



Report of the Secretary

Organization

Executive Staff

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Responsibilities

The duties and responsibilities of the secretary, as specified in the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*, are diverse and numerous (see 13.41., 13.41.01-13.42.02., and 11.33.). A brief summary, however, may be expressed in this way.

The Office of the Secretary shall:

1. *Prepare records for this church in as accurate, thorough, up-to-date, useable, and prompt a way as possible;*
2. *Preserve the records of this church; and*
3. *Provide service and assistance to this church and others in a punctual, friendly, and courteous manner.*

That summary was prepared by staff members of the Office of the Secretary as a helpful reminder of the duties and responsibilities that the constitution and bylaws of this church assign to the secretary as an officer of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

The developing historical record of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America represents one of the strategic responsibilities of the secretary and staff of the Office of the Secretary. Meticulous attention is devoted to preparing the authoritative and comprehensive record. Great effort, therefore, is committed to striving for clarity and confirming accuracy in the preparation of the minutes of the Churchwide Assembly, the Church Council, and the Conference of Bishops. The minutes provide not only an official record of the decisions made and the actions taken, but they also offer to future historians documentation of this church's history. At the same time, through the Office of the Secretary, advice and guidance are provided to churchwide units to help ensure that the records of boards and committees are complete and filed in a timely way.

A certified copy of the official minutes of the Churchwide Assembly and copies of the minutes of the Church Council, Conference of Bishops, boards, and committees are deposited for historical preservation in the Archives of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Maintaining the official rosters of this church is another obligation of the secretary. Staff members work closely with synodical offices in recording additions, changes, and resignations or removals from the rosters. Further, the secretary oversees the implementation of the policies adopted by the Church Council on the rosters.

Legal consultation and services also are provided through the Office of the Secretary to synodical bishops and offices as well as churchwide units.

In connection with each Churchwide Assembly, staff members of the Office of the Secretary and other units must devote untiring attention to planning. The bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America assign to the secretary responsibility for all arrangements for the assembly. In fulfilling that task, the efforts of many people are required. For the gracious ways in which staff and volunteers carry out their duties to help ensure a productive assembly, we all can be grateful.

Principle of Unity

The most important principle of organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is the first sentence in Chapter 5 of the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the ELCA*. That statement is: "The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America shall be one church" (churchwide constitutional provision 5.01.).

That declaration reflects both our unity in Christ and the commitment of members, congregations, synods, and churchwide ministries to the Confession of Faith, purposes, and organizational principles of this church.

A succinct statement of the polity of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is provided in churchwide constitutional provision 8.11.:

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

Our unity in this church is further underscored in constitutional provision 8.16.:

In faithful participation in the mission of God in and through this church, congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization—as interdependent expressions of this church—shall be guided by the biblical and confessional commitments of this church. Each shall recognize that mission efforts must be shaped by both local needs and global awareness, by both individual witness and corporate endeavor, and by both distinctly Lutheran emphases and growing ecumenical cooperation.

A key word in understanding the polity of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is “interdependence.” The primary “expressions” of this church—congregations, synods, and churchwide organization—are interdependent. As expressed in churchwide constitutional provision 8.11.: “. . . Each part, while fully the church, recognizes that it is not the whole church and therefore lives in a partnership relationship with the others . . .”

What’s in a Name, Especially For a Church Body?

The name, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, did not emerge for this church without study and effort. Picking a name was a topic of high interest. Many suggestions were received.

I served on the five-member Ad Hoc Committee on the Name for the New Lutheran Church. As a member of that committee, I wrote the rationale for using the name Evangelical Lutheran Church and for including within the identification this church’s primary territory, just like the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania, and other Lutheran churches throughout the world.

Assignment: three to five

The committee met June 10-11, 1985, in an old hotel on Mannheim Road near O’Hare Airport in Chicago. The assignment was to prepare a list of three to five names with rationale and a list of pros and cons for each.

Ninety-nine individuals and five groups had offered suggestions. Of those, most urged that the word “Lutheran” be included in the name, but ten names were submitted that did not use the word “Lutheran.” Twenty-nine proposed including “Evangelical,” 25 “United,” and 23 “Christ” or “Christian” in the name. Eight recommended “Catholic,” and six proposed simply “Lutheran Church–U.S.A.”

The rationale for each of five names submitted by the committee was drafted overnight and later refined for the final report. The five were: Evangelical Lutheran Church; United Evangelical Lutheran Church; Lutheran Church of Evangelical Unity; Lutheran Community of Christ; and Lutheran Church in the U.S.A.

The full report was presented to the September 23-27, 1985, meeting of the Commission for a New Lutheran Church in Kansas City. The committee agreed to test throughout the uniting churches the names Evangelical Lutheran Church and Lutheran Church in the U.S.A. The decision on the name “Evangelical Lutheran Church in America” was made at the commission’s February 1986 meeting.

