

Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Tenth Triennial Convention
Program and Reports



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Proposed Agenda

(As initially adopted by the churchwide executive board at its October 2016 meeting)

AGENDA

Business Plenary Sessions

Ballroom A & B, Minneapolis Convention Center (unless otherwise noted)

Please note: All voting members of this convention must be in their seats at the beginning of each business plenary session and at all calls for votes and balloting. Absences not previously excused by the churchwide vice president will result in the voting member's forfeiture of travel and lodging reimbursement and per diems.

MONDAY, JULY 10

7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Credentialing (Hyatt Regency Minneapolis)

8:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Orientation for business committee members
(Hyatt Regency Minneapolis)

TUESDAY, JULY 11

6:30 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.

Breakfast

7:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Voting member credentialing continues

9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Service of Holy Communion

10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Voting member orientation

Plenary Meeting #1

10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Recitation of the Statements of Mission and Purpose
of Women of the ELCA

Official Opening of the Tenth Triennial Convention

Report of the Credentials Committee

Call to Order

Appointment of Parliamentarian

Appointment of Convention Business Committees

Adoption of Rules of Procedure

Adoption of the Agenda

Introductions

Churchwide Officers and Executive Board

Advisors to the Churchwide Executive Board

Executive Director and Staff

Chaplain

Greetings

Minneapolis Area Synod Bishop: The Rev. Ann
Svennungsen

Greetings

Minneapolis Area Synodical Women's

Organization President: Ms. Janice Schmidt

Explanation of Motions Procedure

Procedure for Removing Proposed Constitutional
Amendments and Memorials from En Bloc

Procedure for Floor Nominations

Report of the Conduct of Elections Committee prior
to the First Ballot for President

Call for the First Ballot for President

Prayer

First Ballot for President

Announcements

Prayer

Recess

12:00 – 1:00

Nominations desk open

12:00 – 2:00

Lunch

12:30 p.m.

**Deadline for Requesting the Removal of Proposed
Constitutional Changes and Memorials from En Bloc**

TUESDAY, JULY 11

Plenary Meeting #2

2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Call to order

Report of the Credentials Committee

Introduction of Past Presidents and Former Executive Board Members

Report of the President

Report of the Treasurer

Proposed 2018 Budget

First Reading and Announcement of Budget

Hearing

Report of the Executive Board

Recommendations from the Executive Board

- Constitutional Changes
- Report on Constitutional Changes Removed from en bloc
- Vote on Proposed Constitutional Changes remaining in en bloc
- Vote on Proposed Constitutional Changes removed from en bloc
- Proposed action relating to the Doctrine of Discovery

Report of the Executive Director

Call for New Business (first of two opportunities)

Report of the Memorials Committee

- Report on Memorials removed from en bloc
- Adoption of Committee Recommendations for those remaining in en bloc
- Adoption of Committee Recommendations for those removed from en bloc

Report of the Conduct of Elections Committee

First Ballot for President

Call for the Second Ballot for President

Prayer

Second Ballot for President Introduction of special guests Report of the Offerings Committee

Report of the Conduct of Elections Committee

Second Ballot for President

Announcements

Prayer

Recess

Call for Nominations closes on Wednesday, July 12 at 8:30 a.m.

6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Nominations desk open

6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Dinner

7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Budget hearing

WEDNESDAY, JULY 12

6:30 a.m. – 8:00 a.m. Breakfast
 7:30 – 8:30 a.m. Nominations desk open
8:30 a.m. Nominations close

WEDNESDAY, JULY 12**Plenary Meeting #3**

8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Call to Order
 Report of the Credentials Committee
 Address by the top five candidates for president (plus ties)
 Call for the Third Ballot for President
 Prayer
 Third Ballot for President
 Report of the Conduct of Elections Committee
 Third Ballot for President
 Greetings from the Newly Elected President or
 Call for Fourth Ballot for President (if necessary)
 Prayer
 Fourth Ballot for President
 Report of the Conduct of Elections Committee
 Fourth Ballot for President
 Greetings from the Newly Elected President
 Report of the Conduct of Elections Committee prior to the First Ballot for Vice President
 Call for the first Ballot for Vice President
 Prayer
 First Ballot for Vice President
 Call for New Business (second and final call)
 Bible study
 Report of the Memorials Committee
 Report of the Elections Committee
 First Ballot for Vice President
 Call for the Second Ballot for Vice President
 Prayer
 Second Ballot for Vice President
 Report of the Conduct of Elections Committee
 Second Ballot for Vice President

 Call for the Third Ballot for Vice President
 Prayer
 Third Ballot for Vice President
 Report of the Elections Committee

Third Ballot for Vice President
 Greetings from the newly elected vice president
 Call for Fourth Ballot for Vice President (if necessary)
 Prayer
 Fourth Ballot for Vice President
 Report of the Elections Committee
 Fourth ballot for Vice President
 Greetings from the Newly Elected Vice President
 Report of the Nominating Committee prior to the First Ballot for Secretary
 Call for the First Ballot for Secretary
 Prayer
 First Ballot for Secretary
 Report of the Election Committee
 First Ballot for Secretary
 Call for the Second Ballot for Secretary
 Prayer
 Second Ballot for Secretary
 Report of the Elections Committee
 Second Ballot for Secretary
 Greetings from the Newly Elected Secretary
 Report of the Nominating Committee prior to the First Ballot for Treasurer
 Call for the First Ballot for Treasurer
 Prayer
 First Ballot for Treasurer
 Announcements
 Prayer
 Recess

12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
 Lunch

WEDNESDAY, JULY 12**Plenary Session #4**

2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Call to Order
 Report of the Credentials Committee
 Report of the Elections Committee
 First Ballot for Treasurer
 Call for Second Ballot for Treasurer
 Prayer
 Second Ballot for Treasurer
 Report of the Elections Committee
 Second Ballot for Treasurer
 Greetings from Newly Elected Treasurer

Report of the Nominating Committee Prior to the
First Ballot for Executive Board
Members
Call for the First Ballot for Executive Board Members
Prayer
First Ballot for Executive Board Members
Report of the Minutes Committee
Report of the Memorials Committee
Report of the Reference and Counsel Committee
Introduction of special guests
Report of the Conduct of Elections Committee
First Ballot for Executive Board Member
Call for the Second Ballot for Executive Board
Member
Prayer
Second Ballot for Executive Board Member
Approval of the Audit
Second Reading and Adoption of the 2018 Budget
Report of the Elections Committee
Second Ballot for Executive Board Member
Call for the Third Ballot for Executive Board Member
Prayer
Third Ballot for Executive Board Member
Report of the Reference and Council Committee
Report of the Elections Committee
Third Ballot for Executive Board
Call for the Fourth Ballot
Prayer
Fourth Ballot for Executive Board Member
Report of the Reference and Council Committee
Report of the Elections Committee
Fourth Ballot for Executive Board Member
Call for the Fifth Ballot for Executive Board Member
Prayer
Fifth Ballot for Executive Board Member
Introduction of special guests
Election Committee Report
Fifth Ballot for Executive Board Member
Introduction of the 2017–2020 Churchwide
Executive Board
Announcements
Prayer
Recess

6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Dinner

THURSDAY, JULY 13

6:30 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.

Breakfast

THURSDAY, JULY 13 –

Plenary Meeting #5

8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Call to Order

Report of the Credentials Committee

Introduction of special guests

Report of the Minutes Committee

Report of the Reference and Counsel Committee

State of the ELCA – The Reverend Elizabeth Eaton,
Presiding Bishop of the

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Unfinished Business

Announcements

Worship, including Installation of the 2017–2020
Churchwide Executive Board

Official Close of the Tenth Triennial Convention

Glossary of Terms

Many common words have specific meanings within Women of the ELCA. Use this glossary to become familiar with these terms. Words that are italicized in the definitions are among the terms defined in this glossary.

Adopt

To choose or accept, and put into effect (by vote or consensus).

Approve

To confirm or sanction formally; to ratify.

Assembly

Term used by the *Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* for the gathering of *voting members* for decision-making or legislative functions.

Biennial convention

A *convention* held every two years.

Bylaw

A standing rule governing the regulation of the internal affairs of the organization.

Churchwide executive board

The group of 17 board members and 4 officers (all elected by the *triennial convention* for three-year terms) who serve as the board of directors and the interim legislative authority between triennial conventions. The responsibilities of the executive board are spelled out in the Women of the ELCA Constitution and Bylaws, Article XIII, Section 5.

Churchwide women's

Designated term for the whole organization; an

Organization

inclusive, less hierarchical term that replaces "national." Manifested in the *triennial convention* and the *churchwide executive board*, and used to describe the staff and office that support the activities of the whole organization.

Circle

A non-legislative grouping of women within a *unit* that comes together for fellowship, Bible study, program or service activities and personal growth. A circle meets

regularly and supports the mission and purpose of the organization.

Cluster

A non-legislative grouping of *congregational*, *intercongregational* and *special units* within the territory of a *synodical women's organization*. Also known as a *conference* in some synodical women's organizations.

Committee

A group of people, usually appointed by a larger group or legislative body, to define and/or carry out a particular task or respond to an issue.

Conference

A non-legislative grouping of *congregational*, *intercongregational* and *special units* within the territory of a *synodical women's organization*. Also known as a *cluster* in some synodical women's organizations.

Congregational unit

A *member of Women of the ELCA*: a community of women coming together for study, support and action in a local setting of Women of the ELCA (Women of the ELCA Constitution and Bylaws, Article VIII, Section 1); also referred to simply as a *unit*.

Consensus

General agreement or unanimity; group solidarity in sentiment or belief; a non-formal approach to decision-making.

Constitution

A legal document that outlines the name, purpose, authority, relationship and financial structure of an organization (*churchwide organization*, *synodical women's organization*, *congregational or intercongregational unit*, *special unit*).

Glossary of Terms

Convention

A *Women of the ELCA* term for a gathering in which *voting members* make decisions or carry out legislative functions.

ELCA

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Executive director

The chief executive officer of the organization; as paid staff, she carries out the policies of the organization and works interdependently with other churchwide units of the *ELCA*; sole employee of the *churchwide executive board*.

Expression

Women of the ELCA has three legislative expressions: *units*, *synodical women's organizations* and the *churchwide women's organization*.

Fiduciary responsibility

The responsibility of a person or organization to handle the finances of and gifts to the organization in a trustworthy manner.

Honorarium

A payment in recognition of acts or professional services.

Intercongregational unit

A *member of Women of the ELCA*; a community of women from two or more congregations coming together for study, support and action locally; also referred to simply as a *unit*.

Job description

An outline that includes title or role, function, term (length) of service, specific responsibilities, budget and resources available (including training, printed or audiovisual materials and mentoring relationships) and guides and directs the ministry or work of an individual or group.

Member

A *congregational*, *intercongregational* or *special unit* of *Women of the ELCA*; units are members, individuals are not; compare with *participant*.

Memorial

A statement of facts presented to a legislative body that is the basis for a petition or request for action; the way in which one organization formally makes a request of another. Brought to a *synodical women's organization convention* by a *unit* or to a *triennial convention* by a *synodical women's organization*.

Network

An interconnected or interrelated group, often with a common identity, cause or circumstance that offers support and facilitates communication and the work of the group.

Parliamentary procedure

The manner in which churchwide and synodical legislative business is conducted; some *units* also use this method.

Participant

A woman who takes part in carrying out the mission of *Women of the ELCA* and supports its ministries. Not all women in an *ELCA* congregation are automatically participants in *Women of the ELCA*; only those who take part in carrying out the mission of the organization and support the ministries of *Women of the ELCA* are participants.

Policy

A statement of principles for action; a position that guides the decision-making and activities of an organization.

Procedure

A particular way or series of ways in which to accomplish something (procedures are both flexible within and limited by the policies of an organization).

Glossary of Terms

Quorum

The number, usually a majority of officers or members of a body, that when duly assembled is legally competent to transact business.

Region

One of nine geographic territories of the *ELCA* comprising a number of synods in the United States and the Caribbean.

Resolution

The formal vehicle by which a *voting member* (or voting members) brings a matter to a *convention* for action, consistent with the rules of procedure established by that convention.

Robert's Rules of Order

The standard form of *parliamentary procedure*; a book by this same name that includes the form of parliamentary procedure.

Special committee

A *committee* appointed by the president or board to bring recommendations on a particular issue, concern, or subject to the board or to carry out a particular project or task.

Special unit

A *member* of *Women of the ELCA*; a community of women who want to come together in special settings as authorized by the *executive board* for study, support and action in local settings where congregational affiliation is not readily available or possible; also referred to simply as a *unit*. An example of this kind of unit would be one organized on a college campus or within a retirement community.

Standing committee

A *committee* appointed by the president or board to carry on a continuing function.

Synodical women's organization

A legislative and programmatic expression that assists *congregational*, *intercongregational* and *special units* within its territory to fulfill the purpose of *Women of the ELCA*; sometimes referred to as an SWO.

Synodical convention

The *convention* of a *synodical women's organization*.

Synod

One of the 64 regional and the one non-geographic grouping of congregations of the *ELCA*.

Taskforce

A temporary grouping of individuals or of representatives of groups, established to accomplish a definite objective usually with a specific deadline, and that reports its findings to a larger group or legislative body.

Triennial convention

The *convention* of *Women of the ELCA*; the highest legislative authority of the organization; meets every three years.

Unit

See *congregational unit*, *intercongregational unit* or *special unit*.

Voting members

Those people who may vote on legislative matters at an *assembly* or *convention*.

Women of the ELCA

The shortened form for "Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America," the legal name for the women's organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; a separately incorporated unit of the *ELCA*.

Proposed Rules of Procedure

(As initially adopted by the churchwide executive board at its October 2016 meeting)

DELEGATE BODY

The voting members of the Tenth Triennial Convention (2017) shall be the officers of the churchwide women's organization, the members of the churchwide executive board, the presidents of the synodical women's organizations, those women elected as voting members by the conventions of the synodical women's organizations, and those voting members appointed to fulfill the inclusiveness guidelines of Women of the ELCA (Article XI, Section 5, Items 1 and 2).

SEATING OF VOTING MEMBERS

Voting members must register at the credentialing desk before being seated in the sections reserved for them. The roll of voting members may not be changed after July 11, 2017 (Plenary meeting #1) without specific approval of the convention.

QUORUM

A majority of the registered voting members shall constitute a quorum.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

According to the Constitution of Women of the ELCA, seat and voice shall be granted to the bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, or the bishop's representative and to advisors to the Women of the ELCA Executive Board (Article XI, Section 6, Item 1).

Voice shall be given to the executive director.

Voice shall be given to staff and guests when granted by the presiding officer.

Upon request by a voting member, and with the approval of a two-thirds majority of the voting members, a resource person may speak on a pending question for a period of time not to exceed two minutes. Such speakers shall identify themselves by name and office.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES

At the opening business meeting, the churchwide president shall announce the membership of the following committees:

Conduct of Elections Committee

Credentials Committee

Memorials Committee

Minutes Approval Committee

Nominating Committee

Offerings Committee

Reference and Counsel Committee

CONVENTION BUSINESS AGENDA

The churchwide organization president shall be granted the privilege of adjusting the agenda and calling up any item of business she deems necessary in light of schedule and time constraints.

CONVENTION MINUTES

The minutes approval committee is authorized to approve the minutes.

VOTING PROCEDURES

To be eligible to vote, a voting member must be seated in the designated section. No proxy or absentee voting is permitted.

Elections shall be by ballot or electronically; all other voting will be by ballot, show of voting cards or electronically. Voting cards will be used as follows:

Affirmative vote – green card

Negative vote – red card

NOMINATIONS FROM THE FLOOR

Nominations from the floor for secretary, treasurer and executive board members may be made by filing the completed prescribed form with the nominations desk (maintained under the supervision of the nominating committee) during the following periods:

Proposed Rules of Procedure

Tuesday, July 11, 2017 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

Tuesday, July 11, 2017 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, July 12, 2017 7:30 – 8:30 a.m.

Nomination forms may be obtained from the nominations desk. (See “Procedure for Nominations from the Floor,” page 82.) Floor nominations must be signed by five voting members. The person being nominated shall have given her consent and indicated her willingness to serve if elected. Nominations will be considered made in the order in which they are filed with the nominations desk and will be reported in alphabetical order by last name.

ELECTIONS

Refer to Women of the ELCA Constitution and Bylaws, Article XIV, Sections 3, 5 and 6.

The third ballot for president shall be limited to the five persons (plus ties) who received the greatest number of votes on the second ballot. The top five nominees, plus ties, will address the convention for no more than three minutes each. The fourth ballot shall be limited to the two persons (plus ties) who received the highest number of votes on the third ballot.

The third ballot for vice president shall be limited to the five persons (plus ties) who received the highest number of votes on the second ballot. The fourth ballot shall be limited to the two persons (plus ties) who received the highest number of votes on the third ballot.

The second ballots for secretary and for treasurer shall be limited to the two persons (plus ties) who received the greatest number of votes on the first ballots.

After the third ballot for executive board members, subsequent ballots shall be limited to twice the number of board members yet to be elected to fulfill the constitutional criteria.

MEMORIALS AND REFERENCE AND COUNSEL COMMITTEES

According to the Constitution and Bylaws of Women of the ELCA, the memorials committee and reference and counsel committee shall be appointed by the president of the churchwide women’s organization with the approval of the executive board. The memorials committee shall review memorials from the conventions of the synodical women’s organizations and make appropriate recommendations for the Tenth Triennial Convention (2017) action (Article XI, Section 7, Item 2). The reference and counsel committee shall review all items submitted at the convention which are not germane to items contained in the stated agenda of the triennial convention and make appropriate recommendations for triennial convention action (Article XI, Section 7, Item 1).

STATUS OF RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE MEMORIALS COMMITTEE AND THE REFERENCE AND COUNSEL COMMITTEE

A recommendation from the memorials committee or the reference and counsel committee shall be the main motion before the convention. A committee recommendation will be one of the following:

1. adopt the memorial or resolution as originally submitted,
2. adopt the memorial or resolution as amended by the committee,
3. adopt a substitute memorial or resolution,
4. reject the memorial or resolution, or
5. refer the memorial or resolution to the Executive Board for further study and/or action. (Note: This is required if the expenditure of funds is involved.)

If the committee recommends 2, 3, 4 or 5 and the body rejects the recommendation, the original memorial or resolution becomes the main motion on the floor.

Proposed Rules of Procedure

MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

Any voting member may make a motion or present a resolution from the floor if the motion or resolution is germane to the question under consideration.

Motions and resolutions of a general character and not germane to a pending question must be signed by five (5) voting members and introduced no later than Plenary Meeting #3, Wednesday, July 12, 2017, at the time the chair calls for the second and final opportunity to present new business.

All motions shall be written on forms provided for that purpose and submitted immediately to the page seated on the convention floor directly in front of the stage.

Any motion necessitating the allocation of funds shall be referred to the executive board. The executive board shall make a report at a subsequent meeting of the convention.

All proposed amendments to the churchwide constitution shall be made in accordance with Article XVIII of the Constitution and Bylaws of Women of the ELCA. All proposed amendments to the Approved Constitution and Bylaws for Synodical Women's Organizations and the Approved Model Constitution and Bylaws for the Congregational/ Intercongregational and Special Units must be signed by five (5) voting members representing no fewer than three (3) synodical women's organizations and referred to the executive board. The executive board shall report on proposed amendments at a subsequent meeting of the convention but shall not be required to do so until 24 hours have elapsed following the presentation.

EN BLOC ACTIONS

Constitutions and bylaws may be amended and memorials may be adopted by en bloc votes, unless a voting member objects to the inclusion of any constitutional amendment or memorial in the block. *En bloc* means "as a group." In en bloc voting, all of the actions proposed in a given category will be voted

on at the same time without discussion. The specific recommendations that will be included in en bloc voting are these:

- Recommendations from the executive board for proposed amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws of Women of the ELCA.
- Recommendations from the executive board for proposed amendments to the Approved Constitution and Bylaws for Synodical Women's Organizations.
- Recommendations from the executive board for proposed amendments to the Approved Constitution and Bylaws for Congregational/ Intercongregational and Special Units.
- Recommendations from the memorials committee on memorials from synodical conventions.

Any voting member who objects to the inclusion of any item in any of the proposed blocks shall notify the secretary of the convention in writing by Tuesday, July 11, 2017, 12:30 p.m. by delivering the written notification to the secretary or her designee located in front of the stage at the front of the business plenary meeting hall. Particular provisions so identified will be presented to the convention separately from the rest of the proposals in that block. Any recommendations not objected to will be considered as part of the en bloc resolutions.

Forms for requesting removal from en bloc are available from the secretary or her designee immediately after the first business plenary meeting at the front of the stage in the front of the business plenary meeting hall.

SPEECHES

- All speeches in general discussion, unless otherwise determined by a two-thirds vote of the convention, shall be limited to two minutes. Total debate on any motion will be limited to 10 minutes.

