



Legislative Update
Friday, August 12, 2016

Consideration of the Word and Service Proposal

Reference: 2016 Pre-Assembly Report, Section V, Roster of Ministry of Word and Service, and Section VI, Report and Recommendations of the Word and Service Task Force.

The Rev. William O. Gafkjen, bishop of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod, chair of the Conference of Bishops and member of the Church Council, made the motion on behalf of the council.

ASSEMBLY

TWO-THIRDS VOTE REQUIRED

ACTION

YES-864; NO-32

CA16.05.09

To thank the Word and Service Task Force members and all who contributed to its work to develop a proposal to establish a single, unified roster of Word and Service;

To unify the three existing Official Rosters of Laypersons (Associates in Ministry, Deaconesses of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and Diaconal Ministers) into a roster of Ministry of Word and Service;

To ensure that individuals on the three existing rosters of Associates in Ministry, Deaconesses of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and Diaconal Ministers be automatically transferred to the roster of Ministry of Word and Service, unless a person on an existing roster declines, and that the existing rosters be eliminated with the establishment of the new roster on January 1, 2017;

To endorse the other recommendations of the task force regarding this new roster; and

To give thanks to God for the ministry of all who have served and are serving on the present lay rosters and to express confidence that God is leading this church into God's future.

Consideration of the Word and Service Amendments to Governing Documents

Reference: 2016 Pre-Assembly Report, Section V, Constitutional Amendments Related to a Roster of Ministry of Word and Service.

Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton called on the *Ad Hoc* Committee to present its report and recommendations.

Report of the Ad Hoc Committee

Reference: 2016 Pre-Assembly Report, Other, Report of the Ad Hoc Committee.

Ms. Christine P. Connell, Church Council member from Staten Island, N.Y., and the Rev. Mark E. Narum, bishop of the Western North Dakota Synod, co-chairs of the *Ad Hoc* Committee, presented the report of the committee.

ASSEMBLY

TWO-THIRDS VOTE REQUIRED

ACTION

YES-889; NO-15

CA16.05.10

To authorize the secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to strike the words "associate in ministry, diaconal minister and deaconess" and replace with the words "minister/s of Word and Service" in the *Constitutions, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*; and

To authorize the secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to make editorial correction that identify the rosters of this church and implement the creation of the ministers of Word and Service roster in the *Constitutions, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*.

ASSEMBLY

TWO-THIRDS VOTE REQUIRED

ACTION

YES-819; NO-84

CA16.05.11

To authorize the secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to strike the words “ordained minister/s” and replace with the words “minister/s of Word and Sacrament” in the *Constitutions, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*;

To authorize the secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to strike the word “clergy” and replace with the words “minister/s of Word and Sacrament in the *Constitutions, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*; and

To authorize the secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to strike the words “pastor/s” and replace with the words “minister/s of Word and Sacrament where appropriate in the *Constitutions, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* for the purpose of clarity and consistency.

ASSEMBLY

TWO-THIRDS VOTE REQUIRED

ACTION

YES-893; NO-24

CA16.05.12

To adopt, *en bloc*, the remaining amendments to the *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* [pages 1 through 49 of the recommendation].

Report of the Memorials Committee (continued)

Reference: 2016 Pre-Assembly Report, Section VII, Memorials Committee Report and Supplemental Report of the Memorials Committee.

Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton resumed consideration of a motion to amend the Memorials Committee’s recommendation.