Reasons for name

I recalled the rationale for the name in *One Great Cloud of Witnesses* in this way:

When a name was being proposed for the “new” Lutheran church, the word “evangelical” was suggested for several reasons. Its roots are in the Greek word for “Gospel.” The name is widely used by Lutheran churches throughout the world; it has been employed since the Reformation to identify those who emphasize the doctrine of justification by grace through faith and the authority of Scripture in the life of both the whole church and individual believers; and it was the name chosen for what was then the newly merged

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada. Further, it was noted that the name “evangelical” has been widely used by Lutherans in Europe, Africa, South America, Japan, and elsewhere. The name in some places is employed even without the word Lutheran because it is seen as the primary designation and identity of Lutherans. “Evangelical” was the name preferred by Luther for the movement he led. He thought such a name pointed to the proclamation of the Gospel “as the source of the church’s life and the living, powerful, creative force through which people are called to faith and sustained in the communion of saints.” The word, evangelical, also carries with it an emphasis on mission. “We are called to go into all the world to proclaim the Gospel so that all people may know Christ’s love.”¹

The word, Lutheran, was seen as essential in the American context because it underscores our heritage as part of Luther’s reform movement. Lutheran is the “shorthand” name by which most Lutherans in North America identify themselves.

Interesting elements related to the choice of a name were these facts: Of the 254 Lutheran church bodies in the world in 1987, 239 included the name of their location or country, 198 were identified as “Lutheran” in their name, and 149 also used “evangelical” in their name.

Reflecting our focus on the Gospel as the power of God for salvation [*in the use of the word “Evangelical”*], respecting our particular heritage within the whole church [*with “Lutheran”*], and acknowledging the primary arena of our work [*“in America”*], we identify ourselves as members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.²

It was exciting to be a part of that process of proposing a name. The historical significance of the committee’s task, I suspect, was apparent to us in our deliberations. We wondered, of course, how our report would be received by the commission and the uniting churches. The work was affirmed to our relief and delight.

Throughout these early years of the life of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, I have been mindful of the importance of this church’s name. I also have reflected on the obligation and challenge to live more fully into the commitments reflected by that name—to be *Evangelical*, to be *Lutheran*, to be *Church*, to be serving *in America*.

Thirty-fifth Anniversary Of the Ordination of Women

An aspect of ordained ministry among U.S. Lutherans changed in a single vote at the fifth biennial convention of the Lutheran Church in America in Minneapolis. During the Monday evening session on June 29, 1970, a voice vote deleted the word “man” and substituted “person” in the bylaws, opening the way for the ordination of women to the pastoral office.³ Because the change represented an amendment of the LCA’s

¹ Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Name for the New Lutheran Church, Commission for a New Lutheran Church (September 23-27, 1985), Exhibit P, Parts A, B, and C, page 2.

² Lowell G. Almen, *One Great Cloud of Witnesses*, second edition (Minneapolis: Augsburg, 2001), pages 16-17.

³ The Rev. George F. Harkins, editor, *Minutes of Fifth Biennial Convention of the Lutheran Church in America*, Minneapolis, Minn., June 25-July 2, 1970 (Office of the Secretary), page 539.

bylaws, a two-thirds vote was required, but no division of the house following the voice vote was called. Therefore, there is not a record of the actual vote total.

Three and a half months later, The American Lutheran Church met for its general convention in San Antonio, Tex. Proposed ordination of women to the pastoral office was discussed at some length in forums. Only a half hour of plenary debate, however, preceded the vote.

Under the ALC's rules, a majority was required for adoption. The time came for the vote on October 22, 1970. The recommendation of the Church Council "that women be eligible for call and ordination in The American Lutheran Church" was approved on a vote of 560-414, with one recorded abstention. The motion prevailed by 57.5 percent.⁴

Four and a half months after the LCA convention, the first woman was ordained by a U.S. Lutheran church body. The ordination of the Rev. Elizabeth Platz took place in the late afternoon of November 22, 1970, at the University of Maryland chapel in College Park. She had been approved for ordination at a special convention of the Maryland Synod in Baltimore on October 24.

The Rev. Paul M. Orso, president of the synod, presided for the ordination. Imagine how stirring and historic was that question: "Are you ready to take upon you this holy ministry and faithfully serve therein?" And a "new" voice replied, "Yes, by the help of God."

For LWF assembly

Reflecting in 1990 on what was then 20 years of ordained service by women in U.S. Lutheran churches, I was mindful of the wholesome impact of that ministry. Such an awareness informed my work as a member of the drafting committee for the message of the Eighth Assembly of the Lutheran World Federation, which met in Curitiba, Brazil, January 29-February 8, 1990.

In preparation for the assembly, I had pondered how encouragement for the ordination of women might be given through the message, without alienating some churches in which hostility to the prospect existed. I knew that a direct exhortation—such as, "... all member churches ought to ordain . . ."—would be counterproductive. Further, such a directive likely never would get into the message.

