



# Preliminary Minutes

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

## Plenary Session Eleven

*Saturday, August 11, 2007*

*2:00 P.M.—4:30 P.M.*

The eleventh 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 A at Navy Pier, Chicago, Ill., on Saturday, August 11, 2007, at 1:47 P.M. Central Daylight Time, following the singing of “Baptized and Set Free.”

### *Opening Remarks*

Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson announced that the offering received at the morning’s worship service, which was designated for the Lutheran World Federation, totaled \$11,382.82. The presiding bishop expressed appreciation for the assembly’s generosity.

### *Bible Study*

Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson called upon Ms. Connie D. Thomas, a member of the Church of the Holy Spirit, Chicago, to introduce the leader of the final assembly Bible study, Prof. Marit Trelstad, a faculty member at Pacific Lutheran University. Ms. Thomas read from Galatians 6:1-5, the focus of the study. The assembly greeted Prof. Trelstad with applause.

Prof. Trelstad announced that these are turbulent times in society, in personal lives, and in this church’s deliberations about human sexuality. The same was true in both Paul’s and Luther’s times, where division and schism were key problems. Christians in all of these times struggled and continue to struggle with morality and the role of religious laws in their lives. Some may be tempted to abandon all laws. Others may be tempted to begin ethics with laws because they provide a safe and easy harbor. Prof. Trelstad commented that Luther and Paul both seek to create a framework for Christian ethics, one which may aid this church in its deliberations about human sexuality. Luther’s “The Freedom of the Christian” and Paul’s letter to the Galatians demonstrate four parallels concerning ethical deliberations about sensitive matters, she pointed out.

First, Luther and Paul seek to address the ethical deliberations of baptized Christians as they engage pressing issues in turbulent times. Second, each employs an evangelical approach to ethical questions that asserts that one’s foundational Christian identity is rooted in the promises of God, preparing one to enter into ethical deliberations. Furthermore, Prof. Trelstad said, both Paul and Luther claim that the law of love is the most fundamental ethical principle, rather than strict adherence to religious moral laws. Fourth, each claims that the freedom in

Christ calls Christians to service to the neighbor to a greater extent than any law ever could. Paul makes this clear in Galatians 5:14: “The whole law is summed up in a single commandment: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” Similarly, Luther says, “Obedience of God is first defined as believing God’s promises, and second as loving service to the neighbor.”

In creating a social statement on human sexuality, Prof. Trelstad continued, this church may ask what Paul and Luther as well as Lutheran tradition might propose as a starting place for Christian ethics. Lutheran ethics begins not with set of legal codes, but with the baptismal font. Lutherans first must remember who they are. Paul wants the Galatians to claim the their shared Christian identity, rather than defining themselves through legal codes and practices alone. Luther’s formulation of a Christian as both lord and slave sums up his understanding of Christian ethics. Being a Christian means being free in Christ to love and serve both God and neighbor. Prof. Trelstad summarized.

Prof. Trelstad stated that Lutheran theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer also said that Christian ethics begins and ends in Christians’ understanding of their identity, not in a set of fallible legal codes. Even contemporary sociological understandings of human sexuality point out that sexuality is integral to human identity from birth. Ethical deliberations about sexual behavior discuss what humans do with their sexuality, she stated.

The current study on sexuality follows Lutheran tradition is urging that the foundation for ethics is Christian identity, an understanding that Christians are united at the baptismal font through the promises and grace of God, Prof. Trelstad explained. Ethics does not begin with codes or principles but with the knowledge that Christians are radically free through the love of God, free to love and serve their neighbors.

Prof. Trelstad observed that Paul is making a radical claim, that freedom in Christ means that Christians are no longer slave or free, Greek or gentle, man or female. Perhaps gay and straight, right and left, conservative and liberal should be added, she suggested. All are united in the Gospel. To reinforce this shared identity, participants in the study are asked to gather around water and Scripture, symbols that help them remember whose and who they are, she indicated.

Prof. Trelstad asked assembly members to look around and see with whom they share identity and to whose service they are called. With identity and call clear, Christians begin their ethical deliberations by looking at themselves, not at the “other,” she said. That is the focus of the third study. The Lutheran tradition makes clear that ethical deliberations are aided by dwelling in Scripture, appealing to reason and tradition, and considering experience, with Scripture having priority. An evangelical

approach to ethics holds in tension contemporary knowledge and questions with what has been thought and believed in the past. The goal is to construct a relevant, healthy understanding of sexuality where health is understood as cultivating a love of God, neighbor, and self. A statement and standards on sexuality for this church must be created together because of members' common identity and call. The question was how to create a statement that loves the neighbor as ourselves and thus fulfill God's law of love.

Prof. Trelsted posed the following questions for members individual and collective consideration:

1. In terms of this study and current church deliberation, how can we as sexual beings best understand what it means to love our neighbor as ourselves and thus fulfill in God's law of love?
2. What would a social statement on human sexuality look like if it were shaped by God's promises, our common identity, and our call to love and serve the neighbor?

Prof. Trelsted encouraged members to respond in writing to the current study. Ms. Thomas urged participants to continue to consider the questions as they left the assembly. The assembly expressed its appreciation to Prof. Trelstad with its applause.

### ***Parliamentary Matters***

Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson reviewed the agenda for the afternoon. He announced that the order for business would include: consideration of the memorial on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, an update on Lutheran Disaster Response, action on the Blue Ribbon Committee for Mission Funding recommendations, a reflection on Dwelling in the Word, consideration of a memorial on Lutheran Disaster Response, a greeting from Lutheran Services in America, a report from the Reference and Council Committee, announcement of the 2009 Churchwide Assembly, and the formal closing of the 2007 Churchwide Assembly.

Mr. Henry L. Howe [Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Synod] asked for a copy of the questions asked at the end of the Bible study. He was informed that they were available on the task force's page on the ELCA Web site.

Presiding Bishop Hanson asked for and received the consent of the assembly to the proposed changes in the agenda.