Proposed Rules of Procedure

- No person shall speak more than twice on the same issue without the consent of the convention and only after all others who wish to speak have spoken.
- Voting members must use the microphone and identify themselves by name and synodical women's organization or name and executive board member and wait to be recognized before proceeding to speak.
- Speakers will proceed to the microphones with green cards if speaking in favor of the motion on the floor or to the microphones with red cards if speaking against the motion on the floor. To raise a question of order voting members will proceed to either microphone carrying the white card given them at the time of credentialing.
- The chair will ask for debate on an alternating pro and con basis.
- A motion shall be put to vote immediately when no one wishes to speak in opposition to a pending question.
- A speaker who has spoken on the pending question(s) may not move the previous question(s) at the conclusion of her speech.

ATTENDANCE

All voting members shall attend all business meetings of the Tenth Triennial Convention (2017), including specially called meetings. Unless excused by the churchwide vice president, a voting member's failure to attend will result in forfeiture of the travel reimbursement and the expense allowance for the day(s) of absence.

DISTRIBUTION OF MATERIALS

After the convention is in session, permission to distribute materials other than official convention materials within the convention center and not issued by the secretary must be secured from the reference and counsel committee.

POLICY ON ELECTIONEERING

The Policy on Electioneering as adopted by the executive board of Women of the ELCA shall apply throughout the nomination and election process for the convention. This policy is printed below.

There are a variety of gifts, but the same Spirit AND

There are a variety of services, but the same Lord AND

There are a variety of activities, but the same God who activates them in everyone.

Women of the ELCA affirms and believes all women should have equal opportunity for involvement and leadership in the organization.

Women of the ELCA further believes that the Spirit that binds us all through baptism is the guiding factor for each voting member prayerfully to review and consider each nominee's biographical information prior to the synodical women's conventions or churchwide triennial convention.

Each participant further understands that promoting one candidate over another through campaigning is in fact interfering with God's plan and actions for participants of Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

GOVERNING PARLIAMENTARY LAW

Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, latest edition, shall be the governing parliamentary procedure of this convention, except as otherwise provided in the Constitution and Bylaws of Women of the ELCA.

Tips on Parliamentary Procedure

Parliamentary procedure provides for good structure and efficiency in conducting business. Its purpose is to:

1. expedite business in an orderly manner;
2. put democracy into action, giving the majority the right to decide and the minority the right to express dissenting views; and
3. show courtesy, fairness and impartiality.

Familiarity with parliamentary procedure helps voting members participate in convention business meetings with confidence. These pages focus on the procedures most commonly needed by voting members at the triennial convention. An additional information source is *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised*, latest edition, which in accordance with the bylaws, will govern procedures used at the convention.

During a meeting, a voting member may ask the presiding officer for parliamentary help. One of the presiding officer's responsibilities is to facilitate consideration of business.

A hearing on the proposed 2018 Women of the ELCA budget is planned. Those interested will have an opportunity to discuss the recommendations before the budget comes to the floor of the convention.

INTRODUCING BUSINESS

Four main channels are available for introducing business to the convention.

1. Reports of the president, treasurer, executive board and executive director

These reports, found here in the *Convention Program and Reports*, will be introduced by an officer at the appropriate time in the agenda. These reports are received by virtue of their presentation and are not acted upon. Recommendations attached to these reports will be presented for action to the convention.

2. Reports of convention business committees

These reports are presented by the committee chairpersons at the appropriate times in the agenda. The role of the committees is to review the reports, memorials or resolutions referred to them and formulate recommendations to the convention.

3. Main motions

A main motion is the basic form of motion. It is the only way new business may be introduced to the convention.

- a. Voting members may introduce main motions when the motions are germane (closely related) to the subject before the convention.

These main motions must be written on the form provided for this purpose. A form is provided in this Convention Program and Reports (see page 85) and additional forms can be obtained from a page during a business meeting. Three additional copies of the motion are needed. The page will make those copies and bring them to the platform immediately following the making of the motion. One copy is given to the president, one to the secretary and one to the parliamentarian.

- b. Resolutions are main motions used by voting members to introduce new business.

Resolutions may be introduced by voting members at specified times in the convention agenda. The proposed Rules of Procedure state that such resolutions must be signed by at least five voting members.

Resolutions must be written on the form provided for this purpose. A form is provided in this *Convention Program and Reports* (see page 85) and additional forms can be obtained from a page during a business

Tips on Parliamentary Procedure

meeting. Three additional copies of the motion are needed. The page will make those copies and bring them to the platform immediately following the making of the motion. One copy is given to the president, one to the secretary and one to the parliamentarian.

When these resolutions are introduced, the presenter states the topic of the resolution but does not read the resolution. The resolutions are not discussed, debated or acted on at this time. Instead they are transmitted to the reference and counsel committee, which will report on them to the convention with its recommendations for action.

If the reference and counsel committee wishes to hear discussion on a specific resolution, the committee may schedule a hearing. The committee chairperson conducts the hearing. Hearings have no legislative authority. Views and opinions expressed in the hearing are considered by the reference and counsel committee in preparing its recommendations for convention action.

4. Amendments to Women of the ELCA Constitution and Bylaws

The executive board is proposing several amendments to the constitution and bylaws. Voting members may also propose amendments according to the procedures outlined in Article XVIII of the Women of the ELCA Constitution.

INTRODUCING MAIN MOTIONS

The usual way to begin consideration on a matter is to make a main motion. Only one motion should be placed before the convention at one time. A main motion can be debated, amended, referred, postponed or tabled. It ranks below all other subsidiary motions.

1. Obtain the floor.

A voting member goes to a microphone and addresses the presiding officer: *Madam President* or *Madam Chairperson*. Then the voting member gives her name and her synodical women's organization (for example: *Susan Anderson, Central/Southern Illinois*). The presiding officer then recognizes the voting member.

2. Introduce the business.

The voting member then states the motion: *I move that ...*

Another voting member seconds the motion. She does not give her name or SWO. When the presiding officer has the written motion, she states it again. This opens the matter for debate.

ACTING ON BUSINESS

A motion will usually be adopted or rejected in its original form or in an amended form after using appropriate procedure. (See "Amending a Main Motion.")

Business before the convention will generally be disposed of in one of three ways:

1. By adoption.
2. By rejection.
3. By applying an appropriate subsidiary motion. (See listing of these motions.)

AMENDING A MAIN MOTION

A main motion before the convention can be changed or amended at the will of the convention. A motion to amend is made after a main motion is made and seconded. It must be germane (closely related) to the subject of the main motion. Amendments may be made by (1) adding to, (2) inserting, (3) striking out, (4) striking out and inserting, or (5) substituting.

Tips on Parliamentary Procedure

Example of amending by “adding to”:

Mary: “I move that the churchwide organization plan a series of environmental conferences during the next triennium.”

Voting member: “I second it.”

Presiding Officer: “It is moved and seconded that the churchwide organization plan a series of environmental conferences during the next triennium. Is there any discussion?”

Martha: “I move to amend the motion to add the words, ‘in various locations throughout the organization.’”

Voting member: “I second it.”

Presiding Officer: “It has been moved and seconded that the motion be amended to add the words, ‘in various locations throughout the organization.’ Is there any discussion?”

At this point, discussion concerns the amendment, not the main motion. The amendment to the main motion can be amended.

The first amendment is called a primary amendment; the second, a secondary amendment. The secondary amendment must always apply directly to the primary amendment and not revert to the main motion. Only two amendments can be applied to a motion at one time. Using the above example, then, amending the amendment would be as follows:

Sarah: “I move to amend the amendment by striking out the word ‘various’ and inserting ‘at least two.’”

Voting member: “I second it.”

Presiding Officer: “It has been moved and seconded to amend the amendment by striking out the word ‘various’ and inserting ‘at least two.’ The amendment therefore would say, ‘in at least two locations throughout the organization.’ Is there any discussion?”

Discussion at this point is on the secondary

amendment and not on the primary amendment or the main motion.

VOTING ON AMENDMENTS

In using the above example, three votes are needed to act on the main motion and two amendments.

1. *First vote:* the secondary amendment, changing the words of the primary amendment by striking out the word “various” and inserting “at least two.” A majority vote needed. If carried, then a second vote is held.
2. *Second vote:* on adopting the primary amendment as changed, “in at least two locations throughout the organization.” A majority vote is needed. If carried, then a third vote is held.
3. *Third vote:* on adopting the main motion as changed: “That the churchwide organization plan a series of environmental conferences during the next triennium in at least two locations throughout the organization.” A majority vote is needed.

In each instance, the presiding officer states what is being voted on before the actual voting so that each voting member will know what she is voting on.

In case of an amendment by substitution, after the proposed substitute is “stated,” the presiding officer asks for further discussion on the original motion, then on the substitute motion. Either may be altered by secondary amendment. After discussion has ended, a vote is taken on the motion to substitute. A majority vote is required. If the vote is “yes,” then the substitute motion with any amendments that have been made becomes the pending question. The original motion has been replaced and is no longer pending. A final vote is taken on the adoption of the motion as amended by substitution. No further amendments are in order except by adding, as long as the added amendments do not alter the content of the substituted amendment. If the vote to substitute

Tips on Parliamentary Procedure

is “no,” then discussion and amendment may resume on the original motion before the final vote is taken.

TYPES OF MOTIONS

During a triennial convention, a variety of motions may be used to transact the business. Listed below are a number of motions which might be used, along with a few brief notes about their use, whether they can be amended and debated, and the vote required.

Privileged motions

Privileged motions have to do with the rights or needs of the assembly. They outrank (that is, take precedence over) all other motions and have rank among themselves. They are as follows:

- 1. Fix the time at which to adjourn**
 - “I move that when we adjourn, we adjourn to meet at [time and place].”
 - Use to set a time and place for an adjourned meeting.
 - Not debatable. Amendable. Majority vote.
- 2. To urn** (to bring convention to a close)
 - “I move we adjourn.”
 - Not debatable. Not amendable. Majority vote.
- 3. To recess** (to call an intermission)
 - “I move we recess for... [state time: for example, 30 minutes, until 2 p.m.]”
 - Not debatable. Amendable. Majority vote.
- 4. To raise a question of privilege** (to request rights and privileges of the convention or an individual; for example, to point out that one cannot hear the proceedings)
 - “I rise to a question of privilege.”
 - Use to request rights or privileges.
 - Not debatable. Not amendable. Chair decides.
- 5. To call for the orders of the day** (to return to the established agenda)
 - “I call for the orders of the day.”
 - Not debatable. Not amendable. Chair decides.

Subsidiary motions

Subsidiary motions assist the convention in treating or disposing of main motions. They rank below privileged and above main motions.

- 1. To lay on the table**
 - “I move to lay the question on the table.”
 - Use to lay one matter aside temporarily so that a more urgent matter can be considered.
 - Not debatable. Not amendable. Majority vote.
- 2. To end debate and vote immediately**
 - “I move the previous question.”
 - Use to stop debate and vote immediately on the question (pending motion) before the convention. This motion to end debate requires that an immediate vote be taken on the question, which limits the rights of those who wish to continue to debate.
 - Not debatable. Not amendable. Two-thirds vote.
- 3. To limit or extend limits of debate**
 - “I move that debate be limited to (or end at, etc.)”
 - Use to define length of time of speeches or numbers of speakers, or to close debate at a specified time.
 - Not debatable. Amendable. Two-thirds vote.
- 4. To postpone to a definite time**
 - “I move that we postpone consideration of this question to ... (state time: for example, next business meeting of this convention).”
 - Use (1) to set a time when a question can be considered more fully at a more convenient time, or (2) because arguments advanced during debate have indicated the need to make a decision at a later time.

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- Debatable. Amendable. Majority vote.
5. **To refer**
 - “I move that the question of ____ be referred to (state group: for example, executive board, reference and counsel committee, a committee to be [elected or appointed] for [further study, study and report back]).”
 - Use to have a question considered more intensively by a small group.
 - Debatable. Amendable. Majority vote.
 6. **To amend main motion**
 - “I move to amend this motion by ...”
 - Use to change or modify a motion. Change must be related to the subject of the motion. Amendments can be made by adding to, striking out, inserting, striking out and inserting, and substituting.
 - Debatable. Amendable. Majority vote.
 7. **To postpone indefinitely**
 - “I move to postpone consideration of the question indefinitely.”
 - Use to reject a motion or to test the strength of those supporting and those opposing the question.
 - Debatable. Not amendable. Majority vote.

Motions to bring a question again before an assembly

1. **To reconsider**
 - “I move to reconsider the vote on the question of _____. I voted with the prevailing side.”
 - Use to suspend action that a motion already carried requires. A motion to reconsider may be offered only by one who voted on the prevailing side of the question and may be made only on the day the previous vote on the question was taken or on the next succeeding day of convention business. If the motion to reconsider is adopted, the question

before the convention is exactly the same question and in the same form as at the time the original vote was taken.

Not debatable. Not amendable. Majority vote.

2. **To take from table**

- “I move to take from the table the motion that _____, which was laid on the table (state time: for example, at the meeting on Tuesday morning, at the last meeting).”
- Use to take a matter previously set aside by being laid on the table. To bring back this motion, the business that was interrupted at the earlier time should be complete.
- Not debatable. Not amendable. Majority vote.

3. **To rescind**

- “I move we rescind the action _____, which was adopted _____.”
- Use to annul something previously adopted. If notice of interest to rescind is given at a previous meeting, a simple majority vote is needed. If the motion to rescind is made at the current meeting and the intention is to call for a vote at this meeting, then a two-thirds vote is necessary for immediate passage.
- Debatable. Amendable.

Incidental motions

Incidental motions are incidental to the pending question. They must be disposed of before action is taken on questions from which they arise. They have no rank in this class.

1. **To call for a point of order**

- “I rise to a point of order.”
- Use to call attention to a mistake in parliamentary procedure or the order of business or the relevancy of a voting member’s remarks. The voting member rises and addresses the presiding officer. She need not be recognized before speaking and she

Tips on Parliamentary Procedure

may interrupt a speaker who has the floor.
Not debatable. Not amendable. Chair
decides.

2. **To make a parliamentary inquiry**
 - “I rise to a parliamentary inquiry.”
 - Use to ask for information on parliamentary procedure.
 - Not debatable. Not amendable. Chair responds.
3. **To request additional information**
 - “I rise for information.”
 - Use to request additional information about the question before the convention.
 - Not debatable. Not amendable. Chair responds.
4. **To request a division of the convention (to *verify the accuracy of a vote*)**
 - “Division” or “I ask for a division.”
 - Use to request a vote again on the same question when the results of the first vote (voice or show of hands) seem to be in doubt.
 - Not debatable. Not amendable. No vote.
5. **To withdraw a motion before it is stated by the chair.**
 - “I move that I be allowed to withdraw my motion.”
 - Use to withdraw a motion after it is seconded.
 - Not debatable. Not amendable. No vote.
6. **To withdraw a second**
 - “I wish to withdraw my second to the motion.”
 - Use to indicate disagreement with changes made in a motion by the maker. The second may be withdrawn only if the question has not yet been stated by the chair.
 - Not debatable. Not amendable. No vote.

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7. **To object to consideration of a question**
 - “I object to consideration of the question.”
 - Use to test the convention’s desire even to consider a main motion.
 - An objection must be made before any debate on the main motion begins.
 - Not debatable. Not amendable. Two-thirds vote.
8. **To appeal from the decision of the chair**
 - “I appeal from the decision of the chair.”
 - Use to challenge the ruling of the presiding officer.
 - Debatable only when applied to a debatable motion. Not amendable. Majority vote.
9. **To close nominations**
 - “I move that nominations for (treasurer, secretary, etc.) be closed.”
 - Use to closed nominations.
 - Not debatable. Amendable only as to time. Two-thirds vote.
 - The presiding officer also may declare that nominations are closed.
10. **To divide a question**
 - “I move that the motion be divided into ___ and ____.”
 - Use to divide a motion that consists of several parts, each of which can stand as a distinct proposal even if separated from the other parts.
 - Not debatable. Amendable. Majority vote.

NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION PROCEDURES

Three major procedures are used in choosing nominees for the four officers of the churchwide organization and the 17 members of the executive board.

1. **By nominating ballot**

This kind of ballot is used in the nomination of candidates for the offices of president and vice president. The first ballot taken in the election process for these officers is referred to as the nominating ballot. The use of the nominating ballot provides all voting members with opportunity to nominate persons for these two offices.

2. **By the nominating committee**

A slate of nominees for the offices of secretary and treasurer and the seventeen executive board members is presented by the nominating committee. All voting members of the convention, as well as congregational units, have had the opportunity and responsibility to suggest candidates to the committee.

3. **From the floor**

Nominations from the floor can be made at the nominations desk, according to the Rules of Procedure. The complete text of procedures governing nominations and elections of the churchwide officers and board members is located in Article XIV in the Women of the ELCA Constitution and Bylaws and in the Rules of Procedure.

Report of the President

“For such a time as this”

These words were spoken to Esther (4:14) as words of encouragement by Mordecai and they need to be heard by us today. The Lord has great plans and purposes for our lives and will accomplish great things in and through us when we realize that we are not where we are randomly or by chance but for such a time as this.

After I was elected president in July 2014, I was in shock. I had no clue why I was elected; but that night and in the following days I kept hearing these words from Esther, “for such a time as this.” It has taken three years for me to totally grasp the meaning of these words of encouragement.

It has been a journey of a lifetime. I have crisscrossed this country meeting women with a passion for serving God in their congregations and in their communities. I have witnessed the amazing ministries that have been accomplished both here and abroad.

I am both humbled and grateful to have had the opportunity to serve as your president for these three years; and I thank God for the many blessings that I have received by being a part of an organization that both honors and respects women’s ministry.

It would be very remiss of me not to acknowledge the many contributions of the women of the churchwide executive board with whom I have served. Their spirit, vulnerability and strength are a testimony to the power of women in ministry. Their leadership, vision and commitment have played a major role in empowering the women in the pews, and their support and prayers have uplifted me during this journey.

I am so thankful for the continuing service of our executive director, Linda Post Bushkofsky and her staff. They have brought our organization into the 21st century technologically. They play a major role in planning and implementing strategies for successful triennial conventions and gatherings.

Linda and her staff are the go to people for questions and answers; and they are always implementing and creating new resources for our organization.

I would also like to thank the executive board advisors who have served beside the board as we faced many important decisions at each board meeting; we are blessed to have them as partners in ministry. Their wisdom and patience has been an asset to each board member.

As I consider our time together, I am struck by the amazing work we have been able to accomplish as we followed God’s call. We have walked alongside women and girls all around this country and around the world. We have changed laws and brought awareness in almost every state concerning human trafficking, bringing hope into seemingly hopeless situations.

I had the opportunity to walk alongside our brothers and sisters in Tanzania with Women Building Global Community, where we provided seed grants for Raising up Healthy Women and Girls Globally along with hand-delivering quilts, health kits and backpacks from Lutheran World Relief. I will never forget the smiles on those children’s faces. I also had the privilege of traveling to Guatemala to support schools, education for girls and a mission church in El Tuerito.

Together, we are supporting our brothers and sisters in Liberia by providing solar power for Phebe Hospital, along with providing opportunities for education and training to accompany our global companions. We have become pioneers in changing the world for our brothers and sisters in developing countries.

We continue to maintain our commitment to racial justice and sponsor Today’s Dream: Tomorrow’s Reality training all around the country.

Through our annual Conference of Presidents, our leaders have continued to develop leadership skills, stewardship values and learn ways to use their gifts and talents for their work within their synods.

I have been to Washington D.C. twice with Lutheran Immigration and Refugees Service for “LIRS Leadership Summit” where I spoke with senators and congressmen on behalf of refugees and immigrants, asking our congress to maintain the United States’ position as the world leader in protecting the most vulnerable. We also asked Congress to support compassionate policies that provide immediate protection for Central American children and families and to find faithful solutions to the condition that cause people to flee their homeland.

During my three years as president, I have attended many conventions and cluster meetings and heard so many stories from faith-filled women, women who work tirelessly, living out our Purpose Statement through their congregations and communities, working with different ministries in each of their synods, and walking alongside women and children in their journey on the margins of life.

Ladies, we continue to support each other in our faith journey through Bible studies in *Café* groups, *Gather* magazine, our circle groups and independent studies. We advocate for public policy based on our values; we advocate for those living on the edge, the least of these.

Hope is not something you can see or measure. But one thing is for sure, where God is at work there is always hope.

Women have a new place in this world today. The possibilities are endless. Anywhere you find Women of the ELCA, you will find a light shining in the darkness.

In my first speaking engagement as churchwide president of Women of the ELCA, which was at the Southeastern Synod Leadership Convocation in NC, I spoke about how God had not called us to fix the mess; rather He has called us to jump dead into the middle of the mess, to be present. To be present in the middle of the mess, to depend on that which we cannot see.

Thank you, thank you for this wonderful gift these past three years to serve as president for this remarkable community of women; we have worked together, prayed together, laughed and cried together, we are sisters in service for our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

So ladies, go boldly, knowing that you have purpose, and knowing that you have been called “for such a time as this.”

Respectfully submitted,

Patti Austin

President 2014–2017 Triennium

Report of the Treasurer

Our organization is at a crucial financial point. Revenues have not kept up with expenses, and in each triennium we have been forced to use savings that are being depleted. Day to day operations have been met, but the constitutionally mandated cost of the triennial convention remains unfunded.