So the idea of "receiving a gift" occurred to me. That concept shaped what I wrote. In fact, the paragraph that I drafted was incorporated in a slightly edited version into the adopted message:

We thank God for the great and enriching gift to the church discovered by many of our member churches in the ordination of women to the pastoral office, and we pray that all members of the LWF, as well as others throughout the ecumenical family, will come to recognize and embrace God's gift of women in the ordained ministry and in other leadership responsibilities in Christ's church.⁵

This year marks the 35th anniversary of the ordination of

women among Lutherans in North America. The ELCA remains the only major U.S.-based Lutheran church body that ordains women to the pastoral office of Word and Sacrament.

What has happened in three and a half decades? In 2003, the number of women ordained in the ELCA exceeded for the first time the number of men. That year, 155 women were ordained, compared to 151 men.

In recent years, the numbers were close: 143 men and 140 women in 2002, and 156 men and 153 women in 2001.

The percentages of pastors who are women on the roster of the ELCA have grown steadily from 9.4 percent on the active roster in 1990 to one quarter on the active roster (25.4%) in 2004. On the total roster (active and retired) the figure in 1990 was 7.5 percent and in 2004, 17 percent.

Each Part, Not the Whole

The biennial Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America represents a significant milestone in our ongoing life together. An assembly offers a picture, albeit a partial one, of our life together as sisters and brothers in Christ.

This marks my ninth Churchwide Assembly as secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. In the predecessor American Lutheran Church, I was present for all but three of the biennial general conventions of that church body. In addition, I witnessed three of the biennial conventions of the Lutheran Church in America.

Throughout the past 30 years, I have attended about 150 ELCA synodical assemblies and district or synod conventions in the predecessor bodies. I have seen the unfolding story of the collective life that we share as Lutherans reflected in a variety of ways through these gatherings.

Moreover, I have been a guest in scores upon scores of congregations from one corner of this church body to the other. I have marveled at the magnificent blessings of God so evident throughout the congregations and other expressions of this church.

As declared in churchwide constitutional provision 8.11., congregations, synods, and churchwide ministries are to carry out their work interdependently ("Each part...fully the church...not the whole church..."). This partnership is crucial—an absolutely essential ingredient for a healthy and wholesome life together. After all, each congregation as an assembly of God's people is a reflection of the whole Church. All members and congregations on the way together through synods and churchwide ministries also provide a manifestation of the body of Christ in the world.

The primary purpose of each congregation is expressed in the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* in this way:

The congregation shall include in its mission a life of worship and nurture for its members, and outreach in witness and service to its community (8.12.).

The central responsibilities of each of the 65 synods are underscored in this brief statement:

The synod shall provide for pastoral care of the congregations, ordained ministers, associates in ministry, deaconesses, and diaconal ministers within its boundaries. It shall develop resources for the life and mission of its people and shall enlarge the ministries and extend the outreach into

⁴ Mr. Arnold R. Mickelson, editor, *Minutes of the Fifth General Convention of The American Lutheran Church*, San Antonio, Tex., October 21-27, 1970 (Office of the General Secretary), page 328.

⁵ "I Have Heard the Cry of My People: The Assembly Message," *LWF Report: Proceedings of the Eighth Assembly of the Lutheran World Federation*, December 1990, Numbers 28-29, page 81.

society on behalf of and in connection with the congregations and the churchwide organization (8.13.).

Our churchwide ministries are to serve on behalf of and in support of the congregations, synods, and the extended work of this church:

The churchwide organization shall implement the extended mission of the Church, developing churchwide policies in consultation with the synods and congregations, entering into relationship with governmental, ecumenical, and societal agencies . . . (8.14.).

All three of these primary expressions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America are to carry out their work interdependently:

Since congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization are partners that share in God's mission, all share in the responsibility to develop, implement, and strengthen the financial support program of this church (8.15.).

Primary Purpose of This Church

Working in partnership, congregations, synods, and churchwide ministries are to fulfill the primary purposes of this church, as expressed in the *Model Constitution for Congregations* (*C4.02.), the *Constitution for Synods* (†S6.02.), and the churchwide constitution (4.02.). To participate in God's mission, each expression of this church is to:

1. **WORSHIP GOD:**

Worship God in proclamation of the Word and administration of the sacraments and through lives of prayer, praise, thanksgiving, witness, and service.

2. **PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL:**

Proclaim God's saving Gospel of justification by grace for Christ's sake through faith alone, according to the apostolic witness in the Holy Scripture, preserving and transmitting the Gospel faithfully to future generations.

3. **CARRY OUT THE GREAT COMMISSION:**

Carry out Christ's Great Commission by reaching out to all people to bring them to faith in Christ and by doing all ministry with a global awareness consistent with the understanding of God as Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier of all.

4. **SERVE HUMAN NEED:**

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.

5. **NURTURE MEMBERS:**

Nurture its members in the Word of God so as to grow in faith and hope and love, to see daily life as the primary setting for the exercise of their Christian calling, and to use the gifts of the Spirit for their life together and for their calling in the world.

6. **MANIFEST UNITY:**

Manifest the unity given to the people of God by living together in the love of Christ and by joining with other Christians in prayer and action to express and preserve the unity which the Spirit gives.