Category C1: Peace with Justice in the Holy Land

Moved;

Seconded;

Yes-416; No-500

Defeated:

To substitute the following paragraph for the second to last paragraph of the motion:

To urge this church’s members, congregations, synods and agencies, as well as the presiding bishop, to urge U.S. Representatives, Senators and the Administration to increase diplomatic efforts to encourage Israel and Palestine to comply with internationally recognized human rights standards, including stopping all settlement building, the occupation of Palestinian territory and indiscriminate violence against civilians, and to work to enable an independent Palestinian state; and

ASSEMBLY

YES-751; NO-162

ACTION

CA16.05.13

To receive with gratitude the memorials of the Northwest Washington, Sierra Pacific, Southwest California, Rocky Mountain, Minneapolis Area, Southwestern Texas, Southeastern Iowa, South-Central Wisconsin, Southeast Michigan, Indiana-Kentucky, Metropolitan New York, Northeastern Pennsylvania, Upper Susquehanna and West Virginia-Western Maryland synods related to Israel and Palestine;

To reaffirm the commitment of this church to:

1. Continue its awareness-building, accompaniment, and advocacy on behalf of a peaceful resolution of the conflict between Israel and Palestine;

2. Take steps to assist the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL) and other Christians in sustaining their endangered presence in the Holy Land;
3. Promote the economic empowerment of Palestinians, including investment in Palestinian projects and businesses;
4. Promote the protection of the human rights of Palestinians and Israelis and oppose all violence and actions which discriminate against or deny any people their basic freedom, dignity or human rights;
5. Embrace the principles of restorative justice as part of the ELCA's advocacy and engagement for the just resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and actively seek ways to support Palestinians and Israelis engaging in restorative justice dialogue and other projects; and
6. Continue to pray for the ELCJHL and the work of The Lutheran World Federation Jerusalem program;

To encourage this church's members, congregations, synods, and agencies as well as the presiding bishop to call on the U.S. President, in coordination with the United Nations Security Council, to offer a new, comprehensive and time-bound agreement to the governments of Israel and Palestine, resulting in a negotiated final status agreement between Israel and Palestine leading to two viable and secure states with a shared Jerusalem;

To urge this church's members, congregations, synods, agencies and presiding bishop to call on their U.S. Representatives, Senators and the Administration to take action requiring that, to continue receiving U.S. financial and military aid, Israel must comply with internationally recognized human rights standards as specified in existing U.S. law, stop settlement building and the expansion of existing settlements in East Jerusalem and the West Bank, end its occupation of Palestinian territory, and enable an independent Palestinian state; and

To encourage this church's members, congregations, synods, and agencies to call on the U.S. President to recognize the State of Palestine and not prevent the application of the State of Palestine for full membership in the United Nations.

ASSEMBLY

TWO-THIRDS VOTE REQUIRED

ACTION

YES-776; NO-129

CA16.05.14

To suspend the rules and create a new rule that, after four people have spoken on the same side and no others are to speak on the other side, then automatically call the previous question.

Category A4: African Descent Lutherans

The Memorials Committee moved its recommendation.

Moved;

Seconded;

Yes-753; No-142

Carried:

To amend the seventh paragraph of the motion by addition:

To urge the seminaries, colleges, universities and other academic institutions of this church to work with the Conference of International Black Lutherans (CIBL) to recognize and dismantle white hegemony by lifting up, encouraging and incorporating the academic exploration of Black Liberation Theology and Womanist Theologians;

To receive with gratitude the memorials of the Arkansas-Oklahoma, Metropolitan Chicago, Southeast Michigan, New Jersey, Metropolitan New York, Southeastern Pennsylvania, North Carolina and Southeastern synods regarding African Descent Lutheran Lives Matter;

To direct the Office of the Presiding Bishop, the Domestic Mission unit and the Global Mission unit to assist in connecting, supporting and involving ELCA representation (particularly though not exclusively) of the people of African descent with the observance of the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation and the initiatives of the U.N. International Decade for People of African Descent; to be intentional in the inclusion of the contributions of African descent Lutherans as part of these observances;

To confess and repent of the Lutheran church's complicity in 400 years of enslavement, oppression and marginalization of African descent people and other marginalized populations;

To acknowledge with regret that the ELCA as an institution has and continues to contribute to racial harassment and discrimination against people of African descent through corporate action, policy and practices and to request the Office of the Secretary, in consultation with appropriate churchwide organization units, to review and report on current governing documents in light of these concerns;

To encourage synods and ELCA related institutions to do the same in its review and report of current governing documents related to setting policy and procedures on workplace harassment and discrimination, including racial harassment and discrimination;