FISCAL YEAR 2014

The 2014 fiscal year ended with net income exceeding expenses by \$68,373. However, no allocation (approximately \$200,000) was made for the triennial convention. The positive cash flow was largely due to a generous donor gift. Regular offerings were only 70 per cent of the projected budget.

FISCAL YEAR 2015

Thankofferings increased to 99 per cent of budget and regular offerings were 84 per cent of budget, but other funding fell short. Expenses exceeded revenue by \$243,840.

FISCAL YEAR 2016

At the beginning of this fiscal year a new subscription management firm was hired to manage *Gather* subscriptions. The transfer of funds to this new firm for prepaid subscriptions resulted in a book entry of revenue that inflates net income from *Gather*. Thankofferings and regular offerings continued to be less than budget (94 per cent and 73 per cent, respectively).

WHAT CAN WE DO?

Speak out! Be an advocate for our organization. Invite women to an event in your unit. Ask a woman to participate on a new level as a board member. Use our publications to help women understand the mission and ministry Women of the ELCA. Tell your story!

Live in gratitude and give joyfully remembering the women who have been examples of BOLD to you! Become a Faithful Friend. For only 33 cents a day you can provide regular ongoing support to our ministries. The form is available on our website. Remember Women of the ELCA in your legacy giving and pray for the continued spiritual and financial health of our organization.

Respectfully submitted,
Ely Smith
Treasurer, 2014–2017 Triennium

Report of the Churchwide Executive Board

Following the constitutional requirements, the churchwide executive board has taken an active role in this triennium as the vision-setters and policy-makers of this organization while supporting the executive director and her staff as they carry out the day-to-day running of Women of the ELCA.

Three committees augment the work of the board that takes place in its twice-yearly meetings. Those committees are budget and finance, constitution reviews and programs and communication. Their work is complemented by the work of the executive committee that plans the board meeting agendas and carries out board responsibilities between board meetings. In addition, a board stewardship development committee exists, on which three board members serve with two non-board members. Every committee is supported by at least one staff member.

The board committed to and engaged in both racial justice and stewardship education at all board meetings. The board carried out its constitutional responsibility to conduct an annual review of the executive director, in consultation with the ELCA presiding bishop.

The board has diligently executed its financial responsibilities, overseeing the stewardship of offerings made and gifts given to the churchwide women's organization. Board members faithfully interpret both revenue and expense sides of the annual budget as they meet with women at synodical conventions and elsewhere. Working with the executive director and other staff, the board took several cost-saving measures over this triennium and closely monitored the organization's finances. The board, through the treasurer and budget and finance committee, oversaw annual audits.

The president provided a representative to attend every synodical convention throughout the triennium. The board's synodical convention coordinator regularly reported out to the board regarding

synodical conventions while also coordinating the assignment of board members to those conventions.

Together with synodical presidents, the president and three or four other board members worked to plan and carryout the constitutionally-mandated annual conference of presidents, supported by staff.

The board has been active in both the grants and scholarship programs of the churchwide organization. A board member serves on each committee, participating fully in the review and selection process. Special grants to programs in India are awarded each year through the India Endowment Funds, a legacy of predecessor women's organizations; recommendations for those grants come through the board's programs and communication committee, in consultation with staff of the ELCA Global Mission unit. Further information on grants made and scholarships awarded in this triennium can be found in Appendix A and B.

Highlights from the 2014-2017 triennium:

- The board endorsed the creation of Faithful Friends, the new monthly giving program.
- A task force appointed by the president reviewed the organization's policy against electioneering, a policy applying to the nomination and election processes for churchwide officers and board members. The existing policy was reaffirmed, with special notice given to potential ramifications from social media use.
- Acting upon recommendations from a task force consisting of the president, treasurer, executive director and director for meeting planning following extensive site visits, the board selected Phoenix, Arizona as the site for the 2020 triennial convention and gathering and Spokane, Washington as the site for the 2023 triennial convention and gathering.

Report of the Churchwide Executive Board

- Through the presence of the president and select staff, Women of the ELCA participated in the 2015 ELCA Youth Gathering in Detroit, focusing efforts on human trafficking awareness, and the 2016 Churchwide Assembly and Grace Gathering in New Orleans, focusing efforts on promoting *Gather* and *Café* while building awareness of the organization and its mission.
- Board members participated in a review process of the churchwide organization's grants program (see Appendix A).
- Board members took several actions relating to the triennial convention, including the adoption of the proposed agenda and proposed rules of procedure, set the budget, established policies regarding electioneering and appointment of at-large voting members and designated offering recipients. The board also designated the offerings for the triennial gathering and oversaw the agenda for the gathering.
- Following the work of an ad hoc committee and based on the recommendations of the programs and communication committee, the executive board
 - affirmed and encouraged the continued relationship between the Arkansas-Oklahoma Synodical Women's Organization and Oaks Indian Mission;
 - recommended that all synodical women's organizations develop relationships with American Indians and/or Alaskan Native ministries within or near their synods;
 - on behalf of the organization, supported the ELCA's repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery, as acted on by the ELCA Churchwide Assembly (2016); and
 - encouraged participants to educate themselves about the repudiation and identify ways to reduce the negative impact of the Doctrine of Discovery and its consequences for Native People in North America.
- Authorized the executive director to pursue negotiations with Equal Exchange with the goal of bringing a formal agreement between the two organizations to the October 2017 board meeting, continuing a working relationship between the organizations that spans three decades.

The board thanks its three advisors for their continued support of the organization: the Rev. Dr. Wyvetta Bullock, representing the Office of the Presiding Bishop; the Rev. Wilma Kucharek, representing the ELCA Conference of Bishops; and Mr. Bernie Bresson, representing Lutheran Men in Mission.

A complete roster of the executive board for the 2014–2017 triennium can be found on page 91.

Respectfully submitted,
The Churchwide Executive Board
for the 2014–2017 triennium

Appendix A: Women of the ELCA Grants

GRANTS YEAR 2014

Committee members:

Josselyn Bennett, ELCA's Director, Poverty and Justice Ministries,

Diane Fredericks, Women of the ELCA executive board member

Romi Pierce, Program director, Help Me Grow, Alameda County, CA), and

Janet Volk, ELCA pastor

Staff: Inez Torres Davis, Vanessa Davis-Bragg

2014 DOMESTIC GRANT STATISTICS

Total dollars available: \$67,724

Domestic: \$57,700

Total grants awarded: \$67,700

International \$10,000

REGION 1

Our Saviour's Lutheran on Rocky Boy (1F)

Partnership for Camp for Chippewa Cree Kids
\$3,000

Provide partial grants for children and youth (grades 4 – 12) of the Chippewa Cree tribe(s) living in poverty to attend a life-enhancing one week of camp at Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp (ELCA).

Central City Lutheran (2C)

Liturgical Arts Business Development
\$2,500

Empower local (mostly) Latino women (many HIV positive or living with AIDS) and mostly homeless living in the streets of San Bernardino, Calif. who have collected at this mission to create a community and now start a new business that will design, market, and distribute clerical shirts and liturgical vestments via the internet and other venues.

REGION 2

Many Mansions (2)B

Girl Talk
\$2,000

Provide a girls-only mentorship and empowerment program to low-income, (some) homeless girls ages 12 to 17 that uses interactive lessons and field trips for growth and powerfully helpful interaction with female role models

LSS of the Southwest: Refugee Focus (2D)

Refugee Women's Health
\$2,000

This project of the Women's Empowerment Program offers women's health classes to newly-arrived refugee women who are learning to take care of their health, as well as their families' health, in the United States

Interfaith Community Services (2D)

Emergency Assistance for Women in financial crisis
\$1,500

This project helps women in financial crisis move toward stability through short-term financial assistance and tools (uniforms, identification,

Appendix A: Women of the ELCA Grants

certifications, transportation, health exams) that improve their employability and financial literacy.

La Clinica Tepeyac, Inc. (2E)

Es Dificil Ser Mujer
\$2,000

Provides support for the growing depression amongst the underserved Latina communities in Denver with this program that brings together women to help them cope with the symptoms of depression and push back against the common stigmas associated with depression.

REGION 3

Bundles of Love Charity (3H)

Peace of Mind Project
\$2,000

Bundles of Love has about 32 essentials for a newborn baby (diapers, hand-made clothing, quilts, bedding, blankets etc.) to new mothers and newborns identified by social and hospital workers based on economic distress so that their baby's basic needs are met.

Ruth's House of Hope, Inc. (3I)

Transitional Shelter Program
\$2,000

This program provides safe shelter, food and supportive services to women and children who have become homeless due to domestic violence, financial instability, chemical dependency, physical or mental illness or other traumatic life circumstances.

REGION 4

LFS of Nebraska (4A)

Rsafe® Trauma Treatment/Therapeutic Support for Children & Families
\$2,500

RSafe® is Lutheran Family Services' evidence-based, behavioral health treatment program offering trauma treatment and therapeutic support for families impacted by child sexual abuse that ministers to the whole family, including child victims of sexual abuse and children who exhibit sexual acting-out behaviors.

Kids Against Hunger (4E)

Rainbow House Family Support
\$3,000

Formerly homeless women and children who have completed a residential training program at Rainbow House (Metro Ministries) receive food packages they help pack at Kids Against Hunger events that also turn and distribute food packages to food pantries.

REGION 5

Korean Women in Need (5A)

Bi-lingual Counseling Project
\$4,000

This bilingual counseling project will offer culturally sensitive and linguistically appropriate counseling services to Asian American and immigrant survivors of domestic violence, emotional and physical abuse.

LSS Illinois (5A)

Prison & Family Ministry
\$2,500

LSS helps fund the buses that transport children (and their caregivers, who mostly are women) to the children's mothers in prison. The caregivers participate in a support group while the children visit their mothers.

Appendix A: Women of the ELCA Grants

Historic Grace Lutheran Church (5C)

Summer Nutrition

\$2,000

Summer Nutrition fills the gap for children living in poverty that are out of school for the summer and, thereby, missing the free breakfast and lunches that keep them from hunger during the school year.

Children and Families of Iowa (5D)

Trauma-Informed Domestic Violence Services

\$2,000

Providing personal needs (medical supplies and services, clothing, child care, food, gasoline, bus tokens and other basic necessities) items for clients of this comprehensive, trauma-informed care to survivors of domestic violence and their families, with the ultimate goal of assisting people to create safe, self-sufficient lives.

REGION 6

Exodus Refugee Immigration Inc. (6C)

Exodus Refugee Women's Self-Sufficiency Program

\$2,000

Provide emergency barrier reduction assistance for female refugees, asylees, and human trafficking victims within a supportive environment where they: (1) build social and economic self-sufficiency; (2) learn the skills and resources necessary to succeed in the U.S.; and (3) increase their confidence and well-being.

Bliss House (6C)

Residential Health and Wellness

\$2,940

Provide non-narcotic medication within this project that provides counseling and prescription medication for women in recovery from alcohol and drug addiction. Residents also receive (12) one-hour group sessions of Equine Assisted Therapy for 12 weeks.

Turning Point (6D)

Direct Client Assistance

\$800

Providing client assistance funds to underwrite items state and federal funds cannot cover such as personal documents, home safety, pre-employment necessities, transportation assistance, school supplies, etc.

Aurora Project (6D)

Transitional Housing for Women and Children

\$1,200

Aurora's comprehensive housing and life skills program empowers homeless women and their children to achieve self-sufficiency and independence by providing resources and learning opportunities in a supportive and safe environment.

REGION 7

Brazilian Immigrant Center (7B)

Domestic Workers Project of Connecticut

\$2,500

This project supports and encourages the self-sufficiency of Domestic Workers and seeks to improve their status in the workplace, increasing labor protections, decreasing exploitation and institutionalizing the dignity of the domestic worker.

Lutheran Social Services of New England (7B)

From Victim to Survivor, From Fear to Hope

\$2,500

Project addresses combined legal and social needs of immigrant victims of human trafficking with case management addressing social, physical, emotional, and spiritual needs; legal representation and advice to obtain legal status; and direct assistance for basic needs (food, clothing, shelter, and transportation to medical and legal appointments).

Appendix A: Women of the ELCA Grants

REGION 8

The Samaritan Woman (8F)

TSW Residence Program

\$3,500

A long-term Christian restoration program for female survivors of domestic human trafficking, off-setting the program costs for enrichment activities, such as outings, museums, cultural events, and recreational activities for our ladies and purchasing school supplies and tuition off-set for residents pursuing community college or vocational training.

REGION 9

LFS in the Carolinas (9B)

Bridge of Hope LSS

\$1,000

Bridge of Hope Project matches a mother and her children with a local church committed to supporting them, leveraging the clinical knowledge of a master's level social worker to move the family out of homelessness and dependency.

Ruth's House, Inc. (9B)

Power Up! Life Skills!

\$1,260.

This learning program offers women and girls who are victims of domestic violence the opportunity to transform their lives by learning life skills necessary to live independently and regain their rightful place in society free from the fear of abuse.

Sistercare, Inc. (9C)

Early Intervention Counseling Program

\$2,500

Assists battered women residing in Sistercare's emergency shelters to overcome the effects of their abuse, develop the skills and abilities to become self-sufficient, support and care for themselves, and live free of violence.

Lutheran Social Services of Tennessee (9D)

Art for Life

\$2,000

Providing art supplies and the skills of an art therapist to comfort, heal, and enrich the lives of a community of women who gather and share the struggles of living below the poverty line in public housing.

South Brevard Women's Center (9E)

Journeys

\$2,500

Support an after-school program designed to provide education and services to teenage girls of primarily low income backgrounds, who are at risk for dating violence and unhealthy relationships.

2014 INTERNATIONAL GRANTS

Dominican Republic

DEMIHF

Health Community Center for Immigrant Haitian Women

\$1,500

Provides basic human services (medical and educational) to immigrant Haitian women who have no other means to access such basic human services.

Ethiopia

Marera Rural Self Help Group

Fortified Foods for Women and Children Living with HIV/AIDS

\$1,500

Project offers locally made fortified foods using peanut, sorghum and soy beans to cure and prevent malnutrition related diseases common among women and children living with HIV/Aids.

Appendix A: Women of the ELCA Grants

Ghana

Shape Lives Foundation

Improving Nutrition for Women with Moringa

\$1,500

By promoting the cultivation, processing, and consumption of Moringa to reduce malnutrition and provide income-generation and employment for women, this project will generally raise the standard of living for these women in Ghana.

India

Concord Trust

Ensuring the Health of 20 Scavenging Women

\$1,750

Protecting health of 20 women scavengers who otherwise would suffer from skin and respiratory diseases by purchasing goats that will relieve them from their unhealthy odd jobs, providing rehabilitation measures, and the ability to own and raise goats.

Women's Org for Rural Development

Watch Dog Committees to Protect Women and Girls

\$1,000

Providing intensive trainings to 45 women and girls to create five watch dog committees in five villages to monitor and prevent trafficking and child labor, abuses against Dalit (formerly "untouchable") women and girls.

Kenya

Chelma Advisory Inst.

Public Education and Advocacy to Reduce Gender Violence

\$1,250

Project focuses on reducing gender violence in the home and in the society at large by providing training to 150 police officers, producing print educational materials and conducting a survey to measure effectiveness in enhancing quality of women's lives,

Tanzania

Jodala Self Help Group

Safe Haven for Teenage FGM

\$1,500

Painting, furnishing and equipping the safe house for this project that provides a safe haven for basic care, counseling and life skills training to teenage girls who are victims of forced Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and forced early marriage.

Appendix A: Women of the ELCA Grants

GRANTS YEAR 2015

Committee members:

Josselyn Bennett, ELCA's Director, Poverty and Justice Ministries,

Diane Fredericks, former Women of the ELCA executive board member

Romi Pierce, Program director, Help Me Grow, Alameda County, CA), and

Janet Volk, ELCA pastor

Staff: Inez Torres Davis, Vanessa Davis-Bragg

2015 DOMESTIC GRANT STATISTICS

Total dollars available:	\$53,186
Domestic:	\$39,300

Total grants awarded:	\$53,050
International	\$13,750

REGION 1

Safe Place (1C)

Children's Program

\$1,500

Provides basic needs and comprehensive advocacy to survivors of sexual and domestic violence between the ages of birth–17. They also work with the parent, supporting mothers so they are empowered to parent in positive ways that truly support their children.

St. Joseph's Family Center (1D)

HeArt of Your Emotions

\$2,000

A collaboration between St. Joseph Family Center and Transitions' Women's Hearth Program which engages disenfranchised, low-income women in its community in art making while engaging in psycho-educational, therapeutic exploration of emotions.

REGION 2

Area Agency on Aging, Region One (2D)

DOVES Program

\$2,000

DOVES® is an innovative, comprehensive program that provides outreach and education, support groups, emergency, and transitional housing for victims of late-life domestic violence and elder abuse aged 50 and older, one of societies most vulnerable populations.

Crossroads Safehouse (2E)

Emergency Shelter Program

\$1,500

Crossroads Safehouse is a full service domestic violence emergency shelter for victims of intimate partner abuse and their children. Funds used for basic household items and to replace items left behind when the abused flee for shelter.

Appendix A: Women of the ELCA Grants

REGION 3

Immigrant Development Center (3D)

Entrepreneurial Training
\$2,000

Pays almost one-third of the rent on facility that teaches low-income immigrant women how to open their own businesses and find jobs by creating economic stability that improves self-image and quality of life, while providing a sense of belonging within the community.

Project Free Clinic (3E)

Sustaining Program for Medical Care
\$1,500

This project provides basic medical care along with medication programs, education and preventative programs for girls and women of all ages that are uninsured. Other services offered are diabetic education, mental health services, Reiki, smoking cessation classes, physical therapy, chiropractic services and yoga.

REGION 4

Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska (4A)

RSafe® Trauma, Treatment & Support
\$2,000

RSafe® is LFS's evidence-based, behavioral health treatment program that offers trauma treatment and therapeutic support for families impacted by child sexual abuse. This program ministers to the whole family, including child victims of sexual abuse and children who exhibit sexual acting-out behaviors.

The Kitchen, Inc. (4B)

Women's Hygiene
\$1,000

This project assures the provision of adequate amounts of feminine hygiene products to women within The Kitchen Inc.'s multiple housing programs (of otherwise homeless women and girls). The goal is to improve women's self-esteem, improve health and restore their dignity while dealing with homelessness.

Legacy Counseling Center (4D)

Grace Project Women Living with HIV/AIDS
\$2,000

Educates women, decreases the spread of HIV, increases medical adherence and fosters grassroots leaders, using a supportive network of services, including mental health counseling, substance abuse treatment, social support building to encourage hope among women living with HIV, the fastest growing population of newly infected.

REGION 5

Butterfly House (5D)

Improving Home
\$3,200

This project is a home for women who are leaving incarceration, usually from Mitchellville state prison, offering them a safe and supportive home where they can learn skills needed to become self-sufficient contributing members of society and have their faith renewed and developed.

Acts 1:8 Ministry (5I)

Water Towers
\$2,100

This U.S. based project provides families in Uganda with easy access to clean, safe drinking water. In Uganda alone, approximately 23,000 children die each year from unsafe drinking water. Amount

Appendix A: Women of the ELCA Grants

requested will build three water towers and matching grants makes our three into six.

Lutheran Office for Public Policy (5K)

Safe Harbor Campaign

\$2,000

The effort raises ELCA Wisconsinites' awareness about the problem of human trafficking with a focus on child sex trafficking and empower people to advocate for needed public policies to help trafficked youth. It will also connect congregations to resources that can help them to further address problems related to the exploitation of children.

REGION 6

Harbour House/300 Beds Inc. (6D)

Transitional Housing

\$3,000

This recovery housing program provides transitional housing and supportive services to homeless and chemically dependent women. Funds will be used for the purchase of program supports, relapse prevention books/workbooks, AA and Narcotics Anonymous books, transportation costs and fees for meetings, resident incentives and certificates for positive reinforcement.

Lower Lights Ministry (6F)

Rachel's House

\$3,000

Rachel's House exists for previously incarcerated women to experience the love of God in a physically and emotionally safe environment, empowering them to establish healthy relationships with God, family and community by providing transitional housing paired with holistic services for 6–24 months directly following incarceration.

REGION 7

The Center for Wisdom's Women (7B)

Wise Woman Cooking Club

\$3,500

The Center is a drop-in center that provides a safe and sacred place that supports and empowers women. Grant provides capacity to provide cooking classes/programs that focus on healthy cooking and eating on a budget to be led by and benefit women coming to the center.

REGION 8

Ascension Psychological & Community Services (8G)

Sister's Circle

\$1,000

This project offers weekly group therapy facilitated by a Licensed Clinical Psychologist to disadvantaged women in the Washington, DC area. We are funding journals and refreshments for monthly therapeutic book club, journals, and Bikram Yoga.

REGION 9

Cabarrus Cooperative Christian Ministries (9B)

Mother & Child Housing

\$2,000

Agency provides housing, tools and support to empower single homeless mothers and their children to move to independence. Old, worn carpeting will be replaced by laminated flooring in this agency's transitional housing for homeless mothers and their children.