In the continuing journey of God's people, we as the baptized members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America are called to witness and service in the name of Jesus, our crucified and risen Lord and Savior. Indeed, we have been marked with the cross of Christ forever.

The Rev. Lowell G. Almen, *Secretary*

Appendix One

Roster Statistics

The secretary is responsible for maintaining the official rosters of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. These include the rosters of congregations, ordained ministers, associates in ministry, deaconesses, and diaconal ministers.

Roster of Congregations

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America counted 10,657 congregations on December 31, 2003, including congregations under development.

The record of those added to the roster of congregations is indicated in Table 1.

The record of removals from the roster of congregations by categories is shown in Table 2.

The process for *withdrawal* of a congregation is specified by constitutional provisions 9.62. and 9.71. in the *Constitution*,

Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

“Merged” is defined as involving a congregation giving up its separate identity and uniting with an already existing congregation (i.e., being *merged* into an existing congregation).

“Consolidated” is defined as involving two or more congregations that join together to become a new entity with a new name and a new congregation identification number (i.e., the congregations are *consolidated* to become a new congregation).

The roster of congregations is published annually in the yearbook of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, prepared by staff of the secretary. Congregations that have been received into this church or that have been consolidated, merged, withdrawn, disbanded, or removed are listed at the end of the roster of congregations in the yearbook.

Congregations	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Received by synodical action	22	25	22	30	20	17	25	19	29	18	31	16	9	12
Resulting from consolidations	6	5	3	6	4	8	5	4	5	2	1	0	2	1
Totals	28	30	25	36	24	25	30	23	34	20	32	16	11	13

Congregations	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Withdrawn	4	4	8	8	2	4	5	2	5	12	6	17	8	26
Disbanded	31	30	36	32	34	34	40	32	29	33	42	26	39	40
Merged	4	6	7	7	5	5	9	4	5	2	2	0	9	7
Consolidated	10	11	6	13	10	18	12	15	10	4	0	0	6	2
Removed	0	0	0	0	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	4
Totals	49	51	57	60	54	61	67	53	49	51	50	43	63	79

Change of Synodical Relationships

Any change in a congregation’s synodical relationship is to be reported to the Churchwide Assembly. As provided by ELCA bylaw 10.02.02., “Any congregation in a border area desiring to change its synod relationship may do so upon approval of the synod assemblies of the synods concerned, which shall report any such change to the Churchwide Assembly.”

The following changes of synodical relationships for congregations have been reported by synods:

Year of Transfer	Congregation	ID Number	Location	Former Synod	Receiving Synod
2003	Faith	14295	Weimar, Texas	4F	4E
2004	St. Peter	14224	Prairie Valley, Texas	4F	4E

Roster of Ordained Ministers

As of December 31, 2004, the roster of ordained ministers of this church listed a total of 17,725 ordained ministers (active and retired). Included in that number were 3,020 women, and

542 people of color or people whose primary language is other than English.

Additions to the roster of ordained ministers take place only in the ways defined by the constitution and bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Those specific ways are:

- Individuals who are ordained in accord with the constitution and bylaws of this church in effect at the time of their ordinations, after having been approved by a duly constituted synodical candidacy committee and having received and accepted a regular, attested Letter of Call to be a pastor.
- Individuals received from other church bodies:
 - Individuals approved by a synodical candidacy committee who previously were ordained in another Lutheran church body or another Christian church body, under bylaw 7.31.14., whose ordination is recognized by this church under the policy that addresses such recognition. Others would be ordained by this church under the policy of such reception.

b. Individuals received, under churchwide bylaw 8.72.15.c., through the candidacy process for the roster of ordained ministers who were ordained in a full-communion partner church body.

3. Individuals reinstated to the roster of ordained ministers, under churchwide bylaw 7.31.15., who previously were ordained in this church or one of its predecessor church bodies.

<i>Additions</i>	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Ordained	296	315	310	298	339	336	338	361	308	315	309	279	308	270
Reinstated	26	20	20	14	13	15	17	9	20	23	19	9	19	22
Received from other churches	23	8	35	18	21	20	23	19	18	15	25	12	11	9
Totals	345	343	365	330	373	371	378	389	346	353	353	300	338	301
<i>Removals by</i>														
Death	196	154	196	182	188	210	207	211	249	211	224	213	246	223
Resignation	58	50	51	42	50	47	56	57	48	52	57	48	45	63
Removal	96	115	71	89	55	97	107	58	41	42	36	56	46	50
Transfer to ELCIC*	1	1	5	2	4	4	1	1	0	2	3	2	4	1
Totals	351	320	323	315	297	358	371	327	338	307	320	319	341	337

* Indicates Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

As was the case in our predecessor church bodies, including those that existed prior to 1960, unauthorized or irregular ordinations are not recognized.

● **Only ELCA clergy called:** In keeping with the criteria for membership in the ELCA, congregations agree to call as pastors only ordained ministers on the ELCA roster or duly approved candidates for the roster (churchwide constitutional provision 9.21.d. and bylaw 9.21.01.).