To request the Domestic Mission unit through its African Descent Ministries desk, in consultation with the African Descent Lutheran Association, to create a "Declaration of the ELCA to the African Descent Community" and to bring this declaration with recommendations of how to include the declaration in this church's governing documents by the April 2018 meeting of the Church Council;

To urge the seminaries, colleges, universities and other academic institutions of this church to work with the Conference of International Black Lutherans (CIBL) to recognize and dismantle white hegemony by lifting up, encouraging and incorporating the academic exploration of Black Liberation Theology and Womanist Theologians;

To urge the seminaries, colleges, universities and other academic institutions of this church to develop anti-racism resources;

To reaffirm the Church Council action to call upon the seminaries, in collaboration with churchwide organization units and partners, to develop networked theological education programs, resources and opportunities for ethnic-specific communities;

To reaffirm the commitment of this church to create, sustain and reinvest in African descent communities, congregations and ministries including an update of the African Descent Ministry Strategy;

To request the Domestic Mission unit, in partnership with the African Descent Lutheran Association, to find ways to increase the number of African descent leaders, congregations and communities served by at least 10 percent; and

To recommit this church to growing its ethnic and racial diversity.

Category B1: Call to Discernment on U.S. Foreign and Military Policy

The Memorials Committee moved its recommendation.

Moved:

To receive with gratitude the memorial of the Minneapolis Area Synod regarding their call for the ELCA to study, reflect, search and act in light of ongoing and widening war efforts;

To recognize with gratitude the efforts of the current and previous presiding bishops, the Church Council, synod bishops, clergy and the laity to engage as responsible citizens living out the baptismal calling;

To issue a call for congregations to engage in prayer, Scripture-study and communal reading of the teaching resources of this church, particularly "Church in Society: A Lutheran Perspective," "For Peace in God's World" and "Talking Together as Christians about Tough Social Issues";

To invite this church to a particular time of prayer and communal discernment during the election season of 2016 on the moral impact and societal consequences of current U.S. foreign and military policy; and

To direct the presiding bishop to communicate this church's time of prayer and discernment to the U.S. President and members of Congress and to encourage ELCA members in this election season of 2016 to communicate the same to candidates for federal office.

A motion was made to amend the main motion.

Moved;

Seconded:

To replace the second to last paragraph of the motion with the following:

To invite this church to a particular time of prayer and communal discernment" over the next three years to promote robust examination of the of expanded US war efforts since 1990. The Church Council through the Office of the Presiding Bishop will solicit diverse partners, including scholars whose work focuses in these areas, activists, ecumenical partners, seminaries, colleges/universities, synods, VA and other federal chaplains. We especially hope to include those whose lives are most impacted by these developments in the United States and world. This group will form a task force to study this aspect of our reality as Christians and citizens of the United States.

Topics of inquiry could include:

- The impact on well being of some military veterans, contractors, affiliates, and their families:
 - o Chronic disabilities and loss (including chemical dependencies and brain injury)
 - o Collateral involvement with criminal justice system
 - o Diminished lives and early deaths of veterans and their families from toxins, PTSD symptoms, and violence
 - o Moral injury
 - o Character and skill development
- Broader societal impacts, such as:
 - o climate change and global pollution load
 - o changes in policing practices
 - o engagement with and prejudice against neighbor Muslims
 - o policy decisions due to commercial motivations for the proliferation of arms
- Social needs met and unmet due to prioritizing public spending on expanding war efforts; and

Moved;

Seconded;

Defeated:

Yes-443; No-459

To amend the amendment by deletion of all that follows "and other federal chaplains."

Moved;
Seconded; Yes-483; No-411
Carried: **To postpone consideration of the amendment until the afternoon session.**

Category B6: Welcoming Refugees

The Memorials Committee moved its recommendation.

