



Preliminary Minutes

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Tenth Biennial Churchwide Assembly
August 6–11, 2007—Chicago, Illinois

Plenary Session Ten

Saturday, August 11, 2007

8:30 A.M.—11:00 A.M.

The tenth plenary session of the tenth Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) was called to order by Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson in Exhibition Hall A at Navy Pier, Chicago, Ill., on Saturday, August 11, 2007, at 8:31 A.M. Central Daylight Time.

Morning Prayer

At the conclusion of the gathering hymn, “Goodness is Stronger Than Evil,” Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson rang the bell and lit the candle. At the chair’s request, Vice President Carlos E. Peña called upon the assembly to join in singing “Morning Has Broken.” He then led the assembly in prayer.

Opening Remarks

Before Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson began his opening remarks, he recognized Ms. Katie K. Abercrombie [Florida-Bahamas Synod], who wished to make a privileged motion before the fifth ballot for secretary. Presiding Bishop Hanson agreed to her request. Ms. Abercrombie moved that the texts of any further substitute motions that might be moved in memorials Category E be distributed to voting members.

Moved;

Seconded: To have the text of any substitute motion relating to Category E3 memorials distributed to voting members immediately.

Speaking to her motion, Ms. Abercrombie noted that the assembly had deliberated on a substitute motion for E2, defeated that motion, and then found itself confronted with a second substitute motion. She stated that the assembly was not informed in advance of the text of the second substitute or the existence of a second substitute motion. She requested that voting members be provided with the text of possible substitute motions in order to deliberate effectively.

Presiding Bishop Hanson responded that from the chair’s perspective hers was a difficult request. To distribute a possible substitute motion before it was made presupposed the intent of the maker to actually move the motion. It was up to the maker to decide if he or she wished to move the substitute. To distribute possible substitutes not yet before the assembly would encourage voting members to think about what might occur before it had occurred. The presiding bishop consulted the parliamentarian on whether or not it was possible to adopt a rule

on something that had yet to be moved. The parliamentarian informed the chair that a voting member had the right to make the request, but logistically it could be a challenge to suspend debate until copies for distribution were made.

Discussion was suspended while problems with the sound in the exhibition hall were attended to by the technical crew. While waiting, Presiding Bishop Hanson asked the assembly how many of them the previous night had counted bottles instead of sheep, referring to the performance of the St. Luke’s Bottle Band at the banquet celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. While technical difficulties were addressed, Presiding Bishop Hanson requested that the music team sing a selection. It sang “Jesus Is a Rock.” Presiding Bishop Hanson called upon the assembly to express appreciation to the music team for its work throughout the week. He recognized the music team leadership of Mr. Mark Mummert, director, Mr. Scott C. Weidler and Mr. Kevin E. Anderson, and asked the assembly to show its appreciation for their work.

With sound difficulties somewhat resolved, Presiding Bishop Hanson continued with the motion on the floor. He recognized Ms. Abercrombie, who clarified that her motion applied only to substitute motions. With that clarification, Presiding Bishop Hanson reminded voting members that the matter before them was the motion to distribute to voting members the text of any substitute motions in Category E prior to consideration of the motion. He informed voting members there was only one more substitute motion to be considered and that pertained to Category E3.

Moved;

Seconded;

Defeated:

Yes-416; No-522

To have the text of any substitute motion relating to Category E3 memorials distributed to voting members immediately.

Mr. Brandon A. Johns [Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod] offered a motion to reduce the day’s lunch hour by 30 minutes in order to restart at 1:30 P.M. to be able to attend to additional business. After an inquiry by Presiding Bishop Hanson, who stated he already was going to propose that idea, Mr. Johns was willing to withdraw his motion if what the presiding bishop proposed for the orders of the day was acceptable. The presiding bishop proposed the following order of business for the morning plenary session: fifth ballot for secretary, consideration of amendments to governing documents, report of the fifth ballot for secretary, consideration of memorials, report on multicultural ministries, and report of the Reference and Counsel Committee.

The presiding bishop noted that no leadership initiative update would be given, but that members could refer to the

written report found in the 2007 Pre-Assembly Report, Section V, page 19. Presiding Bishop Hanson proposed that worship start at 11:15 A.M. instead of 11:00 A.M., that the morning plenary be extended from 10:45 A.M. to 11:00 A.M., and that the assembly reconvene at 1:45 P.M. for the afternoon plenary. The presiding bishop also outlined the schedule for the afternoon plenary session: Bible study, an update on Lutheran Disaster Response, consideration of memorials, Dwelling in the Word, the report of the Reference and Counsel Committee, a greeting from Lutheran Services in America, consideration of the Blue Ribbon Committee on Mission Funding recommendations, announcement of location for the eleventh Churchwide Assembly, and the formal closing of the assembly.

Presiding Bishop Hanson asked for unanimous consent from voting members to adopt the revised agenda. Voting members assented by voice vote.

Mr. Timothy Deal [North Carolina Synod] offered a motion to limit debate on all matters regarding Category E3 to 20 minutes and debate on all matters regarding Category E4 to 20 minutes.

Moved;

Seconded: To limit debate on all matters related to memorials in categories E3 and E4 to 20 minutes for each category.

Speaking to his motion, Mr. Deal observed that during previous debates and the quasi-committee of the whole, many different viewpoints had been shared. He observed that there was much work to accomplish and that limiting debate would ensure that more viewpoints could be heard and that there would be more time for business. Presiding Bishop Hanson asked whether Mr. Deal intended the limitation to apply only to debate on E3 and E4 and not E2. Mr. Deal replied that if it could apply to E2, he would like to move that also. The presiding bishop responded that since there were no motions before the voting members, Mr. Deal could move whatever he wished.

The Rev. Steven L. Ullestad, bishop of the Northeastern Iowa Synod, moved the previous question.

Presiding Bishop Hanson called for the vote.

Moved;

Seconded;

Carried: To end debate.

Two-Thirds Vote Required

Yes-849; No-123

Debate being closed, the presiding bishop asked the assembly to vote on the motion to limit debate time.

Moved;

Seconded;

Carried:

To limit debate on all matters related to memorials categories E2, E3, and E4 to 20 minutes for each category.

Two-Thirds Vote Required

Yes-799; No-193

An unidentified voting member offered a motion to move the report on multicultural ministries and the report of the Reference and Counsel Committee to the afternoon session.

Moved;

Seconded:

To delay until the afternoon session the report on multicultural ministries and the report of the Reference and Counsel Committee to allow for continued debate on the Memorials Committee recommendations.

Speaking to this motion, the Rev. Wm. Chris Boerger, bishop of the Northwest Washington Synod raised a concern that a change in the schedule would move forward the memorial related to Lutheran Disaster Response without voting members first being able to hear the report from Lutheran Disaster Response. Presiding Bishop Hanson responded that he would not call for consideration on a memorial on which no report had yet been heard. The presiding bishop continued that if voting members finished with the memorials on the agenda for the morning, he would ask for unanimous consent to revise the agenda to include the memorial on disaster response and any report related to it.

An unidentified voting member noted that the report from the Reference and Counsel Committee also had important business the voting members needed to consider that day. Presiding Bishop Hanson clarified that the report from the Reference and Counsel Committee was not a report for information's sake, but presented actions submitted by voting members that the committee was bringing to the assembly for its consideration.

The Rev. Arlyn J. Tolzmann [Rocky Mountain Synod] requested a point of clarification. He stated that he thought voting members had already approved the orders of the day. Presiding Bishop Hanson responded that members had given him unanimous consent to alter the orders of the day, but that at any time the body could, with two-thirds vote, change the orders of the day.

Moved;

Seconded;

Defeated:

To delay until the afternoon session the report on multicultural ministries and the report from the Reference and Counsel Committee to allow for continued debate on the Memorials Committee recommendations.

Two-Thirds Vote Required

Yes-453; No-520

The Rev. Glen A. VanderKloot [Central/Southern Illinois Synod] moved that each speaker be limited to 90 seconds during that day's debate on memorials.

Moved;

Seconded:

To limit each speaker to 90 seconds during debate on memorials.

Speaking to his motion, Pr. VanderKloot observed that since debate on each memorial category was limited to 20 minutes, a limit on individual speeches would allow for more speakers in the 20-minute period.

Mr. Jerry U. Key [Greater Milwaukee Synod] spoke in opposition to the motion. He believed limiting time would be contrary to what the assembly had originally agreed to in terms of debate rules. He noted people had prepared for two minutes,

so they should be able to speak for that time.

The Rev. Peter Rogness, bishop of the Saint Paul Area Synod, rose in opposition to the motion. He noted that analysts have observed that this country had become a sound-bite society instead of a thoughtful and reflective society. Two minutes was still a very short time.

Mr. Michael P. Reitz [Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod] moved the previous question.

Moved; **Two-Thirds Vote Required**
Seconded; **Yes-935; No-49**
Carried: To end debate.

Debate being closed, the presiding bishop asked the assembly to vote on the motion to limit each speaker to 90 seconds during the debate on memorials.

Moved; **Two-Thirds Vote Required**
Seconded; **Yes-572; No-413**
Defeated: To limit speaker to 90 seconds during debate on memorials.

Recognition of the Rev. Charles S. Miller

Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson called to the podium the Rev. Charles S. Miller, executive for administration in the churchwide organization. Presiding Bishop Hanson expressed words of gratitude for Pr. Miller's service. He noted that Pr. Miller had served as the executive for administration from 2001-2007. He compared Pr. Miller's role in the churchwide organization to that of a chief operating officer in a corporation. The presiding bishop observed that voting members' unanimous approval of the 2008-2009 budget proposal was a testament to Pr. Miller's leadership in development of the budget, which he oversaw on behalf of the presiding bishop. Presiding Bishop Hanson also noted that at assemblies in 2003 and 2005 voting members overwhelmingly adopted and mandated the restructuring of the churchwide organization for the sake of the Plan for Mission and that was affirmation of Pr. Miller's work as one of the architects of the Plan for Mission and the strategic planning process.