● **Partner church clergy under contract:** Service by ordained ministers from full-communion partner church bodies is addressed in churchwide bylaws 8.72.15. and 9.21.02. and takes place under contract with the approval of the synodical bishop. Such ministers are not eligible for call by an ELCA congregation.

● **Added to roster:** Only the names of individuals ordained or received in conformity with the governing documents and policy statements in place at the time of the ordination or reception are added to the roster of ordained ministers of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

The names of people added to and removed from the roster of ordained ministers are listed annually in the yearbook of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The number of additions to the roster of ordained ministers and removals from that roster are shown in Table 3.

Percentages of pastors who are women as part of the *whole* clergy roster (active and retired) and as part of the *active* roster for 1990 through 2002 appear in Table 4.

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Whole Roster	7.5%	8.1%	8.7%	9.3%	9.7%	10.5%	11.3%	12.0%	12.7%	13.4%	14.2%	14.9%	15.6%	16.5%	17.0%
Active Roster	9.4%	10.3%	11.3%	12.2%	12.8%	14.1%	15.4%	16.4%	17.5%	18.7%	19.9%	21.2%	22.2%	24.6%	25.4%

Official Rosters of Laypeople

This church has established three rosters of laypeople. They are associates in ministry, deaconesses, and diaconal ministers.

The names of people approved by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for admission to the roster of associates in ministry, the roster of deaconesses, and the roster of diaconal ministers—as well as the names of people removed from those rosters—are listed annually in the yearbook of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

As of December 31, 2004, the roster of associates in ministry numbered 1,084 people (see Table 5).

The roster of deaconesses numbered 90 women as of December 31, 2004 (see Table 6).

Diaconal ministers, as of December 31, 2004, numbered 65 people (see Table 7). The roster of diaconal ministers, established by the 1993 Churchwide Assembly, was started in 1996 with the consecration of seven people.

<i>Additions</i>	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Commissioning	42	40	39	33	30	34	39	25	34	34	27	33	24	31
Reinstatement	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	2	1	3	0
Totals	43	40	40	33	30	34	39	25	34	40	29	34	27	31
<i>Removals by</i>														
Death	9	6	5	8	6	5	8	9	12	11	2	9	12	12
Ordination	8	10	12	2	9	9	9	4	6	2	1	9	9	8
Resignation	12	9	7	18	7	12	10	9	8	10	2	3	2	2
Removal	71	79	49	36	24	30	33	11	15	29	16	17	16	9
Consecration	—	—	—	—	—	3	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	100	104	73	64	46	59	62	33	42	52	21	38	39	31

<i>Additions</i>	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Consecration	—	—	3	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	2	0
Reinstatement	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	0	1	3	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	2	0
<i>Removals by</i>														
Death	2	4	2	2	6	3	3	2	8	7	4	3	4	2
Resignation	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Removal	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
Totals	2	6	2	2	7	3	3	2	9	7	5	3	4	2

<i>Additions</i>	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Consecration	7	7	4	12	20	12	11	13	14
Reinstatement	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	7	7	4	12	20	12	11	13	14
<i>Removals by</i>									
Death	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Resignation	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0
Removal	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Totals	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	1

Appendix Two

Parochial Statistics

Each year, the parochial statistics of the congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America are collected and compiled by the Office of the Secretary. These data provide a detailed picture of statistical trends for each congregation and for this whole church.

Comparison Between 2002 and 2003 Congregational Statistics

The baptized membership of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America slipped below five million in 2003 for a total of 4,984,925 in 10,657 congregations. That figure represents a decrease of about one percent or a reduction of 53,081 baptized members.

In the past 13 years, the ELCA baptized membership has decreased a quarter million from 5,240,739 members reported in 1990. About half the decline occurred in 2002 and 2003. The 2003 decrease, when combined with the decrease of 61,871 baptized members in 2002, resulted in a two-year decline of 114,952.

Parochial reports showed the loss was due to a decrease in the number of new members, the disbanding of 36 congregations, and “roll cleaning” in many remaining congregations. In 2003, “roll cleaning” resulted in a loss of 181,022 members on top of 186,162 members in 2002. Those reductions occur when long inactive members who indicate no interest in continued participation are removed from the rolls of congregations.

Eight congregations with a combined baptized membership of 11,020 withdrew from the ELCA in 2003.

The average number of people in worship on Sundays decreased slightly in 2003. About 1.5 million (1,503,426) or 30 percent (30.15%) of all baptized members participate in worship each week. Average worship attendance, an indicator of active participation by members in congregations, has fluctuated in the ELCA between 30 and 31 percent.

Confirmed membership in 2003 decreased by 33,402 to 3,724,321. Communing and contributing membership, which demonstrates active participation, decreased by 44,730 to 2,349,855 in 2003, following a decline of 65,911 in 2002, for a two-year total slide of 110,641.

The last time a gain of ELCA membership occurred was in 1991 with a net gain of 4,438 baptized members that year. Losses in baptized membership for previous years were: 26,043 in 2001; 23,749 in 2000; 28,557 in 1999; 6,830 in 1998; 2,308 in 1997; 9,517 in 1996; 8,559 in 1995; 12,752 in 1994; 21,783 in 1993; and 10,609 in 1992.