Moved;
Seconded; Yes-603; No-255
Carried: **To amend the second to last paragraph of the motion by addition:**

To encourage and support all Lutherans in welcoming refugees by building awareness, volunteering, hosting refugees, speaking out against hate, advocating for a more generous U.S. response and observing Refugee Sunday, and to open up congregations, seminaries and all able Lutheran organizations to help house refugees; and

ASSEMBLY

ACTION

YES-842; NO-48

CA16.05.16

To receive with gratitude the memorials of the Eastern Washington-Idaho, Metropolitan New York, Northwestern Pennsylvania and Southeastern synods regarding refugee resettlement;

To reaffirm the work of ELCA leaders and Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service in working to welcome refugees from across the globe;

To support bishops, pastors and other Lutheran leaders as they continue to call on members of Congress and state legislators to open their hearts to the suffering of refugees around the world and support legislative actions to welcome these newcomers to new communities;

To request that the presiding bishop communicate this church's commitment for the resettlement of refugees in the United States and encourage steadfast support for this program to the U.S. President and members of Congress;

To encourage and support all Lutherans in welcoming refugees by building awareness, volunteering, hosting refugees, speaking out against hate, advocating for a more generous U.S. response and observing Refugee Sunday, and to open up congregations, seminaries and all able Lutheran organizations to help house refugees; and

To request that units of the churchwide organization, in cooperation with Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, provide easy access to resource materials for congregations to learn about and take part in ministries with refugees.

Report of the Reference and Counsel Committee

Reference: 2016 Pre-Assembly Report, Section IX, Report of the Reference and Counsel Committee

Mr. Paul G. Archer and the Rev. Vicki T. Garber, co-chairs of the Reference and Counsel Committee, made the motion to adopt Motion A on behalf of the committee.

Motion A: Resolution on Racial Justice

Submitted by: The Rev. Lee M. Miller II [Upstate New York Synod]

WHEREAS, systemic and institutionalized racism is an acute illness infecting North American culture; and

WHEREAS, the church is the body of Christ, and when one member of the body hurts, we all hurt; and

WHEREAS, currently rostered leaders are strongly encouraged to receive appropriate training including boundaries training; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the ELCA in assembly strongly encourage all rostered leaders to receive anti-racism training; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the ELCA in assembly strongly encourage every synod to develop or maintain resources for anti-racism training for rostered leaders and congregations.

A voting member made the following motion to amend the main motion.

Moved;

Seconded: *To amend the second "Resolved" clause by addition:*

RESOLVED, that the ELCA in assembly strongly encourage every synod to develop or maintain resources for anti-racism training for rostered leaders and congregations every two years.

The chair called for the orders of the day. The assembly will give further consideration of the motions on the floor during a later plenary session.

Addresses by Nominees for Vice President

Reference: 2016 Pre-Assembly Report, Section I, Rules of Organization and Procedure, Section V, The Election of the Vice President, and Section X, Biographical Information on Nominees for Vice President.

Each of the three nominees on the fourth ballot for vice president — Ms. Cheryl G. Stuart, Ms. Becky Blue and Mr. William B. Horne II — was given five minutes to address the Churchwide Assembly.

Fourth Ballot for Vice President

Reference: 2016 Pre-Assembly Report, Section I, Rules of Organization and Procedure, Section V, The Election of the Vice President, and Section X, Biographical Information on Nominees for Vice President.

The voting members used electronic voting machines to cast the fourth ballot for vice president. The Elections Committee reported the results of the fourth ballot. There were 900 votes cast, and 60 percent or 540 votes were needed for election.

Mr. William B. Horne II	565
Ms. Cheryl G. Stuart	175
Ms. Becky Blue	161

ASSEMBLY

ACTION

CA16.05.17 **To elect Mr. William B. Horne II to a six-year term, commencing November 1, 2016, as vice president of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.**

Consideration of Amendments to Certain Continuing Resolutions

Reference: 2016 Pre-Assembly Report, Section V, Amendment of Certain Continuing Resolutions.

Secretary Wm Chris Boerger made the motion recommended by the Church Council.

A voting member made a motion to amend the main motion.

