

## ***SUMMARY OF THE ACTIONS OF THE 2010 METROPOLITAN NEW YORK SYNOD ASSEMBLY***

The 418 voting members meeting May 14-15, 2010 at the Westchester Marriott in Tarrytown, New York, approved resolutions, elected leaders, amended governing documents and adopted budgets.

### **Memorial Resolutions Adopted**

#### **SA2010.05.01**

#### **A Resolution on Energy Stewardship**

*RESOLVED*, that the congregations, administrative offices, and outdoor ministry facilities of this synod be encouraged to offer a public witness of energy stewardship by: (1) Measuring the greenhouse gas emissions (i.e., “carbon footprint”) of the facilities they own, to establish a baseline starting point; and (2) With the guidance of the synod's Environmental Stewardship Committee [see Addendum to this resolution], conduct an energy audit to determine what options there are for reducing energy use; and (3) Make a commitment to decrease their carbon footprint by a certain percentage over a specified period of time through energy conservation, efficiency, or clean energy measures; and be it further

*RESOLVED*, that the congregations, administrative offices, and outdoor ministry facilities of this synod be invited to share this information with the Environmental Stewardship Committee, synod office and, where applicable, on ELCA congregational reporting forms, and subsequently also share what energy-saving steps were taken, and what measurable energy savings have been realized, as evidenced in a lower carbon footprint measurement; and be it further

*RESOLVED*, that this synod memorialize the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America at its 2011 Churchwide Assembly to challenge all expressions of the ELCA to reduce their energy-related greenhouse gas emissions by at least 5 percent per year with the ultimate goal of reducing these emissions 25-40 percent by 2020, and to share this commitment and steps taken to achieve it in a public way in official publications and communication channels of this church.

#### **SA2010.05.12**

#### **A Memorial to Encourage Full Implementation of Actions on Ministry Policies**

*RESOLVED*, that the 2010 Metropolitan New York Synod Assembly commends the actions of the Church Council taken on April 9-11, 2010 to amend “Visions and Expectations,” “Definition and Guidelines for Discipline,” the “Candidacy Manual,” and other documents; and be it

*RESOLVED*, that the 2010 Metropolitan New York Synod Assembly memorializes the 2011 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as follows:

1. to encourage the full implementation as soon as reasonably possible of the actions of the 2009 Churchwide Assembly and the Church Council on April 9-11, 2010 with respect to ministry policies; and
2. to encourage appropriate units and committees of the churchwide organization, synods, and congregations to take additional steps, consistent with the actions of

the 2009 Churchwide Assembly, to implement fully and as soon as reasonably possible “structured flexibility” in candidacy and call processes, by clarifying what shall satisfy the standard of accountable, lifelong, monogamous, same-gender relationships and to integrate fully qualified candidates and pastors who are in publicly accountable, lifelong, monogamous, same-gender relationships into life of this church for the sake of its mission and ministry.

**SA2010.05.13**

**A Memorial to Encourage Full Implementation  
of the Social Statement “Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust”**

*RESOLVED*, that the 2010 Metropolitan New York Synod Assembly memorialize the 2011 Churchwide Assembly to encourage the full implementation of the social statement “Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust” and its implementing resolutions and to have the Office of the Presiding Bishop bring a report to the 2013 Churchwide Assembly on the status of their implementation.

**General Resolutions Adopted**

**SA2010.05.02**

**A Resolution for a Year of Forgiveness and Healing**

*RESOLVED*, that all members of this synod are encouraged to commit to a year of actively working towards forgiving past offenses and injuries that individuals and groups have suffered at the hands of the synod, its leaders, congregations, pastors, deacons and laity; and be it,

*RESOLVED*, that congregations, communities and individuals are encouraged to strive to seek positive ways to express their pain and hurt for the purposes of forgiving and healing, and will refrain from cultivating and harboring that pain that inhibits our life together in Christ; and be it,

*RESOLVED*, that congregations, communities and individuals are encouraged to commit to a year of relationship building with synodical staff, deans, conference colleagues and other fellow workers in the gospel of this synod by, whenever possible, attending retreats, prayer days, conference meetings and other events that have the potential for building stronger relationships within this synod, always mindful of our call to proclaim the gospel that unites us; and be it,

*RESOLVED*, that all members of this synod are encouraged to strive to follow the teachings found in Matthew 18 and to commit ourselves to speaking “the truth in love” (Ephesians 4:15) when disputes and offenses occur.