The presiding bishop pointed out that Pr. Miller was also instrumental in the creation of Lutheran Services in America when he was the executive director of the former Division for Church in Society. Presiding Bishop Hanson commented that upon his retirement, Pr. Miller would leave an incredible legacy of work that included development of social statements of this church which he oversaw until undertaking his current position in 2001. As the executive for administration, Pr. Miller was responsible for the daily supervision of program unit directors and other staff of the churchwide organization.

Prior to his service in the churchwide organization of the ELCA in Chicago, beginning in late 1987, Pr. Miller served in New York on the staff of the Division for Mission in North America of the predecessor Lutheran Church in America.

The presiding bishop presented Pr. Miller with a gift and invited the assembly to express its gratitude to God for a gifted servant of the Gospel. Pr. Miller received a standing ovation from the assembly.

Fifth Ballot for Secretary

(Reference: 2007 Pre-Assembly Report, Section IV, pages 3-4; Section I, pages 17-19.)

Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson told the assembly that it would proceed to the fifth ballot for election of secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The presiding bishop indicated that if a nominee received a majority of votes on the fifth ballot, he would be elected. The names of the two final nominees appeared on the screen in order of the vote total received on the fourth ballot. Presiding Bishop Hanson read the names of the nominees and instructed voting members to vote, when requested to do so, by electronic device. He was hopeful that voting results would be reported after the completion of work regarding amendments to the constitution and bylaws.

Report of the Credentials Committee

(Reference: 2007 Pre-Assembly Report, Section I, pages 9 and 33.)

Before the vote for secretary, Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson called upon the Rev. Lowell G. Almen, secretary of the ELCA, to present the final report of the Credentials Committee. Secretary Almen reported that registered on site as of 8:15 A.M., Saturday, August 11, 2007, were 1069 voting members. Of these, 407 were ordained ministers, 33.5 percent of whom were women (271 men; 136 women); and 662 were lay persons (347 women; 315 men). Of the total voting membership, 125 were persons of color or persons whose primary language is other than English (self identified as African American, 63; Black, 8; American Indian or Alaska Native, 4; Arab or Middle Eastern, 5; Asian or Pacific Islander, 20; and Latino, 25). Ten voting members were 18 years old or younger. Registered visitors numbered 548.

Fifth Ballot for Secretary

(Reference: 2007 Pre-Assembly Report, Section IV, pages 3-4; Section I, pages 17-19.)

Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson called upon voting members, as they collected their thoughts and prayers, to sing three times the hymn "Come and Fill Our Hearts." At the conclusion of the hymn, Presiding Bishop Hanson led assembly participants in prayer. The presiding bishop informed voting members they could begin voting. After a time, he declared the voting closed.

Proposed Amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws

(Reference: 2007 Pre-Assembly Report, Section IV, pages 43-46; Section I, pages 16-17.)

Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson reminded voting members they were considering *en bloc* the proposed amendments except for the one that had been removed from the *en bloc* action. Proposed amendments were not debatable, except for the one that had been removed from *en bloc*.

At the chair's request, Secretary Lowell G. Almen indicated that the one item removed from the *en bloc* proposal by voting member Mr. Kevin S. Bardonner [Indiana-Kentucky Synod] was the amendment to constitutional provision 17.51. He indicated the amendment was in Section IV, page 45 of the 2007 Pre-Assembly Report.

Secretary Almen placed the *en bloc* items on the floor.

Moved;

Seconded:

Two-Thirds Vote Required

To adopt *en bloc* the following amendments to the *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*:

To amend bylaw 7.31.13. to permit the seminary residency requirement to be satisfied also at a seminary of the *Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada*:

7.31.13. Preparation and Approval. Except as provided below, a candidate for ordination as a pastor shall have:

...

- d. completed at least one year of residency in a seminary of this church or of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, except when waived by the appropriate committee in consultation with the faculty of a seminary of this church or of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada;
- e. been recommended for approval by the faculty of a seminary of this church or of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada; (with the remainder unchanged).

To amend bylaw 7.51.03. to describe more fully the role of associates in ministry on the lay roster of this church:

7.51.03. Associates in Ministry. This church shall maintain a lay roster of associates in ministry of those commissioned – according to the standards, criteria, policies, and procedures of this church – for such service within the life of this church in positions of Word and service on behalf of all of God's people. Associates in ministry are to be faithful to Jesus Christ, knowledgeable of the Word of God and the Confessions of this church, respectful of the people of God, and responsive to needs in a changing world as they serve in congregations and other ministry settings... (with remainder unchanged).

To amend bylaw 7.51.04. to describe more fully the role of deaconesses on the lay roster of this church:

7.51.04. Deaconesses of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. This church shall maintain a lay roster of the deaconesses of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America of those consecrated – according to the standards, criteria, policies, and procedures of this church – for such service within the life of this church in positions of Word and service

on behalf of all of God's people. Deaconesses are to be faithful to Jesus Christ, knowledgeable of the Word of God and the Confessions of this church, respectful of the people of God, and responsive to needs in a changing world. They are to be theologically trained to serve in congregations and other ministry settings... (with the remainders unchanged).

To amend bylaw 7.51.05. to include the basic standards related to those on the roster of diaconal ministers of this church:

7.51.05. Diaconal Ministers. This church shall establish and maintain a lay roster of diaconal ministers of those consecrated – according to the standards, criteria, policies, and procedures of this church – for service on behalf of who shall be called by this church to in positions of Word and service that exemplify the servant life and that seek to equip and motivate others to live it. Diaconal ministers are to be faithful to Jesus Christ, knowledgeable of the Word of God and the Confessions of this church, respectful of the people of God, and responsive to needs in a changing world. Such diaconal ministers shall seek in a great variety of ways to empower, equip, and support all the baptized people of God in the ministry of Jesus Christ and the mission of God in the world.

To amend bylaw 7.52.23. to make it consistent with ¶S14.31.c in the Constitution for Synods:

7.52.23.d. The call of a congregation, when accepted by an associate in ministry, deaconess, or diaconal minister, shall constitute a continuing mutual relationship and commitment which, except in the case of the death of the individual, shall be terminated only following consultation with the synodical bishop in accordance with policy developed by the appropriate churchwide unit, reviewed by the Conference of Bishops, and adopted by the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

To amend bylaw 7.47.01. to delete the now unnecessary introductory phrase:

7.47.01. ~~After the organization of this church, n~~
No person who belongs to any organization other than the Church...
(with remainder of bylaw unchanged).

To adopt a new bylaw 10.33.01. parallel to the constitutional requirement that pastors of congregations are obliged to “respect the integrity of the ministry of congregations which they do not serve...” (†S14.14.):

10.33. Integrity of ministry.

10.33.01. Ordained ministers previously under call to the churchwide organization or to a synod shall respect the integrity of the ministry in which they no longer serve and shall not interfere with or exercise the functions of the office or position in which they no longer serve unless invited to do so by the presiding bishop or Church Council in the churchwide organization or, in the synods, by the bishop or the Synod Council.

To amend bylaw 12.41.31. to correct an omission in the revision of bylaws as part of the 2005 reorganization process of the churchwide organization:

12.41.31. Members of the Church Council, unless elected as voting members, shall serve as advisory members of the Churchwide Assembly. ~~In addition~~ Likewise, program committee chairpersons and board chairpersons or their designees, unless elected as voting members, shall serve as advisory members of the Churchwide Assembly. ~~E~~ In addition, executive directors of churchwide program units, executive directors of churchwide service units, executives for sections related to the officers, presidents of separately incorporated churchwide units, the executive for administration, and executive assistants to the presiding bishop shall serve as advisory members of the Churchwide Assembly.

To amend bylaw 14.32.02. related to the length of the term for youth advisory members of the Church Council:

14.32.02. The Church Council shall have two youth advisory members, each elected by the board of the youth organization of this church to a ~~two~~ three-year term ~~beginning at the first meeting of the Church Council following each regular meeting of the Churchwide Assembly.~~

To amend bylaw 14.32.03. to recognize the formation of a European-American Association in the ELCA in connection with the Multicultural Ministries unit.

14.32.03. The Church Council shall have as advisory members each president, or the designated representative of the president, of the African American Lutheran Association in the ELCA, the

Association of Lutherans of Arab and Middle Eastern Heritage, the Association of Asians and Pacific Islanders in the ELCA, the Association of Latino Ministries in the ELCA, ~~and~~ the American Indian and Alaska Native Association in the ELCA, and the European-American Association in the ELCA.

To amend bylaw 17.31.01. to omit the duplication of text that exists in the listing of responsibilities of the advisory committee of the church periodical in continuing resolution 17.31.B05.

17.31.01. An advisory committee for *The Lutheran* shall have the responsibility for the church periodical. The advisory committee, in consultation with the presiding bishop of this church, shall nominate the editor for the church periodical ~~and shall arrange, together with the presiding bishop, for an annual review of the editor.~~

To amend bylaw 17.31.11. to simplify the pattern followed for the advisory committee of the church periodical and to make provision for the representative of the Church Council consistent with program committees:

17.31.11. The advisory committee of the church periodical shall be composed of ~~eleven~~ nine members elected by the Church Council.

a. ~~The members of the advisory committee of the church periodical shall be nominated by the Church Council's nomination process. Not more than one person shall be a member of the Church Council and not more than one person shall be a member of the board of the publishing house. The members of the advisory committee of the church periodical, who shall be nominated through the Church Council's nomination process,~~ shall include persons chosen for their understanding of periodical publishing.

e b. ~~With the exception of a member of the Church Council selected to serve on the advisory committee and with the exception of a member of the board of this church's publishing~~

~~house selected to serve on the advisory committee, each Each member of the advisory committee for *The Lutheran* shall be elected for one six-year term, with no consecutive reelection and with one-third of the members elected every two years. ~~A member of the Church Council and a member of the board of the publishing house shall serve two-year terms on the advisory committee, with the possibility of biennial reelection to a maximum of six years.~~~~

To amend bylaw 19.51.02. to include the European-American Association in the ELCA in the nomination pattern for members of the Multicultural Ministries Program Committee:

19.51.02. The program committee for the Multicultural Ministries unit shall consist of 15 persons, 14 of whom shall be elected to six-year terms by the Churchwide Assembly. The committee shall include two persons from each of the following communities: African American or Black; Arab and Middle Eastern; Asian and Pacific Islanders; Latino; American Indian and Alaska Native; European-American; and multiracial or biracial, ~~and Caucasian~~. One person shall be elected to a three-year term on the committee by the Multicultural Advisory Committee of the Lutheran Youth Organization.

