

## **Background Information for Resolutions Submitted to the 2005 Pacifica Synod Assembly**

The resolutions process enables individuals or recognized groups within the synod to bring a request for action from or request for a statement to be made by the Synod Assembly, which is the Synod's highest legislative authority. The Synod Council appoints a Resolutions Committee which meets prior to the Assembly in order to review the resolutions received by the 90-day deadline for proper form, appropriateness of subject and desired action, inclusion of a plan for implementation, and elimination of duplication. The review is reported to the Synod Council and to those who submitted the resolution who may appeal the decisions of the Resolutions Committee to the Synod Council. The Resolutions Committee for the 2004 Assembly has done its preliminary work and declines to make any recommendations for action for any of these resolutions so that the Assembly as a whole may debate and decide the issues that are being presented to it. If the Secretary of the Synod receives any resolutions after the 90-day deadline, they will also be reviewed by the Resolutions Committee but will be placed on the agenda only with the consent of the Assembly. Any resolutions, which are not considered by the Assembly due to lack of time, are referred to the Synod Council for action.

Four resolutions were received by the deadline. The Resolutions Committee has processed them so they can be acted upon by the 2005 Pacifica Synod Assembly. Following, Web sites have been provided for background information on these issues, and the option of working with resolutions which cover the same issue is addressed.

### **05-01 A Renewed Vision for Missionary Sponsorship in the Pacifica Synod**

The description of and forms for Missionary Sponsorship through the Missionary Covenant Program and the Missionary-for-a-Day Program in the ELCA can be found at <http://www.elca.org/missionarysponsorship/>.

### **05-02A, 05-02B, and 05-02C Response to Recommendations from the Task Force for ELCA Studies on Sexuality and 05-03 The Gamaliel Option**

These resolutions ask the Pacifica Synod Assembly to respond to the Report and Recommendations from the Task Force for ELCA Studies on Sexuality in different ways. This report can be found at <http://www.elca.org/faithfuljourney>. Especially helpful background for these resolutions is found in "Part Three – Dissenting Positions" on pages 15-16 of the Report. The full texts of the two other documents referred to, "Vision and Expectations of Ordained Ministers in the ELCA" and "Vision and Expectations of Associates in Ministry", can be found at <http://www.elca.org/candidacy/>. Those rostered as Diaconal Ministers or Deaconesses are covered by these documents also.

Resolutions 05-02A, B, and C were submitted as one resolution but were separated into A, B, and C by the Resolutions Committee so that the particular resolves, if passed, could be forwarded appropriately. Resolution 05-02A addresses the Division for Ministry and the Division for Church in Society which ELCA bylaws provide Synod Assemblies to do through the Executive Committee of the Church Council. Resolution 05-02B addresses the Church Council which a Synod Assembly does through its Synod Council. Resolution 05-02C addresses the Churchwide Assembly directly.

When the Resolutions Committee receives resolutions addressing the same issue in different ways, it has the following option: “If more than one resolution is submitted on a particular topic, the Resolutions Committee may present a resolution they have written which incorporates some or all of the concerns brought.” We have not done this as of the printing deadline for the Preassembly Book because the ELCA Church Council does not meet until April 8-11. The Church Council has the responsibility to place items on the agenda of the Churchwide Assembly which will be held August 8-14 in Orlando, Florida. (See “legislative process” on the Faithful Journey website listed above). The Resolutions Committee will meet prior to our Assembly to discuss, in light of April 8-11 Church Council actions, how to bring these two resolutions to our Assembly.

**05-04 Renewed Study of 1991 Social Statement on Abortion and Related Issues**

This Social Statement is found at <http://www.elca.org/socialstatements/abortion>. You can also find definitions of Social Statements and how they are adopted at this same site.

### **A Renewed Vision for Missionary Sponsorship in the Pacifica Synod**

WHEREAS, God's word from Genesis 12 (we are blessed to be a blessing to all peoples on earth) to Revelation 7 (a heavenly gathering of worship from every nation, tribe, people and language) and Jesus' Great Commission (Matthew 28:16-20 and his word in Acts 1:8) is always calling the church to be claimed, gathered, and sent for the sake of the world; and

WHEREAS, the ELCA Division for Global Mission's (DGM) policies and vision statements include evangelizing and nurturing the birth and growth of new Christian communities, as well as accompaniment of already established mission outposts; and

WHEREAS, the Missionary Sponsorship Program of the ELCA is an established and effective means of enabling specific congregations to assist in the support of specific missionaries while developing a personal relationship with them; and

WHEREAS, 17 congregations of the Pacifica Synod know the joy of partnership through supporting the Missionary Sponsorship Program, raising funds of \$59,719.11 of direct missionary support in 2003; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Pacifica Synod encourage congregations to utilize the resources available at [www.elca.org/globalmission](http://www.elca.org/globalmission), explore the ELCA Missionary Sponsorship Program, and pray about committing themselves to sponsoring at least one ELCA missionary; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Pacifica Synod establish a goal of raising our contribution from congregations to the Missionary Sponsorship Program of the ELCA to \$100,000 for the year 2006; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that the Pacifica Synod Global Mission Ministry Team report to the 2006 Pacifica Synod Assembly the number and amount of Missionary Sponsorship commitments for 2006 from the congregations of the Pacifica Synod.