### ***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 attention of voting members to the recommendation of the Memorials Committee on Category B3: Israeli-Palestinian Conflict, located on page 24 of the 2007 Pre-Assembly Report. He reminded the assembly that on the floor was the following amendment:

***Moved;***

***Seconded:***

*To amend by addition:*

To call upon the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to underscore the call for economic initiatives by this church and its members in the "Peace, Not Walls" campaign. Such initiatives, in consultation with the Evangelical Lutheran

Church in Jordan and the Holy Land, could include:

- purchasing of products from Palestinian providers and
- exploration of the feasibility of refusing to buy products produced in Israeli settlements. Also to be explored is the entire investment activity by this church.

The Rev. Margaret G. Payne, bishop of the New England Synod, spoke of the companion synod relationship that the New England Synod has with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land. She supported the amendment, calling for prayer, advocacy, and dialogue as well as financial and physical accompaniment with Palestinian brothers and sisters.

Ms. Jessica M. McCallum [North/West Lower Michigan Synod] spoke in opposition, observing that the amendment would create conflict with Israel, which would not help the situation. This church needed to help build bridges between Israel and Palestine, she said.

An unidentified voting member called the previous question.

***Moved;***

***Seconded;***

***Carried:***

***Two-Thirds Vote Required***

***Yes-566; No-180***

**To end debate on the amendment.**

Debate having ended, Presiding Bishop Hanson called for a vote on the amendment.

***Moved;***

***Seconded;***

***Carried:***

***Yes-385; No-368***

***To amend by addition:***

To call upon the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to underscore the call for economic initiatives by this church and its members in the "Peace, Not Walls" campaign. Such initiatives, in consultation with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land, could include:

- purchasing of products from Palestinian providers and
- exploration of the feasibility of refusing to buy products produced in Israeli settlements. Also to be explored is the entire investment activity by this church.

Presiding Bishop Hanson explained that the Memorials Committee's recommendation as amended was before the assembly.

The Rev. Bruce H. Burnside, bishop of the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin, commented that he had visited the Holy Land 13 times in the last 12 years and that his congregation had developed strong relationships with Israelis and Palestinians, Jews, Christians, and Muslims there. This church can address the issue economically without its becoming explosive, he stated, if it follows Jesus' model. He drew a distinction between refusing to purchase products made in the territories and those made in Israel.

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, bishop of the Northeastern Ohio Synod, asked how the recommendation as amended corresponded to current strategy. The Rev. Rebecca S. Larson, executive director of the Church in Society unit, responded that the recommendation is consistent with the churchwide strategy adopted by the 2005 Churchwide Assembly, particularly its economic stewardship section. The emphasis, she explained, is on positive economic investment to help those most in need.

The Rev. Bruce D. MacLaughlin [Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod] stated that as a parish pastor, he has been working against anti-Semitism in his community and towards building bridges with the Jewish community. The proposed recommendation as amended will confuse them about whether this church supports them, he observed.

The Rev. John H. K. Schreiber, bishop of the Southeast Michigan Synod, pointed out that the churchwide strategy involved a just two-state solution, including a shared Jerusalem. Passage of the Memorials Committee's recommendation would be an action in solidarity with Christians in the Holy Land, he remarked.

The Rev. Bishop H. Gerard Knoche [Delaware-Maryland Synod] moved to amend the recommendation:

**Moved;**

**Seconded:** To amend by addition to the last line:  
Examination of investments would exclude the option of divestiture.

Bp. Knoche reported that, following the 2005 Churchwide Assembly, the Jewish community in Baltimore had affirmed the fact that this church had not voted for divestiture. As a result, the community had worked with Bp. Knoche on the Augusta Victoria Hospital's tax situation. He did not want to sacrifice the assistance that the American Jewish community could offer.

Presiding Bishop Hanson and Bp. Knoche clarified the language of the proposed amendment.

Bp. Burnside inquired whether the proposed amendment contradicted the amendment previously adopted. Bp. Knoche responded that the intent of his amendment was to limit the examination of investments called for in the previous amendment.

Presiding Bishop Hanson expressed concern about whether the amendment interfered with the fiduciary responsibilities of the Board of Pensions. After consultation, he ruled that the proposed amendment was consistent with the assembly's responsibility to the Board of Pensions and with the strategy adopted by Churchwide Assembly in 2005.

Ms. Nadia S. Stannes-Spidahl [La Crosse Area Synod] asked for an explanation of the amendment. Bp. Knoche explained divestiture as a severe form of economic boycott.

Ms. Stephanie A. Sandvick [Western North Dakota Synod] called the question on all matters before the house.

**Moved;**

**Seconded;**

**Carried:** To end debate.

**Two-Thirds Vote Required**

**Yes-695; No-35**

Presiding Bishop Hanson explained that the next vote would

be on Bp. Knoche's amendment.

**Moved;**

**Seconded;**

**Carried:**

**Yes-472; No-261**  
To amend by addition to the last line:  
Examination of investments would exclude the option of divestiture.

The chair indicated that the upcoming vote would be on the Memorials Committee's recommendation as twice amended.

**Assembly**

**Action:**

**Yes-697; No-245**

- CA07.06.30**
1. To receive the memorials from the Pacifica Synod, Metropolitan New York Synod, Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Synod, New England Synod, Southeast Michigan Synod, and Metropolitan Chicago Synod and to thank them for their support of efforts by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to promote peace with justice in the Holy Land;
  2. To note the participation of the ELCA in ecumenical and inter-religious forums where religious extremism is addressed;
  3. To acknowledge the Churchwide Strategy for Engagement in Israel and Palestine, including its call for "increased engagement with conservative Christians and a clearer and more forceful expression of Lutheran theology in the public debate . . ."; and
  4. To call upon the ELCA, in all of its expressions, to recommit itself to the Churchwide Strategy for Engagement in Israel and Palestine through awareness-building, accompaniment, and advocacy activities, including pilgrimage visits, sustained financial support, and other forms of economic stewardship; and
  5. To call upon the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to underscore the call for economic initiatives by this church and its members in the "Peace, Not Walls" campaign. Such initiatives, in consultation with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land, could include:
    - purchasing of products from Palestinian providers and
    - exploration of the feasibility of refusing to buy products produced in Israeli settlements. Also to be explored is the entire investment activity by this church. Examination of investments would exclude the option of divestiture.