To amend bylaw 19.61.02. to simplify the wording of the first part of that bylaw:

19.16.02. No member of the Church Council, a committee of the Church Council, a board, a program committee, ~~an advisory committee,~~ 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... *(with remainder unchanged).*

To amend bylaw 19.61.05. to delete unnecessary language on matters addressed elsewhere in the governing documents:

19.61.05. ~~No voting member of a board shall be simultaneously an officer of this church, a voting member of the Church Council, or a voting member of another board or committee of this church, except the advisory committee of the church periodical that has representation from the Church Council and the board of the Publishing House of the ELCA. Further, no No person employed by an entity, agency, or institution supervised by ~~that~~ a board or committee of the churchwide organization shall be a member of that supervising board or committee, except the full-time salaried officers as specified in the Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.~~

To amend provision †S8.12.e. in the Constitution for Synods to clarify the phrasing:

†S8.12.e. Attest letters of call for persons called to serve congregations in the synod, letters of call for persons called by the Synod Council, and letters of call for persons on the rosters of this synod called by the Church Council ~~on the rosters of this synod.~~

To amend provision †S10.01.a. in the Constitution for Synods to provide for representation under the partner synod design for nominations to and service on the Church Council:

†S10.01.a. *(First part unchanged.)* ...A member of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America ~~from this synod~~, unless otherwise elected as a voting member of the Synod Council, may serve as an advisory member of the Synod Council with voice but not vote.

*To amend provision *C8.02.c. in the Model Constitution for Congregations to ensure the protection of the voting rights of members of congregations:*

***C8.02.c.** Voting members are confirmed members. Such confirmed members, during the current or preceding calendar year, shall have communed in this congregation and shall have made a contribution of record to this congregation. Members of this congregation who have satisfied

these basic standards shall have the privilege of voice and vote at every regular and special meeting of the congregation.

To amend provisions *C17.01. and *C17.04. in the Model Constitution for Congregations regarding incorporation of amendments adopted by the Churchwide Assembly:

*C17.01. Unless provision *C17.04. is applicable, those ~~Those~~ sections of this constitution that are not required, in accord with the Model Constitution for Congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, may be amended in the following manner. Amendments may be proposed by at least _____ voting members or by the Congregation Council... *(with the remainder of the provision unchanged)*.

*C17.04. ~~Whenever the Model Constitution for Congregations is amended by the Churchwide Assembly, this~~ This constitution may be amended to ~~incorporate such amendment~~ bring any section into conformity with a section or sections, either required or not required, of the Model Constitution for Congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America – as most recently amended by the Churchwide Assembly – by a simple majority vote of those voting members present and voting at any subsequent legally called meeting of the congregation without presentation at a prior meeting of the congregation, provided that the Congregation Council has submitted by mail notice to the congregation of such an amendment or amendments, together with the council's recommendations, at least 30 days prior to the meeting. Upon the request of _____ voting members of the congregation, the Congregation Council shall submit such notice. Following the adoption of an amendment, the secretary of the congregation shall submit a copy thereof to the synod. Such provisions shall become effective immediately following a vote of approval.

To amend provisions *C18.01. and *C18.02. in the Model Constitution for Congregations regarding

adoption of continuing resolutions:

*C18.01. The congregation in a legally called meeting or the Congregation Council may enact continuing resolutions. Such continuing resolutions may not conflict with the constitution or bylaws of this congregation.

*C18.02. Continuing resolutions shall be enacted or amended by a majority vote of the congregation or a two-thirds vote of all voting members of the Congregation Council.

Presiding Bishop Hanson recognized a point of inquiry from the Rev. Rolf P. Wangberg, bishop of the Northwestern Minnesota Synod. Bp. Wangberg informed the chair that two members of the Northwestern Minnesota Synod voting representation had to leave. There were two people at the assembly who could take their places, but according to the rules of the assembly, they could not do so because they played under contract as worship musicians and as such for the duration of the assembly were employees of the ELCA churchwide organization. Bp. Wangberg requested a ruling from the chair as to whether or not an exception could be made to the rules of the assembly so the substitutes could become voting members. Presiding Bishop Hanson asked Bp. Wangberg if he wanted the body to take action on that issue before taking action on the *en bloc* recommendations to the constitution and bylaws resolutions. The presiding bishop ruled the request out of order because the rule in question was contained in bylaw 12.41.15.

Assembly

Action:

CA07.06.24

Two-Thirds Vote Required

Yes-914; No-37

To adopt *en bloc* the following amendments to the Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:

To amend bylaw 7.31.13. to permit the seminary residency requirement to be satisfied also at a seminary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada:

7.31.13. Preparation and Approval. Except as provided below, a candidate for ordination as a pastor shall have:

...

- d. completed at least one year of residency in a seminary of this church or of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, except when waived by the appropriate committee in consultation with the faculty of a seminary of this church or of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada;
- e. been recommended for approval by the faculty of a seminary of this church or of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada; (with the remainder

unchanged).

To amend bylaw 7.51.03. to describe more fully the role of associates in ministry on the lay roster of this church:

7.51.03. Associates in Ministry. This church shall maintain a lay roster of associates in ministry of those commissioned – according to the standards, criteria, policies, and procedures of this church – for such service within the life of this church in positions of Word and service on behalf of all of God’s people. Associates in ministry are to be faithful to Jesus Christ, knowledgeable of the Word of God and the Confessions of this church, respectful of the people of God, and responsive to needs in a changing world as they serve in congregations and other ministry settings... (with remainder unchanged).

To amend bylaw 7.51.04. to describe more fully the role of deaconesses on the lay roster of this church:

7.51.04. Deaconesses of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. This church shall maintain a lay roster of the deaconesses of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America of those consecrated – according to the standards, criteria, policies, and procedures of this church – for such service within the life of this church in positions of Word and service on behalf of all of God’s people. Deaconesses are to be faithful to Jesus Christ, knowledgeable of the Word of God and the Confessions of this church, respectful of the people of God, and responsive to needs in a changing world. They are to be theologically trained to serve in congregations and other ministry settings... (with the remainders unchanged).

To amend bylaw 7.51.05. to include the basic standards related to those on the roster of diaconal ministers of this church:

7.51.05. Diaconal Ministers. This church shall establish and maintain a lay roster of diaconal ministers of those consecrated—according to the standards, criteria, policies, and

procedures of this church—for service on behalf of who shall be called by this church to in positions of Word and service that exemplify the servant life and that seek to equip and motivate others to live it. Diaconal ministers are to be faithful to Jesus Christ, knowledgeable of the Word of God and the Confessions of this church, respectful of the people of God, and responsive to needs in a changing world. Such diaconal ministers shall seek in a great variety of ways to empower, equip, and support all the baptized people of God in the ministry of Jesus Christ and the mission of God in the world.

To amend bylaw 7.52.23. to make it consistent with †S14.31.c. in the Constitution for Synods:

7.52.23.d. The call of a congregation, when accepted by an associate in ministry, deaconess, or diaconal minister, shall constitute a continuing mutual relationship and commitment which, except in the case of the death of the individual, shall be terminated only following consultation with the synodical bishop in accordance with policy developed by the appropriate churchwide unit, reviewed by the Conference of Bishops, and adopted by the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

To amend bylaw 7.47.01. to delete the now unnecessary introductory phrase:

7.47.01 ~~After the organization of this church, n~~ No person who belongs to any organization other than the Church... (with remainder of bylaw unchanged).

To adopt a new bylaw 10.33.01. parallel to the constitutional requirement that pastors of congregations are obliged to “respect the integrity of the ministry of congregations which they do not serve...” (†S14.14.):

10.33. Integrity of ministry.
10.33.01. Ordained ministers previously under call to the churchwide

organization or to a synod shall respect the integrity of the ministry in which they no longer serve and shall not interfere with or exercise the functions of the office or position in which they no longer serve unless invited to do so by the presiding bishop or Church Council in the churchwide organization or, in the synods, by the bishop or the Synod Council.

To amend bylaw 12.41.31. to correct an omission in the revision of bylaws as part of the 2005 reorganization process of the churchwide organization:

12.41.31. Members of the Church Council, unless elected as voting members, shall serve as advisory members of the Churchwide Assembly. ~~In addition~~ Likewise, program committee chairpersons and board chairpersons or their designees, unless elected as voting members, shall serve as advisory members of the Churchwide Assembly. ~~E In addition,~~ executive directors of churchwide program units, executive directors of churchwide service units, executives for sections related to the officers, presidents of separately incorporated churchwide units, the executive for administration, and executive assistants to the presiding bishop shall serve as advisory members of the Churchwide Assembly.

To amend bylaw 14.32.02. related to the length of the term for youth advisory members of the Church Council:

14.32.02. The Church Council shall have two youth advisory members, each elected by the board of the youth organization of this church to a ~~two~~ three-year term ~~beginning at the first meeting of the Church Council following each regular meeting of the Churchwide Assembly.~~

To amend bylaw 14.32.03. to recognize the formation of a European-American Association in the ELCA in connection with the Multicultural Ministries unit.

