



Legislative Update
Wednesday, August 10, 2016

Elections: Second Ballot for Vice President

Reference: 2016 Pre-Assembly Report, Section I, Rules of Organization and Procedure, Section V, The Election of the Vice President, and Section X, Report of the Elections Committee.

The Elections Committee presented the names received on the first ballot for vice president that were not withdrawn by the nominee from further consideration for election. The Credentials Committee reported that 971 voting members were registered to cast ballots.

Elections: First Common Ballot

The Elections Committee distributed ballots for the 2016 Churchwide Assembly to elect members to the Church Council, boards of three separately incorporated ministries and three churchwide committees.

Report of the Memorials Committee

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

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

Category B3: Toward a Responsible Energy Future

Consideration continued from the previous plenary session. The assembly decided to postpone further consideration of this recommendation until plenary session eight.

Category A3: Deepening Relationships with Historic Black Churches

ASSEMBLY

ACTION

YES-929; NO-8

CA16.03.05

To receive with gratitude the memorial of the Southwestern Texas Synod calling for the Deepening of Relationships with the Historic Black Churches;

To refer the memorial to the presiding bishop and appropriate churchwide staff to develop a churchwide strategy for deepening relationships with Historic Black Churches in consultation with the African Descent Lutheran Association, Conference of Bishops, Church Council and ecumenical partners;

To encourage synod leaders to initiate and/or continue local efforts to strengthen and expand partnerships with Historic Black Churches in consultation with synod bishops, synod leaders of the African Descent Lutheran Association and synod members of the Lutheran Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Representatives Network; and

To encourage congregations to initiate and/or continue their efforts to strengthen and expand partnerships with Historic Black Churches.

Category C1: Peace with Justice in the Holy Land

The Memorials Committee made the following motion.

Moved:

To receive with gratitude the memorials of the Northwest Washington, Sierra Pacific, Southwest California, Rocky Mountain, Minneapolis Area, Southwestern Texas, Southeastern Iowa, South-Central Wisconsin, Southeast Michigan, Indiana-Kentucky, Metropolitan New York,

Northeastern Pennsylvania, Upper Susquehanna and West Virginia-Western Maryland synods related to Israel and Palestine;

To reaffirm the commitment of this church to:

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

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

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

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

The Rev. Robert L. Driesen, bishop of the Upper Susquehanna Synod, made the following motion to amend.

Moved;

Seconded:

To substitute the following paragraph for the penultimate paragraph of the motion:

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

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

Elections: Report of the Second Ballot for Vice President

Reference: 2016 Pre-Assembly Report, Section V, The Election of the Vice President, and Section X, Results of the Second Ballot for Vice President.

The Elections Committee reported that 924 votes were cast on the second ballot for vice president, requiring 693 votes for election. There was no election on the second ballot. The names of the seven receiving the greatest number of votes were presented:

Mr. William B. Horne	204
Ms. Gwen Arneson	129
Mr. Thomas E. Madden	81
Ms. Becky Blue	54
Ms. Cheryl G. Stuart	46
Ms. Tracy A. Beasley	40
Ms. Nanette C. Dahlke	30

Biographical information about the nominees will be distributed by the beginning of plenary session six the morning of Thursday, August 11. The election process will proceed in accordance with Part Sixteen of the Rules of Organization and Procedure. The nomination of Ms. Mikka McCracken, an employee of the churchwide organization, was ruled out of order.

College Corporation Meetings

Reference: 2016 Pre-Assembly Report, Other, College Corporation Meetings.

The 2016 Churchwide Assembly recessed and convened sequentially as the college corporation meetings for St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minn.; Wartburg College, Waverly, Iowa; and Luther College, Decorah, Iowa.

Consideration: Declaration on the Way

Reference: 2016 Pre-Assembly Report, Section V, Declaration on the Way: Church, Ministry and Eucharist, and Section VI, Declaration on the Way: Church, Ministry and Eucharist.

Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton called on Secretary Wm Chris Boerger, who brought the recommendation of the Church Council.

ASSEMBLY

ACTION

YES-931; NO-9

CA16.03.06

To express profound gratitude for “Declaration on the Way: Church, Ministry and Eucharist” as another sign of the ELCA’s commitment to making visible the unity that is God’s gift in Christ (“Ecumenism: The Vision of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America,” 1991);

To receive the thirty-two Statements of Agreement, acknowledging that “receiving these agreements recognizes that there are no longer church dividing issues with respect to these Statements...” (“Declaration on the Way”); and

To commend to the ELCA the “Declaration on the Way,” “From Conflict to Communion” and the “Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification” as resources for the common life of the church as we approach 2017 and beyond.

Consideration of the AMMPARO Strategy

Reference: 2016 Pre-Assembly Report, Section V, AMMPARO Strategy, and Section VI, AMMPARO Strategy.

Secretary Wm Chris Boerger presented the recommendation of the Church Council.

ASSEMBLY

ACTION

YES-921; NO-11

CA16.03.07

To express gratitude to this church’s members, congregations, synods and churchwide organization as well as to our companion churches and partners for the work to accompany migrant children and families fleeing the humanitarian crisis in Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala;

To approve the Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities (AMMPARO) strategy as a whole church response to the migration of children and their families around protection, advocacy, representation and opportunities; and

To encourage this church's members, congregations, synods and churchwide organization to continue their work in advocating for migrant children and their families.

Consideration of the 2017-2019 Budget Proposal

Reference: 2016 Pre-Assembly Report, Section V, 2017-2019 Budget Proposal.

Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton called on the Rev. Vicki T. Garber, Church Council member from Lakeside Park, Ky., who presented the council's recommendation.

ASSEMBLY

ACTION

YES-895; NO-23

CA16.03.08

2017 Budget Proposal

To approve a 2017 current fund spending authorization of \$65,296,005; and

To approve a 2017 ELCA World Hunger spending authorization of \$24,800,000;

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

2018 Budget Proposal

To approve a 2018 current fund income proposal of \$64,057,220; and

To approve a 2018 ELCA World Hunger income proposal of \$25,000,000; and

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

2019 Budget Proposal

To approve a 2019 current fund income proposal of \$64,151,175; and

To approve a 2019 ELCA World Hunger income proposal of \$25,000,000; and

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

Elections: Report of the First Common Ballot and Second Common Ballot

Reference: 2016 Pre-Assembly Report, Section I, Rules of Organization and Procedure, and Section X, Report of the Elections Committee.

The Elections Committee reported elections on 59 of the 60 tickets of the first common ballot for the Church Council, Committee on Appeals, Committee on Discipline, Nominating Committee, and the boards of the Board of Pensions, Mission Investment Fund and Publishing House of the ELCA. There was no election on Ticket 51 of the first common ballot, and the assembly used electronic voting machines to conduct the second ballot election between the two nominees on that ticket receiving the greatest number of votes.