been submitted by the Rev. Serena S. Sellers. That amendment read as follows:

8. To support and utilize networking as an organizational principle and practice that embodies interdependence, values the abundant human resources found in the congregations, synods, the churchwide expression, and institutions of this church, and enhances increased collaboration and connections for missional purposes across this church;

Debate resumed on the proposed amendment during Plenary Session Four. The assembly voted on the recommendation of the Reference and Counsel Committee:

Moved; Yes-439; No-524  
Defeated: To refer the proposed amendment to the Church Council.

Pr. Sellers then moved her amendment. After it had been seconded and debated, the Churchwide Assembly in the fourth plenary session voted as follows:

Moved; Yes-818; No-157  
Seconded;  
Carried: To amend paragraph 8 as follows:

8. To support and utilize networking as an organizational principle and practice that embodies interdependence, values the abundant human resources found in the congregations, synods, the churchwide expression, and institutions of this church, and enhances increased collaboration and connections for missional purposes across this church;

The assembly then turned its attention to the Reference and Counsel Committee's recommendation to an amendment that had been proposed by Ms. Nona M. Dierdorf:

To include in the LIFT task force recommendation ministry for mentally and physically handicapped children and adults. This would include special Bible studies and support for camps for this population.

After consideration, the assembly approved the recommendation of the Reference and Counsel Committee:

Moved; Yes-769; No-212

Carried: To refer the proposed amendment, in light of the current churchwide commitment to ministry with persons with disabilities, to the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit as it continues to address issues of inclusivity for persons with disabilities in this church.

The Reference and Counsel Committee then introduced its recommendation on a proposed amendment submitted by Mr. Don E. Lamprecht. That amendment called on the assembly "To review the extent of political advocacy in which churchwide engages."

Moved; Yes-631; No-314

Carried: To refer this additional implementing resolution to the Church Council.

Voting members then considered a proposed amendment to paragraph 1 of the first LIFT implementing resolution, which had been submitted by the Rev. Paul E. Lutz. That amendment is as follows:

1. To make support for the work of congregations one of the highest priorities of this church. To request congregations be invited to take up to two years to examine the changing religious environment of their communities in order that, in collaboration with synods, to begin, develop, review or redefine their unique mission plans by the end of ~~2012~~ 2013, so that each congregation strengthens its capabilities and resources for witness and mission;

The Reference and Counsel Committee recommended declining this proposed amendment. Pr. Lutz subsequently moved his amendment.

During the course of debate, Pr. Lutz's proposal was amended twice. The voting members then defeated the proposed amendment as amended.

Moved; Yes-265; No-698

Seconded;

- Defeated:
1. To make support for the work of congregations one of the highest priorities of this church. To request congregations to take up to two years in collaboration with synods, to begin, develop, review or redefine their unique mission plans by the end of ~~2012~~ 2013, so that each congregation strengthens its capabilities and resources for witness and mission;

The 2011 Churchwide Assembly next considered the entire first implementing resolution for LIFT, as amended, except paragraph 10, which the voting members had earlier postponed until consideration of the proposed social statement on genetics.

ASSEMBLY

ACTION:  
CA11.03.07

EN BLOC

YES-914; NO-57

To commend with joy and gratitude the report of the task force on Living into the Future Together: Renewing the Ecology of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (LIFT) for study and action;

To thank the task force and all who contributed to its work for a vision of where God is leading this church;

To endorse the recommendations of the task force, as amended by the Church Council;

To express confidence that God is leading this church into God's future; and

To invite members, congregations, synods, regions, the churchwide organization, colleges and universities, institutions and agencies, networks, and global, ecumenical, and other partners into deep conversation, prayer, and discernment, as, together, this church commits itself to the following actions to implement the report and recommendations:

1. To make support for the work of congregations one of the highest priorities of this church. To request congregations, in collaboration with synods, to begin, develop, review or redefine their unique mission plans by the end of 2012, so that each congregation strengthens its capabilities and resources for witness and mission;
2. To support and strengthen synods so that they become catalysts for mission planning;
3. To request the Conference of Bishops, in consultation with synod leaders and the churchwide organization, to prepare a report and recommendations for the November 2012 meeting of the Church Council for consideration by the 2013 Churchwide Assembly that:
  - describes patterns of synodical life in the ELCA that effectively support vital congregations, mission growth and outreach;
  - proposes a pattern or a set of patterns that will allow synods to receive and distribute financial resources to support the whole ministry of this church;
  - builds on the Blue Ribbon Committee report of 2007 and includes recommendations for renewed, sustainable financial support for the mission and ministries of this church, including funding for theological education;

- includes strategies for increased mission vitality that may include consideration of redrawing synod boundaries; and
  - recommends revision of the constitutional responsibilities of bishops and synods to emphasize synods as catalysts for mission in the changing context and culture.
4. To urge regions to expand their roles as centers for exploring the possibilities of cooperative mission and ministry;
  5. To affirm the role of the churchwide organization to:
    - accompany congregations and synods;
    - build the capacity of this church for evangelical witness and service;
    - continue to build and strengthen mutual and interdependent relationships;
    - model and promote the vision of a multicultural, multi-ethnic church;
    - coordinate this church's global mission and its international development and relief work;
    - lead its theological reflection and deliberations on identity and mission;
    - lead, in collaboration with the Conference of Bishops, synod leaders, and the Church Council, in exploring opportunities to grow current support, including direct appeals, planned giving, and endowment management.
  6. To encourage the development of leaders for this church through increased innovation and collaboration in leadership development, faith formation, and theological education;
  7. To build and strengthen relationships with this church's global companions and ecumenical partners, focusing on accompaniment, mutual growth, capacity-building, and sustainability of relationships;
  8. To support and utilize networking as an organizational principle and practice that embodies interdependence, values the abundant human resources found in the congregations, synods, the churchwide expression, and institutions of this church, and enhances increased collaboration and connections for missional purposes across this church;
  9. To nurture a culture of faithful discernment that contributes to mutual respect and healthy decision-making in all assemblies, councils, committees, small groups, and meetings in

congregations, synods, the churchwide expression, institutions, and agencies; and

10. To endorse the proposed amendments to the *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions* concerning the Churchwide Assembly, Church Council, Conference of Bishops, program committees, and interrelationships and networks.

*Note: With the removal of the original paragraph 10 for separate consideration, former paragraph 11 became paragraph 10.*

## Constitutional Amendments Related to Living into the Future Together (LIFT)

(Reference: *Pre-Assembly Report IV:32-36*)

The 2011 Churchwide Assembly also acted on proposed amendments to the *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* resulting from the report and recommendations of the task force on Living into the Future Together: Renewing the Ecology of the ELCA (LIFT) during its fourth plenary session.

**ASSEMBLY**

**EN BLOC; TWO-THIRDS VOTE REQUIRED**

**ACTION:**

**YES-817; NO-169**

**CA11.03.08**

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

### A. Churchwide Assembly

- 8.32.02. Colleges and universities of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America may relate to this church in various ways, including relationship with the Churchwide Assembly, 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 90 percent of whom shall consist of members of the Assembly, and (2) that shall hold the meeting of such a corporation in conjunction with the Churchwide Assembly for the purpose of electing or ratifying members of the governing board and approving amendments to the governing documents. At least 60 percent of the members of the

governing boards of the corporations that meet in conjunction with the Churchwide Assembly shall be members of this church.

**12.31.** The assembly shall meet biennially in regular session through 2013, and triennially thereafter. Special meetings may be called by a two-thirds vote of the Church Council. The purpose for a special meeting shall be stated in the notice.