14.32.03. The Church Council shall have as advisory members each president, or the designated representative of the president, of the African American Lutheran Association in the ELCA, the Association of Lutherans of Arab and Middle Eastern Heritage, the Association of Asians and Pacific Islanders in the ELCA, the Association of Latino Ministries in the ELCA, ~~and~~ the American Indian and Alaska Native Association in the ELCA, and the European-American Association in the ELCA.

To amend bylaw 17.31.01. to omit the duplication of text that exists in the listing of responsibilities of the advisory committee of the church periodical in continuing resolution 17.31.B05.

17.31.01. An advisory committee for The Lutheran shall have the responsibility for the church periodical. The advisory committee, in consultation with the presiding bishop of this church, shall nominate the editor for the church periodical ~~and shall arrange, together with the presiding bishop, for an annual review of the editor.~~

To amend bylaw 17.31.11. to simplify the pattern followed for the advisory committee of the church periodical and to make provision for the representative of the Church Council consistent with program committees:

17.31.11. The advisory committee of the church periodical shall be composed of ~~eleven~~ nine members elected by the Church Council.

a. ~~The members of the advisory committee of the church periodical shall be nominated by the Church Council's nomination process. Not more than one person shall be a member of the Church Council and not more than one person shall be a member of the board of the publishing house. The members of the advisory~~

committee of the church periodical, who shall be nominated through the Church Council's nomination process, shall include persons chosen for their understanding of periodical publishing.

~~c b. With the exception of a member of the Church Council selected to serve on the advisory committee and with the exception of a member of the board of this church's publishing house selected to serve on the advisory committee; each~~ Each member of the advisory committee for *The Lutheran* shall be elected for one six-year term, with no consecutive reelection and with one-third of the members elected every two years. ~~A member of the Church Council and a member of the board of the publishing house shall serve two-year terms on the advisory committee; with the possibility of biennial reelection to a maximum of six years.~~

To amend bylaw 19.51.02. to include the European-American Association in the ELCA in the nomination pattern for members of the Multicultural Ministries Program Committee:

19.51.02. The program committee for the Multicultural Ministries unit shall consist of 15 persons, 14 of whom shall be elected to six-year terms by the Churchwide Assembly. The committee shall include two persons from each of the following communities: African American or Black; Arab and Middle Eastern; Asian and Pacific Islanders; Latino; American Indian and Alaska Native; European-American; and multiracial or biracial, ~~and Caucasian~~. One person shall be elected to a three-year term on the committee by the

Multicultural Advisory Committee of the Lutheran Youth Organization.

To amend bylaw 19.61.02. to simplify the wording of the first part of that bylaw:

19.16.02. No member of the Church Council, a committee of the Church Council, a board, a program committee, ~~an advisory committee;~~ 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... *(with remainder unchanged).*

To amend bylaw 19.61.05. to delete unnecessary language on matters addressed elsewhere in the governing documents:

19.61.05. ~~No voting member of a board shall be simultaneously an officer of this church, a voting member of the Church Council, or a voting member of another board or committee of this church, except the advisory committee of the church periodical that has representation from the Church Council and the board of the Publishing House of the ELCA. Further, no~~ No person employed by an entity, agency, or institution supervised by ~~that~~ a board or committee of the churchwide organization shall be a member of that supervising board or committee, except the full-time salaried officers as specified in the Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

To amend provision †S8.12.e. in the Constitution for Synods to clarify the phrasing:

†S8.12.e. Attest letters of call for persons called to serve congregations in the synod,

letters of call for persons called by the Synod Council, and letters of call for persons on the rosters of this synod called by the Church Council ~~on the rosters of this synod.~~

To amend provision †S10.01.a. in the Constitution for Synods to provide for representation under the partner synod design for nominations to and service on the Church Council:
†S10.01.a. (First part unchanged.) ...A member of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America ~~from this synod~~, unless otherwise elected as a voting member of the Synod Council, may serve as an advisory member of the Synod Council with voice but not vote.

To amend provision *C8.02.c. in the Model Constitution for Congregations to ensure the protection of the voting rights of members of congregations:

*C8.02.c. Voting members are confirmed members. Such confirmed members, during the current or preceding calendar year, shall have communed in this congregation and shall have made a contribution of record to this congregation. Members of this congregation who have satisfied these basic standards shall have the privilege of voice and vote at every regular and special meeting of the congregation.

To amend provisions *C17.01. and *C17.04. in the Model Constitution for Congregations regarding incorporation of amendments adopted by the Churchwide Assembly:

*C17.01. Unless provision *C17.04. is applicable, those ~~Those~~ sections of this constitution that are not required, in accord with the Model Constitution for Congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, may be amended in the following manner. Amendments may be proposed by at least _____ voting members or by the Congregation Council... (with the remainder of the provision unchanged).

*C17.04. ~~Whenever the Model Constitution for Congregations is amended by the Churchwide Assembly, this~~

This constitution may be amended to incorporate such amendment bring any section into conformity with a section or sections, either required or not required, of the Model Constitution for Congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America – as most recently amended by the Churchwide Assembly – by a simple majority vote of those voting members present and voting at any subsequent legally called meeting of the congregation without presentation at a prior meeting of the congregation, provided that the Congregation Council has submitted by mail notice to the congregation of such an amendment or amendments, together with the council’s recommendations, at least 30 days prior to the meeting. Upon the request of _____ voting members of the congregation, the Congregation Council shall submit such notice. Following the adoption of an amendment, the secretary of the congregation shall submit a copy thereof to the synod. Such provisions shall become effective immediately following a vote of approval.

To amend provisions *C18.01. and *C18.02. in the Model Constitution for Congregations regarding adoption of continuing resolutions:

*C18.01. The congregation in a legally called meeting or the Congregation Council may enact continuing resolutions. Such continuing resolutions may not conflict with the constitution or bylaws of this congregation.

*C18.02. Continuing resolutions shall be enacted or amended by a majority vote of the congregation or a two-thirds vote of all voting members of the Congregation Council.

Secretary Almen moved the amendment to provision 17.51., which had been removed from *en bloc* for consideration.

Moved;

Two-Thirds Vote Required

Seconded:

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

17.51. This church shall have a fund, known as

the Mission Investment Fund of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, to provide investment opportunities to individuals, congregations, synods, institutions, agencies, and organizations, and administer loans to congregations, synods, ~~and~~ the churchwide organization ~~of this church~~, and to other organizations and institutions that are ~~affiliated with~~ related to this church. The Mission Investment Fund of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America ~~will provide investment opportunities for congregations, institutions, and ELCA members~~ and shall be incorporated.

Presiding Bishop Hanson asked if there was anyone who wished to speak to the amendment.

Speaking against the proposed amendment, Mr. Kevin S. Bardonner, [Indiana-Kentucky Synod] focused on the language “related to this church” in the proposed amendment. He indicated he was both an account holder with the Mission Investment Fund and also a member of a congregation that had a mortgage with the Mission Investment Fund. His concern was the way this church continued to broaden the purpose of the fund. He recalled that at the 2005 Churchwide Assembly, the constitutional language relating to the Mission Investment Fund was broadened to provide loans to entities other than congregations and to provide investment opportunities for congregations, institutions, and ELCA members. He believed that the intended purpose of the fund, reflected in the film shown earlier in the week, was to make loans to congregations. He cautioned voting members not to lose focus of what the Mission Investment Fund was all about as they voted on the amendment.

Presiding Bishop Hanson called upon Ms. Christina Jackson-Skelton, treasurer of the ELCA and president of the Mission Investment Fund, to address the concern. Ms. Jackson-Skelton, stated the primary missional purpose of the Mission Investment Fund was to support this church’s new congregational growth. Ten years ago, the fund began decreasing loans to new mission starts because the fund did not have enough liquidity. As this church grew the fund, it was able to provide loans to established congregations. Approximately four years ago, the fund gave its first loan to a seminary, and in recent years the Mission Investment Fund lent funds to outdoor ministries. Ms. Jackson-Skelton noted that the vision for the Mission Investment Fund was to be a partner and the primary lending resource in the creation and growth of ELCA ministries. She explained that by having a more diverse portfolio, this church’s risk decreased. She indicated that new mission starts were the most risky type of loan in terms of loan repayment. She went on to say that it would always be the goal of the fund to provide loans to congregations first, but with additional funds available, it could continue to provide services to other units of this church. Ms. Jackson-Skelton stated that in the constitutional language pertaining to services offered by the fund, the word “affiliated” had always been confusing and unclear. In consultation with the board of trustees of the Mission Investment Fund and the Office of the Secretary,

it was agreed upon to use institutions, agencies, and organizations related to this church as language around which it would be easier for the board of trustees of the Mission Investment Fund to build new loan policies.

Ms. Ruth Lauerson [Eastern Washington-Idaho Synod] spoke in favor of the proposed amendment. She noted that her congregation had recently joined with three other congregations to create Spokane Urban Ministries, which was in the process of affiliating with the ELCA to become a social ministry organization one of whose primary goals was to build low-income housing. She believed that their organization might one day need a loan and that the Mission Investment Fund could be one possible lending agency.

Mr. Jason Day [Delaware-Maryland Synod] moved the previous question.

Presiding Bishop Hanson called for a voice vote to consider the motion to end debate.

Moved:

Voice Vote

Seconded:

Carried:

To end debate.

The presiding bishop asked the assembly to vote on motion to adopt the proposed amendment to 17.51.