Appendix A: Women of the ELCA Grants

Mamafrica Designs (9B)

Thrive: Investing in Women

\$2,000

This project supplements and enhances Mamafrica's employment programs for women in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) by offering comprehensive daily wellness courses, investing in the physical and emotional health of women artisans.

AWHEEC (9D)

Breast Cancer Project

\$2,000

Project provides a series of culturally and linguistically sensitive workshops on health education and breast health and awareness to African refugee women coming from a background of torture and trauma.

2015 INTERNATIONAL GRANTS

Cameroon

Tatum Women Development Association

Ebola Virus Sensitization for 250,000 People

\$2,000

Trained volunteers supply bedding, sanitization supplies, nutritional food, hygiene and the education of the use of these things by women and girls affected by Ebola.

Ghana

Christian Women Group

Curbing Cross Border FGM

\$1,750

This project seeks to provide counseling for victims of female genital mutilation (FGM) and to give shelter to those escaping from the banned cultural practice still being practiced in remote villages.

India

Snekithi Charitable Trust

Empowerment of Barefoot Doctors

\$1,750

Meet health needs of remote villages by providing 60 tribal girls training in health care techniques and provide them medical kits so that these girls can provide medical services in their own tribal hamlets. This provides 1,800 people with medical services.

Society for Rural Health & Development

Promoting PreNatal, PostNatal Practices

\$1,250

Serve 10 villages in Mettur area, Tamilnadu, India with education on prenatal, natal, and postnatal care of the mothers, the immunization of their babies and the do's and don'ts during expectant stages, training 30 mothers as peer educators.

PRASAD Chikitsa

Rubella Vaccination Project

\$1,250

Provides education, vaccination and treatment to adolescent girls, women of child-bearing age and pregnant women in the Tansa Valley in India, aiming to reduce rubella infections, rubella related miscarriages and congenital rubella syndrome in babies.

Communicare

Safe Motherhood & Child

\$1,250

Provide motivational camps to educate prenatal and post natal care, the development of kitchen gardens of fruit and vegetables and the prevention/minimizing IMR and MMR through hospital care, targeting Dalits and other tribal women.

Appendix A: Women of the ELCA Grants

Kenya

KOOLLO Widow's Self Help Group

Indigenous Hens & Hatchery

\$2,500

To establish a parent stock of 120 improved indigenous low input technology birds (20 Cocks and 120 Hens) for hatchery eggs production, increase chick productivity and build capacity for disease control among members of widows' self-help group.

Uganda

Uganda Village Project

Promoting Productive Health

\$2,000

Once a quarter, provide transportation and stipend for a female staff and government health center nurse to travel to rural communities to meet with women to provide reproductive health education and provide access to contraceptives.

In 2016, the grants program went on hiatus, to allow review of the nearly 30-year program and to look to the future of the program. Thus no grants were made in 2016. The funding source for the grants program was tapped by the churchwide executive board for other purposes in 2017, and so no grants will be made in 2017. The grants program is undergoing further review.

Appendix B: Women of the ELCA Scholarships

Women of the ELCA offers scholarships in two categories: for Lutheran laywomen and those in ordained ministry.

Scholarships for Lutheran laywomen provide assistance to Lutheran women studying for a career other than ordained ministry. General funds for this scholarship come from the Cronk, First Triennium Board, General, Mehring, Paepke, Piero/Wade/Wade, Edwin/Edna Robeck Opportunity Scholarship for Lutheran Laywomen along with funds for specific opportunities from Arne Administrative Scholarship, Schmieder Leadership Scholarship, Amelia Kemp Scholarship, Belmer, Kahler, Vickers/Raup Funds and Irene Drinkall Franke, Mary Seeley Knudstrup Funds. Along with the general category the Lutheran laywomen scholarship offers categories for: administrative leadership, ELCA college and seminary leadership, women of color leaders, ELCA service abroad and Christian service.

The scholarship for ordained ministry, The Herbert W. and Corinne Chilstrom Scholarship, provides assistance to Lutheran women during their final year at an ELCA seminary. Candidates must be preparing for ordained ministry in the ELCA and must have been endorsed by their synodical candidacy committee.

2014–15 ACADEMIC YEAR

Sarah Christensen, 1B

Scholarships for Lutheran Laywomen
Seattle Central Community College
Seattle WA
Nursing

Wren Gray-Reneberg, 2A

Scholarships for Lutheran Laywomen
Santa Clara University
Counseling Psychology

Brenda Polipnick, 3E

Scholarships for Lutheran Laywomen
University of Phoenix
Psychology

Beth E. Elness-Hanson, 1B

Scholarships for Lutheran Laywomen
School of Mission and Theology –
Stavanger, Norway
Old Testament

Monica Bentz, 3C

Scholarships for Lutheran Laywomen
University of South Dakota
Dental Hygiene

Christine Suby, 3I

Scholarships for Lutheran Laywomen
Brown Mackie College
Nursing

Jessica Ann Winn, 1E

Scholarships for Lutheran Laywomen
Washington & Lee University
School of Law
Law

Sarah Evenson, 3D

Scholarship for Ordained Ministry
Luther Seminary
Ordination

Kara Farrow, 4C

Scholarships for Lutheran Laywomen
Phillips Theological Seminary
Theological Studies

Chantell Erickson, 3E

Scholarships for Lutheran Laywomen
Elementary Education
St Catherine University

Sally Hanson, 5A

Scholarship for Ordained Ministry
Lutheran School of Theology at
Chicago
Ordination

Appendix B: Women of the ELCA Scholarships

Amy Johnson, 5D

Scholarships for Lutheran Laywomen
Drake law School
Law

Rachel Slough, 5L

Scholarships for Lutheran Laywomen
University of Wisconsin - Stout
Masters Marriage and Family Therapy

Dawn Talley, 7E

Scholarships for Lutheran Laywomen
Maywood University
Special Education and Early Childhood Education

Amy Lockart, 5F

Scholarships for Lutheran Laywomen
University of Northern Iowa
Curriculum and Instruction

Jody Winter, 6C

Scholarships for Lutheran Laywomen
Lutheran Deaconess Association
Deaconess and Associate in Ministry

Felicia Johnson, 9D

Scholarships for Lutheran Laywomen
Oxford Seminar
English – Second Language

Paris Brown, 5I

Scholarships for Lutheran Laywomen
University of Wisconsin - Oshkosh
M.S.E. Professional Counseling

Kathryn C. Lawler, 7C

Scholarships for Lutheran Laywomen
Lutheran School of Theology at Gettysburg
Master of Divinity

Jennifer Schiffer Dews, 9E

Scholarships for Lutheran Laywomen
University of North Florida
Early Childhood Education

Cindy Peterson, 5L

Scholarships for Lutheran Laywomen
William Mitchell College of Law
Law

2015–16 ACADEMIC YEAR

Sarah Dreier, 1B

Scholarships for Lutheran Laywomen
University of Washington
Political Science, PHD

Kristina Rauscher, 1F

Scholarships for Lutheran Laywomen
University of Great Falls
Mathematics and Secondary Education

Linda Bobbitt, 2E

Scholarships for Lutheran Laywomen
Luther Seminary
Congregational and Mission Leadership

Tonia Fisher Clark, 1F

Scholarship for Ordained Ministry
PLTS and Luther Seminary
Ordination

Christina Espegren, 2A

Scholarships for Lutheran Laywomen
Johns Hopkins – Bloomberg
School of Public health
Perinatal, Family and Reproductive Health

Felisa Mastel, 3B

Scholarships for Lutheran Laywomen
North Dakota State University
Occupational and Adult Education

Appendix B: Women of the ELCA Scholarships

Laura Leckband, 3H

Scholarships for Lutheran
Laywomen
Walden University
Early Childhood Studies

Betsy Borseth, 4C

Scholarships for Lutheran
Laywomen
University of North Texas
Political Science

Jannae Jenkins-Simmons, 5A

Scholarships for Lutheran
Laywomen
National Louis University
Management

Mytch Dorvilier, 5B

Scholarship for Ordained Ministry
Wartburg Theological Seminary
Ordination

Kelly Nieman Anderson, 6A

Scholarship for Ordained Ministry
Luther Seminary
Ordination

Marci Jones, 6A

Scholarships for Lutheran
Laywomen
Schoolcraft College
Nursing

Erin M. Burns, 6E

Scholarship for Ordained Ministry
Lutheran School of Theology at
Chicago
Ordination

Elizabeth Parkhurst Blood, 7B

Scholarships for Lutheran
Laywomen
Lutheridge Adult Music Week
Music

2016–17 ACADEMIC YEAR

Yvonne Offill, 2C

Scholarships for Lutheran
Laywomen
Claremont CA
Nursing

Beth Allen Slevcove, 2C

Scholarships for Lutheran
Laywomen
Sharp Hospital
Clinical Pastoral Education-
Chaplaincy Training

Erica E. Berg, 3B

Scholarships for Lutheran
Laywomen
Western Governors University
Nursing Education

Sarah M. Desjarlais, 3B

Scholarships for Lutheran
Laywomen
University of Bridgeport
Connecticut, Fones School of
Dental Hygiene
Dental Hygiene

Victoria Remer, 3B

Scholarships for Lutheran
Laywomen
University of Kansas
Journalism-Strategic
communication and English

Sarah Brock, 3F

Scholarships for Lutheran
Laywomen
Des Moines University
Physician Assistant

Haley Armstrong, 4A

Scholarships for Lutheran
Laywomen
Bellevue University
Marketing

Betsy Borseth, 4C

Scholarships for Lutheran
Laywomen
University of North Texas
Political Science

Appendix B: Women of the ELCA Scholarships

Kara Farrow, 4C

Scholarships for Lutheran
Laywomen
Phillips Theological Seminary
Master of Divinity

Jessica A. Rico, 4F

Scholarships for Lutheran
Laywomen
Texas A&M University
Public Health

Tara Gilbert, 6F

Scholarships for Lutheran
Laywomen
Indiana Wesleyan University
Christian Ministries-youth ministry

Sherrie J. Squires, 7C

Scholarships for Lutheran
Laywomen
SW Bible College & Seminary
Theology

Jennifer Pencek, 8C

Scholarships for Lutheran
Laywomen
Pennsylvania State University
Higher Education-student
engagement

Mialy Rabe, 9B

Scholarships for Lutheran
Laywomen
North Carolina State University
International Relations

Jennifer Michael, 9F

Scholarship for Ordained Ministry
Wartburg Theological Seminary
Ordination

Report of the Executive Director

Ask any woman in our organization why she participates in Women of the ELCA and you're likely to get an answer something like this: "I'm part of WELCA because it's a community of women who share my values, providing support to one another. We come together for study, service and fellowship. They are my sisters in Christ."

I've heard that response from Maine to Mississippi, from New Jersey to New Mexico. In all the many conversations I've had in my 15 years as executive director, I've never once had a woman say that she doesn't want that for her daughters, nieces, granddaughters and younger friends. We are this broken but beautiful community of women who walk with each other on our spiritual journeys. The churchwide organization has this precious role in creating resources to support women as they support each other on their spiritual journeys. (I use the word "resources" to mean not only program resources, but trainings, publications, networks and the like.) It's an honor and privilege to be called to lead this ministry as your executive director.

Do you remember why you got involved in Women of the ELCA? Maybe the following stories will help you remember.

Even if you don't know of a special unit, you probably are aware of the concept. Special units exist in locations other than a congregation. The two most likely places where a special unit will exist are on a college campus or in a retirement community. We have a handful of these across the organization, including one at Marquette University, a Jesuit, Roman Catholic university located in Milwaukee, Wis. Especially on a college campus where the makeup of the community changes every year, the ministry of a special unit can wax and wane over the years. Nonetheless, great things can come from those special units.

Back in 2015, I was talking with a young pastor. She was three years into her first call, serving a parish in Michigan. She was working with two programs of the ELCA churchwide organization to lead young adults on a trip to the Holy Land. Money from Katie's Fund would help send some young women on this trip so I was talking with Pastor Laura about how we were going to make that happen. As our phone conversation came to a close, Pastor Laura said, "I believe we've met before. I was involved in the special unit of Women of the ELCA at Marquette University. Didn't you come meet with us?"

We often don't know what fruit will come from the seeds we sow. I know there's been great support and partnership with the women in the Greater Milwaukee Synod and this special unit at Marquette over the years. Could they have imagined that a young woman in that special unit would go on to seminary, become ordained, serve a congregation and now lead other young adults on study trips to the Holy Land?

This story comes from an e-mail message a staff member received from a parish pastor serving a congregation in the Northwest suburbs of Chicago. Pastor Jenn writes:

So often when I'm looking for a resource, I turn to the Women of the ELCA to see what has been posted or shared. WELCA has provided many great, thoughtful, well-written gifts to the church – the ELCA and beyond.

This morning I responded to a post on Facebook about where I've seen acts of kindness with a reference to the story that WELCA shared about the scarf bombing "Chase the Chill" initiative – a small seed of kindness that started, yes, with Susan Huxley in PA, but was shared by WELCA and planted a seed in my own life to start something similar here. I've shared the initial story a few times – it's a great story.

Report of the Executive Director

A few days ago a colleague was looking for a spiritual gifts resource to use with her congregation during Lent, and I recalled having seen one on the WELCA website. A little while later she posted, "Thank God for the Women of the ELCA – that resource is great!"

Last week I used a Bible study on hospitality with the women I gather on Thursday mornings that I found on your website.

We take much for granted in ministry, often to the detriment of the collective. Today I wanted to let you know that I'm deeply thankful for what you, and everyone who makes WELCA possible, do for the church.

This comes from an email I received from a chaplain serving at a nursing home in North Carolina. Here are excerpts from Pastor Beth's note to me.

I am chaplain at Trinity Glen, a skilled nursing facility that is part of Lutheran Services Carolinas. LSC is an organization that was created by the joining of Lutheran Services for the Aging and Child and Family Services, serving North and South Carolina.

Our activities director attended a meeting at LSC's headquarters in Salisbury, NC, in late July [2014] and transported back 74 hand-knit and hand-crocheted prayer shawls that were brought to the WELCA triennial national gathering.

That was enough to make a great start in giving one to each resident on his or her birthday. We operate 117 beds and usually have between 112 and 115 residents. Most are long-term; a few are here for short-term rehab following surgery such as a hip or knee replacement.

Some of the residents have dementia. Some have developmental issues. They range in age from residents in their 50s with cerebral palsy or a

stroke to residents in their late 90s.

Every resident, without exception, has understood that he or she is being given a hand-knit or hand-crocheted prayer shawl. Every resident understands the prayers that were joined with every stitch. Every resident knows that people of faith from Georgia to the Pacific coast have held them in prayer. Some residents have been moved to tears. Some daughters and sons have sought me out to thank me. Residents who are knitters are impressed with the stitchwork and the knowledge of how much loving effort goes into each shawl. Residents are cheered by receiving a shawl in autumnal colors, or delicate pastels, or crocheted shawls where every block is a different colorway, but each is tied together into a larger pattern. Shawls are draped over the foot of a bed for color, or spread over the resident in sleep, or draped around the shoulders of someone entering the company of saints.

The first shawl that we gave to a resident was made by Jeanie Olson of Faith Lutheran Church in Mitchell, Iowa. The one I will give in just a few minutes was made by Sharon Salo of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Hibbing, MN. Before I give the shawl, I will pray for Sharon and Holy Trinity, and afterward will write a brief note of thanks to Sharon and the church's prayer shawl ministry.

In this way, in the giving and receiving of blessings, each of our residents is connected to the larger church body. And so am I.

My hope, too, is that these stories will help inspire you to continue as a leader in this organization. They are stories that help us understand the continued purpose we serve as Christian women committed to a Gospel life.

Report of the Executive Director

People want to be associated with Women of the ELCA. Unsolicited requests from individuals wanting to speak or present workshops at the triennial gathering have far exceeded such requests in the past. The InFaith Foundation came to us and invited us to participate with it in regional workshops on stewardship. Equal Exchange wants to continue a relationship with WELCA that began 30 years ago. A seminary professor, with permission of the students involved, gave me material for Bold Women's Day created by the students for a class assignment. At a workshop I gave last fall at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, two students, one from Gabon and one from India, came to learn about how we are organized so they could take that information back to the women of their countries. Staff members are frequently requested to lead workshops and consult with others, both within the church and in society.

Women continue to find entry points into the organization. A very enthusiastic twenty-something spoke with me at last year's churchwide assembly about her entry into the challenge quilt project for the triennial gathering. Multiple women, including a parish pastor from Iowa, made finger labyrinths and exploring what they mean for a woman's spiritual life. These are but two examples; staff have countless others, as you likely do too.

While I'm an optimist, I don't shun reality. I'm fully aware of the financial challenges that have been with this organization for more than two-thirds of the life of this organization. I'm fully aware of the leadership gaps that exist in some locales. Yet, at the same time, incredible ministry is happening in the name of Jesus through the women of this organization. I celebrate that on a daily basis, even as I pray for deliverance from our challenges. It is my hope that you do the same.

Some thoughts about finances and stewardship

Our organization and most, if not all, of our predecessors have shared a similar organizational

structure. For well over 100 years, Lutheran women have gathered locally in community for service, study, and fellowship. Offerings have been collected and shared with the national Lutheran women's organization. The national organization, through the work of paid staff, supports the women throughout the country through resources and training. It's a simple model, really. And it has served Lutheran women well for over 100 years, through seismic changes in culture and the church.

Perhaps even more surprising is that the model has worked financially. Ask any financial advisor or chief financial officer about our approach and they'd laugh. Run a national nonprofit primarily from the voluntary giving of its participants? That's crazy! But it has, for the most part, worked.

The tools used by the national organization of Women of the ELCA to carry out its mission naturally have changed over time. When WELCA began in 1987, for example, no one was imagining electronic publishing, social media, or online giving, all tools that are integral to our current life together. The core mission, however, has not changed in the last 30 years.

The greatest challenge before us is how to sustain and grow financial support for the critical ministry of the churchwide organization, the ministry that creates resources to support women as they support each other on their spiritual journeys. To solve this great challenge will ensure a vital future. To ignore this great challenge will surely bring about our organization's demise.

Over the past two decades, annual offerings to the churchwide organization—primarily regular offerings and Thankofferings—have dropped by slightly more than 50%. Pause a moment to let that sink in—a decrease of more than 50%. There are many reasons behind a decrease of that magnitude. The number of women participating in our organization has declined, the economy has tanked once or twice in that period and there's been a significant movement to keep giving local. At the same time, however, participants'

Report of the Executive Director

expectations of what the churchwide organization should be and provide have grown. The time is now to bring about our best thinking on how to address this challenge.

Participants, leaders and staff are called to shepherd this organization. It is our shared obligation to steward the organization in all its many facets to the best of our ability, knowing that God is calling and supporting Lutheran women in this ministry. It's my fervent belief that despite our current financial challenges—and there will always be some financial challenges—this organization will survive, even thrive, all in God's time.

It is my privilege to serve as your executive director. Thank you for the opportunity to serve an organization and a group of women who mean so very much to me.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Post Bushkofsky
Executive Director

Proposed 2018 Budget

Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

REVENUE AND SUPPORT

Offerings

Regular Offerings	\$ 450,000
Thankofferings	\$ 800,000
Designated Gifts	\$ 300,000
Special Offerings / Gifts	\$ 8,000
SWO Convention Offerings	\$ 65,000
Other Offerings	\$ 125,000
Total Offerings	\$ 1,748,000

Other Income

Subscriptions	\$ 850,000
Advertising in Gather	\$ 50,000
Consignment Sales	\$ 5,000
Fund Raising	\$ 70,000
Transfer from Designated Funds	\$ 250,231
Unrestricted Income	\$ 150,000
Total Other Income	\$1,375,231

Total Revenue and Support **\$ 3,123,231**

EXPENDITURES

Program and Services

Programs	\$ 500,242
Communication	\$ 1,347,192
Administration	\$ 539,492
Governance	\$ 150,600
Total Program and Services	\$ 2,537,526

Gift to the ELCA **\$ 300,000**

Total Expenditures Before Triennial Convention **\$ 2,837,526**

Triennial Convention Set-aside **\$ 285,705**

Total Expenditures After Triennial Convention **\$ 3,123,231**

Proposed Changes to Constitution

Tenth Triennial Convention, Women of the ELCA

The Churchwide Executive Board of Women of the ELCA (2014-2017 triennium) has taken action to propose the following constitutional changes. Because the proposed changes are being provided at least six months prior to the convention, they require only one reading. That reading will occur at the Tenth Triennial Convention. Any provisions approved by the convention will become effective immediately. The existing language is in regular typeface, the proposed changes are in **bold** typeface, and deletions are noted as ~~strikethroughs~~.

SECTION 1

CHURCHWIDE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

Article X, Section 4, Item 3c

Each synodical women's organization shall develop and administer its own budget.

The budget shall include the synodical women's organization program and operating cost and reflect the interdependent relationship between the synodical women's organization and the churchwide women's organization. The proposed budget shall be presented as information to the churchwide women's organization executive board prior to its recommendation to the synodical women's organization convention for adoption.

[At its April 2015 meeting, the executive board approved the following change:](#) Article X, Section 4, Item 3c

Each synodical women's organization shall develop and administer its own budget.