### ***Update: Lutheran Disaster Response***

Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson invited to the podium Ms. Heather K. Feltman, director for ELCA Domestic Disaster Response, part of Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR), a joint ministry of the ELCA and The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod. Prior to Ms. Feltman’s report, a video was shown surveying the work of disaster response, focusing on the ministries of volunteers. LDR coordinates their service, among its other duties. The work of LDR case managers also was highlighted. The video closed by expressing gratitude for the generous support of members of this church for the work of LDR.

Ms. Feltman informed the assembly that the Gulf Coast hurricanes exposed this country’s problems in caring for its poor and responding to disasters. While many have forgotten the tragedy and want to move on, others realize that the tragedy is still occurring, she said. LDR is committed to the ministry of long-term recovery, she affirmed. The response of this church has been miraculous:

- more than \$27,000,000 in relief for victims of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita had been donated;
- over 33,000 volunteers have given 1,550,585 hours of service;
- more than 9,000 families have been returned to their homes;
- over 8,000 families have received comprehensive case manager services, both in the Gulf Coast and across the country;
- throughout the last year more than \$600,000 has been expended for 18 other disasters in this country;
- congregations, synods, and social ministries have focused on preparing for future disasters. This year over \$800,000 in disaster preparedness grants have been distributed.

Ms. Feltman encouraged every congregation to develop a disaster preparedness plan. She concluded by expressing once again the gratitude of those whom this church’s contributions have aided. She challenged this church to remember the great need that still exists in the Gulf Coast. The assembly responded with applause.

### ***Dwelling in the Word***

Ms. Judith Tutt-Starr, a member of the Church Council from Los Angeles, California, read from Psalm 133: “How good and pleasant it is when brothers and sisters live together in unity. It is like precious oil poured on the head, running down on the beard, running down on Aaron’s beard, down upon the collar of his robes. It is as if the dew of Hermon were falling on Mount Zion, for there the Lord bestows his blessing, even life forevermore.”

Ms. Tutt-Starr recounted her life story, telling of a family whose father left when she was 10. Shortly after her parents’ divorce, her father married a woman with four daughters and one son. Ten years later, she and her sisters decided to confront their father. Although they were persons of faith, they had not learned how to forgive. A total of 26 people from both families gathered at her father’s ranch, and soon the talk became ugly, full of unresolved hurt. Ms. Tutt-Starr picked up her father’s Bible, which opened at Psalm 133. She repeated the verse over and over, shouting the words. Others joined her. It was as if the Holy Spirit were present, moving from person to person, Ms.

Tutt-Starr recounted. Then the room was quiet. Finally people began to speak to one another with words of love and compassion. They parted, promising that they never again would be outside of the family circle of love and understanding: “How good it is when brothers and sisters live together in unity . . . for there the Lord bestows a blessing, even life forevermore.”

### ***Blue Ribbon Committee on Mission Funding***

(Reference: 2007 *Pre-Assembly Report*, Section V, pages 1-6; Section IV, page 11.)

Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson explained to the assembly where the discussion on the recommendations from the Blue Ribbon Committee on Mission Funding stood. He reminded voting members that they had approved an amendment proposed by Mr. John D. Litke [Metropolitan New York Synod], which constituted a new section d, with the remaining sections re-lettered. Another proposed amendment, introduced by Mr. R. Brandon James [Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod], to which an amendment authored by the Rev. Martha J. Hampton [La Crosse Area Synod] had been approved, was on the floor:

#### ***Moved;***

#### ***Seconded:***

*To amend by addition:*

6. To instruct the Church Council to continue the work begun by the Blue Ribbon Committee on Mission Funding, using methods they see as appropriate, with emphasis on the patterns and practices of how congregations determine what mission-support dollars they will offer to their respective synods:
  - a. The purpose of this process would be the development of additional strategies aimed at reducing over a period of years the wide variations in mission support received by the 65 synods as measured by the percentage of congregational mission support remitted or the dollars per attending member received.
  - b. Congregations would be encouraged to share with synods and the churchwide organization a minimum of 10 percent of their mission-support dollars received, with planned annual increases to at least 15 percent.
  - c. Preliminary reports of this effort would be shared by the Church Council with the Conference of Bishops, with the final report presented at the 2009 Churchwide Assembly.

Mr. Kevin J. Boatwright [Central States Synod] opposed the amendment because it was not congruent with the other recommendations of the committee. The focus of those recommendations was on “growing the pie” while the amendment concerned “carving up the pie.”

The Rev. Clifton J. Suehr [Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod] spoke in support of the amendment because it encouraged stewardship. He offered biblical parallels to the process outlined in the amendment, saying that it was exhortation, not law.

Ms. Ruth Lauersen [Eastern Washington-Idaho Synod] commented that she could not go back to her home congregation

if the amendment were passed. Her small congregation could not afford to increase its mission-support contributions, let alone give 10 percent. The congregation was working on its stewardship, but could not comply with the amendment. She favored the original recommendation.

Ms. Julie L. Baird [Southeastern Iowa Synod] requested that someone from the Blue Ribbon Committee speak to the amendment. Mr. Grieg L. Anderson, a member of the Church Council and the Blue Ribbon Committee, replied that the committee had looked at the issue. On page five of the report the committee had encouraged an increase in percentage of giving. The committee had rejected specific targets for a number of reasons: they felt like Law rather than Gospel; they seemed to arise from a sense of scarcity rather than rejoicing in abundance; and targets could discourage rather than encourage giving. The committee chose to emphasize increasing percentages rather than providing specific targets. Mr. Anderson added that increasing congregational support was consistent with the recommendations of the committee.