Pastor Steve Herder, St. Andrew Lutheran Church, Whittier, and the Pacifica Synod Global Mission Ministry Team



**Response to Recommendations from the Task Force for ELCA Studies on Sexuality**

WHEREAS, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is constitutionally committed to the Holy Scriptures as “the inspired Word of God and the authoritative source and norm of its proclamation, faith and life;” and

WHEREAS, the ELCA current standards of conduct for ordained ministers, diaconal ministers, deaconesses, and associates in ministry are enumerated in *Vision and Expectations: Ordained Ministers (Associates in Ministry) in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*, which sets the following standard for the sexual conduct of rostered ministers:

“The expectations of this church regarding the sexual conduct of its ordained ministers are grounded in the understanding that human sexuality is a gift from God and that ordained ministers are to live in such a way as to honor this gift. Ordained ministers are expected to reject sexual promiscuity, the manipulation of others for purposes of sexual gratification, and all attempts of sexual seduction and sexual harassment, including taking physical or emotional advantage of others. Single ordained ministers are expected to live a chaste life. Married ordained ministers are expected to live in fidelity to their spouses, giving expression to sexual intimacy within a marriage relationship that is mutual, chaste, and faithful. Ordained ministers who are homosexual in their self-understanding are expected to abstain from homosexual sexual relationships;” and

WHEREAS, the ELCA Conference of Bishops has affirmed that “There is basis neither in Scripture nor tradition for the establishment of an official ceremony by this church for the blessing of a homosexual relationship. We, therefore, do not approve such a ceremony as an official action of this church’s ministry” (1993 Statement); and

WHEREAS, the Task Force for ELCA Studies on Sexuality has completed a study of human sexuality, exploring the specific issues of blessing same-sex unions and ordaining gay and lesbian persons living in committed relationships; and

WHEREAS, the recommendations of the Task Force for ELCA Studies on Sexuality open the door to the practice of not disciplining those who choose to ignore ELCA policies on sexuality; and

WHEREAS, an ambiguous policy on sexuality will only tend to further polarize the ELCA; and

WHEREAS, individuals, congregations and synods have been asked to provide responses regarding the appropriate action for the ELCA Churchwide Assembly to take in 2005; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Pacifica Synod affirms and endorses the current standards of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America regarding the sexual conduct of its ordained ministers, diaconal ministers, deaconesses, and associates in ministry as articulated in *Vision and*

*Expectations: Ordained Ministers (Associates in Ministry) in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Pacifica Synod affirms and endorses the 1993 statement of the ELCA Conference of Bishops regarding the question of blessing same-sex unions; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Pacifica Synod Bishop communicate our position to the ELCA Conference of Bishops; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Pacifica Synod asks the Division for Ministry and the Division for Church in Society to affirm the current ELCA policies regarding the blessing of same-sex unions and the ordination of gay and lesbian persons in committed relationships as articulated in *Vision and Expectations: Ordained Ministers (Associates in Ministry) in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* and in the 1993 statement of the ELCA Conference of Bishops; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that the Pacifica Synod Assembly direct the Pacifica Synod Council to forward this resolution to the Church Council's Executive Committee for proper referral and disposition under the bylaws and continuing resolutions of this church.

Approved by the Congregational Council of Christ the King Lutheran, Fallbrook, CA, on February 2, 2005

**Response to Recommendations from the Task Force for ELCA Studies on Sexuality**

WHEREAS, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is constitutionally committed to the Holy Scriptures as “the inspired Word of God and the authoritative source and norm of its proclamation, faith and life;” and

WHEREAS, the ELCA current standards of conduct for ordained ministers are enumerated in *Vision and Expectations: Ordained Ministers (Associates in Ministry) in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*, which sets the following standard for the sexual conduct of ordained ministers:

“The expectations of this church regarding the sexual conduct of its ordained ministers are grounded in the understanding that human sexuality is a gift from God and that ordained ministers are to live in such a way as to honor this gift. Ordained ministers are expected to reject sexual promiscuity, the manipulation of others for purposes of sexual gratification, and all attempts of sexual seduction and sexual harassment, including taking physical or emotional advantage of others. Single ordained ministers are expected to live a chaste life. Married ordained ministers are expected to live in fidelity to their spouses, giving expression to sexual intimacy within a marriage relationship that is mutual, chaste, and faithful. Ordained ministers who are homosexual in their self-understanding are expected to abstain from homosexual sexual relationships;” and