**12.31.A11.** To implement the transition to a triennial cycle, the Church Council shall make recommendations to the 2013 Churchwide Assembly regarding elections to the Church Council, boards, and committees. This continuing resolution shall expire upon adjournment of the 2013 Churchwide Assembly.

**14.41.C11. Planning and Evaluation Committee**

*A Planning and Evaluation Committee shall be composed of members of the Church Council elected by the council and shall have staff services provided by the Office of the Presiding Bishop. This committee shall assist the presiding bishop in coordinated, strategic planning for the work of the churchwide organization. This committee also shall be responsible for the ongoing evaluation of churchwide units and the structure of the churchwide organization, making recommendations to the Churchwide Assembly through the Church Council. This committee shall establish a process for a periodic review of all churchwide units. Further, in consultation with the executive for administration, this committee shall evaluate and report annually to the Church Council and to the Churchwide Assembly on how the churchwide organization complies with and implements commitments and policies adopted by the Churchwide Assembly and the Church Council.*

**19.21.B11.** 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.*

Voting members then considered constitutional amendments related to the LIFT recommendations concerning the Church Council and Conference of Bishops (*Pre-Assembly Report IV:33-36*).

The Reference and Counsel Committee presented its recommendation regarding three proposed amendments to this section. Following debate, the assembly voted as follows:

**Moved;  
Carried:**

**Yes-810; No-148**

To refer these proposed amendments to the Church Council in consultation with the Office of the Presiding Bishop and the Office of the Secretary;

To request that the Church Council develop a process for honoring our existing commitments for appropriate representation on the Church Council, both in the transition years to the new size of the Church Council as well as into the future;

To invite synods to encourage nominations for Church Council (as well as assemblies, committees, boards, and other organization units) that reflect current representational principles; and

To include a description of the specific steps taken and care given to representational principles for the composition of the Church Council in their November 2012 report.

The Reference and Counsel Committee declined to recommend one other amendment to this section that had been proposed. The amendment, which was authored by the Rev. Michael A. Dubsy, was brought to the floor. Subsequently, the assembly defeated it.

Moved; Yes-199; No-764  
Seconded;  
Defeated: To amend 14.31. as follows:

The voting members of the Church Council shall consist of the four churchwide officers, the chair of the Conference of Bishops, and 65 at least 33 and not more than 45 other persons, one from each synod, elected by the Churchwide Assembly.

Voting members proceeded to adopt constitutional amendments related to the LIFT recommendations on the Church Council and the Conference of Bishops.

**ASSEMBLY** EN BLOC; TWO-THIRDS VOTE REQUIRED  
**ACTION:** YES-757; NO-223  
**CA11.03.09**

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

**B. Church Council and the Conference of Bishops**

14.31. The voting members of the Church Council shall consist of the four churchwide officers, the chair of the Conference of Bishops, and at least 33 and not more than 45 other persons, elected by the Churchwide Assembly.

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.

19.02. The members of the Church Council 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 33 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. Excluding the churchwide officers, there shall not be more than two members of the Church Council from a synod, nor shall more than two-thirds of the synods in a region have members on the Church Council at the same time. The Church Council shall have at least one member 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.

Later in the fifth plenary session, the 2011 Churchwide Assembly considered proposed constitutional recommendations related to LIFT recommendations concerning interrelationships and networks. Two proposed amendments had been received regarding this section. The Reference and Counsel Committee recommended that the assembly decline action on these proposed amendments, and they were not brought to the floor.

**ASSEMBLY** EN BLOC; TWO-THIRDS VOTE REQUIRED  
**ACTION:** YES-852; NO-81  
**CA11.03.10**

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

**D. Interrelationships and Networks**

10.61. This synod may establish conferences, clusters, coalitions, area subdivisions, and networks as appropriate within its territory and in collaboration with other synods and partners 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.

†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 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.

## Memorials Committee

(Reference: *Pre-Assembly Report VI:1-64*)

The 2011 Churchwide Assembly continued its consideration of the Report of the Memorials Committee.

### Category A2: Expanding Multicultural Ministry

(Reference: *Pre-Assembly Report VI:25-26*)

**ASSEMBLY**

**ACTION:** YES-917; NO-29

#### CA11.03.11

To receive with gratitude the memorial of the North Carolina Synod encouraging increased multicultural ministry within the ELCA;

To acknowledge with hope the modest increases in the diversity of ELCA congregations and the percentages of ELCA members who are people of color, but to acknowledge with deep concern that the goal established by the ELCA in 1987 that "it shall be a goal of this church that within 10 years of its establishment the membership shall include at least 10 percent people of color and/or primary language other than English" has not yet been achieved; and

To encourage congregations and synods to incorporate ministry with and to diverse populations in the mission planning advocated by the Living into the Future Together Task Force report.

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

(Reference: *Pre-Assembly Report VI:27-30*)

**ASSEMBLY**

**ACTION:** YES-899; NO-55

#### CA11.03.12

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

To affirm these memorials and request that the presiding bishop of this church issue a statement acknowledging the International Year for People of African Descent and encouraging congregations to participate through prayer, ministry, forums, and

presentations, as well as artistic, cultural, and worship expressions that affirm the gifts of people of African Descent;

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

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

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

### Category A1: Bullying, Harassment, and Related Violence

(Reference: *Pre-Assembly Report VI:8-25A*)

**ASSEMBLY**

**ACTION:** YES-923; NO-23

#### CA11.03.13

To receive with gratitude the memorials of the Alaska, Eastern Washington-Idaho, Oregon, Montana, Grand Canyon, Rocky Mountain, Eastern North Dakota, Northwestern Minnesota, Northeastern Minnesota, Southwestern Minnesota, Minneapolis Area, Saint Paul Area, Southeastern Minnesota, Central States, Arkansas-Oklahoma, Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast, Metropolitan Chicago, Northern Illinois, Central/Southern Illinois, Southeastern Iowa, Northeastern Iowa, Northern Great Lakes, Greater Milwaukee Area, South-Central Synod of Wisconsin, Southern Ohio, New Jersey, New England, Metropolitan New York, Upstate New York, Northeastern Pennsylvania, Southeastern Pennsylvania, Southwestern Pennsylvania, Allegheny, Metropolitan Washington, D.C., North Carolina, South Carolina, and Florida-Bahamas synods related to bullying, harassment, and related violence;

To encourage new partnerships among the churchwide organization, synods, congregations, campus and outdoor ministries, Lutheran School Associations, Lutherans Concerned/North America,

Lutheran Social Services organizations, public schools, counseling centers, and other governmental organizations in order to support the prevention of bullying, harassment, and other related violence, especially with higher-risk populations;

To encourage these partnerships to create or join with existing preventative programs that:

- a. utilize positive, inclusive, empowering and developmentally appropriate materials;
- b. raise participants' awareness about the issue;
- c. focus on prevention;
- d. seek to change bystander behavior into ally behavior;
- e. create partnerships between youth and adults; and
- f. address the use and abuse of social media and technology as they are used to bully and harass others;

To encourage these partnerships to seek funding for these efforts from existing and/or new funding sources not otherwise accessible individually, such as foundation grants, synod and other Lutheran organizational grants, and private and governmental funding sources;

To refer these memorials to the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit in order to facilitate and communicate these efforts in collaboration with the Office of the Presiding Bishop, Women of the ELCA, Lutheran Men in Mission, and Lutheran Services in America, with the request that ELCA-related educational, social service, and youth and young adult networks continue to expand their ministries in support of new partnerships to prevent bullying, harassment, and related forms of violence against high-risk groups and to support and publicize such efforts throughout this church; and

To request that the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit report to the ELCA Church Council at its November 2012.

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# Legislative Update

## Thursday, August 18, 2011



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.