The Rev. Peter Rogness, bishop of the Saint Paul Area Synod, opposed the amendment. He quarreled with some of the assumptions contained in section a of the amendment. He acknowledged that his synod was the lowest in percentage of mission support. He commented that *per capita* giving was not an accurate measure of stewardship. The upper Midwest traditionally had been low in direct mission support, but strong in giving to particular ministries. In addition, the structure of synod budgets varied widely, so comparison was impossible.

Ms. Sylvia C. Bull [Montana Synod] called the previous question on all matters before the house.

Presiding Bishop Hanson reviewed which matters were on the floor, then called for a vote on the motion to end debate.

**Moved;** **Two-Thirds Vote Required**  
**Seconded;** **Yes-609; No-54**  
**Carried:** To end debate on all matters before the house.

The chair indicated that the next vote was on the amendment.

**Moved;**  
**Seconded;** **Yes-139; No-539**  
**Defeated:** To amend by addition:

6. To instruct the Church Council to continue the work begun by the Blue Ribbon Committee on Mission Funding, using methods they see as appropriate, with emphasis on the patterns and practices of how congregations determine what mission-support dollars they will offer to their respective synods:
  - a. The purpose of this process would be the development of additional strategies aimed at reducing over a period of years the wide variations in mission support received by the 65 synods as measured by the percentage of congregational mission support remitted or the dollars per attending member received.

- b. Congregations would be encouraged to share with synods and the churchwide organization a minimum of 10 percent of their mission-support dollars received, with planned annual increases to at least 15 percent.
- c. Preliminary reports of this effort would be shared by the Church Council with the Conference of Bishops, with the final report presented at the 2009 Churchwide Assembly.

Presiding Bishop Hanson stated that the assembly would proceed to vote on the recommendations, as previously amended, of the Blue Ribbon Committee on Mission Funding:

**Assembly**

**Action:**

**Yes-623; No-52**

- CA07.06.31**
1. To give thanks for the manifold ways in which God has blessed richly the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America with faithful members and abundant resources;
  2. To acknowledge God's summons to be good stewards in commitment to the mission entrusted to the Church and in the responsible management of the resources entrusted to members;
  3. To receive with gratitude the report of the Blue Ribbon Committee on Mission Funding in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America;
  4. To commend the content of the report for study and reflection throughout this church; and
  5. To foster renewed commitment to vigorous mission-support efforts throughout the congregations, synods, and churchwide ministries of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in a wide variety of ways, including:
    - a. examination of "best practices" for mission funding, alternative methods of generating mission-support income, and an improved consultation process for synods and the churchwide organization;
    - b. commitment by the churchwide organization to convene stewardship leaders—including synodical stewardship committees, Lutheran professional advisers, and others—to encourage greater widespread ownership of stewardship endeavors throughout this church and to provide training, motivation, and inspiration;
    - c. evaluation of stewardship education programs as well as the development and implementation of a strategy for stewardship leadership and staffing;

- d. presentation to the 2009 Churchwide Assembly of a proposal for the development and implementation of a resource to help congregations assess their responsible and accountable use of God's resources commended to their care;
- e. development of educational opportunities for all those preparing for rostered leadership in this church through seminaries, programs of theological education for emerging ministries, and lay schools of theology;
- f. establishment of a requirement, by autumn 2009, for continuing education (6-10 hours) in financial stewardship for first-call rostered leaders to help them build upon competencies learned and practiced during their seminary education;
- g. engagement of new models for the role of the churchwide organization in financial leadership; and
- h. dissemination by the churchwide organization and synods to an increasing number of member households of regular, clear, and concise communication that is focused on mission interpretation.

Presiding Bishop Hanson called on the assembly to thank all those who worked on the Blue Ribbon Committee on Mission Funding. Voting members responded with applause.

***Greeting: Lutheran Services in America***

Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson observed that for generations, this church, its predecessors, and its people have responded to human suffering in remarkably tangible and effective ways. The assembly had already heard about the ministries of Lutheran World Relief and Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service. It would now have an opportunity to hear about Lutheran Services in America (LSA) from the perspective of a board member and an executive of one of the social ministry organizations. He noted that LSA celebrates its tenth anniversary this year and has become a strong "umbrella" organization for the social ministry organizations of the ELCA and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS). Presiding Bishop Hanson proudly announced that in 2006 the social ministry organizations of LSA had served more than six million people—one in every 50 people in the United States and Caribbean. He noted that Ms. Jill A. Schumann, president and chief executive officer of LSA, was not able to be present for the assembly, so she had asked the Rev. Gregory R. Pile, bishop of the Allegheny Synod and a member of LSA's board of directors, and Mr. Theodore Goins Jr., president and chief executive officer of Lutheran Services for the Aging in Salisbury, N.C., to represent her.

Bishop Pile remarked that one of the ways members of this

church expressed its thanksgiving for the grace God has given them is through social ministry. LSA is an alliance of the ELCA, LCMS, and social ministry organizations in formal relationship with these church bodies. Those organizations work in all fifty states and the Caribbean, touching one in every 50 lives. Bishop Pile stated that LSA finds its identity in the cross of Jesus Christ. He encouraged members to embrace LSA as this church's ministry to the neighbor.

Mr. Goines reviewed some of the ministries of his organization, referring to them as "God sightings." They were just an example of the kind of ministry all members of LSA undertake. More ministry can be accomplished together than individually, he pointed out. LSA brings people and organizations together in common mission.

The assembly responded to the greeting from LSA with applause.

***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 reviewed the work that remained for the plenary session. He indicated that before the assembly was a memorial from the Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod on changing the policy of Lutheran Disaster Response in Category D4: Requests of Churchwide Units. Ms. Norma J. Hirsch, co-chair of the Memorials Committee, introduced the action.