WHEREAS, the ELCA Conference of Bishops has affirmed that “There is basis neither in Scripture nor tradition for the establishment of an official ceremony by this church for the blessing of a homosexual relationship. We, therefore, do not approve such a ceremony as an official action of this church’s ministry” (1993 Statement); and

WHEREAS, the Task Force for ELCA Studies on Sexuality has completed a study of human sexuality, exploring the specific issues of blessing same-sex unions and ordaining gay and lesbian persons living in committed relationships; and

WHEREAS, the recommendations of the Task Force for ELCA Studies on Sexuality open the door to the practice of not disciplining those who choose to ignore ELCA policies on sexuality; and

WHEREAS, an ambiguous policy on sexuality will only tend to further polarize the ELCA; and

WHEREAS, individuals, congregations and synods have been asked to provide responses regarding the appropriate action for the ELCA Churchwide Assembly to take in 2005; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Pacifica Synod affirms and endorses the current standards of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America regarding the sexual conduct of its ordained ministers, diaconal ministers, deaconesses, and associates in ministry as articulated in *Vision and*

*Expectations: Ordained Ministers (Associates in Ministry) in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Pacifica Synod affirms and endorses the 1993 statement of the ELCA Conference of Bishops regarding the question of blessing same-sex unions; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Pacifica Synod asks the Church Council to affirm the current ELCA policies regarding the blessing of same-sex unions and the ordination of gay and lesbian persons in committed relationships as articulated in *Vision and Expectations: Ordained Ministers (Associates in Ministry) in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* and in the 1993 statement of the ELCA Conference of Bishops; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that the Pacifica Synod Assembly direct the Pacifica Synod Council to forward this resolution to the Church Council for consideration and possible action.

Approved by the Congregational Council of Christ the King Lutheran, Fallbrook, CA, on February 2, 2005

### **Response to Recommendations from the Task Force for ELCA Studies on Sexuality**

WHEREAS, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is constitutionally committed to the Holy Scriptures as “the inspired Word of God and the authoritative source and norm of its proclamation, faith and life;” and

WHEREAS, the ELCA current standards of conduct for ordained ministers, diaconal ministers, deaconesses, and associates in ministry are enumerated in *Vision and Expectations: Ordained Ministers (Associates in Ministry) in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*, which sets the following standard for the sexual conduct of rostered ministers:

“The expectations of this church regarding the sexual conduct of its ordained ministers are grounded in the understanding that human sexuality is a gift from God and that ordained ministers are to live in such a way as to honor this gift. Ordained ministers are expected to reject sexual promiscuity, the manipulation of others for purposes of sexual gratification, and all attempts of sexual seduction and sexual harassment, including taking physical or emotional advantage of others. Single ordained ministers are expected to live a chaste life. Married ordained ministers are expected to live in fidelity to their spouses, giving expression to sexual intimacy within a marriage relationship that is mutual, chaste, and faithful. Ordained ministers who are homosexual in their self-understanding are expected to abstain from homosexual sexual relationships;” and

WHEREAS, the ELCA Conference of Bishops has affirmed that “There is basis neither in Scripture nor tradition for the establishment of an official ceremony by this church for the blessing of a homosexual relationship. We, therefore, do not approve such a ceremony as an official action of this church’s ministry” (1993 Statement); and

WHEREAS, the Task Force for ELCA Studies on Sexuality has completed a study of human sexuality, exploring the specific issues of blessing same-sex unions and ordaining gay and lesbian persons living in committed relationships; and

WHEREAS, the recommendations of the Task Force for ELCA Studies on Sexuality open the door to the practice of not disciplining those who choose to ignore ELCA policies on sexuality; and

WHEREAS, an ambiguous policy on sexuality will only tend to further polarize the ELCA; and

WHEREAS, individuals, congregations and synods have been asked to provide responses regarding the appropriate action for the ELCA Churchwide Assembly to take in 2005; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Pacifica Synod affirms and endorses the current standards of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America regarding the sexual conduct of its ordained ministers

as articulated in *Vision and Expectations: Ordained Ministers (Associates in Ministry) in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Pacifica Synod affirms and endorses the 1993 statement of the ELCA Conference of Bishops regarding the question of blessing same-sex unions; and be it finally

RESOLVED that the Pacifica Synod Assembly memorializes the 2005 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to formally adopt and affirm the current ELCA policies regarding the blessing of same-sex unions and the ordination of gay and lesbian persons in committed relationships as articulated in *Vision and Expectations: Ordained Ministers (Associates in Ministry) in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* and in the 1993 statement of the ELCA Conference of Bishops.