### LIFT Implementing Resolutions

(Reference: *Pre-Assembly Report IV:29-30*)

The sixth plenary session of the 2011 Churchwide Assembly continued its consideration of implementing resolutions to the Living into the Future Together (LIFT) report and recommendations.

The Reference and Counsel Committee moved its recommendation concerning paragraph 10 of the first implementing resolution, which had been removed from the prior *en bloc* action on the implementing resolutions. A number of amendments had been proposed to paragraph 10. The committee's recommendation is as follows:

To authorize the Church Council, in consultation with the Conference of Bishops and Communal Discernment Task Force, to establish a review process of current procedures for the development and adoption of social statements, following the consideration of the genetics social statement, *Genetics, Faith and Responsibility*, at the 2011 Churchwide Assembly; and

To bring no social statements other than *Genetics, Faith and Responsibility* to any Churchwide Assembly until completion of a review of the process for addressing social concerns based on a spirit of communal discernment. This review shall be completed and brought to the fall 2012 Church Council meeting, with a report to the 2013 Churchwide Assembly. During this review, the process for developing the criminal justice social statement and the justice for women social statement may continue.

This proposed action by the Reference and Counsel Committee was offered as a substitute for a Church Council recommendation on the social statement process, which also was on the assembly's agenda. That recommendation is as follows:

To authorize the Church Council, in consultation with the Conference of Bishops and Communal Discernment Task Force, to establish a review process of current procedures for the development and adoption of social statements, following the consideration of the genetics social statement, *Genetics, Faith and Responsibility*, at the 2011 Churchwide Assembly.

Both the Reference and Counsel Committee's recommendation and the Church Council recommendation were before the assembly for discussion and amendment.

An amendment to the Reference and Counsel Committee's recommendation was proposed by Mr. Robert R. Lebel.

**Moved;**

**Seconded:** To amend by addition, inserting after the word "continue" the following: "without alteration of the process already underway for the statement on criminal justice, which is to be completed and reported to the 2013 assembly."

Following debate, the assembly approved the amendment.

**Moved;**

**Yes-680; No-265**

**Seconded;**

**Carried:**

To authorize the Church Council, in consultation with the Conference of Bishops and Communal Discernment Task Force, to establish a review process of current procedures for the development and adoption of social statements, following the consideration of the genetics social statement, *Genetics, Faith and Responsibility*, at the 2011 Churchwide Assembly; and

To bring no social statements other than *Genetics, Faith and Responsibility* to any Churchwide Assembly until completion of a review of the process for addressing social concerns based on a spirit of communal discernment. This review shall be completed and brought to the fall 2012 Church Council meeting, with a report to the 2013 Churchwide Assembly. During this review, the process for developing the criminal justice social statement and the justice for women social statement may continue, without alteration of the process already under way for the statement on criminal justice, which is to be completed and reported to the 2013 assembly.

A second proposed amendment, authored by Mr. Stanley D. Harpstead, and a third, proposed by Mr. Michael W. Young, were defeated by the assembly.

Voting members then approved the recommendation of the Reference and Counsel Committee, as amended, as a substitute for the Church Council resolution.

**Moved;** Yes-824; No-124  
**Carried:** To substitute the recommendation of the Reference and Counsel Committee, as amended, for the recommendation of the Church Council concerning the process for developing social statements.

The assembly then adopted the recommendation of the Reference and Counsel Committee:

**ASSEMBLY**  
**ACTION:** YES-880; NO-58  
**CA11.04.14**

To authorize the Church Council, in consultation with the Conference of Bishops and Communal Discernment Task Force, to establish a review process of current procedures for the development and adoption of social statements, following the consideration of the genetics social statement, *Genetics, Faith and Responsibility*, at the 2011 Churchwide Assembly; and

To bring no social statements other than *Genetics, Faith and Responsibility* to any Churchwide Assembly until completion of a review of the process for addressing social concerns based on a spirit of communal discernment. This review shall be completed and brought to the fall 2012 Church Council meeting, with a report to the 2013 Churchwide Assembly. During this review, the process for developing the criminal justice social statement and the justice for women social statement may continue, without alteration of the process already under way for the statement on criminal justice, which is to be completed and reported to the 2013 assembly.

### Social Statement on Genetics

(Reference: Pre-Assembly Report IV:3-25; V:1-8)

The 2011 Churchwide Assembly began its consideration of the social statement *Genetics, Faith and Responsibility* by considering amendments that had been proposed by voting members and reviewed by an *ad hoc* committee. All three proposed amendments to the social statement were defeated by the assembly. Voting members then began debate on the social statement itself, but did not complete that process during the sixth plenary session.

### Elections: First Ballot

On Wednesday, August 17, 2011, voting members cast ballots for positions on various churchwide committees and boards, including Church Council.

Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson declared elected all those who had received a majority of votes cast on the first ballot.

**ASSEMBLY**  
**ACTION:**  
**CA11.04.15**

To declare elected all those who received a majority of votes cast on the first ballot.

### Social Statement on Genetics

(Reference: Pre-Assembly Report IV:3-25; V:1-8)

In the seventh plenary session, the assembly continued debate on the social statement on genetics.

**ASSEMBLY** TWO-THIRDS VOTE REQUIRED  
**ACTION:** YES-942; NO-34  
**CA11.04.16**

To adopt "Genetics, Faith and Responsibility" 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" (2011).

### Social Statement Implementing Resolutions

(Reference: Pre-Assembly Report IV:22)  
Following adoption of the social statement on genetics, voting members began consideration of the implementing resolutions for the social statement. One amendment to implementing resolution 9 was introduced by the *ad hoc* committee and adopted. Other proposed amendments were not adopted. Then the implementing resolutions, as amended, were adopted.

**ASSEMBLY**  
**ACTION:** YES-942; NO-34  
**CA11.04.17**

1. To call upon members of this church to pray, work, advocate, and apply genetic knowledge and technology in ways that respect and promote the community of life justly and wisely;
2. To call upon congregations and other sites of ministry to give renewed attention to becoming places of *koinonia* in Christ that foster a deepened understanding of and commitment to baptismal vocation, everyday callings, and moral formation and discernment;
3. To encourage leaders in conferences, synods, or other appropriate bodies to compile lists of

resources for their jurisdictions to which pastors, counselors, and individuals can turn for help when seeking information or guidance in dealing with genetic issues;

4. To call upon this church's advocacy ministries to support and advocate for measures consistent with this social statement;
5. To affirm the study document "Genetics and Faith: Power, Choice and Responsibility" as a resource for ongoing deliberation and discernment, and to direct the Theological Discernment team of the Office of the Presiding Bishop to maintain its availability as long as demand continues;
6. To affirm the 2004 ELCA social policy resolution "Genetically Modified Organisms in the Food Supply" and its continuing value for the mission and ministry of the ELCA;
7. To encourage the churchwide organization to maintain a database of ELCA members with expertise related to genetic science and technology that can serve as a primary resource for consultation;
8. To direct the Theological Discernment team of the Office of the Presiding Bishop to assess the feasibility of developing a social message on regenerative medicine, including, but not limited to, a range of stem cell technologies; and to bring to the ELCA Church Council in November 2013 a report and possible recommendations, in accordance with "Policies and Procedures of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for Addressing Social Concerns" (Chicago: ELCA, 1997, revised 2011); and
9. To call upon the Office of the Presiding Bishop to establish and oversee a process of implementation and accountability for *Genetics, Faith and Responsibility* and to report annually on implementation to the ELCA Church Council through November 2015, with progress reports made available through [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org).

## 2012-2013 Budget Proposal

(Reference: Pre-Assembly Report IV:67)

During its seventh plenary session, the 2011 Churchwide Assembly began its consideration of the budget proposal by debating amendments to it. The Reference and Counsel Committee had declined to recommend two of the proposed amendments, those proposed by Mr. Mark R. Olson and Mr. Kenneth Olson, but the authors brought them to the floor. Voting members rejected both amendments.