The budget shall include the synodical women's organization program and operating cost and reflect the interdependent relationship between the synodical women's organization and the churchwide women's organization. The proposed budget shall be presented as information to the churchwide women's organization executive board

~~prior to its recommendation to the synodical women's organization convention for adoption.~~ **within 30 days of its adoption by the synodical women's organization.**

SECTION 2

APPROVED CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS: CONGREGATIONAL OR INTERCONGREGATIONAL UNIT

Article III, Section 3

Women elected to leadership in this unit and elected as voting members to a convention of the synodical women's organization shall be participants in this unit and voting members of the ELCA.

[At its October 2015 meeting, the executive board approved the following change:](#) Article III, Section 3

Women elected to leadership in this unit and elected as voting members to a convention of the synodical women's organization shall be participants in this unit and voting members of ~~the ELCA~~ **an ELCA congregation.**

SECTION 3

APPROVED CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS: SPECIAL UNIT

Article III, Section 3

Women elected to leadership in this unit and elected as voting members to a convention of the synodical women's organization shall be participants in this special unit and voting members of the ELCA.

[At its October 2015 meeting, the executive board approved the following change:](#) Article III, Section 3

Proposed Changes to Constitutions and Bylaws

Women elected to leadership in this unit and elected as voting members to a convention of the synodical women's organization shall be participants in this special unit and voting members of ~~the ELCA~~ **an ELCA congregation.**

At its October 2015 meeting, the executive board approved the following changes by deletion of "the ELCA" after "voting member of" and addition of "an ELCA congregation" following "voting member of."

SECTION 4

APPROVED CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS: SYNODICAL WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION

Article VII, Section 4, Item 1

The officers of the synodical women's organization shall be a president, a vice president, a secretary, and a treasurer. Each shall be a participant in a unit and a voting member of **an ELCA congregation.**

Article VII, Section 6, Item 1

There shall be * _____ members of the board elected by the convention of the synodical women's organization for a term of two years. Each board member shall be a participant in a unit and a voting member of **an ELCA congregation.**

Article IV, Section 2, Item 3

A cluster or conference planning committee of at least three members, including a coordinator, shall be elected at the cluster or conference meeting.

At its October 2015 meeting, the executive board approved the following change:

A cluster or conference planning committee of at least three members, including a coordinator, shall

be elected at the cluster or conference meeting. **Members of a cluster or conference planning committee, including the coordinator, shall be participants in a unit or special unit and voting members of an ELCA congregation.**

Article VI, Section 6, Item 1

Nominations for voting members of the Triennial Convention shall be made by the units. Each unit shall submit the name of only one of its participants.

At its October 2015 meeting, the executive board approved the following change: Article VI, Section 6, Item 1

Nominations for voting members of the Triennial Convention shall be made by the units. Each unit shall submit the name of only one of its participants **who must also be a voting member of an ELCA congregation.**

At its October 2015 meeting, the executive board approved the following changes by deletion of "the ELCA" after "voting member of" and addition of "an ELCA congregation" following "voting member of."

SECTION 5

CHURCHWIDE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

Article IX, Section 4, Item 2

These officers shall be elected by the convention of the synodical women's organization. Each officer shall be a participant in a unit and a voting member of **an ELCA congregation.**

Article XI, Section 5, Item 5

Each voting member of the Triennial Convention shall be a participant in a unit and a voting member of **an ELCA congregation.**

Proposed Changes to Constitutions and Bylaws

Article XII, Section 1

This organization shall have a president elected by the Triennial Convention for one three-year term. The president shall be ineligible for election as an officer or executive board member in the succeeding triennium. The president shall be a participant in a unit and a voting member of **an ELCA congregation**. The president shall

Article XII, Section 2

This organization shall have a vice president elected by the Triennial Convention for one three-year term with no reelection to this office. The vice president shall be a participant in a unit and a voting member of **an ELCA congregation**. The vice president shall

Article XII, Section 3

This organization shall have a secretary elected by the Triennial Convention for one three-year term with no reelection to this office. The secretary shall be a participant in a unit and a voting member of **an ELCA congregation**. The secretary shall

Article XII, Section 4

This organization shall have a treasurer elected by the Triennial Convention for one three-year term with no reelection to this office. The treasurer shall be a participant in a unit and a voting member of **an ELCA congregation**. The treasurer shall

Article XIII, Section 2, Item 1

The 17 board members shall be elected by the Triennial Convention for a three-year term. Each elected member shall be a participant in a unit and a voting member of **an ELCA congregation**.

Article XIV, Section 3, Item 2

Each nominee for an elected or appointed position in this organization shall be a participant in a unit and a voting member of **an ELCA congregation**.

At its April 2016 meeting, the executive board proposed the following change by addition of a new Item 5.

SECTION 6

APPROVED CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS: SYNODICAL WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION

Article VI, Section 3, Item 5

Pre-convention reports shall be distributed to each voting member-elect at least 20 days prior to the synodical women's organization convention.

Proposed action relating to the Doctrine of Discovery

BACKGROUND:

At its October 2016 meeting, the executive board took the following action:

[1] Women of the ELCA affirms the ELCA's repudiation of the "Doctrine of Discovery" recently adopted by the August 2016 churchwide assembly of the ELCA; and also that

[2] Women of the ELCA participants be encouraged to educate themselves about this important statement and how to reduce the negative impact of the "Doctrine of Discovery" and its consequences for Native people in North America; and that

[3] the executive board recommends this recommendation be forwarded to the Tenth Triennial Convention for consideration. (EB/WO 2016.10.86)

Here, in its entirety, is the action taken by the ELCA Churchwide Assembly in August 2016.

ACTION YES-912; NO-28
CA16.02.04

Repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery

To receive with gratitude memorials from the Alaska, Northwest Washington, Montana, Southwest California, Rocky Mountain, Eastern North Dakota, South Dakota, Minneapolis Area, Saint Paul Area, Arkansas-Oklahoma, Northwest Wisconsin, East-Central Wisconsin, Indiana-Kentucky, Upstate New York, Northwestern Pennsylvania, Metropolitan Washington, D.C., North Carolina and Southeastern synods regarding the Repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery;

To repudiate explicitly and clearly the European-derived doctrine of discovery as an example of the "improper mixing of the power of the church and the power of the sword" (Augsburg Confession Article XXVIII, Latin text), and to acknowledge and repent from this church's complicity in the evils of colonialism in the Americas, which continue to harm tribal governments and individual tribal members;

To offer a statement of repentance and reconciliation to native nations in this country for damage done in the name of Christianity;

To encourage the Office of the Presiding Bishop to plan an appropriate national ceremony of repentance and reconciliation with tribal leaders, providing appropriate worship resources for similar synodical and congregational observances with local tribal leaders, at such times and places as are appropriate;

To direct the Domestic Mission unit, together with the American Indian and Alaska Native community and ecumenical partners, to develop resources to educate members of the ELCA and the wider community about the doctrine of discovery and its consequences for native peoples;

To direct the Domestic Mission unit to develop a strategy with the American Indian and Alaska Native community during the next triennium to be referred to the Church Council for action, including a mechanism to grow the Native American Ministry Fund of the ELCA; and

To affirm that this church will eliminate the doctrine of discovery from its contemporary rhetoric and programs, electing to practice accompaniment with native peoples instead of a missionary endeavor to them, allowing these partnerships to mutually enrich indigenous communities and the ministries of the ELCA.

Proposed action relating to the Doctrine of Discovery

PROPOSED ACTION:

That the Tenth Triennial Convention (2017) of Women of the ELCA:

[1] affirm the ELCA's repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery (CA16.02.04);

[2] encourage participants and leaders within all expressions of this organization to educate themselves about this important statement and how to reduce the negative impact of the Doctrine of Discovery and its consequences for Native people in North America, using resources to be developed by the ELCA Domestic Mission unit; and

[3] encourage all synodical women's organizations to develop relationships with American Indians and/or Alaskan Native ministries within or near their synods.

Report of the Memorials Committee

The memorials committee met by conference call. Additional review was conducted by phone and email thereafter. The responses of the committee follow each of the seven memorials to the Tenth Triennial Convention. Where the committee has suggested an amended version of one or more the “resolved” statements, those suggestions appear in bold.

MEMORIAL 1

Title: Supporting the TDTR Network

Submitted by Montana Synodical Women’s Organization, 1F

Adopted in Synodical Convention: September 2015

WHEREAS, the killing of nine black church members at Emanuel AME church in Charleston, South Carolina by a white person culminated over a year of heightened racial tension in this country that began with the death of an eighteen-year-old black person by a white police officer in Ferguson, Missouri and were followed by similar events in Baltimore, Cleveland and Staten Island; and

WHEREAS, these events highlighted the racial divisions that exist in this nation; and

WHEREAS, the Women of the ELCA made anti-racism an organizational principle in its constitution and claims an anti-racist identity; and

WHEREAS, Today’s Dream: Tomorrow’s Reality (TDTR), the educational racial justice program of Women of the ELCA, has as an operating assumption that it takes both white people and people of color to dismantle racism and both must learn about the institutional and systemic aspects of racism in order to develop cogent and clear strategies for dismantling racism; and

WHEREAS, the Montana Synodical Women’s Organization (MTSWO) has three women who are trained TDTR educators and who are committed to present programs to teach about institutional and systemic racism; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that units, clusters and the MTSWO invite the TDTR team to meetings and events to present programs about racism; and be it further

RESOLVED that a line item in the MTSWO budget be established to help fund the TDTR programs; and be it further

RESOLVED that this resolution be memorialized to the Tenth Triennial Convention urging all Synodical Women’s Organizations to establish a line item for TDTR programming in their budgets.

MEMORIAL 2

Title: Supporting the TDTR Network

Submitted by Indiana-Kentucky Synodical Women’s Organization, 6C

Adopted in Synodical Convention: August 2015

WE, AS WOMEN OF THE ELCA, are committed to promoting healing and wholeness in the church, society, and the world, and due to recent events, including the fatal interactions involving white police officers directed toward black citizens, the shooting of nine black church members by a young white male, and the subsequent burning of several black churches, and other recent events involving white police officers and black subjects,

WHEREAS, each of us will carefully examine our own individual actions and words to discourage all types of discrimination and strive to end racism in all its forms;

WHEREAS, we will work together at local, regional, national and international levels, expanding the anti-racism programs and efforts of the Women of the ELCA and the ELCA in cooperation with others also dedicated to ending all forms of racism and discrimination;

AND, WHEREAS, the Indiana-Kentucky Women of the ELCA 2015 Convention directed the Indiana-Kentucky SWO board to memorialize the 2017 Triennial Churchwide Convention of Women of the

Report of the Memorials Committee

ELCA to provide training and programs to assist this action.

BE IT RESOLVED that the 2017 Triennial Churchwide Convention of Women of the ELCA will provide funding, training, and programs to assist this action.

Committee Recommendation on Memorials 1 and 2

The committee recommends adopting a substitute memorial that combines much of the two memorials and adds text.

WHEREAS, we as Women of the ELCA, are committed to promoting healing and wholeness in the church, society, and the world; and

WHEREAS, the killing of nine black church members at Emanuel AME church in Charleston, South Carolina by a white person culminated over a year of heightened racial tension in this country that began with the death of an eighteen-year-old black person by a white police officer in Ferguson, Missouri and were followed by similar events in Baltimore, Cleveland and Staten Island; and

WHEREAS, recent events, including the fatal interactions involving white police officers directed toward black citizens, and other recent events involving white police officers and black subjects have occurred; and

WHEREAS, the Women of the ELCA made anti-racism an organizational principle in its constitution and claims an anti-racist identity; and

WHEREAS, these events highlighted the racial divisions that exist in this nation; and

WHEREAS, Today's Dream Tomorrow's Reality (TDTR), the educational racial justice program of Women of the ELCA, has as an operating assumption that it takes both white people and people of color to dismantle racism and both must learn about the institutional and systemic aspects of racism in order to develop cogent and clear strategies for dismantling racism; and

WHEREAS, each of us will carefully examine our own individual actions and words to discourage all types of discrimination and strive to end racism in all its forms;

WHEREAS, we will work together at local, regional, national and international levels, expanding the anti-racism programs and efforts of the Women of the ELCA and the ELCA in cooperation with others also dedicated to ending all forms of racism and discrimination;

WHEREAS, the Montana Synodical Women's Organization (MTSWO) has three women who are trained TDTR educators and who are committed to present programs to teach about institutional and systemic racism; and a line item in the MTSWO budget is established to help fund the TDTR programs; and

WHEREAS, the Indiana-Kentucky Women of the ELCA 2015 Convention directed the Indiana-Kentucky SWO board to memorialize the 2017 Triennial Churchwide Convention of Women of the ELCA to direct the Churchwide Organization to provide training and programs to assist this action.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that units, clusters and synodical boards invite the TDTR team to meetings and events to present programs about racism;

RESOLVED that all synodical women's organizations establish a line item for TDTR programming in their budgets;

RESOLVED that the churchwide women's organization will provide funding, training and programs to assist this action, and be it further

RESOLVED that the synodical presidents report to the 2019 Conference of Presidents the actions taken within their SWOs.

Report of the Memorials Committee

MEMORIAL 3

Title: Regarding tainted water in Flint, Michigan

Submitted by New England Synodical Women's Organization, 7B

Adopted in Synodical Convention: October 2016

WHEREAS, clean and potable water is vital for human health, just as Living Water is imperative for spiritual health, and

WHEREAS, citizens of Flint, Michigan have been living without the basic life necessity of clean water to drink, to cook with, and to shower in since the Fall of 2014, due to contamination in the Flint River, and

WHEREAS, support has been shown in many and various ways from around the country, but the need continues for help, and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Women of the ELCA and congregational units, individuals, and churches affirm this need and be encouraged to act upon it by raising awareness and offering tangible support to the people of Flint, Michigan, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that New England Women of the ELCA memorialize the 10th Triennial Convention and Gathering of Women of the ELCA, set forth July 10-13, 2017 in Minneapolis, Minnesota

Committee Recommendation on Memorial 3

The committee recommends adopting this memorial with added text (said text highlighted in bold):

WHEREAS, clean and potable water is vital for human health, just as Living Water is imperative for spiritual health, and

WHEREAS, citizens of Flint, Michigan have been living without the basic life necessity of clean water to drink, to cook with, and to shower in since the Fall of 2014, due to contamination in the Flint River, and

WHEREAS, support has been shown in many and various ways from around the country, but the need continues for help, and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Women of the ELCA and congregational units, individuals, and churches affirm this need and be encouraged to act upon it by raising awareness and/or offering tangible support to the people of Flint, Michigan, and

Be it further resolved that synodical women's organization presidents will report to the 2019 Conference of Presidents the actions taken.

MEMORIAL 4

Title: Regarding the size of synodical boards

Submitted by Montana Synodical Women's Organization, 1F

Adopted in Synodical Convention: September 2015

WHEREAS, Nominating Committees have had an increasingly difficult time finding women who are willing and qualified to serve on their Synodical Women's Organization Boards; and

WHEREAS, often in recent elections, nominations from the floor have been required to fill a complete slate of nominees for the four officers and five to nine board members, at times resulting in the election of women who had not made a well-considered decision to serve; and

WHEREAS, many SWO boards have fulfilled their duties well and efficiently under the direction of four officers and three board members because of the inability of three board members to serve their terms and the fact that no woman expressed interest in the vacant positions; and

WHEREAS, having fewer board members will result in less expense in board administration and by using email and telephone conferencing enables the board to function well;

Report of the Memorials Committee

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that a memorial be submitted to the Tenth Triennial Convention amending the Approved Constitution and Bylaws for Synodical Women's Organization by lowering the number of elected board members to three in Article VII Section 1 and Section 6.

Committee Recommendation on Memorial 4

The committee recommends rejecting this memorial.

MEMORIAL 5

Title: Condemning all forms of corporal punishment

Submitted by Northeastern Iowa Synodical Women's Organization, 5F

Adopted in Synodical Convention: June 2016

WHEREAS, a growing body of research on ACEs (Adverse Childhood Experiences), reveals that traumatic childhood events such as abuse, neglect and household dysfunctions can have lifelong implications on health and well-being. Girls with very high ACE scores (8+) have a high number of out-of-home placements and more likely to be trafficked for sex, and

WHEREAS, federal statistics show that trafficking is one of the world's fastest growing organized crime activities. The average age of entry into trafficking is 11-14 years. These young victims both boys and girls are often runaways from broken homes or family situations where they were abused, and

WHEREAS, the United Nations Children's Fund has moved to protect the rights of the children via its Convention on the Rights of the Child and specifically addresses the issue of corporal punishment of children (hitting, kicking, shaking, throwing, pinching, pulling hair, burning or scalding, etc.), and

WHEREAS, the Convention states that corporal punishment is cruel, humiliating, and degrading, and

WHEREAS, the United States has signed the UN Conventions of the Rights of the Child, but is the ONLY United Nations member state in which it has not been ratified,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NE IA Women of the ELCA memorialize the Churchwide Women of the ELCA to support the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child by stating clearly that it condemns all forms of corporal punishment of children.

Committee Recommendation on Memorial 5

The committee recommends adopting this memorial, as amended (amendments noted in bold text)

WHEREAS, a growing body of research on ACEs (Adverse Childhood Experiences), reveals that traumatic childhood events such as abuse, neglect and household dysfunctions can have lifelong implications on health and well-being. Girls with very high ACE scores (8+) have a high number of out-of-home placements and more likely to be trafficked for sex, and

WHEREAS, federal statistics show that trafficking is one of the world's fastest growing organized crime activities. The average age of entry into trafficking is 11-14 years. These young victims, both boys and girls, are often runaways from broken homes or family situations where they were abused, and

WHEREAS, the United Nations Children's Fund has moved to protect the rights of the children via its Convention on the Rights of the Child and specifically addresses the issue of corporal punishment of children (hitting, kicking, shaking, throwing, pinching, pulling hair, burning or scalding, etc.), and

WHEREAS, the Convention states that corporal punishment is cruel, humiliating, and degrading, and

Report of the Memorials Committee

WHEREAS, the United States has signed the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, but is the ONLY United Nations member state in which it has not been ratified; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the NE IA Women of the ELCA memorialize the Churchwide Women of the ELCA to support the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child by stating clearly that it condemns all forms of corporal punishment of children and be it further,

RESOLVED that synodical women's organization presidents report to the 2019 Conference of Presidents what they have done to raise awareness of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

MEMORIAL 6

Title: Regarding domestic abuse and violence and its prevention

Submitted by Northwest Synod of Wisconsin
Synodical Women's Organization, 5H
Adopted in Synodical Convention: April 2016

WHEREAS, domestic abuse and violence includes all forms of physical, emotional, psychological, sexual, verbal, spiritual and financial abuse including what is often a pattern of battering, threats, intimidation, and isolation used by one person to exert power and/or control over another person in the context of intimate dating, family or household relationships; and

WHEREAS, those experiencing domestic abuse and violence often suffer in silence and feel deep and misplaced shame and stigma; and

WHEREAS, domestic abuse and violence is present in our church communities, and abusers, victims, and survivors alike are often our brothers and sisters in Christ; and

WHEREAS, statistics tell us that:

- 1 in 4 women and 1 in 7 men in the United States are victims of domestic violence at some point in their lives,
- at least 3 women in the United States are murdered by their husbands and boyfriends each day,
- every 9 seconds, a woman in the United States is assaulted or beaten,
- 1 in 5 teenage girls has experienced physical and/or sexual abuse by a dating partner,
- females age 20-24 are at the greatest risk of nonfatal intimate partner violence,
- on a typical day, more than 20,000 phone calls are placed to domestic violence hotlines nationwide,
- 7 million children live in homes in which severe partner violence occurred,
- 30-60% of perpetrators of domestic violence also assault the children in the home; and

WHEREAS, it has been shown that speaking about domestic violence from the pulpit helps overcome the denial and isolation, and victims will come forth; and

WHEREAS, Jesus Christ and the Holy Scriptures call the people of God and the whole church to a mission of love, compassion, and justice; and

WHEREAS, we have been called by the Holy Scripture to be a safe haven and offer truth, hope, healing, peace, protection, and empowerment for those affected by domestic abuse and violence;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Women of the ELCA recognize domestic abuse and violence as a serious issue in our communities and our churches; and

Report of the Memorials Committee

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Women of the ELCA educate themselves about the signs of domestic abuse and violence and the services available in the community by inviting shelter workers, social workers, counselors and police officers to speak; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Women of the ELCA act by:

1. Posting information for local domestic violence hotlines and other hotlines in church restrooms, on bulletin boards, in church newsletters and in other publications,
National Domestic Violence Hotline - 1-888-799-SAFE
National Teen Dating Abuse Hotline - 1-866-331-9474 www.loveisrespect.org
National Child Abuse Hotline - 1-800-4-A-CHILD
National Elder Abuse Hotline - 1-800-677-1116
2. Assisting people in crisis by connecting them with agencies, professionals, and resources,
3. Financially supporting the local domestic abuse and violence shelters and donating items for their “needs list”, such as personal hygiene items, food, clothing, furniture, toys, quilts, and attending their events and fundraisers,
4. Volunteering at a local domestic abuse and violence shelter,
5. Making every ELCA congregation a safe space for victims of domestic abuse and violence, and making it known, and
6. Using resources to further educate ourselves about domestic abuse and violence, such as “Ministry with the Abused” ©2010, ELCA, www.ELCA.org/justiceforwomen
www.faithtrustinstitute.org
National Coalition Against Domestic Violence
<http://www.ncadv.org>