Assembly

Two-Thirds Vote Required

Action:

Yes-903; No-71

CA07.06.25

To adopt the following amendment to the *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*:

17.51. This church shall have a fund, known as the Mission Investment Fund of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, to provide investment opportunities to individuals, congregations, synods, institutions, agencies, and organizations, and administer loans to congregations, synods, ~~and~~ the churchwide organization ~~of this church~~, and to other organizations and institutions that are ~~affiliated with~~ related to this church. The Mission Investment Fund of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America ~~will provide investment opportunities for congregations, institutions, and ELCA members~~ and shall be incorporated.

After the vote, Presiding Bishop Hanson recognized Secretary Almen, who came to the podium to provide additional explanation regarding the inquiry of Bp. Wangberg as it related to not being able to have two replacement voting members for his synod that were participating in the assembly as worship musicians. Secretary Almen reported there was a bylaw (12.41.15.) in the *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing*

Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America that explicitly precluded persons serving as contract staff of the churchwide organization of the ELCA as voting members for the Churchwide Assembly. Secretary Almen noted that it would not be possible for the assembly to suspend the bylaw, only amend it, and the assembly was past the point in its deliberations where it could address that issue.

Election Report: Fifth Ballot for Secretary

(Reference: *2007 Pre-Assembly Report*, Section IV, pages 3-4; Section I, pages 17-19.)

Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson called upon Mr. Phillip H. Harris, chair of the Elections Committee, to report the results of the fifth ballot for the secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Mr. Harris reported that on the fifth ballot, 977 votes were cast; 489 votes were needed for election. He reported the following results:

Mr. David D. Swartling 611 62.54%

Pr. Paul A. Schreck 366 37.46%

Presiding Bishop Hanson declared Mr. David D. Swartling elected as secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Assembly

Action:

CA07.06.26

To declare elected as secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Mr. David D. Swartling to a six-year term beginning on November 1, 2007, and expiring October 31, 2013.

After Presiding Bishop Hanson declared an election, he invited Mr. Swartling and his wife Barbara to come to the stage for recognition by the assembly. The presiding bishop then led members in the hymn "Holy God, We Praise Your Name." At the conclusion of the hymn, the presiding bishop invited Secretary-elect Swartling to address the assembly.

Mr. Swartling told the assembly that he stood before them as this church's humble servant. He noted that he had much to say, but that he had visions of white cards and motions for the orders of the day, so he would be brief. He related that, as the Rev. Paul A. Schreck knew, there were two books he had with him while sitting in the plenary sessions serving as parliamentarian. He showed the assembly a copy of *Robert's Rules of Order* and said that its content was important because it told this church that process and fairness was important. Mr. Swartling pledged to the assembly that he would hold that principle as a mantra of the Office of Secretary as he served this church, because he wanted to be scrupulously fair to everyone.

The more important book, he added, was the Bible. It was why the assembly gathered together in Word and Sacrament and prayed for wisdom. It was because Christ gave his life for the Church that this church gathered together. He related that while in the discernment process for the call to become secretary, as he and voting members had experienced in the last week, he spent time reflecting on the Bible, and he found great solace in the fact that there were many people in its stories who changed geographical direction and their vocations, many of them late in

their lives. He commented that when all was said and done, the world was changed by someone who started out as a carpenter.

Mr. Swartling had many people he wished to thank, but only named a few. He thanked the Rev. Wm. Chris Boerger, bishop of the Northwest Washington Synod, and the Rev. Robert D. Hofstad, bishop of the Southwestern Washington Synod, for being friends and mentors and for praying with him. He recognized the ELCA's synodical vice presidents because, he said, they are leaders, sometimes untapped, that have great things to do for this church. He also was grateful to his mutual ministry and discernment committees. He thanked the other nominees and remarked that, in their time together, they along with the assembly were able to see a glimpse of this wonderful church called the ELCA. He pledged to work with staff of the Office of the Secretary to make the office a successful one.

He related that he looked down at the ground and saw the huge footprint that is the Rev. Lowell G. Almen. He told Pr. Almen that he would have his phone number on speed dial and he would not let him get away. He acknowledged that he could not fill the footprints of Pr. Almen, and he asked for the patience, understanding, and prayers of the assembly. He related that the presiding bishop changed his life two years prior when he invited him to serve as parliamentarian.

To the presiding bishop, Mr. Swartling pledged to bring his wisest counsel and give the best advice he could. And in the future when a decision of this church was made, he would implement it. He wished to be the presiding bishop's colleague in the Gospel and partner in prayer. Mr. Swartling related that he wanted to be a faithful leader for the presiding bishop and for the congregations, synods, and churchwide organization of the ELCA.

Though he wished to talk to the assembly about legacy and wills, he acknowledged that he would have to leave that conversation for another day. But he did wish to thank the Foundation of the ELCA and its ministry. Mr. Swartling had hoped that someone would ask him what was his favorite Bible story. It was the first miracle from the book of John where Jesus changed water into wine. In that story, Jesus acted at an unexpected time and took something ordinary and turned it into something extraordinary. Mr. Swartling hoped his life in a subtle and profound way would turn into something extraordinary for all the members of the ELCA. He wished to reach out beyond the assembly to those in congregations where ministry was occurring at the local level in this church's name and Christ's name.

He stated that the Office of the Secretary was about service. He pledged to all members of the ELCA to be this church's faithful servant. He closed by saying, "These hands are for God's work. God's work, our hands." Mr. Swartling then received a standing ovation from the assembly.

Presiding Bishop Hanson then asked those who were able to remain standing and express their gratitude to Pr. Paul A. Schreck for being a part of the discernment process for the office of secretary.

Before proceeding with the next item on the agenda, the presiding bishop wished to acknowledge the Rev. Donald M. Hallberg, executive director of Development Services and president of the Foundation of the ELCA, who would be retiring

at the end of the month. Presiding Bishop Hanson noted that Pr. Hallberg had shaped the future of the ELCA more than other person in this church. He observed that Pr. Hallberg had the most passionate conviction about the mission and ministry of the ELCA of anyone he had ever met and that Pr. Hallberg conveyed that passion and caused people to want to support generously the mission and ministry of the ELCA. The presiding bishop asked Pr. Hallberg to step forward so the assembly could recognize his contribution to the ministry of the ELCA. Pr. Hallberg received a standing ovation from the assembly.

Report of the Memorials Committee (continued)

(Reference: 2007 Pre-Assembly Report, Section VI, pages 1-74; Section I, pages 6, 9, 11-12.)

Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson directed the assembly to turn its attention to consideration of memorials. Joining him on the stage were the Rev. Kenneth M. Rupp and Ms. Norma J. Hirsch, co-chairs of the Memorials Committee. The recommendation currently under consideration was Category E2: Standards for Rostered Leaders. On the floor were the recommendation of the Memorials Committee, an amendment to that recommendation moved by Mr. Chris R. Hardie, and a substitute proposed by the Rev. Craig E. Johnson, bishop of the Minneapolis Area Synod. The presiding bishop noted that members should have before them printed copies of the substitute motion and the proposed amendment.

Pr. James T. Lehmann [Central/Southern Illinois Synod] raised a point of inquiry. He believed the new substitute was essentially the same as the substitute considered and rejected the day before by the assembly. He judged that although the wording was different, the meaning essentially was the same. Thus, he considered the proposed substitute out of order. After consulting with the parliamentarian, the presiding bishop ruled that the proposed substitute was different enough to be in order. The substitute considered the day before was to direct change in policy documents; the current substitute would create the possibility for exceptions to be made to this church's rostering policies.

The chair noted that there needed to be a change in the language of the proposed substitute so that it would be consistent with this church's governing documents. The change would insert the phrase "upon the approval of" into the third line: "in consultation with the Conference of Bishops and upon the approval of the Church Council." Presiding Bishop Hanson asked the author of the proposed substitute, Bp. Johnson, if he were willing to have the additional language inserted into the proposed substitute. Bp. Johnson agreed to the change.

The chair clarified for voting members they were debating the amendment authored by Mr. Chris R. Hardie [La Crosse Area Synod] to the Memorials Committee's recommendation for E2.

The Rev. Clifton L. Suehr [Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod] moved the previous question on all matters before the house. Presiding Bishop Hanson informed members the motion was not debatable. The chair clarified that all matters before the house included the amendment to the Memorials Committee's recommendation, the substitute motion, and the original recommendation from the Memorials Committee for Category

E2.

The Rev. Peter Rogness, bishop of the Saint Paul Area Synod, objected that calling of the question was not a privileged motion. He asked if Pr. Suehr was next in the queue or if he was recognized because he was signaling his intent with a white card. After consultation, the chair determined that Pr. Suehr was out of order and needed to make his motion again when it was his turn in line.

In keeping with an earlier action of the assembly regarding debate, the assembly paused for one minute of silence. After one minute, Presiding Bishop Hanson led the assembly in prayer, after which debate resumed.

Mr. Kevin S. Bardonner [Indiana-Kentucky Synod] called the question on all matters before the house.

Moved; **Two-Thirds Vote Required**
Seconded; **Yes-670; No-305**
Carried: To end debate on all matters before the house.

Presiding Bishop Hanson indicated that the assembly would vote next on Mr. Hardie's amendment to the Memorials Committee recommendation.

Moved; **Yes-692; No-303**
Seconded;
Carried: To amend the recommendation of the Memorials Committee by the addition of a final paragraph:

RESOLVED, to direct the Task Force for ELCA Studies on Sexuality specifically to address and make recommendations to the 2009 Churchwide Assembly on changes to any church policies that preclude practicing homosexual persons from the rosters of this church.

Presiding Bishop Hanson informed the assembly that the next vote would be on whether to substitute Bp. Johnson's motion for the Memorials Committee's recommendation for Category E2.