During the debate, the assembly voted to limit speeches on amendments to one minute.

According to the assembly's Rules of Organization and Procedure, resolutions that have a budgetary impact are referred to the Reference and Counsel Committee. Accordingly, the committee presented its recommendation on a non-germane resolution, Motion J, submitted by Mr. Vance Blackfox, that had budgetary implications.

### MOTION J: NATIVE AMERICANS AND ALASKA NATIVES

*Submitted by Mr. Vance Blackfox, Metropolitan Chicago Synod (5A)*

WHEREAS, the historic relationship between predecessor/partner Lutheran church bodies and American Indian and Alaska Native peoples was so significant during the struggle for American Indian and Alaska Native civil rights, known as the American Indian Movement; and

WHEREAS, support of American Indian and Alaska Native peoples has declined significantly since the constituting of the ELCA in 1988; and

WHEREAS, all ELCA churchwide organization's events and participants are hosted in and participants enter into various sovereign American Indian and Alaska Native nations, geographically, and/or historic tribal lands that have systematically been taken from American Indian and Alaska Native peoples by extinction/termination or by the removal of the original tribal inhabitants; and

WHEREAS, the general population of the United States and the general membership of the ELCA is largely uneducated about American Indian and Alaska Native cultures and histories, as well as uninformed about American Indian and Alaska Native sovereignty, their nations, and present challenges; and

WHEREAS, American Indian and Alaska Native people are under-represented in our church and usually under-represented at churchwide and synodical events; and

WHEREAS, this church's purpose, in part, is to "Serve in response to God's love to meet human needs, caring for the sick and the aged, advocating dignity and justice for all people, working for peace and reconciliation among the nations, and standing with the poor and powerless and committing itself to their needs" [ELCA constitution 4.02.c.]; and

WHEREAS, contrary to popular belief, American Indian and Alaska Native people continue to statistically be the poorest populations in the countries in the "western hemisphere" with, reportedly, the greatest needs related to poverty, e.g., disease, lacking clean water, addiction, length of life expectancy, education, unemployment, and access to nutrient-rich foods; and

WHEREAS, organizations that are working to make a difference and honoring the lands and original peoples of the "western hemisphere," such as the International Olympic Committee when it partnered with and honored as dignitaries the leaders of the First Nations peoples in and around the region near Vancouver, British Columbia, during the 2010 Winter Olympics; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the ELCA churchwide organization be committed to inviting the tribal leader or a representative of the sovereign tribal or region wherein any and at every ELCA churchwide organization-sponsored event held—e.g., Churchwide Assemblies, Global Mission Events, ELCA Youth Gatherings, smaller or regional events, etc.—with costs incurred to be supported by each event's budget, to bring a word of welcome/greetings from their nations or peoples; and that

consultation with the ELCA director for American Indian and Alaska Native Ministries be done so as to ensure the invitation is extended appropriately; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the ELCA churchwide organization be committed to ensuring at least one educational component is developed and offered to participants at every churchwide organization-sponsored event—e.g., Churchwide Assemblies, Global Mission Events, ELCA Youth Gatherings, smaller or regional events, etc.—regarding American Indian and Alaska Native tribal peoples of the nation or region wherein the churchwide organization-sponsored event is being held, with costs incurred to be supported by each event's budget; and that consultation with the ELCA's director for American Indian and Alaska Native Ministries be done so as to ensure such an educational experience is developed and presented appropriately.

The Reference and Counsel Committee recommended and voting members approved the following response:

**ASSEMBLY**

**ACTION:** YES-899; NO-46  
**CA11.04.18**

**To refer Motion I to the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit for consultation with the American Indian and Alaska Native Ministries to identify ways to address the intent of the motion.**

The Reference and Counsel Committee next moved its recommendation on a non-germane resolution, Motion K, authored by Mr. Kevin Bates, that had budget implications. During debate, the assembly approved a change in rules to close debate whenever there are four consecutive speakers on the same side of a topic.

**MOTION K: TREE FOR LUTHERGARTEN**

*Submitted by: Pr. Kevin L. Bates, Northwest Washington Synod (1B)*

WHEREAS, the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation will happen in 2017; and

WHEREAS, the Lutheran World Federation in Wittenberg/Lutherstadt, under the work of Rev. Hans Kasch, is recognizing this quincentennial anniversary by creating a park with 500 native fruit and deciduous trees; and

WHEREAS, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is a member of the Lutheran World Federation; and

WHEREAS, the cost for a mature tree in the Luthergarten is 500 Euros (approx. \$750); and

WHEREAS, the Luthergarten project encourages benefactors to plant a "sister" tree in their location with an accompanying plaque stating its significance; and

WHEREAS, the total cost of the project is no more than \$1000; and  
WHEREAS, we encourage Bishop Hansen or a person of his choosing to be present in Wittenberg/Lutherstadt on the day of the tree planting; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the twelfth Churchwide Assembly of the ELCA direct the ELCA Church Council to purchase a tree in the

Luthergarten and determine a location, and oversee the planting, of its sister tree and adjacent plaque.

The Reference and Counsel Committee presented its recommendation. During debate, the Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, bishop of the Northeastern Ohio Synod, offered to purchase the tree on behalf of this church. The assembly then voted on the recommendation of the Reference and Counsel Committee.

**ASSEMBLY**

**ACTION:** YES-855; NO-73  
**CA11.04.19**

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

Having considered all amendments and non-germane resolutions with budgetary implications, voting members debated the 2012-2013 budget proposal. The assembly adopted the proposed budget.

**ASSEMBLY**

**ACTION:** YES-919; NO-33  
**CA11.04.20**

**2012 Budget Proposal**

**To approve a 2012 current fund spending authorization of \$61,792,900;**

**To approve a 2012 ELCA World Hunger income proposal of \$18,500,000;**

**2013 Budget Proposal**

**To approve a 2013 current fund income proposal of \$61,939,400;**

**To approve a 2013 ELCA World Hunger income proposal of \$18,500,000; and**

**To authorize the Church Council to establish a spending authorization after periodic review of revised income estimates.**

**LIFT Implementing Resolutions**

(Reference: *Pre-Assembly Report IV:30*)

The assembly considered the second set of implementing resolutions for the Living Into the Future Together (LIFT) report and resolutions. The Reference and Counsel Committee presented its recommendation on an amendment submitted by Mr. James L. Pence, which voting members approved.

**Moved;**

**Carried:** To refer the resolution on expansion of support for pastors to the Congregation and Synodical Mission unit of the churchwide organization.

The Reference and Counsel Committee recommended that the amendment brought by the Rev. Serena S. Sellers to paragraph 5 be approved.

Voting members adopted the recommendation, as amended.

**ASSEMBLY**

**ACTION:**

**YES-894; NO-22**

**CA11.04.21**

To provide a means to continue the work assigned to the task force on Living into the Future Together: Renewing the Ecology of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (LIFT), the 2011 Churchwide Assembly directs that the Office of the Presiding Bishop, in collaboration with the Church Council and the Conference of Bishops, do the following:

1. To facilitate review of the constitutional responsibilities of synods in order that synods continue and increase their roles as catalysts for missional planning;
2. To facilitate a broad-based process addressing legislative decision-making in this church;
3. To initiate a process to expand the consultative role of the Conference of Bishops that allows the Church Council to refer issues to it and the Conference of Bishops to make recommendations to the Church Council;
4. To explore the use of social media and technology in order to allow greater participation of ELCA members in meetings of the Church Council and the Churchwide Assembly;
5. To initiate collaborative work by congregations, synods, the churchwide organization, institutions of this church, and others to create and support diverse non-legislative forums and events that bring together leaders of this church to address missional issues, participate in theological study and reflection, foster leadership development, and enhance the interdependence of this church;
6. To request units of the churchwide organization to propose to the Church Council ways of receiving grassroots input on and disseminating information about their work through the use of emerging forms of communication, taking care to include those engaged in multicultural, ethnic-specific, justice for women ministries, youth and young adult networks, and various ministry partners; and
7. To request that annual reports related to this work be presented to the Church Council through 2013.