Children’s Defense Fund
www.childrensdefense.org

Turning Point for victims of domestic and sexual assault - River Falls, WI -
<http://www.turningpont-wi.org>

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www.womenoftheelca.org

Committee Recommendation on Memorial 6

The committee recommends adopting this memorial, as amended (amendments noted in bold text)

WHEREAS, domestic abuse and violence includes all forms of physical, emotional, psychological, sexual, verbal, spiritual and financial abuse, including what is often a pattern of battering, threats, intimidation, and isolation used by one person to exert power and/or control over another person in the context of intimate dating, family or household relationships; and

WHEREAS, those experiencing domestic abuse and violence often suffer in silence and feel deep and misplaced shame and stigma; and

WHEREAS, domestic abuse and violence is present in our church communities, and abusers, victims, and survivors alike are often our brothers and sisters in Christ; and

WHEREAS, statistics tell us that:

- 1 in 4 women and 1 in 7 men in the United States are victims of domestic violence at some point in their lives,
- at least 3 women in the United States are murdered by their husbands and boyfriends each day,
- every 9 seconds, a woman in the United States is assaulted or beaten,
- 1 in 5 teenage girls has experienced physical and/or sexual abuse by a dating partner,

Report of the Memorials Committee

- females age 20-24 are at the greatest risk of nonfatal intimate partner violence,
- on a typical day, more than 20,000 phone calls are placed to domestic violence hotlines nationwide,
- 7 million children live in homes in which severe partner violence occurred,
- 30-60% of perpetrators of domestic violence also assault the children in the home; and

WHEREAS, it has been shown that speaking about domestic violence from the pulpit helps overcome the denial and isolation, and victims will come forth; and

WHEREAS, Jesus Christ and the Holy Scriptures call the people of God and the whole church to a mission of love, compassion, and justice; and

WHEREAS, we have been called by the Holy Scripture to be a safe haven and offer truth, hope, healing, peace, protection, and empowerment for those affected by domestic abuse and violence; now therefore be it

RESOLVED that Women of the ELCA recognize domestic abuse and violence as a serious issue in our communities and our churches; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Women of the ELCA educate themselves about the signs of domestic abuse and violence and the services available in the community by inviting shelter workers, social workers, counselors and police officers to speak; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Women of the ELCA act by:

1. Posting information for local domestic violence hotlines and other hotlines in church restrooms, on bulletin boards, in church newsletters and in other publications,

National Domestic Violence Hotline -
1-888-799-SAFE

National Teen Dating Abuse Hotline -
1-866-331-9474 www.loveisrespect.org

National Child Abuse Hotline - 1-800-4-A-CHILD
National Elder Abuse Hotline - 1-800-677-1116

2. Assisting people in crisis by connecting them with agencies, professionals, and resources,
3. Financially supporting the local domestic abuse and violence shelters and donating items for their “needs list”, such as personal hygiene items, food, clothing, furniture, toys, quilts, and attending their events and fundraisers,
4. Volunteering at a local domestic abuse and violence shelter,
5. Making every ELCA congregation a safe space for victims of domestic abuse and violence, and making it known, and
6. Using resources to further educate ourselves about domestic abuse and violence, such as “Ministry with the Abused” ©2010, ELCA, www.ELCA.org/justiceforwomen
www.faithtrustinstitute.org
National Coalition Against Domestic Violence
<http://www.ncadv.org>
Children’s Defense Fund
www.childrensdefense.org
Turning Point for victims of domestic and sexual assault - River Falls, WI -
<http://www.turningpont-wi.org>
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www.womenoftheelca.org

and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that synodical women’s organization presidents report at the 2019 Conference of Presidents what they have done to raise awareness of domestic violence.

Report of the Memorials Committee

MEMORIAL 7

Title: Regarding Bible Women ministry of India

Submitted by Northwestern Minnesota Synodical Women's Organization, 3D

Adopted in Synodical Convention: September 2016

Whereas, Bible Women minister to people converting to Christianity from the Hindu and Islamic faiths. Most of the people they work with are "Dalits" the poorest of the poor in India. Dalits were known as Untouchables; in India's caste system; and

WHEREAS, the divisions lingering from the caste system, most Dalits cannot or do not attend church services. Therefore, Bible Women visit these families in their homes; and

WHEREAS, Bible Women strive to make Christ known by forming personal relationships with families, first through the women. They visit home, conduct Bible studies, teach Sunday School, and much more; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the Bible Women is to show Christ's love to all people; and

WHEREAS, the Bible Women program receives about one-third of its annual financial support from the ELCA. The AELC is then responsible for raising two-thirds for the annual support to keep this amazing ministry flourishing; and

WHEREAS, the financial support (salary) of one Bible Woman per year is 15,000–20,000 rupees. In American dollars, the cost is between \$250 to \$350 dollars; and

WHEREAS, there are over 70 Bible Women ministering in the AELC at the time of this writing; and

WHEREAS, the Northwestern Minnesota Synodical Women's Organization continues to deepen its partnership with the AELC by supporting them financially and through prayer.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the voting members of the Tenth Triennial Convention

encourage Women of the ELCA in all its expressions to hold in prayer the Bible Women of India as it ministers to families in India and be it further

RESOLVED, that the voting members of the Tenth Triennial convention affirm the extraordinary efforts of the Northwestern Minnesota Synodical Women's Organization to support the ministry of the Bible Women of India, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the voting members of the 29th Northwest Minnesota Synodical organization memorialize these actions to the 10th Triennial Convention of the Women of the ELCA.

Committee Recommendation on Memorial 7

The committee recommends adopting this memorial.

Report of the Nominating Committee

The nominating committee for the Tenth Triennial Convention of Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America met at the churchwide office in Chicago, January 27–28, 2017. The committee of nine women represented geographic, regional, age and ethnic diversity. The committee worked within the constitutional mandates of Women of the ELCA, which provide the following guidelines for nominations:

- At least 10% of nominees shall be persons of color and/or persons whose primary language is other than English.
- Consideration shall be given to geographic location, variety of ages and diversity of experience.

Additional nominations may come from the floor at the convention.

Key to experiences listed

Each candidate's experience is listed following the key below:

1. Nominee's Qualifications
2. Women of the ELCA experience
3. ELCA experience
4. Community/Ecumenical participation
5. Age category and ethnic/racial heritage

Nominations for Secretary, 2017–2020



Freddie Jordan
Columbus, OH
Region 6, Southern Ohio SWO

1. Currently vice president, Southern Ohio SWO. Ph.D. in biochemistry, postdoctoral fellowship in neuroscience, bachelor's degree in biology. Faculty and administrative positions at Wilberforce University and Central State University. Certified science teacher and small business owner.
2. Active with St. Philip's Evangelical Lutheran Church (Columbus, OH) WELCA congregational outreach programs. Leadership training for Southern Ohio SWO congregational units and conference boards. Participant in regional spiritual gathering. Established SWO task force on human trafficking. Voting member to two triennial conventions.
3. Served as member and president of church council. Developed program encouraging youth of congregation and community to grow in faith and increase science literacy. Implemented pilot program for congregational stewardship.
4. Chair of local section, American Chemical Society. Host of annual chemistry awards event.
5. 50–64; African American



Arlene Roth
Red Wing, MN
Region 3, Southeastern
Minnesota SWO

1. Previously served two terms as member of CWO executive board, 1999–2005. Bachelor's degree in organizational studies and communications. Self-employed.
2. Active with Anna Circle, United Lutheran, Red Wing MN. Bible study leader, supports stewardship projects.
3. Secretary and member of congregational boards. Crochets for congregation's prayer shawl ministry.
4. Current president of local Altrusa International Club chapter; active member for 18 years. Volunteer driver education instructor for AARP. Former officer of local League of Women Voters chapter. Award-winning public speaker with Toastmasters International.
5. 65 or over; Caucasian

Nominations for Treasurer 2017–2020



Susan Humphrey
Tulsa, OK
Region 4, Arkansas-Oklahoma
SWO

1. Previously served two terms as member of CWO executive board, 1999 – 2005. Bachelor's degree in art education and elementary education. Registered parliamentarian. Former teacher and fundraiser.
2. Active with Esther Circle, Joy Lutheran Church, Tulsa OK. Co-chaired 2016 SWO convention; SWO leadership development trainer, writes Bible studies for clusters.
3. Member of congregational council, choir, witness and stewardship teams. Teaches Sunday school. International travel with Women Building Global Community and synod Global Mission team. Currently an ELCA delegate to National Council of Churches; previously president and treasurer of Oklahoma Conference of Churches. Former voting member to ELCA churchwide assembly. Development mentor to synodical Latino ministry. Serves on board of Oaks Indian Mission, an ELCA ministry to Native American children.
4. Volunteer school librarian assistant, former PTA and other volunteer roles at children's schools. Has hosted international students and fostered Native American children.
5. 50–64; Caucasian



Anna Sarver
Greensburg, PA
Region 8, Southwestern
Pennsylvania SWO

1. Currently serving as member of CWO executive board, 2014–2017; member of Budget and Finance committee; board liaison to scholarships committee. Operates family farm with spouse, handling recordkeeping, taxes, etc. Former executive director of Farm Service Agency, implementing and administering federal farm programs in three counties; responsible for annual disbursements over \$1 million. Treasurer of statewide Farm Service employees' association.
2. Served as president, treasurer, and circle leader of local unit. Former treasurer of SWPA SWO. Served as registrar for the SWPA-NWPA retreat and as cluster planner. Parliamentarian and delegate to SWPA SWO conventions. Voting member to 2011 and 2014 churchwide conventions.
3. Currently serving on congregation's finance, stewardship and property committees, with past terms as chair. Past president and vice-president of congregation council, chair of personnel committee, and co-chair of call committee. Chorister, assisting minister, communion assistant, distributes communion for homebound. Co-chair of congregation's regular luncheons. Past delegate to synod assembly, including resolutions committee. Participant in synodical stewardship training and other events.
4. Delegate to legislative conferences in Washington, D.C. Volunteer experience: promoting state mobile agricultural lab with county Farm Bureau; 4-H leader for 12 years. Currently assists elderly neighbors with daily errands.
5. 65 or over; Caucasian

Nominations for Women of the ELCA Executive Board 2017–2020

Region 1



Tina Bigelow
Poulsbo, WA
Region 1, Southwestern
Washington SWO

1. U.S. Navy veteran, beginning in 1980 with enlistment and ending in 2007 as Commander. Bachelor's degree in engineering, master's degree in IT management.
2. Active with Women of Vinland, Vinland Lutheran, Poulsbo WA. Current president of SW WA SWO; former vice president. Voting member to Triennial Conventions in 2014, 2017; served on resolutions committee for 2014 convention. Served on organizing committee for 2016 Region 1 Gathering and chaired planning committee for 2017 Conference of Presidents.
3. Has served Vinland as youth mission trip chaperone and as member of preschool board, Good Sam club, altar guild and communion team. Represented Vinland as voting member for 2015 synod assembly.
4. Volunteered with grade school support programs in the United States and orphanage work parties overseas during Navy career. Since then, regular volunteer with schools, including as in-class tutor and staff support. Advocate for homeless youth through local organization, Coffee Oasis. Has volunteered with Disabled Veterans, Wounded Warriors, Susan B. Komen Foundation, and American Cancer Society. Currently volunteers with children's track team and is pursuing assignment as a peer mentor with Wounded Warriors.
5. 50–64; Asian American



Sonja Hoffman
Portland, OR
Region 1, Oregon SWO

1. Current and past president of Oregon SWO, secretary of congregational unit. TDTR network member. Retired middle-school teacher.
2. Past president of Peace Lutheran Church Women, Peace Lutheran, Portland. Served as planner for Oregon SWO Convention, 2009; president of SWO 2010–2013 and 2016–present. Assisted with planning for 2013 Region 1 Gathering. Member of Today's Dream, Tomorrow's Reality network, having trained to lead workshops.
3. Past president of congregation council, voting member to synod assembly.
4. Member of Portland Eastside Ministries, a coalition of Lutheran churches working for neighborhood improvement.
5. 65 or over; Caucasian



Gloria Lannen
Choteau, MT
Region 1, Montana SWO

1. Previously served two terms as president of Montana SWO; current unit president. Active with TDTR network. Recently retired after 23 years with local bank.

Nominations for Women of the ELCA Executive Board 2017–2020

Region 1 (continued)

2. President of Trinity Lutheran Church WELCA, Trinity Lutheran, Choteau, MT. Has served as organizer of Region 1 Gathering and president of cluster. Also served as voting member to 4 churchwide Triennial Conventions. Active with TDTR, having attended two trainings.
 3. Member of team working on ELCA Justice for Women social statement. Traveled with other Montana women to companion synod in Bolivia and has attended Growing in God's Field weekends. Currently serves as secretary of congregation council, chorister, and altar guild member. Has led Sunday school and confirmation classes.
 4. Served as Girl Scout leader, president of Booster Club, and leader of the Teton County Riding Lawn Mower Drill Team for Choteau's 4th of July parade. Serves as an advocate for children in the court system. Leader for D.A.R.E. groups for troubled high-school youth.
 5. 65 or over; Caucasian
- Participant in NW WA and MT SWO retreats. Served SWO board as member-at-large (2011–2014) and secretary (2014–2017). Participant in Region 1 Gatherings, churchwide Triennial Gatherings; voting member to Triennial Convention 2014.
 3. Serves on Ebenezer's congregation council. Voting member and registration volunteer for synod assembly; voting member for Camp Lutherwood annual meeting. Has participated in NW WA Children, Youth and Families Boundaries Training.
 4. Board member of Lake Stevens Education Foundation, member of foundation's scholarship, strategic planning and other committees. Serves on Lake Stevens Library Board of Directors. Volunteer with schools, United Way and PTA.
 5. 65 or over; Caucasian



Janice Stepp
Lake Stevens, WA
Region 1, Northwest
Washington SWO

1. Secretary of NW WA SWO (2014–2017). Active with Ebenezer Lutheran Church Women, Lake Stevens. Retired classroom support professional for local public schools.
2. Facilitates Bible study using *Gather*, promotes Women of the ELCA activities in congregation. Contributes to NW WA SWO newsletter and website. Has served SWO on planning teams for retreats, convention, and regional gathering.




Jone Stout
Pasco, WA
Region 1, Eastern Washington/
Idaho SWO

1. Current president of Eastern Washington/Idaho SWO. Longtime church musician and music teacher, currently teaching private piano lessons. Part-time editor and publisher for family-owned weekly newspaper. Bachelor's degree in education.
2. Active participant and Bible study leader for congregational unit, continued to participate as unit has transitioned to being an inter-congregational unit. Former board member and vice president of Eastern Washington/Idaho SWO; gathering planning team member. Participant in

Nominations for Women of the ELCA Executive Board 2017–2020

Region 1 (continued)

- cluster meetings and regional gatherings. Voting member to 2014 triennial convention; participant in 2008 and 2014 triennial gatherings. Member of the planning team for 2015 conference of presidents.
3. Church musician; member of congregation's worship planning team, prayer group, worship and music committee, altar guild. Member of mission start task force. Voting member to synod assembly; member of synod's music and worship committee; participant in Worship Jubilee. Regular participant in city wide Lutheran Advent/Christmas choral program.
 4. Member ecumenical women's choir; past director of community children's choir; helped organize community concert for children's choirs; participates in citywide Lutheran Advent/Christmas choral program. Current member national, state and regional music teachers' association. Volunteer for Second Harvest and Pasco Latino Lutheran Ministry.
 5. 65 or over; Caucasian
- 
- Karen Voris**
Eagle River, AK
Region 1, Alaska SWO
3. Currently serving as financial and membership secretary of Central Lutheran. Formerly served as church council president, co-chair of call committee, chair of youth committee, fellowship committee and personnel committee. Chorister, assisting minister, communion assistant, eucharistic minister to the homebound. Longtime volunteer with high-school youth group, teaching Sunday school and leading youth at regional and national gatherings and a mission trip to Guatemala. Member of group from Central who lead Bible school in Brevig Mission, an Inupiat village on the Seward peninsula. Also took part in mission trips to help communities recover after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Served on congregation's Emergency Cold Weather Shelter team.
 4. Special Olympics state coordinator and coach. Former member of Anchorage Faith & Action Congregations Together. Longtime committee member for Fireweed 400 bicycle race. Longtime committee member and team captain for American Cancer Society Relay for Life. Mentor for Leukemia Lymphoma Society Team in Training. Co-chair of Eagle River Optional Program steering committee, also co-chair of Chugiak High School cotillion board. Board member and congregational coordinator for Kuwaa Mission.
 5. 65 or over; Caucasian
1. Current member of CWO board, 2014–2017. Longtime special education teacher of all grades, also works with families of younger children with disabilities.
 2. Involved in all aspects of congregational life at Central Lutheran Church, Anchorage. Past president and vice president of Alaska SWO.

Nominations for Women of the ELCA Executive Board 2017–2020

Region 2



Laura Krueger
Avondale, AZ
Region 2, Grand Canyon SWO

1. Previous two-term president of Grand Canyon SWO; previous service as vice president of Upstate New York SWO and Grand Canyon SWO. Bachelor's degree; completing master's degree. Supervisor of community college admissions and records office.
2. Active with Women of the ELCA since its beginning, serving on women's organization transitional team during merger of three predecessor church bodies. Newsletter editor for Upstate New York and Grand Canyon SWOs; chair of synodical conventions, conference leader, several leadership positions in congregational units. Instrumental in bringing Grand Canyon SWO to the internet and social media. Has served on several churchwide committees and task forces as well as planning team for Conference of Presidents; voting member to two triennial conventions.
3. Has served on congregational and conference councils, and as part-time Christian education director, leading a children's ministry program to double in size in just over a year. Worship leader, chorister, cantor, soloist. Has represented Women of the ELCA at synod council.
4. Serves as Ingathering Coordinator for Lutheran World Relief in Arizona; has served on local Thrivent board and as coordinator for local United Way campaign. Former Girl Scout leader and regional director for Girl Scout council. Currently serves as coordinator for a diaper closet, where diapers are distributed to families in need. Also

sports booster and coordinator; PTA volunteer, having served as unit president, regional coordinator and member of statewide board.

5. 50–64; Caucasian



Becky Shurson
Yucaipa, CA
Region 2, Pacifica SWO

1. Current secretary of CWO executive board. Active with women of Faith, Yupaica, CA. Longtime employee of nonprofit company serving Christian organizations; previously served as a legal secretary. Bachelor's degree.
2. Secretary of churchwide executive board 2014–2017, serving on executive and constitutional review committees. Advisory member of 2016 and 2017 Conference of Presidents planning teams. Previous service as volunteer at 9th Triennial Convention; voting member to 8th Triennial Convention. Served 7 years on Pacifica SWO board as board member and secretary. Served as secretary and now as advisor to current congregational unit, and as president, secretary and treasurer of past congregational unit. Member of women's Bible study circle.
3. Voting member to two synod assemblies; member of Faith's chancel choir, handbell choir and altar guild. Served four years as recording secretary of congregation council; served as secretary of congregation's transition committee and call committee. Served on steering committee that worked with local Episcopal church to call an Episcopal priest as shared pastor/priest for both congregations. Served as Sunday School teacher and education committee chair.