Moved; **Yes-472; No-520**
Seconded;
Defeated: To substitute the following for the recommendation of the Memorials Committee on Category E2:

RESOLVED, that the 2007 Churchwide Assembly direct the Committee on Appeals, Vocation and Education unit, in consultation with the Conference of Bishops and upon the approval of the Church Council, to take the steps necessary to amend "Vision and Expectations," "Definitions and Guidelines for Discipline," and the policy on reinstatement to the rosters of this church, so that, for pastoral reasons and for the sake of mission and ministry, a synodical bishop, in consultation with the Synod Council and the presiding bishop, may grant an exception and permit the rostering of

otherwise qualified persons in a same-gender committed relationship that is mutual, chaste, and faithful, and that once an exception has been granted, that person shall not be subject to discipline based on the same set of facts.

Since the motion to substitute had failed, the chair stated that the next vote would be on the Memorials Committee's recommendation for Category E2 as previously amended.

Assembly

Action:

CA07.06.27

Yes-819; No-171

1. To receive with gratitude the memorials of the Northwest Washington Synod, Southwestern Washington Synod, Oregon Synod, Sierra Pacific Synod, Southwest California Synod, Grand Canyon Synod, Rocky Mountain Synod, Northeastern Minnesota Synod, Minneapolis Area Synod, Saint Paul Area Synod, Metropolitan Chicago Synod, Northern Illinois Synod, Northeastern Iowa Synod, Southeastern Iowa Synod, Greater Milwaukee Synod, South-Central Synod of Wisconsin, New Jersey Synod, New England Synod, Metropolitan New York Synod, Upstate New York Synod, Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod, and Metropolitan Washington, D.C., Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America on matters related to policy documents regarding standards for rostered leaders;
2. To acknowledge that, as the Task Force for ELCA Studies on Sexuality stated, "The disagreement over these issues before the church is deep, pervasive, multi-faceted, and multi-layered. This church is not of one mind," and that it is appropriate, therefore, that matters of human sexuality continue to be the subject of ongoing study and conversation in this church;
3. To recognize the resolution of the 2005 Churchwide Assembly [CA05.05.17] that urged "the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America—its members, congregations, synods, churchwide organization, and agencies and institutions—. . .to concentrate on finding ways to live together faithfully in the midst of disagreements, recognizing the God-given mission and communion that we share as members of the body of Christ";
4. To affirm that, in the polity of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, policies and practices, as well as any revisions of them, must be congruent with this church's social teachings, Confession of Faith, the process established in the

Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and other relevant governing documents;

5. To underscore the March 2007 statement of the Conference of Bishops, which said, "This church is engaged in a careful study of issues related to human sexuality with the intention of adopting a social statement at the 2009 Churchwide Assembly. We urge the members of this church to engage fully and faithfully in the study process as part of our 'living together faithfully' during this time. . .";

6. To refer these memorials and a verbatim record of this assembly's committee of the whole discussion of these issues to the Task Force for ELCA Studies on Sexuality, urging that it consider this information in its ongoing discernment and deliberation; and

7. To direct the Task Force for ELCA Studies on Sexuality specifically to address and make recommendations to the 2009 Churchwide Assembly on changes to any policies that preclude practicing homosexual persons from the rosters of this church.

Presiding Bishop Hanson called upon Pr. Ruppert to introduce the next matter for consideration, the Memorials Committee recommendation for Category E3: Restraint in Discipline Proceedings.

Moved;

Seconded:

To receive the memorials of the Northwest Washington Synod, Oregon Synod, Grand Canyon Synod, Rocky Mountain Synod, Northeastern Minnesota Synod, Minneapolis Area Synod, Saint Paul Area Synod, Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod, Southeastern Iowa Synod, Southeast Michigan Synod, New Jersey Synod, New England Synod, Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, and Metropolitan Washington, D.C., Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America on matters related to exercising restraint in applying the policies regarding the discipline of rostered leaders;

To note that, in the polity of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, established in the *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*, the responsibility for discipline resides with synodical bishops and the presiding bishop of this church; and

To refer these memorials as information to the Conference of Bishops.

Mr. Kevin S. Bardonnier [Indiana-Kentucky Synod] moved

the previous question.

The presiding bishop called for the vote on the motion to close debate.

Moved;

Seconded;

Defeated:

To end debate.

Two-Thirds Vote Required

Yes-620; No-367

The Rev. Paul R. Landahl, bishop of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod, moved to substitute the following for the recommendation of the Memorials Committee on Category E3.

Moved;

Seconded:

To substitute the following for the recommendation of the Memorials Committee recommendation on Category E3:

RESOLVED, that in an effort to continue as a church in moral deliberation without further strife and pain to its members, the Churchwide Assembly prays, urges, and encourages synods, synodical bishops, and the presiding bishop to refrain from and demonstrate restraint in disciplining those congregations and persons who call into the rostered ministry otherwise-qualified candidates who are in a mutual, chaste, and faithful committed same-gender relationship; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Churchwide Assembly prays, urges, and encourages synods, synodical bishops, and the presiding bishop to refrain from and demonstrate restraint in disciplining those rostered leaders in a mutual, chaste, and faithful committed same-gender relationship who have been called and rostered in this church.

Speaking to his motion, Bp. Landahl stated that the 21 of the 65 synods that had submitted memorials speaking to the issue of change in policies had been ignored thus far by the assembly. He did not believe that the hospitality this church claimed and the walking together that this church professed had been carried through. He prayed that voting members would listen to the concerns of the 21 synods and would give those dealing with these issues some breathing space to do what God had called them to do.

Mr. Jason Day [Delaware-Maryland Synod] called the question on all matters before the house.

Mr. Jeremy Posadas [Metropolitan New York Synod] asked for a point of clarification about the appropriateness of the motion to end debate. The chair responded that since there was a new matter before the house, it was an appropriate motion.

Moved;

Seconded;

Defeated:

To end debate on all matters before the house.

Two-Thirds Vote Required

Yes-521; No-473

The Rev. David P. Gleason [Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod] spoke in favor of the Memorial Committee's recommendation. He pointed out, with some dismay, that all of

the substitute motions for Category E had been introduced by bishops. In so doing, Pr. Gleason believed that the bishops had asked the assembly to negate decisions of previous assemblies calling for action on these matters at the 2009 Churchwide Assembly. He believed that it was distressing to the faithful to see bishops, called to be signs and servants of Christian unity, promoting dissension. He observed that the fact this was happening indicated a far greater problem for the ELCA than sexuality.

Mr. Eric M. Peterson [South-Central Synod of Wisconsin] spoke in favor of the substitution. He stated that the 2005 Churchwide Assembly, this assembly, and numerous bishops had urged this church to journey together faithfully as this church moved toward the 2009 Churchwide Assembly. Mr. Peterson urged voting members adopt the substitute that prayerfully encouraged the bishops of this church to refrain from and demonstrate restraint in disciplining rostered leaders in faithful committed same-gender relationships. He noted that this church continued to ask bishops and congregations to wait while this church studied the issue. He stated that if people must wait two more years, this church needed to refrain from disciplining them. He believed that if restraint was not shown, the mission and ministry of the ELCA were in danger of being injured. He asked "how much more money, time, and people this church was going to squander on disciplinary trials instead of mission." He stated that this church needed to refrain from harming good leaders and instead focus on mission and ministry.

Mr. Arthur E. Murphy [Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod] spoke in favor of the Memorials Committee recommendation. He underscored the process engaged in by voting members and objected to what he characterized as attempts to institute changes by circumventing the actions taken on previous days. He urged voting members not to make haphazard, piecemeal policy. He spoke against giving relief to rostered leaders if this church was not willing to give relief to the laity, in terms of the blessing of same-sex unions. He requested that the 2009 Churchwide Assembly act on a comprehensive solution.

Mr. Timothy Fisher [Minneapolis Area Synod] spoke in favor of the substitute motion. He noted that seeking restraint meant asking ELCA bishops to emphasize relationships over rigid systems. He believed that moderation in discipline was a demonstrative example of living together faithfully.

Mr. Dean P. Richards [Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod] raised a point of inquiry about the language of the substitution. He was unclear what was meant by "refrain from and demonstrate" since those verbs appeared to contradict each other. He was concerned that if it was unclear, someone might interpret it incorrectly.

Presiding Bishop Hanson called upon Bp. Landahl to clarify the language. Bp. Landahl responded that the phrase meant to insert some restraint into the discipline process.

Pr. Judith A. McKee [Lower Susquehanna Synod] spoke in favor of the Memorial Committee's recommendation. She believed that if voting members approved the substitute, they would be adopting a practice that had not yet been determined to be faithful or permitted in this church.

The Rev. Stephen P. Bouman, bishop of the Metropolitan New York Synod, spoke in favor of the substitution by raising two

points. First, he told the assembly of the congregation in his synod served by the Rev. Katrina D. Foster, who had shared her story with the assembly the day previously. Fordham Lutheran Church in the Bronx, New York, was a congregation that served people in poverty and included people in poverty. He wondered what good it would do this church to do anything other than support that ministry. Second, he noted that a child was baptized, catechized, hopes for the child were put forth, the child went into the world, came to New York, and also happened to be gay. In order to be able to minister to that child, he urged that he and others involved in the issues of discipline be given room.

The Rev. Timothy A. Whiteman [Northwest Washington Synod] spoke in favor of the Memorial Committee's recommendation. He believed that this church was not following its own teachings. It was very important for this church to go back, wait, and do its work, he said. He noted that continuing to try and find a way around what this church should be doing was not the way to accomplish anything. He stated that it was very important that any restraint in disciplining ought to be accompanied by restraint in the ordination and placement of persons who could be subject to the discipline practices of this church. He observed that if the substitute motion were passed, it would be seen as permission for a bishop to continue to place persons who do not meet the requirements of the "Vision and Expectations" document.

Presiding Bishop Hanson recognized Bp. Landahl, who proposed the following to add clarity to his motion: substituting the word "or" for "and": "refrain from ~~and~~ or demonstrate." The change in language was agreed to by voice vote.