## Constitutional Amendments Related to the Redesign of the Churchwide Organization

(Reference Pre-Assembly Report IV:37-48)

The 2011 Churchwide Assembly considered constitutional amendments related to the redesign of the churchwide organization. One continuing resolution, 17.30.A11, had been removed from the *en bloc* resolution. Voting members adopted the remaining amendments.

**ASSEMBLY**

**EN BLOC; TWO-THIRDS REQUIRED**

**ACTION:**

**YES-890; NO-25**

**CA11.04.22**

To adopt *en bloc*, with the exception of such amendments as may be considered separately, the following amendments to the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* related to the redesign of the churchwide organization.

*Note:* The entire list of amendments is in the Pre-Assembly Report IV:37-48.

Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson ruled out of order the amendment proposed by Mr. Bruce E. Seagrist to continuing resolution 17.30.A11 and asked Secretary David D. Swartling to explain the ruling. The secretary indicated to voting members that the proposed amendment would make the continuing resolution inconsistent with constitutional provision 17.51. (proposed 17.30.) that defined the duties of the Mission Investment Fund. The assembly then approved the Church Council-recommended amendment to this continuing resolution:

**ASSEMBLY**

**TWO-THIRDS REQUIRED**

**ACTION:**

**YES-902; NO-24**

**CA11.04.23**

To adopt the following amendment related to the redesign of the churchwide organization:

~~17.51.A10; 17.30.A11.~~

**Operation of the Mission Investment Fund of the ELCA**

*The Mission Investment Fund of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America shall:*

- a. *have primary responsibility for the development, administration, and promotion of Mission Investments;*
- b. *develop and administer a loan program, including management responsibilities for the underwriting, legal, accounting, reporting, servicing, marketing, and other related functions;*

- c. provide expertise for management of real property and execute all necessary documents for the acquisition and disposition of such property;
- d. relate to the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit, which shall request real estate acquisition for new and existing ministries within the limits of the capital funds available and within established criteria; ~~establish, in consultation with the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit, an annual capital budget for ministry development;~~
- e. ~~have responsibility, within established guidelines for determining which congregations shall receive loans, the amount of each loan, and the repayment schedule, and shall confer with the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit on any loans to developing ministries;~~
- f. ~~execute the loans, ensure safekeeping for the legal documents, provide accounting services for the repayment, and supervise collection;~~
- g. 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.

Note: The entire list of amendments is in the Pre-Assembly Report IV:48-64.

The assembly then approved the Church Council's recommendation on provisions 9.62.j. and \*C6.05.j.

**ASSEMBLY**

**EN BLOC; TWO-THIRDS REQUIRED**

**ACTION:**

**YES-862; NO-79**

**CA11.04.25**

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

9.62.i. 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 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.

\*C6.05.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 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.

## General Constitutional Amendments

(Reference: Pre-Assembly Report IV:48-64)

As voting members began their consideration of general amendments to the ELCA Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions, Secretary David D. Swartling noted that a voting member had requested separate consideration of provisions 9.62.j. and \*C6.05.j. The 2011 Churchwide Assembly then voted on the *en bloc* motion.

**ASSEMBLY**

**EN BLOC; TWO-THIRDS REQUIRED**

**ACTION:**

**YES-889; NO-26**

**CA11.04.24**

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

The voting members also approved the following procedural rule:

Moved;  
Seconded;  
Carried:

Two-Thirds Required  
Yes-662; No-193

To limit each speaker to 1 minute and limit debate to 10 minutes per topic.

## Report of the Memorials Committee

The 2011 Churchwide Assembly resumed its consideration of the Report of the Memorials Committee.

### CATEGORY A6: IMMIGRATION REFORM

(Reference: Pre-Assembly Report VI:37-39)

#### ASSEMBLY

**ACTION:** YES-870; NO-61

#### CA11.04.26

To receive with gratitude the memorial of the Northeastern Minnesota Synod in support of immigration reform and the DREAM Act (The Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors Act), which would provide a path for citizenship for undocumented high school graduates;

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

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

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

### CATEGORY A 7: INVESTMENT FOR POSITIVE CHANGE IN PALESTINE

(Reference: Pre-Assembly Report VI:39-43)

A proposed amendment to the Memorials Committee's recommendation on this matter was defeated. The assembly then approved the following:

#### ASSEMBLY

**ACTION:** YES-868; NO-73

#### CA11.04.27

To receive with gratitude the memorials of the Northeastern Pennsylvania, Lower Susquehanna, and Metropolitan Washington, D.C., synods related to investment for positive change in Palestine;

To encourage members, congregations, synods, and agencies of this church to:

1. seek ways to achieve a deeper understanding of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, including the perspectives of other faith communities, and

receive, read, and discuss the *Kairos Palestine* document as an "authentic word from our brothers and sisters in the Palestinian Christian community" that "warrants our respect and attentiveness";

2. affirm this church's commitment to non-violent responses to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, including the Peace Not Walls campaign's efforts toward strengthening accompaniment, awareness-building, and advocacy; and
3. consider making positive economic investments in those Palestinian projects and businesses that peacefully strengthen the economic and social fabric of Palestinian society;

To commend the policy, "ELCA Economic Social Criteria Investment Screens," to the members, congregations, synods, and agencies of this church; and

To decline to undertake a review of the investment of funds managed within the ELCA but to commend these recommendations to the Office of the Treasurer, the Office of the Secretary, the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit, the Mission Advancement unit, and the ELCA Board of Pensions for consideration.

### CATEGORY A8: SUPPORT FOR FARMERS AND RANCHERS

(Reference: Pre-Assembly Report VI:43-44)

#### ASSEMBLY

**ACTION:** YES-900; NO-19

#### CA11.04.28

To receive with gratitude the memorial of the Western North Dakota Synod calling on the 2011 Churchwide Assembly to recognize and celebrate the central role of farmers and ranchers in providing an abundant supply of food and fiber for our nation and the world;

To acknowledge the central importance of the vocation of agriculture for rural communities and the economic life of our nation as a whole; and

To affirm that the ELCA, in its social policies, recognizes and supports not only the vital role of farmers and ranchers in caring for the land and providing daily bread, but also their stewardship of creation through responsible use of science and technology.

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# Legislative Update

## Friday, August 19, 2011



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.

### Report of the Reference and Counsel Committee

(Reference: Pre-Assembly Report VIII)

In the eighth plenary session voting members resumed consideration of the Report of the Reference and Counsel Committee.

#### MOTION A: ELCA MALARIA CAMPAIGN

Submitted by: Pr. Mark R. Olson, Northeastern Minnesota Synod (3E)

The Reference and Counsel Committee recommended that the assembly approve the following amendments to the previous action of the assembly on the ELCA Malaria Campaign. Voting members accepted the recommendation.