Nominations for Women of the ELCA Executive Board 2017–2020

Region 2 (continued)

4. Member of ELCA congregation sharing a pastor/priest with local Episcopal church, and participant in monthly joint worship services, Bible studies, and community outreach by the two congregations; financial director of local Thrivent Financial chapter.
5. 50–64; Caucasian

Nominations for Women of the ELCA Executive Board 2017–2020

Region 3



Lois Bylund
Moorhead, MN
Region 3, Northwestern
Minnesota SWO

1. Current member of CWO executive board (2014–2017), serving on executive and finance committees. Operations supervisor at hospital services company. Active with Trinity Women, Trinity Lutheran Church.
2. Served unit as board member, vice president and president. Past cluster coordinator; past president of Northwestern Minnesota SWO board.
3. Past service on congregational council, including as secretary. Liaison from council to Lost and Found board. Served as advisor to Synod Council during term as SWO president. Served on altar guild, taught Sunday school, volunteers in many other congregational roles.
4. Served on the community Thanksgiving Dinner committee; also set up and served meals. United Way coordinator; volunteer for March of Dimes fundraising event.
5. 50–64; Caucasian



Nancy Giddings
Cumberland, WI
Region 3, Northwest Synod of
Wisconsin SWO

1. Current member of CWO executive board (2014–2017); former president of Minneapolis Area SWO. Retired vocational counselor for people with developmental disabilities; currently pursuing master of divinity degree at Luther Seminary; approved for candidacy in Minneapolis Area Synod.
2. Past president and vice president, Minneapolis Area SWO. Member of TDTR network. Past chair of Conference of Presidents planning committee. Active in women's ministries at Cross of Hope Lutheran Church. She has been a member of Cross of Hope for 29 years and has been active in church council, choir, assisting minister, worship and music table and visits shut ins with communion.
3. Active member of Cross of Hope for 29 years, serving as church council president and vice president; chorister; assisting minister; worship and music committee chair; communion visitor; prayer chain coordinator. Currently a member of Global Partnership Table in Minneapolis Area Synod.
4. Longtime election judge and head election judge. Member of American Blind Bowlers Association, locally and nationally; tournament committee chair; editor of Blind Bowler newsletter for many years. Member of Twin Cities Blind Audio Dart League since 2004, serving on the board and as vice president. Has raised puppies for Hearing and Service Dogs of Minnesota.
5. 50–64; Caucasian

Nominations for Women of the ELCA Executive Board 2017–2020

Region 3 (continued)



Sara Larson
Balaton, MN
Region 3, Southwestern
Minnesota SWO

1. Member of SW MN SWO board; bachelor's degree in sociology; experienced working with children and families in crisis.
2. SW MN SWO board member; president and vice president of conference; president and secretary of congregational unit. Bible study leader and guest speaker. Participant in past two triennial gatherings; voting member for 2017 triennial convention.
3. Promoted Women of the ELCA in workshop at synod assembly; participated in companion synod partnership trip to South Africa; led group to ELCA Youth Gathering twice. Serves congregation as Sunday school superintendent, confirmation teacher, youth group leader.
4. Member of local Chamber of Commerce; Community Celebration board; Round Up board; advocate for Children's Justice Initiative; speaker for Parents Forever, and longtime youth basketball coach. Named Outstanding Citizen of the Year in 2013 and Outstanding Volunteer of the Region in 2014.
5. 35–49, Caucasian



Joy Michalicek
Duluth, MN
Region 3, Northeastern
Minnesota SWO

1. Former SWO president and two-term board member; Triennial Gathering Promoter; member of campus ministry board. Alumna and employee of state university's Duluth campus; charter member of campus ministry. Bachelor's degree in communication.
2. As SWO president, submitted memorial to 9th Triennial Convention to promote PV for Phebe Project, raising interest in and appreciation of WELCA throughout synod. Previously served as chair for SWO gathering.
3. Vice president of congregation, serving on fellowship team and personnel committee. Chorister, member of handbell choir and group assembling care packages for college students. Currently serving as processbuilder for ELCA social statement on Justice for Women, conducting listening sessions. Congregational delegate to synod assembly and church delegate to nearby ELCA college.
4. Worked with Commission on Women at university campus, succeeding in opening a child-care center on campus. Music booster for high school music program; past secretary for youth hockey association, persuading local association not to schedule games on Sunday mornings, and also to continue co-ed youth teams.
5. 35–49; Caucasian

Nominations for Women of the ELCA Executive Board 2017–2020

Region 3 (continued)



Lisa Plorin
Upham, ND
Region 3, Western North
Dakota SWO

1. Current member of CWO board (2014–2017), serving on stewardship and programs and communications committees. Co-owner of family construction business.
2. Past unit treasurer and president; past SWO vice president and president. Planning chair for Conference of Presidents. Participant in every triennial convention or gathering since 1999.
3. Past member of WND Synod Council, currently congregation secretary and treasurer. Member of GIFTS (Growing in Faith to Serve) program. Currently serves as supply preacher in area congregations.
4. Participates in Dollars for Scholars, raising money for high school activities association; annual Turtle Race days; All School reunion committee. Past volunteer for local ambulance service.

Nominations for Women of the ELCA Executive Board 2017–2020

Region 4



Angela Bell
Bellville, TX
Region 4, Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast SWO

1. Currently secretary and past board member of TX/LA Gulf Coast SWO. Bachelor's degree. At-home mother of 3 small children.
 2. Past president of previous congregational unit in Hickory, NC. Attended 9th triennial gathering as part of local volunteer team. Former secretary of North Carolina SWO. Past chair for Western Cluster of TX/LA Gulf Coast SWO.
 3. Voting member to churchwide assembly. Chorister and handbell choir member; member of congregation's worship and music committee. Involved in many congregational activities as pastor's wife.
 4. Volunteers with Meals on Wheels through congregation; assists Treehouse Campus Ministries with refreshments.
 5. 21–34, Caucasian
2. President of of Nebraska SWO 2010–2015. Triennial Gathering Promoter for 2017 Gathering. Served 2 terms representing High Plains conference to SWO board.
 3. Has represented Women of the ELCA as non-voting member of the Nebraska Synod Council; served last 3 synod assemblies as synod nurse. Chair of congregation's call committee; chair of women's serving group; coordinated congregational photo directory.
 4. Community-elected member of Cozad Hospital Board and Cozad Hospital Foundation; past volunteer for the Red Cross; member of Cozad Elks Club.
 5. 50–64; Caucasian



Dawn Young
Seguin, TX
Region 4, Southwestern Texas SWO



Kandy Pflaster
Cozad, NE
Region 4, Nebraska SWO

1. Former president and vice president of Nebraska SWO. Bachelor of science degree in nursing; registered nurse; charge nurse in surgery department of regional medical center.
1. President of congregational unit; active with unit since confirmation. Former city council member in New Berlin, TX. Past SWO president and current moderator for SWT SWO Facebook page. Musician and insurance agent.
 2. Appointed to the SWO board to fill an unexpired term and then elected to that position for two more terms. Served as vice president and then as president for two terms. Member of planning committee for the 2014 Conference of Presidents. Co-chair for SWO convention planning committee in 2010 and 2016
 3. Represented Women of the ELCA on SWT synod council. Sunday school teacher; leads Sunday

Nominations for Women of the ELCA Executive Board 2017–2020

Region 4 (continued)

school singing. Member of worship and music committee; chorister and guitarist. Past service on congregation council.

4. Currently serves as liaison between congregation and local food pantry, coordinating volunteers to serve at the pantry. Bell ringer for Salvation Army. Originator and leader of The Chickletts, originally formed of women from WELCA unit to sing at church and WELCA events.
5. 50–64, Caucasian



Lisa Youngquist
Ozark, MO
Region 4, Central States SWO

1. President and past vice president of Central States SWO board. Associate's degree in business; works in human resources department of local hospital.
2. Member of unit coordinating committee, organizing holiday soup supper and ornament exchange. Has started two BoldCafe groups; created synodical newsletter; vice president and then president of SWO, leading creation of scholarship fund for women seeking post-secondary education. Elected voting member to 2011 triennial convention; chaired resolutions committee at 2014 triennial convention.
3. Treasurer of two previous congregations. Volunteer at synodical outdoor ministry site, raising funds to organize and supply kitchens and other parts of facility to expand use.
4. Volunteer with local food banks.
5. 35–49; Caucasian

Nominations for Women of the ELCA Executive Board 2017–2020

Region 5



Sandra Chandonia
Toledo, IA
Region 5, Southeastern Iowa
SWO

1. Former president and board member of SEIA SWO; retired postmaster, now motel manager.
2. Past president of SEIA SWO (2011–2015); board member of SEIA SWO (2009–2011); chair of 2011 and 2015 SEIA Gatherings; planning committee member for 2015 Conference of Presidents and All-Iowa Gathering; voting member to 2011 and 2014 triennial conventions; chair of Human Trafficking committee.
3. Past member of congregation council and treasurer; chair of committee for ice cream social; member of First Call committee. Delegate to synod assembly, 2010 and 2012. Participant in Lutheran Day on the Hill.
4. Secretary Maple Grove Cemetery Association; member of Tama County Historical Society and Poweshiek County Genealogical and Historical Society. Active with grandchildren's school activities.
5. 50–64; Caucasian



Sharei Green
Chicago, IL
Region 5, Metropolitan Chicago
SWO

1. Vice president of congregation council, vice president of Metro Chicago Synod chapter of African Descent Lutheran Association; communicator for Lutheran Disaster Response.
2. Various leadership roles in Bethel Lutheran's congregational women's group over last 10 years.
3. Bethel Lutheran Church council vice president; member of ELCA's National African Descent Strategy Team, serving on Justice Table.
4. Volunteers with congregation's Taste & See community meal program; has helped organize and participated in Peace Festivals: block parties to promote neighborhood peace.
5. 21–34; African American



Donna Peterson
Dodgeville, WI
Region 5, South-Central Synod
of Wisconsin SWO

1. Current treasurer of South-Central Synod of Wisconsin SWO. Active with Rachel Circle at Grace Lutheran Church. TDTR training, active with synod's anti-racism team. Bachelor's degree in home economics education; master's degree in business administration. Nutrition educator and coordinator for two counties through state university.

Nominations for Women of the ELCA Executive Board 2017–2020

Region 5 (continued)

2. Coordinator of congregation's Bold Women's Day events; former mission coordinator for Barneveld conference. Voting member to 2014 triennial convention.
3. Past congregation council member; chair of youth, service and evangelism committee; past member of worship and music committee. Past board member and treasurer of Grace Christian Preschool; past coordinator of day camp at Grace. Leads and organizes annual educational forums at congregation; in 2017 topic was anti-racism. Leads altar flower and art rail ministry. Coordinator of God's Work, Our Hands activities past 3 years.
4. Organizes free ecumenical Thanksgiving and Christmas meals for Dodgeville and surrounding area. Board member of United Fund and Family Advocates; usher at American Players Theater; supporter and counter kettle coordinator for Salvation Army.
5. 50–64, Caucasian



Viviane Thomas-Breitfeld
Brookfield, WI
Region 5, Greater Milwaukee
SWO

1. Ordained ELCA pastor who has served campus ministry, congregations, and as hospital chaplain. TDTR network member; part of synod Anti-Racism Team; co-chair of ELCA task force on Women and Justice: One in Christ. Master of divinity degree.
2. Active in Women of the ELCA since its founding. Served 2 terms on Greater Milwaukee SWO Board.

3. Serves synod as intentional interim pastor. Member of the Greater Milwaukee Synod Anti-Racism Team; advanced clinical pastoral education certification for hospital chaplaincy.
4. Volunteer pastoral counselor for women's shelter; chaplain to local hospital women's mental health units.
5. 50–64; African American



Frances Voyce
Ironwood, MI
Region 5, Northern Great Lakes
SWO

1. Past president, Northern Great Lakes SWO; retired public health worker; associate's degree in business; active with Sarah Circle and Knitters & Quilters Monthly.
2. Active participant and leader in congregational units for 50 years, serving as president, secretary, treasurer, Bible study leader, host of circle & quilters' gatherings. Also served 9 years on Northern Great Lakes SWO board: 1 as board member, 4 as treasurer, 4 as president.
3. Congregation council president, treasurer, secretary, board member; Sunday school superintendent; Sunday school teacher. Host of annual Soup Supper for ELCA World Hunger. Ten years on synod's ELCA World Hunger team; longtime member of Sisters of the Cloth (quilting and organizing fine arts auctions). Earned certificate from synodical lay school for missions. Active with IGO Cluster; parish Book Club; Card Making Club, making cards for shut-ins and for service members.

Nominations for Women of the ELCA Executive Board 2017–2020

Region 5 (continued)

4. Volunteers with Church Women United, local Head Start board; participant in ecumenical Bible study and Christian Women's Club. Former Girl Scout Leader, served on Girl Scouts Advisory Committee; 30-year 4-H leader. Also past vice president, secretary and treasurer of Northern Lights Quilt Guild; member of Piecemakers Quilt Guild and Fortune Lake Sisters of the Cloth. Makes comfort quilts for less fortunate through local quilt store. Volunteer at local schools and chaperone on school trips.
5. 65 or over; Caucasian

Nominations for Women of the ELCA Executive Board 2017–2020

Region 6



Linda Doerge
Lexington, KY
Region 6, Indiana-Kentucky
SWO

1. President of Indiana-Kentucky SWO; president and former vice president of congregational unit. Longtime English teacher in high-poverty junior high school; also teaches English as a Second Language for immigrants from variety of countries; also English composition for students in Appalachia. Bachelor's and master's degrees in secondary education and English.
2. Has served I-K SWO as president, vice president, and board member. Planned and chaired I-K SWO convention in 2015; also served as cluster coordinator.
3. Congregation council secretary; assistant minister; chorister. Took part in congregational youth mission trip and synod's mission trip. Voting member to synod assembly.
4. Girl Scout leader for 22 years, chair of Girl Scout council award and program committees. Directed Girl Scout day camp. Supports Thursday's Child, which promotes finding forever homes for older children; Salvation Army bell ringer. Organizes field trips to state general assembly for high-school students.
5. 65 or over; Caucasian



Carolyn Steinfeldt
Huron, OH
Region 6, Northwest Ohio SWO

1. Currently president of NW Ohio SWO. ELCA Deacon; trained Stephen minister leader and coach. Bachelor's degree in home economics and health science; formerly taught in middle school.
2. Formerly served as conference president, mentoring congregational units to understand their role in their communities. Previously served on SWO board as conference rep. Worship planner for regional spiritual gatherings. Voting member to 2008 and 2011 triennial conventions.
3. Deacon with emphasis in faith formation. Leads Bible study in circle and elsewhere; co-teaches confirmation classes. Retreat leader and workshop presenter. Active in congregation's outreach and parish life ministry teams. Serves on synod's discipleship/Christian education team. Voting member to 2011 churchwide assembly.
4. Currently serves on ecumenical task force to institute crisis navigation organization to help neighbors in immediate need. Also member of intercongregational team establishing Dinner Church to reach neighbors who are not connected to a congregation. Assists committee planning and serving community Thanksgiving dinner.
5. 65 or over; Caucasian

Nominations for Women of the ELCA Executive Board 2017–2020

Region 7



Elizabeth Burgess
Augusta, ME
Region 7, New England SWO

1. Currently serves on CWO executive board (2014–2017). Active with Prince of Peace congregational unit. Bachelor's degree in physical therapy.
2. Past president, vice president and board member, New England SWO. Conference convener and shepherd, planning committee and workshop presenter. Served on planning committee and as presenter, region 7 spiritual retreat. Congregational unit contact person and treasurer, circle member, LWR quilter.
3. Currently serves as promoter for ELCA social statement on Justice for Women. Serves on synod council. Previously presented workshop on justice and organized service project benefiting victims of human trafficking and abuse at synod assemblies. Vice president and former secretary of experimental Lutheran-Episcopal congregation. Also serves on board of trustees, communications and stewardship committees, volunteers for everyday basic essentials pantry and organizes coffee hour. Former chair of stewardship, worship, evangelism and youth communities; former chair of community Christmas dinner. Led youth to 2009 Youth Gathering.
4. Participates in interfaith sacred study with congregation and nearby synagogue. Co-sponsored "Words Matter" program at Harvard Divinity School. Former president and volunteer for local hospice program, established program for grieving children. Former board member and present supporter of Tres Dias of Maine. Former

president of Maine Women's Golf Association and New England Women's Golf Association.

5. 65 or over; Caucasian



Anissa Canova
Gouldsboro, PA
Region 7, Northeastern Pennsylvania SWO

1. Current member of CWO executive board, serving on program and communications committee. Former board member of NEPA SWO, cluster secretary, and unit officer. TDTR peer educator. Bachelor's degree in business management. Works for state department of human services.
2. Past president, vice president and secretary of Grace Lutheran congregational unit; past secretary for Pocono Cluster, delegate to NEPA SWO conventions.
3. Served as voting member to synod assembly. Past president, vice president and secretary of congregation council; current member of council. Has led Bible study groups, spiritual book club and spiritual gifts workshops. Preaches and leads contemporary worship services. Substitute teacher for Sunday school and confirmation classes; VBS leader; has helped lead many youth events including retreats at outdoor ministry sites. President of congregation's food pantry and founder of community garden, with support from ELCA Domestic Hunger.
4. Treasurer and volunteer fundraiser for American Legion Auxiliary; hospice volunteer; animal shelter volunteer.
5. 36–49; Caucasian

Nominations for Women of the ELCA Executive Board 2017–2020

Region 7 (continued)



Barbara Tormondsen
Greenwich, CT
Region 7, Metropolitan New
York SWO

1. Former president and treasurer of Metro New York SWO; currently SWO newsletter editor; president of congregational unit. Bachelor's and master of business administration degrees from Dartmouth College. Graduate of synodical Diakonia program.
2. Has served as president of St. Paul's Women of the ELCA for past 10 years. Member of SWO delegation to 2011 and 2014 triennial conventions; voting member to 2017 triennial convention.
3. Currently serving on congregation council; acting treasurer. Regularly represents congregation as voting member to synod assembly. Longtime president of altar guild, formerly taught Sunday school for 20 years. Lector, communion assistant, and assists with monthly healing services.
4. Volunteers for ecumenical backpack program for nearby school system. Also active in college alumni activities, including recruiting for annual fund drive. Former PTA president; also served on board of trustees for local girls' school.
5. 50–64; Caucasian

Nominations for Women of the ELCA Executive Board 2017–2020

Region 8



Patricia Bellingham
Erie, PA
Region 8, Northwestern
Pennsylvania SWO

1. Current member of NWPA SWO board. Bachelor's and master's degrees in education; longtime special education teacher at all levels.
2. Currently serves as secretary for congregational unit at Luther Memorial Church in Erie; current member of SWO board; previously served on planning committee for several fall retreats with SWPA Synod; past Triennial Gathering Promoter; past voting member to triennial conventions.
3. Member of Luther Memorial congregation council and bell choir; member of Luther Memorial concert series. Volunteer with Bethany Outreach Center Saturday reading program.
4. Assistant district secretary, VASA Order of America (Swedish Fraternal Organization); current treasurer and past financial secretary, local Lodge SVEA; track & field coordinator for Special Olympics of Crawford County.
5. 51–64; Caucasian



Sandra Grier
Williamsport, PA
Region 8, Upper Susquehanna
SWO

1. Current member of CWO executive board (2014–2017), serving on finance committee. ELCA deacon. Bachelor's degree in elementary education. Owns bookstore serving congregations.
2. Former president and publicity coordinator of congregational unit; former president, vice president and board member of Upper Susquehanna SWO.
3. Synodically authorized lay worship leader. Lector, communion assistant, usher and librarian at Messiah Lutheran Church; Formerly served as synod's social outreach coordinator; member of synod's Global Missions and Christian education committees. Christian education and family ministry coordinator at St. Mark's Lutheran Church. Formerly served as chair of Christian education, evangelism and congregational events committees at Church of the Savior.
4. Volunteer worship leader at nursing home through United Churches of Lycoming County. Former chair of United Churches of Lycoming County CROP Walk; secretary of member of Williamsport area Bicycle Club; member Gold Wing Roadriders of America; speaker at Wednesday Ecumenical Luncheons; member of the Loyalsock Garden Club; founded senior citizens' program at New Covenant United Church of Christ; leads worship during Lent for United Churches of Lycoming County.
5. 50–64; Caucasian

Nominations for Women of the ELCA Executive Board 2017–2020

Region 8 (continued)



Anna Sarver
Greensburg, PA
Region 8, Southwestern
Pennsylvania SWO

1. Currently serving as member of CWO executive board, 2014 – 2017; member of Budget and Finance committee; board liaison to scholarships committee. Operates family farm with spouse, handling recordkeeping, taxes, etc. Former executive director of Farm Service Agency, implementing and administering federal farm programs in three counties; responsible for annual disbursements over \$1 million. Treasurer of statewide Farm Service employees' association.
2. Served as president, treasurer, and circle leader of local unit. Former treasurer of SWPA SWO. Served as registrar for the SWPA-NWPA retreat and as cluster planner. Parliamentarian and delegate to SWPA SWO conventions. Voting member to 2011 and 2014 churchwide conventions.
3. Currently serving on congregation's finance, stewardship and property committees, with past terms as chair. Past president and vice-president of congregation council, chair of personnel committee, and co-chair of call committee. Chorister, assisting minister, communion assistant, distributes communion for homebound. Co-chair of congregation's regular luncheons. Past delegate to synod assembly, including resolutions committee. Participant in synodical stewardship training and other events.
4. Delegate to legislative conferences in Washington, D.C. Volunteer experience: promoting state mobile agricultural lab with county Farm Bureau; 4-H leader for 12 years.

Currently assists elderly neighbors with daily errands.

5. 65 or over; Caucasian



Lynette Todd
Baltimore, MD
Region 8, Delaware-Maryland
SWO

1. President, former treasurer, former member of Delaware-Maryland SWO executive board; retired executive with Internal Revenue Service.
2. President of congregational unit at St. Philip's Lutheran Church, Baltimore; active with Zipporah Circle. Voting member at 2014 triennial convention, participant in 2008 and 2011 triennial gatherings.
3. Member of congregation council, chair of congregational stewardship and finance committee.; served in worship and music and fellowship ministries. Served on synod's budget committee and as synod assembly volunteer. Also directing committee member and treasurer of Baltimore Lutheran campus ministry.
4. Meals on Wheels volunteer, bringing meals to the elderly and shut-ins; VITA/TCE volunteer, preparing returns for low-income and elderly people; active with neighborhood association. Mentors future leaders through Geographical Leadership Community.
5. 65 or over; African American

Nominations for Women of the ELCA Executive Board 2017–2020

Region 9



Lydia Davila
Bayamon, Puerto Rico
Region 9, Caribbean SWO

1. Current member of CWO executive board (2014–2017), serving on constitutional review committee. Retired telephone company manager.
2. Previous president, vice president and treasurer of Caribbean SWO; Triennial Gathering Promoter.
3. Communion visitor to the homebound; altar guild; Bible study leader.
4. Community service includes making quilts and blankets to bring to hospitals and nursing homes.
5. 65 or over; Hispanic



Susan Harris
Lincolnton, NC 28092
Region 9, North Carolina SWO

1. President of North Carolina SWO, previous president of congregational unit. Self-employed court reporter, retired from longtime position as official court reporter in state superior court.
2. Former president, secretary and treasurer of congregational unit; former board member and vice president of SWO board.
3. Formerly served as president of congregation council; currently chair of social ministry and worship and music committees. Chorister, Sunday school teacher, communion assistant and lector.