***Moved;***

***Seconded:***

To receive the actions of the Minneapolis Area Synod, Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod, Northern Great Lakes Synod, and Metropolitan New York Synod;

To acknowledge that the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* specifies the process by which synods address the Churchwide Assembly, the Church Council, and units of the churchwide organization; and

To refer the actions to the Executive Committee of the Church Council for proper referral and disposition under the bylaws and continuing resolutions of this church.

The Rev. Paul J. Blom, bishop of the Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod, stated that he supported the recommendation of the Memorials Committee but wanted to discuss it. Presiding Bishop Hanson explained that the memorial had been removed from *en bloc*, but no substitute action had been submitted.

Bp. Blom indicated that it was important to change the policy of Lutheran Disaster Response to permit it to rebuild church buildings because they become loci of ministry and hope for the surrounding communities.

The Rev. Daniel W. Doering [Southeastern Minnesota Synod] moved to amend the Memorials Committee's recommendation:

**Moved;**

**Seconded:** To amend by addition, inserting the following after the second paragraph:

To change the practice and policy of the Lutheran Disaster Response immediately in order to free up both current and future donations to Lutheran Disaster Response for use in the rebuilding of church facilities affected by disaster.

Pr. Doering spoke to his amendment, saying that he just wanted to help struggling brothers and sisters.

The Rev. Ronald B. Warren, bishop of the Southeastern Synod, spoke in opposition. Because Lutheran Disaster Response is a partnership ministry with The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod, the Churchwide Assembly cannot change unilaterally its charter. He added the issue was a complex one that merited a thorough evaluation of any change in policy. A major consultation had been called for September 2007 to examine current and future disaster response and that was the proper forum to consider changes.

Presiding Bishop Hanson called on the Rev. Charles S. Miller, executive for administration, to provide more information about the consultation. Pr. Miller stated that the consultation would discuss responses of congregations, synods, the churchwide expression, social ministry organizations, and institutions and agencies to disasters. Participants would include members of congregations, synods, social ministry organizations, and appropriate churchwide units. A report from the consultation will be given to Presiding Bishop Hanson and to the Conference of Bishops at its meeting in October.

Pr. Doering withdrew his amendment, given the information provided.

Presiding Bishop Hanson indicated that the assembly must vote to permit the amendment's withdrawal.

**Moved;**

**Seconded;** **Yes-585; No-13**

**Carried:** To permit withdrawal of the proposed amendment.

The Rev. Mark A. Werner [Lower Susquehanna Synod] called the previous question.

**Moved;**

**Two-Thirds Vote Required**

**Seconded;** **Yes-620; No-14**

**Carried:** To end debate on all matters before the house.

Debate having ended, the chair called for a vote on the recommendation of the Memorials Committee

**Assembly**

**Action:** **Yes-627; No-12**

**CA07.06.32** To receive the actions of the Minneapolis Area Synod, Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod, Northern Great Lakes Synod, and Metropolitan New York Synod; To acknowledge that the *Constitution,*

*Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions* of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America specifies the process by which synods address the Churchwide Assembly, the Church Council, and units of the churchwide organization; and

To refer the actions to the Executive Committee of the Church Council for proper referral and disposition under the bylaws and continuing resolutions of this church.

Ms. Hirsch moved the adoption of the Memorials Committee's recommendations on the remaining memorials *en bloc*:

**Moved;**

**Seconded:** To approve *en bloc*, with the exception of those memorials considered separately, the following responses to 2006 and 2007 synodical memorials printed in the Report of the Memorials Committee (2007 *Pre-Assembly Report*, Section VI):

Category A1: Continuing Subsidies for Worthy Ministries;

Category A2: Amendments to the *Constitution for Synods*;

Category A3: ELCA Youth Ministry Network;

Category A4: Amendments to the *Model Constitution for Congregations of the ELCA*;

Category A6: "Cherish Our Children";

Category A7: "Vision and Expectations" for Congregations;

Category B1: Global Climate Change;

Category B4: HIV and AIDS;

Category B7: Immigration and Sanctuary;

Category B8: Speak Boldly on Behalf of the Poor;

Category B9: Hunger Meal;

Category B10: Health Care;

Category C1: Full Communion with Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ;

Category C2: Lutheran–Muslim Dialogue;

Category D1: Encouraging Gospel Ministry;

Category D2: Chaplaincy, Pastoral Care, and Clinical Education;

Category D3: The Purpose of the Church, Stewardship, and Disciplinary Activity; and

Category F1: Reparative Therapy.

Since the action was *en bloc*, there was no discussion. Presiding Bishop Hanson called for the vote.

**Assembly**

**Action:** **Yes-595; No-12**

**CA07.06.33** To approve *en bloc*, with the exception of those memorials considered separately, the following responses to 2006 and 2007 synodical memorials printed in the Report

of the Memorials Committee (2007 *Pre-Assembly Report*, Section VI):  
**Category A1: Continuing Subsidies for Worthy Ministries;**  
**Category A2: Amendments to the Constitution for Synods;**  
**Category A3: ELCA Youth Ministry Network;**  
**Category A4: Amendments to the Model Constitution for Congregations of the ELCA;**  
**Category A6: “Cherish Our Children”;**  
**Category A7: “Vision and Expectations” for Congregations;**  
**Category B1: Global Climate Change;**  
**Category B4: HIV and AIDS;**  
**Category B7: Immigration and Sanctuary;**  
**Category B8: Speak Boldly on Behalf of the Poor;**  
**Category B9: Hunger Meal;**  
**Category B10: Health Care;**  
**Category C1: Full Communion with Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ;**  
**Category C2: Lutheran–Muslim Dialogue;**  
**Category D1: Encouraging Gospel Ministry;**  
**Category D2: Chaplaincy, Pastoral Care, and Clinical Education;**  
**Category D3: The Purpose of the Church, Stewardship, and Disciplinary Activity; and**  
**Category F1: Reparative Therapy.**

At the request of Presiding Bishop Hanson, the assembly expressed its appreciation to the Memorials Committee with applause.