**SA2010.05.03**

**A Resolution Regarding the Board of Pensions and  
the ELCA Participating Annuity and Bridge Fund**

*RESOLVED*, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Assembly requests the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America retain an external agency to consult with the Board of Pensions regarding the background of, reasons for, and implications of the decisions made with respect to the ELCA Participating Annuity and Bridge Fund, to explore possible alternative ways to restore Fund losses and increase payment levels for annuitants and account values for those with bridge component accounts not yet annuitized, and to report on the results of the external agency-consultation at the November 2010 meeting of the Church Council; and be it further

*RESOLVED*, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Assembly requests the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to direct that steps be explored to mitigate the adverse effects of the Fund reductions and possible future reductions, including the expansion and promotion of the ELCA Special Needs Retirement Fund, and that the results of that exploration be reported to all congregation, agencies and institutions of the ELCA and to all participants in the ELCA Participating Annuity and Bridge Fund and/or the ELCA Special Needs Retirement Fund; and be it further

*RESOLVED*, that the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America be requested by the Metropolitan New York Synod in Assembly to insure that reconsideration of the drastic actions taken by the Board of Pensions be undertaken, with a view to alleviating the hardships imposed upon retirees, their spouses, surviving spouses, and their families, and be it further

*RESOLVED*, that the Metropolitan New York Synod Assembly direct the Synod Council to forward this resolution to the Church Council for consideration and possible action.

**SA2010.05.05      A Resolution Supporting People with Autism Spectrum Disorders and Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities**

*RESOLVED*, that this synod encourage all its congregations to welcome those living with autism spectrum disorders and intellectual and developmental disabilities and to offer support and care to individuals and families who are living with autism spectrum disorders and intellectual and developmental disabilities; and be it

*RESOLVED*, that this assembly direct the Metropolitan New York Synod Committee for Child Youth and Family Ministry to seek out resources and strategies for helping congregations welcome and minister to those individuals and families living with autism spectrum disorders and intellectual and developmental disabilities; and be it

*RESOLVED*, that this synod request the Lutheran Statewide Advocacy Committee to advocate government entities to provide and fund the educational and supportive services needed by those individuals and families who are living with autism spectrum disorders and intellectual and developmental disabilities, and to advocate government entities to provide funding for research that seeks to discover the causes of and effective treatment

**Budget Resolutions Adopted**

**SA2010.05.09                      Ratified an Adjusted Budget of \$4,074,125 for F.Y. 2010**

**SA2010.05.10                      Adopted a Budget of \$4,151,625 for F.Y 2011**

**Elections Completed\***

	<b>SA2010.05.04 First Common Ballot</b>	<b>SA2010.05.11 Second Common Ballot</b>
Vice President	Ms. Maria Del Toro	
Secretary		Pr. Robert Schoepflin
Synod Council—Two Year		Pr. Brenda Jack
Synod Council--Four Year	Mr. Charles Germain Mr. Barbara Hansen Mr. F. Eugene Hiigel Pr. Perry Kirschbaum Mr. John Malone Ms. Minerva Melendez Pr. Paul Milholland Pr. Craig Miller Pr. Kit Robison	Ms. Christine Connell Ms. Kelsey Brown
Consultation Committee	Ms. Marion Steadman Mr. Brian Reardon Dr. Earl Marsan	
Discipline Committee	Pr. Diane Wildow Pr. James Krauser Ms. Christine Connell Mr. Paul Lumpkin	
Churchwide Assembly <sup>℞</sup>	Ms. Minerva Melendez Mr. Paul Lumpkin Dr. Earl Marsan Mr. Brian Reardon	Pr. Perucy Butiku Pr. Ann Tiemeyer Pr. Katrina Foster Pr. Craig Miller Pr. Paul Milholland Ms. Meg Fielding Ms. Kathleen Schmidt Ms. Christine Connell Mr. Dave Ehlers Mr. Jonathan Westerlund

\*Elections for Consultation Committee and Synod Council were not completed due to a lack of qualified candidates. One additional lay female member needs to be elected (appointed) to the Consultation Committee. One additional Multicultural Lay Male needs to be elected (appointed) to the Synod Council. The Synod Council is empowered to appoint persons to these positions until the next scheduled election [c.f. S10.03; S10.03.00].