Moved;

Seconded; **Yes-716; No-216**

Carried: *To substitute the following for the proposed continuing resolution 5.01.B16.*

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

ASSEMBLY

ACTION

CA16.05.18 **To adopt the following amendment to continuing resolution 5.01.A87. in the Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.** **YES-836; NO-91**

- ~~5.01.A87. It shall be a goal of this church that within 10 years of its establishment its membership shall include at least 10 percent people of color and/or primary language other than English.~~
- 5.01.A16. This church commits itself to ethnic and racial diversity. Each expression of this church shall annually assess its ethnic and racial diversity when compared to the demographic data of its community or territory. The churchwide organization will work with synods as they assist congregations to reach out to persons of color or whose primary language is other than English.
- ~~5.01.B87. With regard to the minimum goal that 10 percent of the membership of synod assemblies, councils, committees, boards, and/or other organizational units be persons of color and/or persons whose primary language is other than English, it is understood that initially there may be exceptions to the attainment of this goal based on the makeup of the membership within a particular synod. By the time of its second assembly, each synod shall establish a plan to attain this goal within 10 years.~~
- 5.01.B16. Each synod shall submit its goal and strategies to the appropriate churchwide unit or office and shall annually submit a report on progress toward its goals to the Church Council.
- 5.01.D16. The Churchwide Assembly shall receive reports from the presiding bishop and the secretary that monitor this church's progress toward meeting the commitment expressed in 5.01.A16.

Consideration of Amendments to Governing Documents

Reference: 2016 Pre-Assembly Report, Section V, General Amendments to the Constitutions of the ELCA.

Secretary Wm Chris Boerger made the motion recommended by the Church Council.

ASSEMBLY

TWO-THIRDS VOTE REQUIRED

ACTION

YES-841; NO-19

CA16.05.19

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* [pages 1 through 35 of the recommendation].

Consideration of Proposed Amendments Removed from *En Bloc*

Reference: 2016 Pre-Assembly Report, Section V, General Amendments to the Constitutions of the ELCA.

Secretary Wm Chris Boerger made the motions recommended by the Church Council.

ASSEMBLY

TWO-THIRDS VOTE REQUIRED

ACTION

YES-802; NO-130

CA16.05.20

To amend ELCA bylaw 12.41.11. as follows:

- 12.41.11. Each synod shall elect one voting member of the Churchwide Assembly for every 6,000 baptized members in the synod. In addition, each synod shall elect one voting member for every 50 congregations in the synod. The synodical bishop, who is *ex officio* a member of the Churchwide Assembly, shall be included in the number of voting members so determined. **Unless**

otherwise determined by the synod, the synodical vice president shall serve as an *ex officio* member of the Churchwide Assembly and be included in the number of the synod's voting members. These voting members elected by each synod shall comply with the principles of organization, commitment to inclusiveness, and interdependence as specified in Chapter 5 of this constitution. In addition, each synod shall elect one additional voting member who is a youth or young adult at the time of the election and one additional voting member who is a person of color or a person whose primary language is other than English. There shall be at least two voting members from each synod. The Church Council may allocate up to 10 additional voting members among synods, but no single synod may be allocated more than two additional voting members. The secretary shall notify each synod of the number of assembly members it is to elect.

ASSEMBLY
ACTION
CA16.05.21

TWO-THIRDS VOTE REQUIRED
YES-726; NO-143

To make continuing resolution †S6.04.B09. bylaw †S6.04.02. as follows:

†S6.04.B09. [continuing resolution becomes bylaw]

†S6.04.02. It is the goal of this synod that at least 10 percent of the voting members of the Synod Assembly, Synod Council, committees, and organizational units of this synod be youth and young adults. The Synod Council shall establish a plan for implementing this goal. For purposes of the constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions of this synod, the term “youth” means a voting member of a congregation who has not reached the age of 18 at the time of election or appointment for service. The term “young adult” means a voting member of a congregation between the ages of 18 and 30 at the time of election or appointment for service.