The decrease in ELCA membership reflects a pattern reported by many U.S. church bodies during this period.

For 2003 in the ELCA, accessions by baptism, affirmation of faith, and transfer from other ELCA congregations declined—1,789 fewer baptisms of children (71,705 in 2003, 73,494 in 2002, down from 77,541 in 2001); 2,866 fewer affirmations of faith (57,914 in 2003, 60,780 in 2002, 63,072 in 2001); and 3,262 fewer transfers from Lutheran congregations (82,791 in 2003, 86,053 in 2002, 95,988 in 2001).

Adult baptisms increased by 31 (7,428 in 2003; 7,397 in 2002; and 8,455 in 2001), but accessions from non-Lutheran congregations declined 366 (19,064 in 2003; 19,430 in 2002; and 21,131 in 2001).

There were 1,107 fewer deaths in 2003 (48,557 versus 49,664 in 2002) and 3,011 fewer transfers to other Lutheran congregations (59,563 in 2003 and 62,574 in 2002).

The average number of baptized members per congregation decreased in 2003 by two people to 472, and the average confirmed membership decreased by one person to 353. In 2003, the average number of communing and contributing members slipped by three to 223 per congregation.

For 2003, almost three percent of ELCA baptized members were identified as persons of color or persons whose primary language is other than English, a slight increase from 2.75 percent in 2002.

Income for ELCA congregations grows to \$2.6 billion in 2003

Income for the 10,657 congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in 2003 was nearly \$2.6 billion, according to statistics compiled by the ELCA Office of the Secretary.

Total receipts amounted to \$2,554,509,414, up 2.45 percent or \$61.2 million from the previous year. The 2003 increase exceeded the 1.7 percent growth experienced in 2002. In the two-year period of 2002-2003, congregation receipts grew more than \$100 million.

Of the total congregational income, \$1.7 billion (\$1,742,143,203) was received in regular, unrestricted offerings, up \$62 million (\$61,955,531) or nearly four percent (3.68%) in 2003, versus a one percent increase in 2002, which amounted to \$17 million (\$17,246,523) that year. For 2001, the percent of increase in regular giving by members over 2000 grew three and one-half percent. A six percent jump occurred in 2000 from the 1999 level of regular offerings.

Funds held by congregations in endowments and investments almost matched regular giving in 2003. Congregations held nearly \$1.7 billion (\$1,674,331,024) in savings and investments, endowments, and memorial funds—up \$55,085,966 (6.43%) from the previous year.

The average regular giving per confirmed member in 2003 was \$550, up nearly three percent (2.95%). The increase in 2002 over 2001 was one and one-half percent (1.54%), and 2001 over 2000 was up almost four percent (3.78%).

Total disbursements by ELCA congregations for local operating expenses amounted to almost \$1.7 billion (\$1,676,128,429). That represented an increase of \$51 million (\$51,391,120) or three percent (3.16%) over 2002.

Regular “mission support”—that is, monies passed from congregations to the 65 synods and to the churchwide organization to support the national and international ministries of this church—decreased 1.25 percent following a decline of 1.7 percent the previous year. Actual “mission-support” funding for 2003 was \$131,538,299, down \$1.7 million (\$1,665,920) from 2002. Regular “mission support” in 2002 amounted to \$133,204,219, down \$2.3 million (\$2,316,252) from \$135,520,471 in 2001.

Synodically related "Special Benevolences" grew by six percent or nearly \$1 million (\$959,853) to \$16,918,758. Income for community benevolent causes was up almost two percent (\$642,622) to \$33,545,914 in 2003.

Of total income, ELCA congregations devoted 91 percent (90.78%) to operating expenses, capital improvements, debt reduction, and other expenses. Seven percent (7.16%) was contributed for synodical and churchwide mission support, hunger and disaster appeals, missionary sponsorship, Mission Partners, and designated causes. The remainder supported special synodical and local benevolences.

Sixty-four percent of ELCA congregations reported that they had no debt in 2003. Estimated value of assets owned by congregations exceeded \$16 billion.

Comparison Between 2003 and 2004 Congregational Statistics

Narrative comparison of congregation statistics from the years 2003 and 2004 will be provided in Installment Three of this *Pre-Assembly Report*.