<sup>℞</sup>Composition of Churchwide Assembly Voting Member Electees

16 Voting Members of the Churchwide Assembly are apportioned to the Metropolitan New York Synod including the bishop, vice president and 14 elected members. The entire complement of 16 is comprised as follows:  
63% Lay 37% Clergy; 50% Female 50% Male; 31% Multicultural

**Amendments to Governing Documents**

**SA2010.05.06**

**Adopted Amendments Recommended by the ELCA  
Churchwide Assembly to the Constitution for Synods**

**S7.22**

**S8.42**

**S7.23**

**S13.40**

**S7.26**

**S13.41**

**SA2010.05.07**

**Adopted Amendments to Bylaws**

**S7.22.01**

**S10.01.01**

**S7.22.02**

**S10.01.02**

**SA2010.05.08**

**Adopted Amendments to Bylaws**

**S12.01.08**

**S12.05.04**

**S12.05.01**

**S12.05.05**

**S12.05.02**

**S12.05.06**

**S12.05.03**

**Amended Texts of Governing Documents of the Metropolitan New York Synod**

- S7.22. The synod may establish processes that permit retired ordained ministers, retired associates in ministry, retired deaconesses, and retired diaconal ministers on the roster of this synod to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly, consistent with †S7.21.c. above. The synod may establish processes that permit ordained ministers, associates in ministry, deaconesses, and diaconal ministers who are on leave from call, or those designated as disabled, on the roster of the synod to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly, consistent with †S7.21.c. above. If the synod does not establish processes to permit the rostered leaders specified above to serve as voting members, they shall have voice but not vote in the meetings of the Synod Assembly.
- S.7.22.01 *All retired ordained ministers, retired associates in ministry, retired deaconesses, and retired diaconal ministers on the roster of this Synod in attendance at the Synod Assembly shall be voting members consistent with †S7.21.c. above.*
- S.7.22.02 *All ordained ministers, associates in ministry, deaconesses, and diaconal ministers who are on leave from call, or those designated as disabled, on the roster of the synod to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly, consistent with †S7.21.c. above.*
- S7.23. The presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and such other official representatives of this church as may be designated from time to time by the Church Council shall also have voice but not vote in the meetings of the Synod Assembly. Like privileges shall be accorded to those additional persons whom the Synod Assembly shall from time to time designate.
- S7.26. This synod may establish processes through the Synod Council that permit representatives of mission settings formed with the intent of becoming recognized congregations and authorized worshiping communities of the synod, which have been authorized under ELCA bylaw 10.02.03., to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly, consistent with †S7.21.
- S8.42. The treasurer shall provide and be accountable for:
- f. Obtaining a fidelity bond in the amount determined by the Synod Council for persons handling synod funds, which bond shall be in the custody of the secretary. The premium for the bond shall be paid by this synod. Fidelity coverage provided by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America shall be deemed

a fulfillment of this requirement.