Report of the Reference and Counsel Committee (continued)

Reference: 2016 Pre-Assembly Report, Section IX, Report of the Reference and Counsel Committee

Mr. Paul G. Archer and the Rev. Vicki T. Garber, co-chairs of the Reference and Counsel Committee, resumed consideration of a proposed amendment to Motion A.

Moved;

Seconded:

To amend the second “Resolved” clause by addition:

RESOLVED, that the ELCA in assembly strongly encourage every synod to develop or maintain resources for anti-racism training for rostered leaders and congregations every two years.

Moved;

Seconded;

Carried:

Vote by card

To amend the proposed amendment to the second “Resolved” clause by addition:

RESOLVED, that the ELCA in assembly strongly encourage every synod to develop or maintain resources for anti-racism training for rostered leaders and congregations at least every two years.

Moved;

Seconded;

Defeated:

Vote by card

To amend the proposed amendment to the second “Resolved” clause by addition:

RESOLVED, that the ELCA in assembly strongly encourage every synod to develop or maintain resources for anti-racism training for rostered leaders and congregations at least every two years at the synod assembly.

Moved;
Seconded;
Carried:

Vote by card

To amend the second “Resolved” clause by addition:

RESOLVED, that the ELCA in assembly strongly encourage every synod to develop or maintain resources for anti-racism training for rostered leaders and congregations at least every two years.

**ASSEMBLY
ACTION
CA16.05.22**

To adopt Motion A as amended.

VOTE BY CARD

Motion A: Resolution on Racial Justice

WHEREAS, systemic and institutionalized racism is an acute illness infecting North American culture; and

WHEREAS, the church is the body of Christ, and when one member of the body hurts, we all hurt; and

WHEREAS, currently rostered leaders are strongly encouraged to receive appropriate training including boundaries training; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the ELCA in assembly strongly encourage all rostered leaders to receive anti-racism training; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the ELCA in assembly strongly encourage every synod to develop or maintain resources for anti-racism training for rostered leaders and congregations at least every two years.

**ASSEMBLY
ACTION
CA16.05.23**

To refer Motion B to the Church Council.

VOTE BY CARD

Motion B: Resolution for a Strategy Toward Authentic Diversity within the ELCA

WHEREAS, the ELCA Church Council voted [CC15.11.55]: To recognize and affirm the extensive efforts of the presiding bishop to call the entire church to confront racism and to add our voice to that call; and To invite the presiding bishop to include the current efforts in a broader, comprehensive strategy toward becoming a racially and ethnically diverse church committed to dismantling racism; and

WHEREAS, Women of the ELCA has developed a wealth of resources and curriculum for racial justice from a Biblical and historical perspective and the Ethnic Specific Ministry Associations along with the Ethnic Specific, Multicultural and Racial Justice team have developed strategies for engaging and involving people of color in every aspect of the life of our church; and

WHEREAS, our church is blessed with a breadth and depth of people of color and people with a first language other than English whose voices need to be amplified in order to guide this church in moving forward towards becoming a more inclusive and diverse church; and

WHEREAS, even with these resources and supports, synods and congregations have had difficulty achieving this church's commitment to diversity as reflected in the Continuing Resolutions under section 5.01 of the Constitution, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; therefore, let it be

RESOLVED, the Churchwide Assembly direct the ELCA Church Council to form a Task Force for the purpose of developing a comprehensive set of strategies to equip congregations and synods to work towards becoming a more authentically diverse church. The work of the Task Force shall include but is not limited to:

- consulting with WELCA, the Ethnic Specific Ministry Associations, the Multicultural and Racial Justice Team, the Conference of Bishops and ecumenical partners;
- collecting existing resources such as those available from WELCA and the Ethnic Specific Ministry Associations and beyond the ELCA;
- identifying needs for additional resources;
- supporting synods in identifying their specific opportunities for growth;
- assessing the effectiveness of diversity strategies across the three expressions church in order to identify strategies that have yielded authentic diversity; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Task Force be composed of one person from each of the nine regions and one Bishop who will serve as co-chair. The composition of the Task Force shall conform with the representational principles in section 5.01.f of the ELCA Constitution except that persons of Color and/or persons whose Primary Language is other than English shall comprise 100% of the Task Force and the Task Force shall be ethnically diverse. The members of the Task Force shall be appointed by the Church Council in consultation with the ELCA Director of Ethnic Specific and Multicultural Ministries; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Church Council designate funds to support the work of the Task Force as soon as funds become available, no later than April 2017. The work of the Task Force shall begin no later than August 2017 and conclude at the 2019 Churchwide Assembly; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Task Force submit a report and recommendations to the 2019 Churchwide Assembly that includes:

1. a summary of the information gathered by the Task Force and
2. a proposal of recommendations for metrics and supports to provide mutual accountability for our commitment to diversity across the three expressions of the church and a proposal for funding these efforts.

ASSEMBLY
ACTION
CA16.05.24

To adopt Motion C.

VOTE BY CARD

Motion C: Resolution Urging Stewardship of the Gift of Water

WHEREAS, Holy Scripture reminds us that “the Holy Habitation of the Most High” includes “a river whose streams make glad the city of God,” and that “waters of the sea may become fresh, so everything will live where the river goes,” and that “the Holy Spirit descended on [Jesus] in bodily form like a dove” when he was baptized in the River Jordan; and

WHEREAS, a watershed is the ground that water flows within as it moves toward a stream, river or lake, and is a natural boundary within God's creation, unlike arbitrary and haphazard geopolitical boundaries, and all of God's creatures live in a watershed; and

WHEREAS, many of the watersheds in this country are degraded, and this environmental damage leads to water shortages and a crisis that disproportionately affects people of color and people with lower incomes; and

WHEREAS, the ELCA social statement "Caring for Creation: Vision, Hope and Justice" states that "We see the despoiling of the environment as nothing less than the degradation of God's precious gift of creation," and the social statement also reminds us that "congregations have various opportunities during the year to focus on creation... Thanksgiving, harvest festivals, and blessings of field, water, and plants and animals," and encourages us to "observe Earth Day or Soil and Water Stewardship Week," so as to protect and restore "natural and human habitats, including seas, wetlands, forests, wilderness, and urban areas"; and

WHEREAS, "watershed discipleship" requires that Christians acknowledge that water lies both at the center of our Christian rite of baptism and our current ecological and climate crisis, thus deserving deep theological treatment; therefore, let it be

RESOLVED, that the ELCA, in Assembly, requests the Church Council to direct the appropriate churchwide unit to provide every active rostered leader with resources to locate each congregation within its watershed district, so that waters may be named and known in worship and intercessory prayers, and that theological and biblical themes may build awareness, care and thanksgiving for the gift of these waters; and let it be further

RESOLVED, that the ELCA, in Assembly, requests the Church Council to direct the appropriate churchwide unit to provide resources to congregations and individual members to encourage and support conservation and prayerful stewardship of water resources; and let it be further

RESOLVED, that the ELCA, in Assembly, requests the Church Council to direct the appropriate churchwide unit to continue to develop strategies and provide resources to support areas struggling with natural or human-caused disasters that impact access to clean water, such as water contamination, drought and floods, with an awareness that the impact of our environmental actions have disproportionate implication for communities of color with lower incomes; and let it be further

RESOLVED, that the ELCA, in Assembly, encourages congregations to plan events outside their doors and within their watersheds, utilizing the many biblical themes of renewal and liberation that water affords.

**ASSEMBLY
ACTION
CA16.05.25**

VOTE BY CARD

To refer Motion D: Resolution on Gender Identity to the Church Council and that the Church Council use the resolution to help inform the study of gender identity and the review of existing ELCA definitions and policies regarding gender identity as referenced in the above approved Memorial, and urge all three expressions of our church, whenever possible, and when not otherwise guided by current constitution and/or policy, consider using event registration and other forms that:

- 1) **Include additional options for gender, for transgender, non-binary and/or gender non-conforming people; and**
- 2) **When asking for a person’s personal information, include asking for the person’s pronouns; and**
- 3) **When asking for a person’s honorific or title, include a gender neutral option.**

Report of the Memorials Committee (continued)

Reference: 2016 Pre-Assembly Report, Section VII, Memorials Committee Report and Supplemental Report of the Memorials Committee.