ASSEMBLY

TWO-THIRDS VOTE REQUIRED

ACTION:

YES-900; NO-15

CA11.05.29

To amend the assembly's action on the ELCA Malaria Campaign as follows:

To launch the ELCA Malaria Campaign under the auspices of ELCA World Hunger as a major fundraising effort of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, its synods and congregations, and its affiliated ministries, auxiliaries, and individual members, that will encompass the best efforts of this church to join companion churches in Africa and ~~ELCA full-communion partners~~ to contain deaths related to malaria by 2015;

To join with domestic and global partners to address malaria as a disease intensified by poverty within the context of comprehensive and sustainable community development and in close cooperation and partnership with this church's companion churches in Africa and The Lutheran World Federation, and to explore venues for collaboration with similar initiatives from full-communion partners;

To invite every congregation, synod, affiliated ministry, auxiliary, and individual member of this church to make a contribution toward the goal of \$15 million over the next four years (2011-2015) while

emphasizing that gifts to the ELCA Malaria Campaign are not intended to replace giving to ELCA World Hunger but demonstrate commitment above and beyond normal ELCA World Hunger giving;

To develop the ELCA Malaria Campaign in ways that complement efforts of ELCA World Hunger to achieve and grow beyond its own annual goals;

To authorize continued receipt of designated ELCA Malaria Campaign gifts under the auspices of ELCA World Hunger, with such funds to be allocated for the purposes of this campaign;

To request that reports be submitted annually to the ELCA Church Council and to each Churchwide Assembly during the duration of the campaign and that public announcements of accomplishments be made as appropriate; and

To give thanks that God's work of bringing healing to the nations can continue to be accomplished through our hands as we share the abundance with which God has blessed us.

#### MOTION B: PERPETUAL PRAYER VIGIL

Submitted by: Pr. Philip K. Van Dam, Southern Ohio Synod (6F)

WHEREAS, the Apology to the Augsburg Confession, Ch. V, 71, Article XIII says that we can consider prayer a sacrament; and

WHEREAS, we seek to be moved by the Holy Spirit, and

WHEREAS, prayer helps this to happen, and

WHEREAS, prayer vigils help to motivate people to pray, and

WHEREAS, the Moravians had an international prayer vigil for over 100 years; be it therefore

RESOLVED, that the synods of the ELCA hold prayer vigils for the entirety of Lent in 2012 and be it further

RESOLVED, that by Lent 2013 the ELCA have a plan in place for a perpetual prayer vigil.

ASSEMBLY

ACTION:

YES-871; NO-35

CA11.05.30

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

**MOTION C: CONFRONTING INJUSTICE IN STATE IMMIGRATION INITIATIVES**

*Submitted by: Ms. Cheryl G. Stuart, Florida-Bahamas Synod (9E)*

Voting members accepted the recommendation of the Reference and Counsel Committee to approve the following resolution.

**ASSEMBLY**

**ACTION:**

*YES-882; NO-40*

**CA11.05.31**

WHEREAS, the biblical witness consistently speaks of faith as including the care of immigrants, for example, in Leviticus 19:34, which records God's command to Israel that: "The stranger who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the stranger as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt; I am the Lord your God;" and Romans 15:7, which reminds us to "welcome one another, just as Christ has welcomed you;" and

WHEREAS, immigrants are among the most vulnerable persons in our society; and

WHEREAS, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America has provided prophetic leadership through messages and actions in support of migrants; and

WHEREAS, the ELCA, in partnership with Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS), advocates for comprehensive immigration reform based on the following provisions:

- Provides an earned pathway to lawful permanent residency and eventual citizenship for undocumented immigrants
- Ensures the human enforcement of U.S. immigration laws, specifically within the immigration detention system
- Protects families from separation and ensures an adequate supply of visas for families seeking to reunite
- Ensures the protection of U.S. citizen and immigrant workers
- Provides adequate resources and protections to ensure the successful integration of vulnerable migrants; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Congress has failed to pass comprehensive immigration reform at a national level, thereby giving impetus to states and local communities to enact a confusing patchwork of laws that are often unwelcoming to immigrants; and

WHEREAS, pastors and members of this church are extending welcome to immigrants and demonstrating courage and conviction as they stand with immigrants and oppose unjust proposals and laws; therefore, be it

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

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

**RESOLVED**, that congregations, seminaries, camps, colleges, universities, synods, and all expressions of the ELCA are hereby called upon to deepen their understanding of the current issues related to immigration and their calling to stand for welcome, including the widespread study and use of the ELCA social policy resolution titled "Toward

Compassionate, Just and Wise Immigration Reform," adopted by the Church Council in 2009; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that all members of this church, including its leaders, be encouraged to protest laws and proposed laws that ignore the Bible's witness to care for the stranger among us and to serve all people and strive for justice and peace in all the earth, by communicating with legislators, governors, and the media; participating in public gatherings opposing unjust immigration policies; and taking all actions that demonstrate welcome and live out accompaniment of immigrants; and be it further

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

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

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

**MOTION D: DIALOGUE WITH NALC**

*Submitted by: Mr. Christopher J. Suehr, Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod (8B)*

WHEREAS, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is committed to dialogue with other Christian bodies;

WHEREAS, the ELCA serves as a model church in providing opportunities to address differences in theologies and doctrines;

WHEREAS, the ELCA's vision of ecumenism commits us to reconciliation and unity of God's Church; therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America seek dialogue with the North American Lutheran Church (NALC) to consider ways in which cooperation in ministry and mission can advance caring for God's people through discussing mission understanding and work in the United States and in the world, and to strive for a mutual relationship, where possible, for both the ELCA and NALC.

The Reference and Counsel Committee recommended the following response to the resolution, which was amended, then adopted by the assembly.

**ASSEMBLY**

**ACTION:**

*YES-841; NO-74*

**CA11.05.32**

**RESOLVED**, that the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America through the Office of the Presiding Bishop's Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Relations invite dialogue with the North American Lutheran

**Church and to strive for a mutual relationship, where possible, for both the ELCA and the NALC.**

**MOTION E: SUICIDE PREVENTION**

*Submitted by: Mr. Gerald H. Weyrauch, Southeastern Synod (9D)*

WHEREAS, the Message on Suicide Prevention was approved by the Church Council on November 14, 1999; and

WHEREAS, the number of suicides in the US has increased over 20 percent in the past ten years; and

WHEREAS, the economic malaise engulfing our country, coupled with the impending increase in the number of returning veterans as U.S. engagement in foreign conflicts winds down, enhances the potential for increased suicides; and

WHEREAS, there have been no reports to the Churchwide Assembly on actions taken to implement the Message on Suicide Prevention; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the synods report to the 2013 Churchwide Assembly actions taken by them and/or their congregations to implement the Message on Suicide Prevention.

The Reference and Counsel Committee recommended the following response to this resolution, which the assembly approved.

**ASSEMBLY**

**ACTION:**

**CA11.05.33**

**YES-901; NO-21**

WHEREAS, the Message on Suicide Prevention was approved by the Church Council on November 14, 1999; and

WHEREAS, the number of suicides in the US has increased over 20 percent in the past ten years; and

WHEREAS, the economic malaise engulfing our country, coupled with the impending increase in the number of returning veterans as U.S. engagement in foreign conflicts winds down, enhances the potential for increased suicides; and

WHEREAS, addressing suicide prevention is important; therefore, be it

**RESOLVED, that the 2011 Churchwide Assembly call upon all expressions of this church, as appropriate, to seek ways to deal with this issue consistent with the Message on Suicide Prevention.**

**MOTION F: CONGREGATIONAL OFFERINGS**

*Submitted by: Mr. William T. Franz, Virginia Synod (9A)*

WHEREAS, congregational expenses typically are paid monthly, but congregational receipts are typically received weekly, especially on Sundays; and

WHEREAS, there are typically 52 Sundays in a calendar year, but 2012 has 53; and

WHEREAS, congregations in the ELCA should therefore each receive almost 2% additional weekly offerings in 2012 beyond typical giving; and

WHEREAS, we are an Easter people, celebrating the resurrection each Sunday, and we are graced with almost 2% more Easter in 2012; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that congregations of the ELCA be encouraged to set aside in 2012 the equivalent of one week's offerings for mission and ministry outside the congregation, beyond its usual ministries, examples of such mission and ministries being the ELCA Malaria Campaign, ELCA World Hunger, local food pantries and shelters, and the colleges and seminaries of the ELCA; and be it further

RESOLVED, that marketing and communication of this resolution be referred to the appropriate churchwide unit for implementation.