#### ***Parliamentary Matters***

The Rev. David P. Gleason [Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod] moved the following:

***Moved;***

***Seconded:*** RESOLVED, that the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, meeting in assembly at Chicago, Ill., on August 11, 2007, request the Conference of Bishops to enter into discussion and consideration of the matter of the accountability of bishops to the adopted policies, practices, and procedures of the ELCA and to formulate a clear statement of such accountability for consideration and adoption by the 2009 assembly of this church.

Presiding Bishop Hanson explained that the first step was to determine whether the motion was germane, given that the deadline for non-germane motions had passed. He ruled that, because the motion was related to matters that had been before the assembly, it was germane.

Pr. Gleason spoke to his motion, saying that it was troubling

when bishops of this church negate or try to negate positions that have been taken by previous assemblies. Those whose responsibilities included striving for unity should follow this church’s policies and procedures, not undermine them. The resolution would assist this church in determining where the lines of accountability for synodical bishops lie.

The Rev. William E. Baum called the previous question.

Mr. Renato A. Rodriguez [Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod] inquired how the motion differed from the response to the memorials in Category E3. Presiding Bishop Hanson replied that it was different because it called for bishops to discuss and report on their accountability to all established policies and procedures, not just matters of discipline.

Mr. James M. Morrell [Oregon Synod] wondered if it were in order to ask if the process outlined in the motion were different from current procedures and policies. Presiding Bishop Hanson responded that the question could not be asked until it was determined whether debate was closed. It would be in order to ask the question if debate remained open.

***Moved;***

***Seconded;***

***Carried:***

To end debate.

***Two-Thirds Vote Required***

***Yes-434; No-174***

Debate having ended, Presiding Bishop Hanson directed the assembly to vote on the motion.

***Assembly***

***Action:***

**CA07.06.34**

**RESOLVED**, that the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, meeting in assembly at Chicago, Ill., on August 11, 2007, request the Conference of Bishops to enter into discussion and consideration of the matter of the accountability of bishops to the adopted policies, practices, and procedures of the ELCA and to formulate a clear statement of such accountability for consideration and adoption by the 2009 assembly of this church.

***Yes-318; No-309***

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

(Reference: 2007 *Pre-Assembly Report*, Section VIII, pages 1-5; Section I, pages 9, 12, 33.)

Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson invited the Rev. John C. Richter and Ms. Sandra Schlesinger, co-chairs of the Reference and Counsel Committee, to introduce the recommendations of the committee on resolutions submitted by voting members.

Pr. Richter moved the recommendation of the committee on the following:

#### ***Motion A: HIV and AIDS Funding***

**RESOLVED**, to instruct the Church Council to take steps to develop a plan to provide up to an additional \$1 million in funding to implement the HIV and AIDS strategy.

***Moved;***

***Seconded:***

To refer this motion to the Church Council

and encourage its continued support of the development and funding of this church's strategy on HIV and AIDS.

The Rev. Paul Stumme-Diers, bishop of the Greater Milwaukee Synod and the originator of the motion, responded positively to the recommendation of the Memorials Committee. He encouraged the Church Council to be attentive to the consultation on AIDS, which would occur in September 2007, and any funding requests coming from that forum.

Mr. Donn Gehret [Eastern Washington-Idaho Synod] moved that all of the recommendations of the Reference and Counsel Committee be considered *en bloc*. Presiding Bishop Hanson informed him that the motion was out of order since once of the recommendations of the committee was before the assembly.

There being no further discussion, the chair for a vote on the committee's recommendation on Motion A.

**Assembly**

**Action:**

**Yes-586; No-13**

**CA07.06.35** To refer this motion to the Church Council and encourage its continued support of the development and funding of this church's strategy on HIV and AIDS.

Ms. Schlesinger read the committee's recommendation on the following:

**Motion B: Budget Surplus for Campus Ministry.**

WHEREAS, Lutheran Campus Ministry is celebrating 100 years of ministry to college campuses throughout the U.S.A.; and

WHEREAS, students often do not have the financial resources to support the work of these ministries, but need these ministries in their college lives to live out their callings on their campuses and in the world; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America designate 10 percent or \$100,000, whichever is greater, of any budget surplus at the end of the 2007 fiscal year, to grants for campus ministries.

**Moved;**

**Seconded:**

To refer this motion to the Church Council for consideration as it deals with a possible budget surplus at the end of the 2007 fiscal year and assesses ministry needs relative to the strategic plan of this church.

Mr. Jason Day [Delaware-Maryland Synod], author of the motion, supported the recommendation of the committee.

The Rev. Christopher D. Berry [Northwest Washington Synod], a campus pastor, spoke of being both a mentor and a evangelist. He was one of hundreds of campus pastors who would benefit from having extra resources for ministry. He urged adoption of the recommended action.

There being no further discussion, the chair called for a vote on the committee's recommendation on Motion B.

**Assembly**

**Action:**

**Yes-558; No-23**

**CA07.06.36**

To refer this motion to the Church Council for consideration as it deals with a possible budget surplus at the end of the 2007 fiscal year and assesses ministry needs relative to the strategic plan of this church.

Pr. Richter introduced the recommendation of the committee on the following:

**Motion C: Green Assemblies**

WHEREAS, the Monday [August 6, 2007] Pier Review states that, "The 2007 ELCA Churchwide Assembly is going green . . . reducing the environmental impact of this event"; and

WHEREAS, an increasing number of Churchwide Assembly participants have access to computer resources, as evidenced by the fact that 70 percent of this assembly's registration was done online, reducing the amount of paper sent out by the Office of the Secretary; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the 2007 ELCA Churchwide Assembly voting members and other recipients of assembly materials be given the option of receiving the minutes of this assembly electronically; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the default method of distribution be electronic, unless the recipient specifically requests a paper copy.

**Moved;**

**Seconded:**

To refer this motion to the Office of the Secretary for the development of an effective means for electronic distribution of the minutes of the 2007 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Mr. David E. Laden [Saint Paul Area Synod], the author of Motion C, approved the recommendation, saying that members of this church were called to be good stewards of creation and should embrace electronic distribution of materials.