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**Summary of Congregational Statistics
as of December 31, 2003**

Statistical Analysis

Summary of Membership Statistics	2002	2003	Change	Percent	Averages per Congregation
Total Number of Congregations	10,721	10,657	64-	0.59-	
Baptized Members	5,038,006	4,984,925	53,081-	1.05-	471.69
Confirmed Members	3,757,723	3,724,321	33,402-	0.88-	352.98
Communing Members, Confirmed	2,710,187	2,663,246	46,941-	1.73-	252.67
Communing Members, Unconfirmed	326,679	278,365	48,314-	14.78-	26.41
Communed and Contributed	2,394,585	2,349,855	44,730-	1.86-	223.11
Analysis of Membership Gains and Losses					
Baptized Members—Accessions					
By Baptism—Children under Age 16	73,494	71,705	1,789-	2.43-	
By Baptism—Adults Age 16 and above	7,397	7,428	31+	0.41+	
By Affirmation of Faith	60,780	57,914	2,866-	4.71-	
By Transfer from ELCA Congregations	70,343	66,622	3,721-	5.28-	
By Transfer from Other Lutheran Congregations	15,710	16,169	459+	2.92+	
From Non-Lutheran Congregations	19,430	19,064	366-	1.88-	
From Other Sources and Statistical Adjustment	25,898	20,862	5,036-	19.44-	
Total Accessions—Baptized Members	273,052	259,764	13,288-	4.86-	
Baptized Members—Losses					
By Death	49,664	48,557	1,107-	2.22-	
By Transfer to ELCA Congregations	51,431	48,226	3,205-	6.23-	
By Transfer to Lutheran Congregations	11,143	11,337	194+	1.74+	
To Non-Lutheran Congregations	16,236	15,670	566-	3.48-	
For Other Reasons and Statistical Adjustment	186,162	181,022	5,140-	2.76-	
Total Losses—Baptized Members	314,636	304,812	9,824-	3.12-	
Confirmed Members—Accessions					
By Baptism—Adults Age 16 and above	5,688	5,459	229-	4.02-	
By Affirmation of Faith	45,859	43,772	2,087-	4.55-	
By Transfer from ELCA Congregations	51,782	49,403	2,379-	4.59-	
By Transfer from Other Lutheran Congregations	11,271	11,272	1+	0.00+	
From Non-Lutheran Congregations	13,734	13,391	343-	2.49-	
From Other Sources and Statistical Adjustment	24,273	18,637	5,636-	23.21-	
Baptized Members Confirmed	55,218	53,705	1,513-	2.74-	
Total Accessions—Confirmed Members	207,825	195,639	12,186-	5.86-	
Confirmed Members—Losses					
By Death	47,645	45,890	1,755-	3.68-	
By Transfer to ELCA Congregations	38,438	36,074	2,364-	6.15-	
By Transfer to Other Lutheran Congregations	8,231	8,028	203-	2.46-	
To Non-Lutheran Congregations	11,743	11,052	691-	5.88-	
For Other Reasons	123,375	119,965	3,410-	2.76-	
Total Losses—Confirmed Members	229,432	221,009	8,423-	3.67-	

Summary of Congregational Statistics as of December 31, 2003

Summary of Financial Statistics

Totals—End of Year					<i>Statistical Analysis</i>	
	2002	2003	Change	Percent	Averages per Congregation	
Total Receipts	2,493,316,925	2,554,509,414	61,192,489+	2.45+	241,904.30	
Total Disbursements	2,472,649,472	2,517,027,671	44,378,199+	1.79+	238,264.64	
Assets, Value on December 31	15,323,939,577	16,177,063,546	853,123,969+	5.56+	1,531,918.89	
Total Indebtedness on December 31	1,410,246,441	1,566,419,246	156,172,805+	11.07+	148,335.15	
Average Giving per Baptized Member	398.48	410.94	12.46+	3.12+	Indebtedness/Assets 9.68%	
Average Giving per Confirmed Member	534.24	550.04	15.80+	2.95+	Congs. with no debt 63.61%	

Detail of Financial Statistics

Receipts for Regular Operation

Regular Giving by Members	1,680,187,672	1,742,143,203	61,955,531+	3.68+
Designated Giving by Members	327,374,546	306,396,399	20,978,147-	6.40-
Earned Income, Unrestricted	74,610,633	73,090,822	1,519,811-	2.03-
Earned Income, Restricted	39,825,839	48,189,519	8,363,680+	21.00+
Grants and Subsidies	17,166,769	19,114,867	1,948,098+	11.34+
Cash Borrowed	178,492,905	192,036,245	13,543,340+	7.58+
Other Receipts	175,658,561	173,538,359	2,120,202-	1.20-

Statistical Analysis Percent of

Disbursements for Regular Operation

					Total Disbursements
Current Operating Expenses	1,624,737,309	1,676,128,429	51,391,120+	3.16+	66.59
Capital Improvements	313,498,318	293,770,870	19,727,448-	6.29-	11.67
Payment on Debts	196,319,921	216,284,565	19,964,644+	10.16+	8.59
Mission Support	133,204,219	131,538,299	1,665,920-	1.25-	5.22
Designated Giving for Mission Support	11,866,616	9,468,044	2,398,572-	20.21-	0.37
World Hunger Appeal (See note below)	12,924,955	11,569,829	222,383-	1.72-	0.45
Disaster Response (See note below)		1,132,743			0.04
Mission Partners	4,679,768	4,170,464	509,304-	10.88-	0.16
Mission Founders	NEW IN 2003	292,091			0.01
Vision for Mission	321,544	314,764	6,780-	2.10-	0.01
Missionary Sponsorship	5,817,701	5,599,620	218,081-	3.74-	0.22
Synodical Benevolences	15,958,905	16,918,758	959,853+	6.01+	0.67
Local Community Benevolences	32,903,292	33,545,914	642,622+	1.95+	1.33
Other Benevolences	16,198,597	17,366,378	1,167,781+	7.20+	0.68
Other Expenses	104,218,327	98,926,903	5,291,424-	5.07-	3.93