Ms. Marjorie B. Ellis and the Rev. Stephen R. Herr, co-chairs of the Memorials Committee, continued with the committee’s report and recommendations.

Category B3: Toward a Responsible Energy Future

The Memorials Committee had made the following motion.

Moved:

To receive with gratitude the memorials of the Saint Paul Area, Metropolitan New York, Northeastern Pennsylvania, Upper Susquehanna and Northwestern Pennsylvania synods related to climate change and fossil fuels;

To urge all ELCA members, congregations and synods to inform and educate themselves about the effects of climate change through the lens of the “Caring for Creation: Vision, Hope and Justice” social statement, and to advocate for policies that reduce energy use and our dependence on fossil fuels and encourage development of renewable energy sources as an expression of our commitment to address climate change and caring for God’s creation;

To affirm the action of the 2013 Churchwide Assembly and subsequent action of the Church Council in 2014 related to the development of revised or additional investment screens on fossil fuels, and to support and commend ELCA members, congregations, synods, the churchwide organization, and related institutions and agencies such as ELCA Endowment Fund and Portico Benefit Services for their leadership efforts to invest in companies that are taking steps toward a sustainable environment;

To affirm Portico’s balanced approach to supporting this church’s principles and directives as stated in the social statements — including the commitment to help transition to an economy less dependent on fossil fuels. The approach includes:

1. shareholder advocacy (filing and supporting resolutions on environmental issues, including 150 resolutions in 2015),
2. focused investment screening, which has identified 113 companies screened for environmental reasons, and
3. ramping up positive social investments, such as investments in companies that develop solar, wind and water power generation systems, repurposing waste products and reducing toxic emissions;

To support the ELCA network of affiliated social ministry organizations with programs to address unemployment caused by changing patterns of fossil fuel use, to advocate for retraining workers — especially for renewable energy jobs, to advocate for programs that will support those in transition, and to encourage congregations and ministries to address the resulting unemployment and poverty; and

To urge ELCA members, congregations and synods to set measurable goals to reduce their consumption of fossil fuels and improve their stewardship of energy resources, transition to renewable energy sources and promote care for God’s creation.

Ms. Kim M. Winchell [North/West Lower Michigan Synod] presented the following motion to amend.

Moved;
Seconded;
Carried:

Yes-495; No-411

To amend the fourth paragraph of the motion by insertion and deletion:

To affirm Portico's balanced approach to supporting this church's principles and directives as stated in the social statements — including the commitment to help transition to an economy less dependent on fossil fuels. That approach **includes has included:**

1. shareholder advocacy (filing and supporting resolutions on environmental issues, including 150 resolutions in 2015),
2. focused investment screening, which has identified 113 companies screened for environmental reasons, and
3. ramping up positive social investments, such as investments in companies that develop solar, wind and water power generation systems, repurposing waste products and reducing toxic emissions; and now

To call upon Portico to evaluate the viability of an optional fossil -free fund for retirement plan participants; and

To call upon the ELCA to heed the call of the Lutheran World Federation Council in 2015 to member churches “not to invest in fossil fuels and to support energy efficiency and renewable energy companies, and to encourage their institutions and individual members to do likewise”; and

As part of this church's response to the Lutheran World Federation's call, to request that the ELCA churchwide organization review the ELCA's applicable social teachings and Corporate Social Responsibility policies and procedures, with the goal of not investing in, and removing the largest fossil fuel companies as identified by Carbon Tracker, and investing in corporations which are taking positive steps toward a sustainable environment;

A voting member made the following motion.

Moved;
Seconded:

Two-Thirds Vote

To amend the rules to limit speeches to one minute.

The chair called the orders of the day, and all pending matters will be considered during the next plenary session.