The Reference and Counsel Committee recommended the following response, which the assembly adopted.

**ASSEMBLY**

**ACTION:**

**CA11.05.34**

**YES-878; NO-51**

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

**MOTION G: EFFECT OF U.S. ETHANOL POLICY ON WORLD HUNGER**

*Submitted by: Mr. Lowell Klessig, East-Central Synod of Wisconsin (5I)*

WHEREAS, World Hunger has been a long-standing social concern of the ELCA; and

WHEREAS, World Hunger has been intensified by dramatic increases in the price of corn; and

WHEREAS, the high price of corn has been primarily caused by exponential growth in demand for corn from ethanol plants that now utilize nearly 40% of the U.S. corn crop; and

WHEREAS, no law mandates escalating amounts of ethanol be blended with gasoline, thus further shrinking world food supplies; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the ELCA, meeting in its 2011 Churchwide Assembly, urge the president and the Congress of the United States to recognize and address the unintended consequences of U.S. ethanol policy on world hunger.

The Reference and Counsel Committee recommended referral of the motion, and the assembly adopted the committee's recommendation.

**ASSEMBLY**

**ACTION:**

**CA11.05.35**

**YES-860; NO-73**

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

## **MOTION H: YOUTH-RELATED MATTERS**

*Submitted by: Mr. C. Matthew Wertman, Virginia Synod (9A)*

WHEREAS, youth and young adults have always been an important ministry in the life of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and its predecessor church bodies; and

WHEREAS, the 2009 Churchwide Assembly resolved that it is the goal of this church that at least 10 percent of churchwide and synodical assemblies, councils, committees, and boards be comprised of youth and young adults; and

WHEREAS, the Lutheran Youth Organization (LYO) has been an energetic presence since the ELCA was created in 1987; and

WHEREAS, the LYO has played an integral role in lifting up youth and young adults to become leaders in this church as rostered pastors, rostered lay leaders, and children of God carrying out their vocations; and

WHEREAS, the Living Into the Future Together (LIFT) Task Force found that the fourth most common response to the final question on the synodical survey was that youth and young adults would be valued throughout the ELCA; therefore, be it

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

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

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

The Reference and Counsel Committee recommended the adoption of Motion H but replacing the final paragraph of the resolution with the following:

RESOLVED, that consistent with actions taken at the ELCA 2011 Churchwide Assembly, this church shall maintain and strengthen youth-led faith formation and leadership development.

The committee's recommendation was on the floor for discussion. Mr. Wertman moved Motion H as a substitute to the committee's recommendation. Following debate of the original and the substitute, the assembly adopted Motion H.

### **ASSEMBLY**

**ACTION:** YES-909; NO-30  
**CA11.05.36**

WHEREAS, youth and young adults have always been an important ministry in the life of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and its predecessor church bodies; and

WHEREAS, the 2009 Churchwide Assembly resolved that it is the goal of this church that at least 10 percent of churchwide and

synodical assemblies, councils, committees, and boards be comprised of youth and young adults; and

WHEREAS, the Lutheran Youth Organization (LYO) has been an energetic presence since the ELCA was created in 1987; and

WHEREAS, the LYO has played an integral role in lifting up youth and young adults to become leaders in this church as rostered pastors, rostered lay leaders, and children of God carrying out their vocations; and

WHEREAS, the Living Into the Future Together (LIFT) Task Force found that the fourth most common response to the final question on the synodical survey was that youth and young adults would be valued throughout the ELCA; therefore, be it

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

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

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

## **MOTION I: THANKS FOR THE WITNESS OF THE REV. HENRY MELCHIOR MUHLENBERG**

*Submitted by: Pr. Stephen R. Herr, Lower Susquehanna Synod (8D)*

### **ASSEMBLY**

**ACTION:** YES-883; NO-17  
**CA11.05.37**

RESOLVED, that the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in assembly give thanks to God for the witness and service of the Reverend Henry Melchior Muhlenberg in this the 300th anniversary of his birth; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the ELCA in assembly invite congregations, agencies, and institutions of this church to celebrate this anniversary of Muhlenberg, who is considered by many historians to be the Patriarch of Lutheranism in America.

## MOTION L: MISSION SUPPORT

Submitted by: Pr. Matthew L. Riegel, West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod (8H)

RESOLVED, that the *Constitution for Synods* †S15.11.a. and †S15.11.b. be amended as follows and a paragraph †S15.11.c. be added:

- a. The mission of this church beyond the congregation is to be supported by ~~such a proportionate share of each congregation's annual budget as each congregation determines. This synod shall develop guidelines for congregational mission support determining "proportionate share,"~~ and shall consult with congregational leaders to assist each congregation in making its determination.
- b. This synod shall receive ~~the proportionate share of the mission support from its congregations, and shall transmit that percentage of each congregation's mission support as determined by the Church-wide Assembly to the treasurer of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.~~
- c. This synod shall transmit to the treasurer of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America a portion of that mission support as determined by the Church Council based upon the number of confirmed members of this synod and adjusted for the median family income in the territory of this synod; if this synod is a non-geographical or extra-territorial synod, the portion of mission support shall be determined by an alternative method developed by the Church Council in consultation with this synod.

The Reference and Counsel Committee recommended referral of the resolution. The assembly accepted the recommendation.

### ASSEMBLY

**ACTION:** YES-635; NO-251  
**CA11.05.38**

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

## Report of the Memorials Committee

(Reference: Pre-Assembly Report VI:1-64)

The eighth plenary session of the 2011 Churchwide Assembly continued its consideration of the Memorials Committee report.

### CATEGORY C1: LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY

(Reference: Pre-Assembly Report VI:46-52)

The Memorials Committee moved its recommended response to the memorial on Lutheran Campus Ministry.

**Moved;**

**Seconded:** To receive with gratitude the memorials of the

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

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

To refer the concerns expressed in these memorials to the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit for ongoing consultation with the Conference of Bishops, the churchwide Administrative Team and campus ministry partners; and

To request that a report and possible recommendations be brought to the April 2012 meeting of the ELCA Church Council.

Mr. Jayson Nicholson offered the following amendment:

**Moved;**

**Seconded:** To delete paragraphs 3 and 4 of the Memorials Committee's recommended response and substitute the following:

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

To create a consultative protocol when any decisions proposed by the ELCA Church Council regarding Lutheran Campus Ministry are conducted with representatives of Lutheran Campus Ministry-related constituencies, specifically students, Lutheran Campus Ministry staff, and synodical judicatories; and

To resolve that the 2011 ELCA Churchwide Assembly provide for a period of stability relative to its commitment to Lutheran Campus Ministry in this church, keeping funding level (no further cuts from the fiscal year 2012 amounts announced) over a five-year period, while working with synods, state/regional campus ministry boards, local boards, and campus pastors to make the transition to sustainable funding models.

The chair ruled that the third paragraph of the amendment was out of order because it had budgetary implications but had not been referred to the Reference and Counsel Committee prior to passage of the 2012-2013 budget the previous day.

Following debate, the assembly voted on the first two paragraphs of the proposed amendment.