- S10.01.01. *The Synod Council shall consist of the four officers of the Synod, one youth who shall be not less than sixteen (16) years nor more than eighteen (18)-years of age at the time of election or appointment for service, one young adult who shall be between the ages of eighteen (18) and thirty (30) at the time of election or appointment for service, and twenty-two (22) other members. Of the twenty-two (22) other members eight (8) shall be clergy, six (6) shall be lay female, six (6) shall be lay male, these members shall be nominated and elected as provided for under S9.20.00; in addition, four (4) lay members shall be elected as at large candidates, Two (2) of the four at large members shall be persons of color and/or whose primary language is other than English.*
- S10.01.02. *The term of each young adult and "other member" of the Synod Council elected by the Synod Assembly shall be four years. The term of the youth member shall be two years.*
- S12.01.08. *Each conference in consultation with the bishop shall elect a dean from among the pastors of the conference to serve a term of four years, a secretary who may be either clergy or lay, and such other officers as deemed appropriate, each to serve for a two-year term. A dean shall normally serve no more than eight consecutive years, and each other officer shall serve in his or her office no more than two consecutive terms. If a dean fails to perform the duties of the office of dean, the bishop may request the resignation of the dean, or may ask the Synod Council to remove the dean from office. A two-thirds majority vote by the Synod Council is necessary for removal of a dean.*
- S12.05.00 *Deans*
- S12.05.01 *Purpose of the Dean*  
*The Conference Dean shall support the ministry within the Conference and serve as the principal liaison between the Conference and the Office of the Bishop.*
- a. *The Dean shall represent the Office of the Bishop within the Conference in order to enhance ministry, service and communication among congregations and rostered leaders.*
  - b. *The Dean shall represent the Conference within the Conference of Deans.*
  - c. *The Dean shall be the Bishop's representative on the territory of the Conference.*
- S12.05.02 *Criteria for Selection*  
*The Conference Dean shall be a pastor under a regular call from a congregation or the Synod and serving on the territory of the Conference, or a retired pastor living on the territory of the conference. A person selected to serve as Dean:*
- a. *is Christ-centered;*
  - b. *supports the mission and inter-relatedness of the congregations, synod and church-wide expressions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America;*
  - c. *is collegial and cooperative;*
  - d. *demonstrates leadership in the Conference;*
  - e. *communicates openly and honestly while respecting confidentiality, and holds sensitive information in strict confidence;*
  - f. *maintains healthy boundaries and demonstrates physical, emotional and spiritual well-being and financial responsibility;*
  - g. *participates in the life of the Synod.*
- S12.05.03 *Election:*  
*The Bishop shall nominate normally two candidates for the office of Conference Dean, in consultation with the Conference.*
- a. *The Dean shall be elected by the full Conference and recognized at the Synod Assembly. The Dean assumes the office immediately upon election, and may be installed at a Conference-wide event.*
  - b. *The Dean will normally serve a term of four years, renewable once. In specific cases, based on the need of the Conference, the Bishop may, with the consent of the conference, postpone a scheduled election for up to one year suspend the term limit one time making it possible, in emergencies, for the*

Dean to serve an additional year. Conferences are encouraged to use Synod Guidelines for the election of Deans.

S12.05.04

*Duties:*

- a. *The Dean will work closely with the Bishop and the Synod Staff. The Synod will provide appropriate training for the specific duties outlined below:*
  - 1.. *Facilitating or appointing a facilitator for all meetings of the Conference and its rostered leaders, including but not limited to regular bible study, training events, and visioning/discerning God's mission in its territory;*
  2. *Facilitating or appointing a facilitator for ministerium gatherings held at least quarterly;*
  3. *Participating in regular meetings of the Conference of Deans;*
  4. *Offering pastoral care to other rostered leaders and congregations and informing the Bishop of such needs;*
  5. *Sharing information within the Conference about the larger church;*
  6. *Assisting other deans when they are unable to fulfill their tasks;*
  7. *Providing a perspective from the Conference to the Office of the Bishop on pending issues and actions in the life of the Synod;*
- b. *In support of the call process, and in consultation with appropriate Synod Staff the Dean may:*
  1. *recommend rostered leaders to synod leadership for congregations in the call process;*
  2. *conduct the exit interview with the rostered leader who is leaving;*
  3. *conduct the exit interview with the elected congregation council at the end of a ministry;*
  4. *provide orientation for the congregation council and call committee in time of transition;*
  5. *be appointed coverage pastor, or may facilitate the appointment of one;*
  6. *introduce the recommended interim;*
  7. *review the congregational self-study/profile for mission with call committee and congregation council, helping to discern the future, ongoing mission of the congregation;*
  8. *present mobility papers of recommended rostered leaders to the call committee;*
  9. *assist the congregation to identify supply pastors in cooperation with and at the approval of the Office of the Bishop; and*
  10. *preach and preside at worship early in the vacancy to represent the Office of the Bishop; for this service, the calling congregation will pay for the supply pastor leadership of the dean's congregation.*
- c. *Representing the Office of the Bishop by visiting each rostered leader in the Conference on an annual basis, and each congregation at least once during his/her term as Dean;*
- d. *Providing feedback to the Bishop's office regarding the missional health of the congregations in the conference; a neighboring Dean will provide a report on conference Dean's congregation;*
- e. *Representing the Office of the Bishop in welcoming new rostered leaders and normally presiding at their installation, and in other roles as requested by the Bishop;*
- f. *Being accountable for time and activity as Conference Dean to the Office of the Bishop, the Conference and the Dean's own congregation;*
- g. *Being in regular contact with the rostered leaders of the Conference, key lay leaders, and the Office of the Bishop; and*
- h. *Providing a written report from the Conference to the Synod Bishop, using supplied guidelines, for publication in the Synod Assembly Bulletin of Reports.*