Mr. D. Alexander Jenkins [Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod] called the question.

**Moved;**

**Seconded;**

**Carried:**

To end debate.

**Two-Thirds Vote Required**

**Yes-514; No-31**

Debate having ended, the chair called for a vote on the recommendation on Motion C.

**Assembly**

**Action:**

**Yes-555; No-40**

**CA07.06.37**

To refer this motion to the Office of the Secretary for the development of an effective means for electronic distribution of the minutes of the 2007 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

The Rev. James L. Goldsmith [Sierra Pacific Synod]

expressed concern about whether there was a quorum in the assembly. Presiding Bishop Hanson replied that it was the number of voting members registered that established a quorum, not the number voting.

The Rev. Glenn VanderKloot [Central/Southern Illinois Synod] moved that the rest of the recommendations of the Committee on Reference and Counsel be considered *en bloc*. Presiding Bishop Hanson asked him to withdraw the motion, saying that the committee already had addressed the issue.

Ms. Schlesinger moved Motions D, E, F, G, and H *en bloc* in the form of a prayer of thanksgiving. The assembly affirmed the resolutions with “Amen. Thanks be to God.”

### **Assembly**

#### **Action:**

**CA07.06.38** To approve the following:

#### **Acclamation**

#### **Motion D:**

##### ***Appreciation for Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson***

We, as members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America gathered at this tenth Churchwide Assembly, express our deep thanksgiving for the faithful, pastoral, and visionary leadership of our presiding bishop, Mark S. Hanson.

We thank God for Bishop Hanson’s call to serve as presiding bishop, for his first term in office, and for the strongly supported renewal of his call by this 2007 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

As Bishop Hanson begins his second term in office, we commit ourselves to continuing in prayer that his ministry may bear good fruit.

We receive with gratitude Bishop Hanson’s insightful and inspiring report and give thanks for the clarity of his strategic direction for this church: to support congregations; to grow in evangelical outreach; to step forward as a public church; to deepen and extend global, ecumenical, and interfaith relationships; and to support leaders.

We accept with gratitude Bishop Hanson’s challenge to be followers of Jesus Christ as leaders in a sent church, a church that is:

- immersed in Scripture
- generous in funding mission and ministry
- articulate in telling its story as a church sent by God
- committed to doing God’s work with our hands.

In response to Bishop Hanson’s teaching and his proclamation of God’s Word, we commit ourselves to stewarding the ecology of interdependent ecosystems that make up the ELCA as we live and do God’s work in our local habitats.

We extend our love and prayers to Bishop Hanson, Ione, and the entire Hanson family as we continue to share our life together in God’s love, moving forward as a sent church in proclamation of the Gospel for the blessing of God’s people and for the sake of the world.

And all God’s people say, “Thanks be to God!”

#### **Motion E:**

##### ***Appreciation for Vice President Carlos E. Peña***

We, as members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, gathered at this tenth Churchwide Assembly, receive

the report of Vice President Carlos E. Peña with heartfelt appreciation and thankfulness. Through his joyful service to the people of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, he is an example of inspired and intentional lay ministry.

Vice President Peña has demonstrated a variety of leadership gifts that have benefitted the Church Council and churchwide staff as well as synods and congregations of this church. He is well known for his love of the Church, his prayerful service, and his wit and sense of humor. His commitment to the Church is evidenced by his efforts to build bridges through numerous synodical, ecumenical, and international visits.

We are grateful for this extraordinary volunteer, for his boundless excitement for the life and work of this church in the midst of managing a family business, and for the support of his amazing family.

We thank him for his four years of service as vice president of the ELCA and affirm him as he continues in faithful, purposeful leadership.

And all God’s people say, “Thanks be to God!”

#### **Motion F:**

##### ***Appreciation for Secretary Lowell G. Almen***

We, as members of the 2007 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, with appreciation, sincere gratitude, and respect receive the report of Secretary Lowell G. Almen.

We appreciate his 20 years of faithful service as the first secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and his continued and faithful service. We thank Secretary Almen for his historical perspective, for lifting up the rich legacy of the Lutheran Church, and for his overview of the formation and history of the ELCA shared at this assembly.

We thank Secretary Almen for modeling the many gifts demonstrated by the Reverend Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, one of our early church leaders, who reminded us:

- of faithful witness to Scripture;
- of untiring commitment to the well-being of the Church;
- of deep understanding of the original context and contemporary application of the Lutheran Confessions;
- of genuine pastoral care for members;
- of facing tough challenges and disappointing obstacles, always with an eye on the wider picture of God’s mercy.

We are thankful to Secretary Almen, gifted pastor, administrator, and historian for sharing his insight, wisdom and counsel with the people of God across this church. We appreciate his dry humor and winning smile that occasionally radiated throughout the gathered assembly.

We thank God for his supportive and loving wife, Sally, and their family, who shared in his ministry over the many seasons, and for their exceptional service. As Secretary Almen and his family begin a new chapter in their journey, we wish them continued blessings and fulfillment.

And all God’s people say, “Thanks be to God!”

#### **Motion G:**

##### ***Appreciation for Treasurer Christina Jackson-Skelton***

We, as members of the 2007 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, gratefully receive the

report of our ELCA Treasurer, Christina Jackson-Skelton.

We are grateful for her continued financial acumen and wise oversight of mission funding for this church. We note with delight that not only is she able to manage the finances exceptionally well, but that she manages to report complex numbers with a clarity that helps us recognize the living stories of mission and ministry that those numbers represent.

Treasurer Jackson-Skelton has combined detailed accuracy with astute missional awareness, and conveys her own love of Christ and this church as she reports our financial challenges and opportunities with calm, confident clarity and gentle encouragement.

We appreciate her capacity to lead an excellent staff, to manage the restructuring of the Lutheran Center, and to oversee the finances of diverse church-related programs, such as the Mission Investment Fund and the World Hunger Appeal, in addition to the regular budget of this church.