**Moved;** Yes-628; No-237

**Seconded;**

**Carried:** To delete paragraphs 3 and 4 of the Memorials Committee's recommended response and substitute the following:

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

To create a consultative protocol when any decisions proposed by the ELCA Church Council regarding Lutheran Campus Ministry are conducted with representatives of Lutheran Campus Ministry-related constituencies, specifically students, Lutheran Campus Ministry staff, and synodical judicatories.

Voting members then considered the Memorials Committee recommendation as amended.

**ASSEMBLY**

**ACTION:** YES-796; NO-93  
**CA11.05.39**

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

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

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

To create a consultative protocol when any decisions proposed by the ELCA Church Council regarding Lutheran Campus Ministry are conducted with representatives of Lutheran Campus Ministry-related constituencies, specifically students, Lutheran Campus Ministry staff, and synodical judicatories.

## **CATEGORY B1: VOTING MEMBERS AT SYNOD AND CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLIES**

The Memorials Committee moved its recommended response to the memorial on categories of voting members at Synod and Churchwide Assemblies.

The assembly approved the recommendation.

**ASSEMBLY**

**ACTION:** YES-676; NO-196  
**CA11.05.40**

To receive with gratitude the memorials of the Northwestern Minnesota and Delaware-Maryland synods concerning amendment of the categories of voting members for Synod and Churchwide Assemblies;

To affirm the principles of representation articulated in the *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*, including the existing categories of voting members; and

To decline to implement the changes to the governing documents of this church requested by these synods.

## **Report of the Reference and Counsel Committee**

(Reference: Pre-Assembly Report VIII)

The Reference and Counsel Committee moved its recommendations of thanksgiving, which were approved *en bloc* by the assembly by acclamation.

**ASSEMBLY**

**ACTION:** EN BLOC  
ACCLAMATION  
**CA11.05.41**

To approve the following resolutions of thanksgiving:

**MOTION M:**

**Appreciation for Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson**  
Be it Resolved:

We, as members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, gathered as the 2011 Churchwide Assembly, receive with the gratitude of the entire church the report of Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson.

We thank God for Bishop Hanson's pastoral care for this church:

- For the love shown for each expression of the church as he prays, preaches and counsels;
- For his teaching and proclamation of the Gospel as he stands with the poor and marginalized, the outcasts and the immigrants;

- For his witness as he speaks to those in positions of power and authority on behalf of those whose voices have been silenced.

We thank God for Bishop Hanson's strategic and visionary leadership in challenging this church in our readiness to have the Holy Spirit move us –

- Move us to be a church that has been freed in Christ to serve with humility, mutual accountability, courage and compassion;
- Move us to be a church that is clear in its identity as God's welcoming people;
- Move us to be more attentive to our relationships, our interdependence, and our ecology;
- Move us to uplift nations and people affected by disaster, famine, and poverty through our work both domestically and globally;
- Move us to adapt to change as we "Live Into the Future Together" with confidence that God's work will be done with our hands.

We extend our love and prayers to Mark and Ione Hanson and their family. We commit ourselves to live fully and to the freedom given to us in our faith in Jesus Christ as we serve God and our neighbor in love and faithfulness. With deep appreciation we proclaim our "Yes" to be moved by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Come, Holy Spirit, come!

#### **MOTION N:**

##### **APPRECIATION FOR VICE PRESIDENT CARLOS PEÑA**

Be it resolved:

With great appreciation and gratitude we the 2011 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America thank Vice President Peña for his ministry in daily life, always being available to represent the church in word and action, domestically and internationally. He has shown through his actions his love for this church through his giving of himself and servant leadership. He is a model for how one lives out a vocational calling in all that he does.

As the highest elected lay leader, among many duties and responsibilities, he has presided over the work of the Church Council, served on many committees, and attended scores of Synod Assemblies, while running his own business and caring for his family.

It is with deep appreciation that we say, "Thanks be to God!"

#### **MOTION O:**

##### **APPRECIATION FOR SECRETARY DAVID SWARTLING**

Whereas,

We thank Secretary David Swartling for being freed in Christ to serve the church as he continues on his journey of multiple odysseys—geographic, climatological, and vocational—as God's servant;

We recognize his reliance on the two Great Books—The Holy Bible and the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing*

*Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*—that give him theological grounding and structure for his work as secretary;

We share his understanding of the missional multiplier effect and evangelical synergy that he captures and utilizes in carrying out his duties;

We appreciate his attention to detail in supporting and defining proposals of the LIFT Task Force and in implementing the redesign of the churchwide organization;

We admire his ability to compile congregational reports and interpret statistics that are gathered to add clarity of direction of, to, and for the church.

We value his sense of humor and his deep commitment to the church which are inspiring to its members;

Therefore, be it **RESOLVED**, that the 2011 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America thank David Swartling for all the gifts that he brings as God's servant, freed in Christ to serve. Thanks be to God!

#### **MOTION P:**

##### **APPRECIATION FOR TREASURER CHRISTINA JACKSON-SKELTON**

The members of the 2011 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America thank Treasurer Christina Jackson-Skelton for her nine years of dedicated service as the treasurer of the ELCA. We give thanks for her passion for the ministries of this church and extensive knowledge in the financial management of the churchwide organization.

We are thankful for her direction in the redesign of the churchwide structure to ensure that this church practices good stewardship of the financial gifts entrusted to it. We are most appreciative of her fiduciary and managerial skills, as demonstrated in her role and responsibilities with church-related programs and organizations including the Mission Investment Fund and Mission Advancement.

We are thankful for her leadership in moving to a unified Constituent Information System to improve the efficiency of the churchwide organization. As her service as treasurer of the ELCA comes to an end, we wish her well as she transitions into her new role as Executive Director of the Mission Advancement unit of the ELCA. With deep appreciation for her service, we are bold to proclaim our freedom in Christ to be faithful stewards of what God has entrusted to us, "Thanks be to God."

#### **MOTION Q:**

##### **RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION AND THANKSGIVING FOR HOSPITALITY**

Be it resolved that:

We, as members of the ELCA gathered for the 2011 Churchwide Assembly, express enthusiastic thanks for the magical hospitality of Orlando, Florida. You even provided us with evening fireworks and a full moon. Our hotel and convention center offered comfort and built-in fitness walks as we

traversed the corridors from sleeping quarters to plenary sessions, worship, and dining halls. The warmth of the sun and the clattering fronds of the palm trees reminded us of where we were and brought smiles to our faces.

When we got lost, volunteers in red vests pointed us in the right direction (starting at the airport), and we were always greeted with smiles. We know that there were many folks behind the scenes to make the assembly move seamlessly and smoothly throughout the week.

We lift up those musicians who brought beautiful, inspirational music to our ears during worship services and the mission encounter.

Let it be known that Orlando has provided us with a magical kingdom of fellowship, contemplation, and comfortable space for deliberation and discernment as we gathered to make important decisions for the future of the ELCA.

In deep appreciation we say, "Thanks be to God!"

## **MOTION R**

### **RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION AND THANKSGIVING FOR THE CHURCHWIDE STAFF**

Be it resolved:

We as members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in the 2011 Churchwide Assembly thank the churchwide staff for their dedicated work in preparation for this assembly. We recognize that with significant staff reductions and budget adjustments over the past years their individual responsibilities have multiplied and have been made much more challenging. We commend their competence and faithfulness to the mission of this church under these circumstances.

We give thanks and continue to uphold in prayer those who have left the service of the churchwide organization since the last Churchwide Assembly and are eternally grateful for their steadfast work on behalf of this whole church in the midst of uncertainty and challenging times.

We also remember with heavy hearts those colleagues whose lives and ministries have tragically been cut short. Their legacy lives on in work that continues in service to the Risen Lord, who offers hope in all times.

It is with deep appreciation to all who have served this church that we say, "Thanks be to God!"