S12.05.05

*Support*

- a. *Conference Deans will receive support from the Conference of Deans, and support and training from Synod Staff and the Bishop.*

*The Office of the Bishop and/or the Synod Staff shall:*

  1. *Provide guidance for helping the Dean's congregation adjust to this ministry;*
  2. *Visit a new Dean's congregation as a visible sign of support and appreciation to the congregation for sharing their pastor with the Conference.*
  3. *Send a yearly thank you to the Dean's congregation for their support as their pastor fulfills his/her duties as Conference Dean.*
  4. *Provide timely updates regarding any changes in the rostered leadership of conferences congregations;*

5. *Provide reporting forms and guidelines for all requested reports.*
6. *Provide guidelines for the resignation or termination of the dean's appointment.*

*S12.05.06 Compensation*

*The Synod will provide travel reimbursement at the current IRS rate for all meetings related to the office of Dean, and reimbursement for other appropriate expenses related to the Dean's work.*

S13.40. Synodically Authorized Worshiping Communities

S13.41. Authorized worshiping communities, acknowledged under criteria, policies, and procedures approved by the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, shall accept and adhere to the Confession of Faith and Statement of Purpose of this church, shall be served by leadership under the criteria of this church, and shall be subject to the discipline of this church.

*Prepared by The Rev. James G. Krauser*



## **Addendum to Resolution on Energy Stewardship**

### **Background**

This resolution builds upon a history of past statements and actions in this synod and across the ELCA, calling us to cherish and tend God's creation as part of our loving and serving God and neighbor. Recognizing our call to eco-justice, to addressing hunger and poverty, to faithful stewardship of creation and our finances, this resolution offers a bold witness and a plan for action. It is hoped that a number of synods across the ELCA will adopt this resolution this year (and that additional synods will follow suit in 2011), as a way to encourage and challenge one another to reduce our energy use and lessen our carbon footprint.

The goal of a 25- 40 % reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2020 is in line with what the ELCA has been advocating for at the Federal level, through the ELCA's Washington Office. Setting this goal is a way for us to "walk the talk," as well as to save money from energy expenses for use in other areas of mission and ministry.

### **Implementing This Resolution**

Our synod's Environmental Stewardship Committee with the help of *Lutherans Restoring Creation*, stands ready to offer assistance and guidance on the implementation of this resolution and in the sharing of your congregation's results with others. Our synod Team will be in contact with LRC and others that are joining in this effort in a collaborative, coordinated initiative across the ELCA.

Synod Environmental Stewardship Committee contact info: [MNYSES@googlegroups.com](mailto:MNYSES@googlegroups.com), Grace Yukich, chair.

\* For tools to measure your carbon footprint, see [www.lutheransrestoringcreation.org](http://www.lutheransrestoringcreation.org) (Anticipated ready date, Sept 2010).

\* For tools to conduct a comprehensive energy audit of your congregation or home, consult with the Environmental Stewardship Committee or Caring for Creation Taskforce.

### **Additional Resources for Use in Congregational Forums**

The following educational and informational materials are highly recommended to help congregants understand the importance of taking these actions, as part of our faith witness:

See [www.elca.org/caringforcreation](http://www.elca.org/caringforcreation) for:

- Climate Change Fact Sheet (2 page pdf)
- What Can You Do? (2 page pdf)
- Poverty and Hunger in a Changing Climate (4 page pdf)
- Climate Change and Hunger in Nicaragua (DVD, 10 min), ELCA study trip Jan 2009
- "As long as the earth endures" (6 page pdf) discussion guide for use with the DVD

\*Hard copies of many of these are available – See synod Team and/or assembly display table.

ELCA World Hunger Program [www.elca.org/hunger/toolkit](http://www.elca.org/hunger/toolkit) for educational materials that show how hunger and climate change are connected.

The Pew Center on Global Climate Change [www.pewclimate.org](http://www.pewclimate.org) (non-partisan; sound science).

See also <http://www.pewclimate.org/WhatYouCanDo/tips>

ELCA 1993: *Caring for Creation: Vision, Hope and Justice* [www.elca.org/socialstatements](http://www.elca.org/socialstatements)

*Lutherans Restoring Creation* (LRC) [www.lutheransrestoringcreation.org](http://www.lutheransrestoringcreation.org)