4. Former board member of county Arts Council, serving on Festival of Trees committee. Served on planning committee for 4-H Centennial Gala celebration.
5. 65 or over; Caucasian



Jean Minkin
Lawrenceville, GA 30044
Region 9, Southeastern SWO

1. Triennial gathering promoter; past president of Southeastern SWO; longtime owner of roofing inspection and consulting business.
2. Past board member of Southeastern SWO; past SWO convention chair. Current co-leader of circle within congregational unit.
3. Currently member of conference Advocacy Team; past congregational treasurer and chair of mission teams. Communion assistant, assisting minister, greeter.
4. Volunteer for Habitat for Humanity and Hunger Walk supporter.
5. 65 or over; Caucasian

Nominations for Women of the ELCA Executive Board 2017–2020

Region 9 (continued)



Raeann Purcell
Wilbur by the Sea, FL
Region 9, Florida-Bahamas
SWO

1. Former president of Florida-Bahamas SWO; process builder for the ELCA's social statement on Women and Justice; currently works as a hiring coordinator for the state of Florida.
2. President of congregational unit; previously served as conference president and vice president. Former SWO treasurer and president. Currently serves as advisory member to SWO board, promoting education on human trafficking. Voting member to 3 previous triennial conventions; twice served as Triennial Gathering Promoter.
3. As process builder, has held listening sessions and provided feedback. Synodical mission interpreter, sharing the workings of the synod and wider church with conference. Has served synod assembly as voting member, volunteer, and media promoter. Has served as vice president of congregation council, taught Sunday school and VBS.
4. Volunteer with humane society, promoting responsible pet ownership. Has volunteered with Girl Scouts, swim team board, and other organizations supporting children's activities.
5. 50–64; Caucasian

Procedure for Nominations from the Floor

1. Nominations from the floor for secretary, treasurer and executive board members may be made by filing a completed nomination form with the nominations desk (maintained under the supervision of the nominating committee) located outside the plenary hall during the following three periods:

Tuesday, July 11, 2017 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

Tuesday, July 11, 2017 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, July 12, 2017 7:30 – 8:30 a.m.

Call for Nominations closes, July 12 at 8:30 a.m.

2. The nomination form can be found on the next page. Blank forms also are available at the nominations desk.
3. Floor nominations must be signed by five (5) voting members.
4. The nominee shall have given her consent and indicated her willingness to serve if elected.
5. A photograph of the nominee will be copied onto a biographical information form that will be distributed to all voting members. Nominees must provide a suitable 3 x 5 photograph, preferably black and white (head and shoulders preferred), or present themselves at the nominations desk during the hours listed above to have a photograph taken.
6. Nominations from the floor will be reported in alphabetical order by last name.

Nomination Form

Women of the ELCA • Tenth Triennial Convention July 11–13, 2017 • Minneapolis, Minnesota

Please type or print all information CLEARLY and complete both sides of this form. This form must be presented to the nominations desk Tuesday, July 11, 2017, between 12:00–1:00 p.m. or 6:00–7:00 p.m. and Wednesday, July 12, 2017, between 7:30–8:30 a.m.

I request that the following person be considered for (check all that apply):

Secretary Treasurer Churchwide board member

LAST NAME _____

FIRST NAME _____ MIDDLE INITIAL _____

ADDRESS _____

DAYTIME PHONE _____ EVENING PHONE _____

CELL PHONE _____ E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

CONGREGATION NAME AND ADDRESS _____

SYNOD _____ REGION _____

NAME OF CONGREGATIONAL, INTERCONGREGATIONAL OR SPECIAL UNIT _____

ADDRESS OF CONGREGATION _____

NOMINEE'S AGE CATEGORY 20–34 35–49 50–64 over 65

NOMINEE'S ETHNIC/RACIAL HERITAGE

Asian African American Black Hispanic Arab/Middle Easterner
 American Indian/Native Alaskan Caucasian

Please list this **nominee's qualifications** that would help her perform the duties of a churchwide women's organization officer or executive board member (e.g., formal training, degrees obtained, acquired abilities).

Please list **Women of the ELCA experience:** congregational/intercongregational unit, special unit, cluster/conference, synodical women's organization, regional, and churchwide experiences.

Nomination Form (continued)

Please list **ELCA experience:** congregation, synod, regional, and churchwide ELCA experiences.

Please list **ecumenical experience:** local, state, national or international.

Please list examples of this woman's **community participation:** volunteer services and other responsibilities for local, state and national or international organizations.

Please describe this woman's full time or part time **professional, vocational and occupational experience:**

Voting member signatures in support of nomination (5 signatures required)

1. _____ REGION/SYNOD: _____
2. _____ REGION/SYNOD: _____
3. _____ REGION/SYNOD: _____
4. _____ REGION/SYNOD: _____
5. _____ REGION/SYNOD: _____

Nominee has agreed to have her name placed in nomination: Yes

Consent obtained by: _____

TO BE COMPLETED BY NOMINATION'S DESK

Date and time submitted: _____ Received by: _____

Form for Motions and Resolutions

WOMEN OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

VOTING MEMBER'S NAME _____ REGION _____ SYNOD _____

Requests the privilege of the floor for the purpose of making the following:

Signatures of voting members

1. _____ DATE AND TIME RECEIVED: _____
2. _____ REFERRED TO: _____
3. _____ RECOMMENDATION: _____
4. _____ ACTION TAKEN: _____
5. _____

Roll of Voting Members

CHURCHWIDE OFFICERS

Patti Austin, president
Jody Smiley, vice president
Ely Smith, treasurer
Becky Shurson, secretary

CHURCHWIDE BOARD MEMBERS

Cindy Arnett
Deborah Banks-Williams
Elizabeth B Burgess
Lois Bylund
Anissa Canova
Lydia Davila
Dinah Dutta
Gwendolynn F Edwards
Nancy P Giddings
Sandra L Grier
Joan Iverson
Gwendolyn S King
Lisa R Plorin
Anna K Sarver
Dawn Smith
Jackie Wilson
Karen L Voris

1A – Alaska

Margaret L Ungrodt, president
Karen Johnson
Dixie Keil

1B – Northwest Washington

Carol Swackhammer, president
Dawn Bastin
Renee Guernsey
Julie Pierce

1C – Southwestern Washington

Tina M Bigelow, president
Geraldine “Geni” Hammer
Kathy Newton
Mary Ann Nelson

1D – Eastern Washington/Idaho

Jone Stout, president
Merlene Brockway
Barbara Blasch
Leslie Mason

1E – Oregon

Sonja Hoffman, president
Sue Buck
Brooklyn Svela

1F – Montana

Sandra Blosser, president
Connie Hausauer
Gloria Lannen
Ella Tweten

2A – Sierra Pacific

Linnea Laufer, president
Loretta Cohen

2B – Southwest California

Karen Moyer, president
Diana Craig
Keia Morris
Mary Shipp

2C – Pacifica

Eunice Hanson, president
Laura Ortiz
Keala Simoes

2D – Grand Canyon

Myrna Wells-Ulland, president
Susan Girouard
Randi VenHuizen

2E – Rocky Mountain

Anna Thompson, president
Tamara “Tammi” Clawson
Debra Haar
Jan Young

3A – Western North Dakota

Connie Rossow, president
Kristine “Kris” Brugamy
Cheryl Lacey
Valerie Saylor
Alvina Skogen

3B – Eastern North Dakota

Karen E Retzlaff, president
Mary Gaylord Frojen
Janet LeTexier Hughes
Julie Garrett
Kristi Houska
Nancy Kainz
Nadine Olson
Patricia J Schutt
Jeanne Wobbema

3C – South Dakota

TBD, president
Sheryl Adkins
Edna Anderson
Sheryn Ekstrum
Hannah Fleming
Carie Knutson
Doris Stowe
Donna Vreugdenhil

Roll of Voting Members

3D – Northwestern Minnesota

Susan “Sue” Marie Ellwanger, president
Marilyn Grandstrand
Vicki M Heydt
Julie Jones
Margaret Kragerud
Lucinda D Kudée
Sharon Mortrud
Rebecca A Olson
Judith (Judy) Videen

3E – Northeastern Minnesota

Lynda Lochner, president
Beth Holst
Sherry Johnson
Joy Michalicek
Mary Jo Mettler
Abigail Teff

3F – Southwestern Minnesota

Kristy Henriksen, president
Betty Anderson
Katherine “Kathy” Bergs
Marcella Chapman
Cynthia “Cindy” Erickson
Janice N Kittelson
Algene Larson
Sara Larson
Linda Magnuson
Karen Skarphol

3G – Minneapolis Area

Janice L Schmidt, president
Diane M Kircher
Susan Sorenson
Teresa Tehven

3H – St Paul Area

Tricia Niesche, president
Linda Lou A Hanson
Jennifer “Jenn” Luong
Ann Tanko

3I – Southeastern Minnesota

Kay Hodge, president
Heather Arndt
Minnie Dunbar
Kidron Flynn
Karen Jorgensen
Rose Kormann
Kelly Mittelsteadt
Kolloh Nimley

4A – Nebraska

Nancy Johnson, president
Carol Bosshardt
Teresa Christensen
Elysia McGill
Beth Meyer
Joyce Olson
Sandy Olson
Kandy K Pflaster

4B – Central States

Lisa Youngquist, president
Alice Burnett
Kim Frederking
Kathy Regehr
Rhonda Schlesselman
Gloria J Sharp
Ericka Youngquist

4C – Arkansas-Oklahoma

Patricia “Penny” Budzien, president
LaTesa Williams

4D – Northern Texas/Northern Louisiana

Sarah Gohlke, president
Diane Fehler
Carol Otterstad

4E – Southwestern Texas

Dinah Halopka-Ryson, president
Graciela “Gracie” Conklin
Elva Villalpando Cope
Lorie Garcia
Patricia “Patty” Greiwe
Judy Monger

4F – Texas/Louisiana Gulf Coast

Deana Fuchs, president
Angela Bell
MiLisa Gaertner
Risse Snelgrove

5A – Metro Chicago

Ruth Beck, president
Stephnie L Valdes
Sharei Green

5B – Northern Illinois

Kim Choin, president
Jeanna Fors
Ruthie Dell Fairchild
Laura Ramos
Joan Kathryn Soltwisch

5C – Central/Southern Illinois

Patricia “Pat” Caley, president
Ann C Joyce
Patricia “Patty” Rudin
Wanda K Williams

Roll of Voting Members

5D – Southeastern Iowa

TBD, president
Sandra Chandonia
Kristin Elgin
Carol Ann Gruhn
Anne Pietscher
Ardy R Proehl

5E – Western Iowa

Marlyce Hauge, president
Sue Boblit
Sela Bryhne
Kim Campbell
Lorna Halaas
Ilomae Meling

5F – Northeastern Iowa

TBD, president
Sydney “Syd” Brinkman
Nancy Miller
Cynthia Pogge
Nancy Poppe
Beverly Sheridan

5G – Northern Great Lakes

Melzee Jacobson, president
Gail Schmidt
Nancy Snay

5H – Northwest Synod of Wisconsin

Susan “Sue” Saarem, president
Phyllis M Grohn
Carol Johnson
Jean Larson
Lydia Pfeifer
Nancy M Priebe
Brenda Wheeler
Dawn Wicklund

5I – East Central Wisconsin

Shirley Paulson, president
Patricia Dow
Paula Vander Grinten
Sandra J Kuhn
Ruth Nelson-Lau

5J – Greater Milwaukee

Donna Yourell, president
Vivian Marie Johnson
Marilyn Miller
Sue Seidemann

5K – South Central Synod of Wisconsin

Helen Sheahan, president
Linda Freitag
Jane Harrison
Lynn Mehringer
Donna Peterson

5L – LaCrosse Area

Kathleen A Sumrall, president
Sandra S Fick
Linda S Krueger
JoAnn Salava

6A – Southeast Michigan

Joyce Brooks, president
Bonnie L Miller
Joan Onkka

6B – North/West Lower Michigan

Roxanne E Montague, president
Sandra “Sandy” Anderson
Judy O’Dell
Peggy Ruitter

6C – Indiana/Kentucky

Linda Doerge, president
Kathryn A Coleman
Kenda Dues
Lois Noel

6D – Northwestern Ohio

Carolyn Steinfeldt, president
Diana Bruns
Sue McKibbon
Carol A Williams

6E – Northeastern Ohio

Barbara J White, president
Molly Broadnax
Rebekah “Becky” Carr
Ruth Reinoehl

6F – Southern Ohio

Robin Kaelin, president
Cheryl “Cheri” Comstock
Susan “Su” Bowling
Vickie Murph

7A – New Jersey

Jean M Wilkinson-Heard, president
Charlene Rollins
Jennifer Zinone

7B – New England

Ade Monareh, president
Noreen Noll
Marcella “Marci” Sharp
Katy Sperl

7C – Metro New York

Irene Germain, president
Sharon R Lee
Barbara A Tormondsen

Roll of Voting Members

7D – Upstate New York

Susan M Fox, president
Cynthia Derendal
Phyllis M Keeler
Wilhelmina “Willie” Lanfear

7E – Northeastern Pennsylvania

Lenna Harris, president
JoAnne Bailey
Brenda Benner
Marilyn Mazsa

7F – Southeastern Pennsylvania

Joy Grace, president
Lisa Brown
Carol Herstine

8A – Northwestern Pennsylvania

Debra L Bowen
Marilyn “Marnie” L Brown
Mary Alice McMunn
Mary Ann Patterson

8B – Southwestern Pennsylvania

Jennifer Armstrong-Schaefer
Lori Ashton
Norma Baker
Linda Cunningham
Janet Fishovitz
Laura Jenkins

8C – Allegheny

Carol M McClure, president
Casey Colledge
Margaret Thatcher

8D – Lower Susquehanna

Joyce Ray, president
Margaret “Peggi” Norman
Christine L Todd

8E – Upper Susquehanna

Jean D Crumb, president
Robin Latsha
Stephanie Lewis

8F – Delaware-Maryland

Lynette C Todd, president
Pamela Estes
Andrea Fuller
Margaret “Peggy” M Green

8G – Metro Washington DC

Cheryl Dwyer, president
Laura Hamke
Marcia Ihnen

8H – West Virginia/Western Maryland

Beverly McDonald, president
Priscilla H Horner
Marjorie Wolf

9A – Virginia

Janice L Brown
Judy Castelee
Sylvia A Eley
Erin Hagar
Jacqueline “Jaci” St Pierre

9B – North Carolina

Susan P Harris, president
Maxine L Amos
Terri Brown
Jane Rimmer Cadwallader
Francine Davis
Alecia Harrison
Denise White

9C – South Carolina

Rebecca J Koch, president
Gwendolyn “Gwen” Furcron
Marsha J Mikell
Mary Soltis
Jacqueline Utley

9D – Southeastern

Louise Iconis, president
Janice Hawkins
Kathy Sheppard Hill
Emily Jorkey
Camille Trott

9E – Florida/Bahamas

Phyllis Wade, president
Denise Beumer
Ann English
Lisa Klima
Marcee Strickland

9F – Caribbean

Lisette Martinez, president
Yma Mulero
Phyllis Wallace

Tenth Triennial Convention Business Committees

MEMORIALS COMMITTEE

Karen E Retzlaff, Chair 3B
Sandra Blosser 1F
Tamara (Tammi) Clawson 2E
Kathy Regehr 4B
Dawn Wicklund 5H
Joyce Brooks 6A
Lisa Brown 7F
Joyce Ray 8D
Rebecca Koch 9C

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

Sydney Brinkman, Chair 5F
Margaret L Ungrodt 1A
Ann Thompson 2E
Rebecca A Olson 3D
Jackie Wilson 4C
Vickie Murph 6F
Joy Grace 7F
Jennifer Armstrong-Schaefer 8B
Camille Trott 9F

REFERENCE AND COUNSEL COMMITTEE

Phyllis Wallace, Chair 9F
Mary Ann Nelson 1C
Linnea Laufer 2A
Kristy Henriksen 3F
Elysia McGill 4A
Ruth Dell Fairchild 5B
Linda Doerge 6C
Ade Monareh 7B
Lynette Todd 8F

OFFERING COMMITTEE

Ely Smith, Chair 1C
Jan Young 2E
Cheryl Lacey 3A
Diane Fehler 4D
Sandra Kuhn 5I
Bonnie Miller 6A

Sharon Lee 7C
Peggi Norman 8D
Lydia Davila 9F

CONDUCT OF ELECTION COMMITTEE

Myrna Wells-Ulland, Chair 2D
Brooklyn Sveta 1E
Hannah Fleming 3C
Gracie Conklin 4E
Pat Caley 5C
Becky Carr 6E
Charlene Rollins 7A
Debra Bowen 8A
Terri Brown 9B

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE ROSTER

Keia Morris, Chair 2B
Tina Bigelow 1C
Nancy Giddings 3G
Kandy Pflaster 4A
Sela Bryne 5E
Judy O'Dell 6B
Phyllis Keeler 7D
Margaret Thatcher 8C
Gwen Furcon 9C

MINUTES APPROVAL COMMITTEE

Becky Shurson, Chair 2C
Dawn Bastin 1B
Kolloh Nimley 3I
Angela Bell 4F
Gail Schmidt 5G
Diana Bruns 6D
Brenda Benner 7E
Marcia Ihnen 8G
Judy Castele 9A

2014–2017 Churchwide Executive Board

OFFICERS

Ms. Patti Austin*
President
Decatur, Georgia
Southeastern (9D)

Ms. Jody Smiley*
Vice President
Blacksburg, Virginia
Virginia (9A)

Ms. Ely Smith*
Treasurer
Fircrest, Washington
Southwestern Washington (1C)

Ms. Becky Shurson
Secretary
Yucaipa, California
Pacifica (2C)

BOARD MEMBERS

Ms. Cindy Arnett
Santa Clara, California
Sierra Pacifica (2A)

Ms. Deborah Banks-Williams*
Chicago, Illinois
Metropolitan Chicago (5A)

Ms. Elizabeth B Burgess
Augusta, Maine
New England (7B)

Ms. Lois Bylund
Moorhead, Minnesota
Northwestern Minnesota (3D)

Ms. Anissa Canova
Gouldsboro, Pennsylvania
Northeastern Pennsylvania (7E)

Ms. Lydia E Davila
Bayamon, Puerto Rico
Caribbean (9F)

The Rev. Dinah Dutta
Lawrence, Kansas
Central States (4B)

Ms. Gwendolynn F Edwards*
Bellevue, Nebraska
Nebraska (4A)

Ms. Nancy P Giddings
Cumberland, Wisconsin
Minneapolis Area (3G)

Deacon Sandra L Grier
Williamsport, Pennsylvania
Upper Susquehanna (8E)

Ms. Joan Iverson*
Lamberton, Minnesota
Southwestern Minnesota (3F)

The Rev. Gwendolyn S King*
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Southeastern Pennsylvania (7F)

Ms. Lisa R Plorin
Upham, North Dakota
Western North Dakota (3A)

Ms. Anna Sarver
Greensburg, Pennsylvania
Southwestern Pennsylvania (8B)

Ms. Dawn Smith*
Midland, Michigan
North/West Lower Michigan (6B)

Ms. Karen Voris
Eagle River, Alaska
Alaska (1A)

Ms. Jackie Wilson*
Hot Springs, Arkansas
Arkansas/Oklahoma (4C)

**Not eligible for re-election to the executive board or as an officer*

Women of the ELCA Past Presidents

1987–1990	W Jeanne Rapp
1990–1993	Gwendolyn Carr
1993–1996	Janet Peterson
1996–1999	Sheryl Bernahl
1999–2002	Linda Chinnia
2002–2005	Mary Ellen Kiesner
2005–2008	Carmen Richards
2008–2011	Beth Wrenn
2011–2014	Jennifer Michael
2014–2017	Patti Austin

Women of The ELCA Churchwide Staff

Linda Post Bushkofsky, executive director

Deborah Calvert, associate executive director

Sarah Carson, associate editor, *Gather*

Gabriela Contreras, director for meeting planning

Vanessa Davis-Bragg, administrative assistant

Ann Hightower, assistant to the executive director

Elizabeth Hunter, editor, *Gather*

Terri Lackey, director for communication

Elizabeth McBride, director for intergenerational programs and editor, *Café*

Audrey Novak Riley, director for stewardship and development

Valora K Staff, director for discipleship

Eva James Yeo, director for membership

Director for justice – currently open