The Rev. Christopher D. Berry [Northwest Washington Synod] spoke in favor of the substitution. He noted that people of all faiths used the campus ministry center in which he served. He and others were in need of time and resources that they could not get because this church was using those time and resources disciplining pastors. He observed that the substitute allowed bishops the chance to do their jobs and freed them for other matters. He urged voting members to adopt the substitute so this church could get on with its ministry.

Mr. Gary Diers [Minneapolis Area Synod] spoke in favor of Memorials Committee recommendation. He noted that the debate was breaking his heart. He did not believe this church could exist without boundaries. He observed that because he loved his children, he had to impose boundaries on them for their own best interests. He believed that, in the same way, the Creator gave this church boundaries within which to live.

Mr. Dean P. Richards [Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod] raised a point of clarification in regards to the phrase in question. Mr. Richards read "refrain from and demonstrate" as being two separate actions. He did not believe inserting the replacement word "or" would clarify it. Presiding Bishop Hanson responded that he did not regard the point as a privileged motion and if the speaker wished to raise the point, he would have to wait for his turn in line.

Mr. Chad J. Beckius [Nebraska Synod] raised a point of order, noting that he thought the 20 minutes allotted for debate had passed. Presiding Bishop Hanson checked with the timekeeper and stated that there was one minute left in debate.

Mr. Jeremy Posadas [Metropolitan New York Synod] spoke

in favor of the substitute motion, asking how many leaders were not in compliance with this church's policies. He commented that many members of this church benefitted from the services those leaders provided. He inquired how many of these leaders this church could afford to lose and how much could the Gospel afford their loss.

Presiding Bishop Hanson called for the assembly to observe a minute of silence. He then led the assembly in prayer. Following prayer, he indicated that the assembly would proceed to vote of whether to substitute Bp. Landahl's motion for the recommendation of the Memorials Committee on Category E3: Restraint in Discipline Proceedings.

Mr. Jerry U. Key [Greater Milwaukee Synod] raised a point of inquiry and asked the chair if the assembly could reconsider the rule limiting debate to 20 minutes. Presiding Bishop Hanson responded that he would note the request for the secretary upon completion of the vote.

Moved:

Seconded:

Carried:

Yes-536; No-467

To substitute the following for the recommendation of the Memorials Committee recommendation on Category E3:

RESOLVED, that in an effort to continue as a church in moral deliberation without further strife and pain to its members, the Churchwide Assembly prays, urges, and encourages synods, synodical bishops, and the presiding bishop to refrain from or demonstrate restraint in disciplining those congregations and persons who call into the rostered ministry otherwise-qualified candidates who are in a mutual, chaste, and faithful committed same-gender relationship; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Churchwide Assembly prays, urges, and encourages synods, synodical bishops, and the presiding bishop to refrain from or demonstrate restraint in disciplining those rostered leaders in a mutual, chaste, and faithful committed same-gender relationship who have been called and rostered in this church.

Presiding Bishop Hanson informed voting members the matter before them was the adoption of the substitute motion.

Presiding Bishop Hanson asked if there was any further debate.

Mr. Benjamin E. Landon [Upper Susquehanna Synod] raised a parliamentary inquiry. He believed that the action being considered by voting members would require a bylaw be negated and as such would require a two-thirds vote for approval.

Mr. John R. Emery [East-Central Synod of Wisconsin] raised a point of order, saying that, depending on the response of the chair, he would consider moving to suspend the rules and require a two-thirds vote for adoption. He agreed to wait for the chair's response to Mr. Landon's inquiry.

Presiding Bishop Hanson called upon Secretary Lowell G. Almen to respond to the point raised by Mr. Landon. Secretary

Almen stated: “The question as we heard it relates to whether the motion on the floor before us in effect amends the bylaws of this church. The answer to that would be ‘no.’ The bylaws of this church remain in place in chapter 20, in relation to matters of discipline. What is being addressed in the motion on the floor relates to the application of policies that are adopted under the bylaws and provided for under the bylaws of this church. So we are not dealing here with the *de facto* or direct amendment of the bylaws of this church.”

Presiding Bishop Hanson informed the assembly that he would rule that the motion would take a majority to be adopted.

Mr. Emery moved to suspend the rules and request that, because of the profound implications of passing the resolution, the vote on it require a two-thirds majority.

Moved; *Two-Thirds Vote Required*

Seconded: To suspend the rules in order to require a two-thirds vote to pass the motion on the floor.

Mr. Posadas clarified that the suspension of the rules would not create automatically the requirement of a two-thirds vote for adoption. Presiding Bishop Hanson responded that Mr. Emery’s motion had two parts: to suspend the rules in order to require a two-thirds vote.

The Rev. Rafaela H. Morales-Rosa [New England Synod] raised a point of clarification. She wondered to which votes the two-thirds requirement would apply. Presiding Bishop Hanson responded that if the motion made by Mr. Emery were approved, then a two-thirds vote would be required to adopt the main motion on the floor at that time, which was Bp. Landahl’s motion.

The Rev. Paul B. Milholland [Metropolitan New York Synod] raised a point of clarification. He asked whether, if voting members approved the two-thirds vote requirement and then did not adopt the resolution, the Memorials Committee’s recommendation would come back to the floor. The chair responded that if the motion failed to receive approval, the assembly would move on to consider the next set of memorials.

Moved; *Two-Thirds Vote Required*

Seconded; *Yes-434; No-541*

Defeated: To suspend the rules in order to require a two-thirds vote be required to pass the main motion before the floor.

Presiding Bishop Hanson noted that the 20 minutes allotted for debate had expired. He directed the assembly to vote on the motion proposed by Bp. Landahl.

Assembly

Action: *Yes-538; No-431*

CA07.06.28 RESOLVED, that in an effort to continue as a church in moral deliberation without further strife and pain to its members, the Churchwide Assembly prays, urges, and encourages synods, synodical bishops, and the presiding bishop to refrain from or demonstrate restraint in disciplining

those congregations and persons who call into the rostered ministry otherwise-qualified candidates who are in a mutual, chaste, and faithful committed same-gender relationship; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Churchwide Assembly prays, urges, and encourages synods, synodical bishops, and the presiding bishop to refrain from or demonstrate restraint in disciplining those rostered leaders in a mutual, chaste, and faithful committed same-gender relationship who have been called and rostered in this church.

Presiding Bishop Hanson called on Pr. Ruppard to introduce for the voting member’s consideration the Memorials Committee’s recommendation on Category E4: Referrals to the Task Force for ELCA Studies on Sexuality.

Moved;

Seconded: To receive the memorials of the Eastern North Dakota Synod, South Dakota Synod, Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Synod, Northwestern Ohio Synod, Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, Northwestern Pennsylvania Synod, Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod, Allegheny Synod, Lower Susquehanna Synod, Upper Susquehanna Synod, Virginia Synod, and North Carolina Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America on matters related to referring concerns to the Task Force on ELCA Studies on Sexuality;

To acknowledge that, as the Task Force for ELCA Studies on Sexuality stated, “the disagreement over these issues before the church is deep, pervasive, multi-faceted, and multi-layered. This church is not of one mind,” and that it is appropriate, therefore, that matters of human sexuality continue to be the subject of ongoing study and conversation in this church;

To recognize the resolution of the 2005 Churchwide Assembly [CA05.05.17] that urged “the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America—its members, congregations, synods, churchwide organization, and agencies and institutions—. . . to concentrate on finding ways to live together faithfully in the midst of disagreements, recognizing the God-given mission and communion that we share as members of the body of Christ”;

To affirm that, in the polity of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, policies and practices, as well as any revisions of them, must be congruent with this church’s social teachings, Confession of Faith, the process established in the *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*, and that revision of policies must be developed and approved according to the process described in the

Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and other relevant governing documents;

To underscore the March 2007 statement of the Conference of Bishops, which said, “This church is engaged in a careful study of issues related to human sexuality with the intention of adopting a social statement at the 2009 Churchwide Assembly. We urge the members of this church to engage fully and faithfully in the study process as part of our ‘living together faithfully’ during this time. . .”; and

To refer these memorials and a verbatim record of this assembly’s committee of the whole discussion of these issues to the Task Force for ELCA Studies on Sexuality, urging that it consider this information in its ongoing discernment and deliberation.

Mr. Jerry U. Key [Greater Milwaukee Synod] moved that the assembly reconsider the 20-minute time limit for debate.

Moved;

Seconded: To reconsider the 20-minute time limit for debate.

Presiding Bishop Hanson invited Mr. Key to speak to his motion. Mr. Key commented that, with the parliamentary inquires and procedural motions offered, he estimated that the time for actual debate was reduced to five minutes. Presiding Bishop Hanson asked Mr. Key if he originally had voted for limiting debate. Mr. Key responded that he voted against it. The presiding bishop informed Mr. Key that to be able to move to reconsider the rule, he would have to have been on the prevailing side. The motion was ruled out of order.

The Rev. Daniel W. Doerring [Southeastern Minnesota Synod] raised a point of inquiry, asking if it would be possible to receive before the assembly concluded a printed copy of whatever action was approved for Category E4 so that members would be able to report to their congregations on what occurred. Presiding Bishop Hanson responded that it would be possible.

Mr. Timothy Mumm [South-Central Synod of Wisconsin] rose to speak against the recommendation of the Memorials Committee. As a person who would be affected in two years by the study results and the votes of the 2009 Churchwide Assembly, he asked this church for its intentional, ongoing prayer during the next two years. If the members expected him to live his life celibate, he asked them to offer their sincere prayer beginning that day to accept advice from Paul and abstain from intimate relations with their spouses over the next two years and he asked that members pray for his ability to do the same for his entire life. He noted he did not have the right to tell members what they could do with their private lives or with their prayer lives. He simply asked that their prayer be an intentional living out of that which members demanded of him.