As she stewards with equal grace her household of five and our household of five million, we affirm her continued work on behalf of the whole church.

And all God's people say, "Thanks be to God!"

#### ***Motion H:***

#### ***Resolution of Appreciation and Thanksgiving***

WHEREAS, the voting members of this tenth Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, children of God marked with the cross of Christ forever, have been privileged not only to do the vital work of deliberation and decision-making so that Christ might be made known to the world, but also to experience the grace and presence of Christ in our midst; and

WHEREAS, in this week together in Chicago we have been enabled to do our appointed work as servants and leaders of this church by the many churchwide staff whose efforts on our behalf and for our sake and in Christ's name and for his sake we often take for granted; and

WHEREAS, we have been blessed this week by the hospitality, graciousness, and hard work of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod, by the countless hours and the tireless efforts generously given by so many volunteers, by the talents of musicians, artists, worship leaders, and the often invisible and overlooked labor of the staff of the Hyatt Regency Chicago and Navy Pier: caterers, shuttle bus drivers, custodians, housekeepers, hotel staff, and many others; and

WHEREAS, God's work, through our hands, has been carried out by numerous committees of this assembly; and

WHEREAS, many members of this church have allowed their names to be put forth in nomination for service to this church; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that we express our gratitude to our churchwide staff, the Metropolitan Chicago Synod and its local planners and arrangers, all volunteers, musicians and artists, worship leaders, committee members of this assembly, those considered for election, and to the many workers who have enabled us to do our work and to be the body of Christ in this place; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we who have been so richly blessed now offer thanksgiving to the Triune God for all those who have

provided for us, and in that praise and thanksgiving express our joyous and humble gratitude to these blessed servants of God.

And all God's people say, "Thanks be to God!"

Presiding Bishop Hanson and the assembly thanked the Committee on Reference and Counsel for its work.

#### ***Closing Remarks***

Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson expressed gratitude to Ms. Myrna J. Sheie, executive for governance and institutional relations, and Ms. Mary Beth Nowak, executive for assembly planning, meeting management, and travel. The assembly responded with loud applause. He called for the assembly to thank as well the Rev. Paul S. Schreck, the Rev. Ruth E. Hamilton, and all the members of the Office of the Secretary. Presiding Bishop Hanson invited the assembly to say thanks to Ms. Kristi S. Bangert, Ms. Ava O. Martin, and the staff of the Communication Services unit. He commended the work of the staff of the Office of the Presiding Bishop, the Worship and Liturgical Resources section, and the parliamentarian, Mr. David D. Swartling.

Mr. George C. Watson [Southeast Michigan Synod] requested that the assembly action related to accountability of bishops be displayed on the screens so that those who so desired could copy it down. Presiding Bishop Hanson granted the request and noted that a copy would appear on the Web site shortly.

Presiding Bishop Hanson asked, "Just before we close the assembly and hear the announcement, I want to express my deep gratitude for you. I am very curious. When you get home, and someone asks you, as someone inevitably will, 'What happened there?' what will be the first story that you tell?" Presiding Bishop Hanson asked voting members to talk with each other regarding their responses.

He continued, "Let me tell you in part why I wanted you to do that. We have stressed all week that this is shared leadership for a sent church, and part of shared leadership is to tell the story of this church. There will be particularly people who think the only story of religion today is the story of division within religious bodies that will want that to be the story. That is not the story of this assembly for me. The assembly story that we tell will become part of our witness to the world.

"I will tell the story this week of an assembly that centered its whole life in the living Word of God as we gathered around Word and Sacrament as the centerpiece of our life and day, as we dwelt in the Word richly in Bible study, as we dwelt in the Word through personal stories of the living Word in their life, as we heard the Word read, as we prayed the Word, as we pondered the Word, and as we call this church to a sustained commitment to living in that Word and letting that Word live in us as we interpret it for our life today.

"I will tell the story of a church that takes very seriously both the gift of unity that God gives in Christ and the rich gift of diversity. Gifts that are difficult to steward because sometimes we want unity to become uniformity; other times we want diversity and it seems like it becomes division. But the task of the Christian life is to steward that interplay of unity within diversity. I commend you for what wonderful stewards of the

interplay of unity and diversity you have been this week for this church.

“But I will also tell the story that as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, we do not turn only to life unto ourselves. We always take our life within the context of the church catholic. So we have invited and listened to ecumenical and global companions. I will tell the story of a church that takes very seriously that it is sent into a world that is groaning in the midst of war, hunger, HIV and AIDs, and environmental degradation. And we have said that we have something to do and we have something to say. We have spoken to Iraq. We have spoken to HIV and AIDS. We have renewed our commitment to world hunger. We have said, ‘It is God’s work but our hands.’

“We have elected new leaders for a sent church, called forth a secretary, and renewed my call. I leave this assembly again renewed in my profound gratitude to God for the rich gifts that the Spirit has given you, for how we steward those gifts together for the sake of the Gospel and for the life of the world. It has again been a privilege to preside over your deliberations and your decisions. Thanks be to God.” The assembly responded with sustained applause and a standing ovation.

#### ***Announcement of the 2009 Churchwide Assembly***

Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson called upon the Secretary Lowell G. Almen for announcements. Secretary Almen thanked once again those who had helped make the assembly possible, highlighting the work of volunteers and contract workers.

A video announced that the eleventh Churchwide Assembly would be held in the Minneapolis Convention Center in Minneapolis, Minn., August 17-23, 2009. Secretary Almen alluded to the ten assemblies for which he had been responsible for arrangements, then concluded by saying, “Sisters and brothers in Christ, thanks for the memories.” The members of the assembly again responded with a standing ovation.

#### ***Order for Closing the Churchwide Assembly***

Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson invited the assembly to continue standing and sing “To Be Your Presence.” The assembly closed with a litany, prayers, four sending verses, and a benediction. The bell was rung, and the candle extinguished.

#### ***Adjournment***

The tenth Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America adjourned on Saturday, August 11, 2007, at 4:18 P.M. Central Daylight Time.