Assets, Value on December 31

Church Edifice and Lot	12,016,522,833	12,796,496,955	779,974,122+	6.49+
Parish House and Lot	585,109,845	588,247,779	3,137,934+	0.53+
Parsonage(s) and Lot(s)	461,868,834	475,984,311	14,115,477+	3.05+
Other Real Estate	357,052,828	387,412,805	30,359,977+	8.50+
Endowment and Memorial Funds	925,963,001	967,567,113	41,604,112+	4.49+
Cash, Savings, Bonds, etc.	693,282,057	706,763,911	13,481,854+	1.94+
Other Assets	284,140,179	254,590,672	29,549,507-	10.39-

Bequests Received During Year

Number of Bequests Received	6,074	5,420	654-	10.76-	<i>Per 100 Deaths</i> 11.16
Total Value of Bequests Received	85,098,351	79,401,453	5,696,898-	6.69-	<i>Ave Value per Bequest</i> \$ 14,649.71
Intended Mission Support	133,071,677	129,592,274	3,479,403-	2.61-	

*World Hunger and Disaster Response contributions were, in prior years, reported in a combined figure.

**Summary of Congregational Statistics
as of December 31, 2003**

Statistical Analysis—
**Percentage of Congregations
Reporting Ethnic Group
Members**

Worship Services	2002	2003	Change	Percent	Members
Total Attendance at Worship Each Week	1,537,043	1,503,426	33,617-	2.18-	
Average Sunday Attendance per Congregation	144	142	2-	1.38-	
Percent of Baptized Members Attending Worship	30.50	30.15	0.35-	1.14-	

Congregations Reporting Ethnic Group Members

African American/Black	3,776	3,582	194-	5.13-	33.61
American Indian and Alaska Native	1,340	1,288	52-	3.88-	12.08
Arab/Middle Eastern	NEW IN 2003	418			3.92
Asian/Pacific Islander	3,644	3,534	110-	3.01-	33.16
Latino/Spanish	2,988	3,039	51+	1.70+	28.51
Multiethnic	NEW IN 2003	1,036			9.72
White	10,492	10,423	69-	0.65-	97.80
Other	1,312	917	395-	30.10-	8.60

**Percent Ethnic
Baptized Membership**

Total Ethnic Baptized Membership

African American/Black	53,564	53,258	306-	0.57-	1.06
African American/Black Latino	845	1,394	549+	64.97+	0.02
American Indian and Alaska Native	7,273	7,265	8-	0.10-	0.14
American Indian and Alaska Native Latino	140	210	70+	50.00+	0.00
Arab/Middle Eastern	NEW IN 2003	1,381			0.02
Arab/Middle Eastern Latino	NEW IN 2003	30			0.00
Asian/Pacific Islander	22,898	22,030	868-	3.79-	0.44
Asian/Pacific Islander Latino	365	318	47-	12.87-	0.00
Multiethnic	NEW IN 2003	5,692			0.11
Multiethnic Latino	NEW IN 2003	2,871			0.05
White	4,872,332	4,840,323	32,009-	0.65-	97.09
White Latino	33,283	30,084	3,199-	9.61-	0.60
Other	15,151	13,019	2,132-	14.07-	0.26
Other Latino	4,981	5,042	61+	1.22+	0.10

Distribution of Congregations by Size: Baptized Members

	Size of Congregation	Total Congregations	Percent	Total Baptized Members	Percent
	-0-	89	0.83	0	0.00
Very Small	1-175	3,034	28.46	314,941	6.31
Small	176-350	2,811	26.37	721,143	14.46
Moderately Small	351-500	1,534	14.39	644,377	12.92
Medium Sized	501-700	1,200	11.26	709,426	14.23
Moderately Large	701-950	830	7.78	675,898	13.55
Large	951-1,500	705	6.61	827,516	16.60
Very Large	1,501 & over	454	4.26	1,091,624	21.89

Distribution of Congregations by Size: Confirmed Members

	Size of Congregation	Total Congregations	Percent	Total Confirmed Members	Percent
	-0-	106	0.99	0	0.00
Very Small	1-175	4,028	37.79	398,997	10.71
Small	176-350	3,032	28.45	769,850	20.67
Moderately Small	351-500	1,333	12.50	558,137	14.98
Medium Sized	501-700	939	8.81	550,925	14.79
Moderately Large	701-950	591	5.54	475,902	12.77
Large	951-1,500	422	3.95	495,999	13.31
Very Large	1,501 & over	206	1.93	474,511	12.74

*Summary of Congregational Statistics
as of December 31, 2004*
to be provided at the Churchwide Assembly.