Presiding Bishop Hanson clarified for the assembly that what was before them was the Memorials Committee’s recommendation on Category E4.

Ms. Kimberly D. McCoid [Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod] spoke in favor of the Memorials Committee

recommendation. She believed that members needed to allow this church the time and support to do what members had entrusted it to do: to interpret the Scriptures and ascertain the will of God. She stated that this church first needed to complete the study process. She noted that the church had waited before for any and all major changes. She held up as examples of that waiting the ordination of women and the “Called to Common Mission” agreement with The Episcopal Church. She commented that with those issues, careful study and consideration had taken place. She stressed that while waiting, this church needed to do so in love and tolerance for each other.

Mr. Jayesh S. Hines-Shah [Sierra Pacific Synod] moved the previous question.

Ms. Alison Guttu [Metropolitan New York Synod] raised a point of clarification, asking whether the recommendation would disappear if the assembly voted it down. The presiding bishop responded that if the recommendation were defeated, there would be no action to report.

Moved;

Seconded;

Carried:

To end debate.

Two-Thirds Vote Required

Yes-806; No-117

Mr. Randy Willhite [Saint Paul Area Synod] raised a point of clarification as to which memorials would go away if defeated. The presiding bishop clarified that the action being taken only pertained to the recommendation on Category E4, not the other memorials on which voting members already had taken action.

Assembly

Action:

CA07.06.29

Yes-697; No-245

1. To receive the memorials of the Eastern North Dakota Synod, South Dakota Synod, Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Synod, Northwestern Ohio Synod, Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, Northwestern Pennsylvania Synod, Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod, Allegheny Synod, Lower Susquehanna Synod, Upper Susquehanna Synod, Virginia Synod, and North Carolina Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America on matters related to referring concerns to the Task Force on ELCA Studies on Sexuality;
2. To acknowledge that, as the Task Force for ELCA Studies on Sexuality stated, “the disagreement over these issues before the church is deep, pervasive, multi-faceted, and multi-layered. This church is not of one mind,” and that it is appropriate, therefore, that matters of human sexuality continue to be the subject of ongoing study and conversation in this church;
3. To recognize the resolution of the 2005 Churchwide Assembly [CA05.05.17] that urged “the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America—its members, congregations, synods, churchwide organization, and

agencies and institutions—. . .to concentrate on finding ways to live together faithfully in the midst of disagreements, recognizing the God-given mission and communion that we share as members of the body of Christ”;

4. To affirm that, in the polity of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, policies and practices, as well as any revisions of them, must be congruent with this church’s social teachings, Confession of Faith, the process established in the *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*, and that revision of policies must be developed and approved according to the process described in the *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* and other relevant governing documents;

5. To underscore the March 2007 statement of the Conference of Bishops, which said, “This church is engaged in a careful study of issues related to human sexuality with the intention of adopting a social statement at the 2009 Churchwide Assembly. We urge the members of this church to engage fully and faithfully in the study process as part of our ‘living together faithfully’ during this time. . .”; and

6. To refer these memorials and a verbatim record of this assembly’s committee of the whole discussion of these issues to the Task Force for ELCA Studies on Sexuality, urging that it consider this information in its ongoing discernment and deliberation.

Presiding Bishop Hanson invited the assembly to sing “O Holy Spirit, Enter In.”

At the conclusion of the hymn, the Rev. William A. Schaefer [Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod] rose to a point of personal privilege and thanked the presiding bishop and his staff for the way he had led voting members through the debate. The assembly applauded Presiding Bishop Hanson’s chairing of the assembly’s discussion.

Report on Multicultural Ministries

(Reference: 2007 *Pre-Assembly Report*, Section V, page 43.)

Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson invited the Rev. Sherman G Hicks, executive director of the Multicultural Ministries program unit, to bring a report on this church’s multicultural ministries strategy.

The report began with a video on the history of the immigration of Lutherans to the United States and on where the ELCA was today in becoming a multicultural, inclusive church. After the video presentation, Pr. Hicks rose to address the assembly. He noted that the report being given was the result of

an action of the 2005 Churchwide Assembly. He informed the assembly that there also was a written report of the Multicultural Ministries program unit activities from 2005-2007 in the 2007 *Pre-Assembly Report*, Section III, part 1, page 16.

Pr. Hicks began his report by noting that 20 years ago at the ELCA’s constituting convention, this church had set a goal of having at least 10 percent of its membership be people of color or whose primary language is other than English. The baptized membership of this church 20 years later included only 3 percent people of color or whose primary language was other than English. He noted that, in the United States of America, approximately 33 percent of the population was people of color or whose primary language was other than English. He indicated that the ELCA was far from mirroring the demographic context in which it existed. He then showed the assembly graphs detailing ELCA membership and leadership demographics. The graphs charted the race or ethnicity of ELCA members and of active, rostered leaders. He commented that in the latter graph, the only roster near the 10 percent goal was that of the deaconesses. He did point out that between 2000-2006 there was an increase in the ordination of people of color or those persons whose primary language was other than English.

Pr. Hicks stated that to aid the ELCA in achieving its 10 percent goal of membership of people of color or whose primary language was other than English, five ethnic-specific strategies had been adopted by churchwide assemblies. At the 1997 Churchwide Assembly in Philadelphia, this church adopted the American Indian and Alaska Native Strategic Plan. In 2001 at the Churchwide Assembly in Indianapolis, this church adopted the Latino Ministry Strategy and the Asian and Pacific Islanders Ministry Strategy. In 2005 at the Churchwide Assembly held in Orlando, this church adopted the Arab and Middle Eastern Ministry Strategy as well as the African Descent Ministry Strategy. Pr. Hicks reported that the text of these strategies was available at the ELCA web site at www.elca.org/multicultural.

Pr. Hicks commented that while each strategy reflected its distinct community within the ELCA, the strategies addressed some or all of the following: (1) development and support of leadership within the community; (2) development or distribution of language- or ethnic-specific congregational resources; (3) strengthening the abilities of congregations to engage in evangelism, discipleship, stewardship and Lutheran identity; (4) contextualizing the outreach strategies of this church; (5) starting new congregations or transforming existing congregations; (6) heightening concern for social justice throughout this church; (7) strengthening congregations’ abilities to engage in social ministry; (8) helping this church to be more aware of and sensitive to the cultures of these communities; (9) addressing racism within church and society; (10) pursuing unity within each of the communities; and (11) strengthening ecumenical connections.

Pr. Hicks remarked that while this church still had a distance to go to attain its goals related to inclusivity, the restructuring of the churchwide organization undertaken in 2005 should contribute greatly to the implementation of the ethnic-specific ministry strategies. He observed that Multicultural Ministries was now a program unit working directly with other program units and that “the four Cs”—cooperation,

collaboration, coordination, and communication—were guiding principles for Multicultural Ministries' work within the churchwide organization. He related that a significant aspect of the leadership initiative established by the Church Council in 2005 was the coordination of the leadership development components of the ethnic-specific strategies, including the creation of a churchwide leadership table. He noted that the Evangelical Outreach and Congregation Mission program unit and the Vocation and Education program unit had added staff directly responsible for advancing the multicultural ministry work of this church. The churchwide organization, he said, was beginning a systematic evaluation of the effectiveness of the multicultural ministry strategies of this church. As a part of that evaluation, outcomes for each strategy were being defined more clearly, those responsible for achieving the outcomes were being held accountable, and because of limited resources outcomes were being prioritized.

Pr. Hicks revealed that the Multicultural Ministries program unit had completed outlining its strategic ministry goals for 2007-2009: to increase the number of ethnic-specific and multicultural congregations and deepen the discipleship of congregation members; to increase and strengthen cohesiveness within and among ethnic-specific communities; to equip congregations, synods, seminaries, and the churchwide organization to become an anti-racist, multicultural church; and to increase the number of rostered and lay leaders from the ELCA's ethnic-specific communities in congregations, synods, seminaries, and the churchwide organization.

Pr. Hicks observed that to move this church forward as a multicultural church required participation beyond the churchwide organization. He noted that it required the commitment and participation of synods, congregations, and agencies and institutions in partnership with the churchwide organization. He emphasized that this church was being called to be faithful to what God had already done in the coming of the Holy Spirit: the creation of the church of Jesus Christ as multicultural, multiracial, and multilingual. At the conclusion of his report, Pr. Hicks thanked the assembly. Presiding Bishop Hanson thanked Pr. Hicks for his report.

Presiding Bishop Hanson indicated that in regards to the orders of the day, there was not enough time to consider the report from the Committee of Reference and Counsel. He informed the assembly that the morning session would close after Secretary Lowell G. Almen read the announcements and led the assembly in closing prayer. The presiding bishop said that at the worship service following the plenary session, Mr. David D. Swartling would be installed as secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The assembly would reconvene for its afternoon session at 1:45 P.M.

Announcements

Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson called upon Secretary Lowell G. Almen for the morning's announcements. Secretary Almen announced the worship service would take place at 11:15 A.M. and that the offering taken at that service would be designated for the Lutheran World Federation in thanksgiving for its 60th anniversary. He noted that many people had inquired as to why the Rev. Herbert W. Chilstrom, bishop of the ELCA

from 1987-1995, was not in attendance at the assembly. Secretary Almen informed the assembly that Pr. Chilstrom and his wife, the Rev. E. Corinne Chilstrom, were traveling in Europe. He asked the assembly to remember in prayer voting member Ms. Marguerite L. Emery [Oregon Synod], who had undergone surgery at Northwestern Hospital in Chicago the previous day. Secretary Almen supplied logistical information about shuttle times and departure locations and noted that voting members should have received at their desks an evaluation form pertaining to the Churchwide Assembly. He urged voting members and others to complete that evaluation form.

Closing Prayer and Recess

Secretary Lowell G. Almen led the assembly in closing prayer. The tenth plenary session of the tenth Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America was declared in recess at 11:03 A.M.

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