Approved by the Congregational Council of Christ the King Lutheran, Fallbrook, CA, on February 2, 2005

### The Gamaliel Option

<sup>34</sup>But a Pharisee in the council named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law, respected by all the people, stood up and ordered the men to be put outside for a short time. <sup>35</sup>Then he said to them, 'Fellow Israelites, consider carefully what you propose to do to these men... <sup>36</sup>So in the present case, I tell you, keep away from these men and let them alone; because if this plan or this undertaking is of human origin, it will fail; <sup>37</sup>but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them—in that case you may even be found fighting against God!  
--The Acts of the Apostles 5:34-35, 38-39 (NRSV)

WHEREAS, in the Recommendations from the Task Force for ELCA Studies on Sexuality, the present is articulated but the future is not envisioned; and

WHEREAS, in the Recommendations from the Task Force for ELCA Studies on Sexuality, while the political reality is stated, the prophetic voice is quieted; and

WHEREAS, while the ELCA invites partnered gay and lesbian people to full participation, conditional participation is, in fact, expected; and

WHEREAS, pastoral care is local and contextual while church practice and discipline are broad and comprehensive; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that, in the spirit of Gamaliel, the Pacifica Synod memorializes the 2005 ELCA Churchwide Assembly that, for the period of ten years from the 2005 Churchwide Assembly through the 2015 Churchwide Assembly, *Vision and Expectations of Ordained Ministers (Associates in Ministry) in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* be changed by removing "Ordained (and commissioned) ministers who are homosexual in their self-understanding are expected to abstain from homosexual sexual relationships" and open the Roster of Ordained Ministers, Diaconal Ministers, Deaconesses, and Associates in Ministry accordingly; be it further

RESOLVED, that the Division for Ministry develop a revision to *Vision and Expectations* that details the chaste and faithful behaviors that are expected of rostered leaders regardless of whether that person is heterosexual or homosexual; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that if at the 2015 Churchwide Assembly it is determined that "this undertaking is of human origin", the ELCA adopt the Recommendations as presented by the Task Force for ELCA Studies on Sexuality (2005), and, retroactive to the 2005 Churchwide Assembly, amend the Rosters of Ordained Ministers, Diaconal Ministers, Deaconesses, and Associates in Ministry accordingly, or, if it is determined that "this undertaking is of God", the ELCA not be found "fighting against God" and keep the rosters as they are.

Submitted by Rev. Mark Wm. Allert, Peace, Corona, and Rev. J. Steven Beckham, River of Light, Riverside and signed by Floyd R. Jensen, Deana E. Allert, Terri L. Robertson, Susan M. Lehner, James D. Lehner, Jennifer M. Lehner, Meri Hicks Beckham, Deborah Schupp, Bruce E. Derby, and Sally Mendez.



**Renewed Study of 1991 Social Statement on Abortion and Related Issues**

WHEREAS, 2006 will mark the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's Social Statement on Abortion; and

WHEREAS, important issues related to abortion continue to be debated within the church and the wider society; and

WHEREAS, the 1991 Social Statement on Abortion identified unresolved issues including whether consultation with the spouse or partner should be required, whether and how parental consent should be required for a minor seeking an abortion, and whether public funds should be paid for abortions; and

WHEREAS, one of the ELCA's five strategic directions is to "Step forward as a public church that witnesses boldly to God's love for all that God has created"; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Pacifica Synod calls upon all of its congregations to engage in moral deliberation about abortion issues through renewed study of the ELCA's Social Statement on Abortion (1991); and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Pacifica Synod requests the ELCA's Division for Church and Society (DCS) develop new study materials as soon as possible, but no later than 2006, that will facilitate moral deliberation about abortion in our synod and throughout the ELCA and that these study materials include all aspects of the social statement and the issues noted above which were not addressed or resolved in the 1991 statement; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that the Pacifica Synod Assembly direct the Pacifica Synod Council to forward this resolution to the Church Council's Executive Committee for proper referral and disposition under the bylaws and continuing resolutions of this church.

## RECOMMENDATIONS FROM PACIFICA SYNOD COUNCIL

The following resolutions are submitted by the Synod Council  
as recommendations for assembly action.

COMPENSATION GUIDELINES FOR ROSTERED LEADERS	Page 5 - 14
CONGREGATIONS NEW TO SYNOD	Page 5 – 15
INCREASED SUPPORT FOR AUGSBURG FORTRESS	Page 5 – 16
PACIFICA SYNOD 2007 ASSEMBLY IN HAWAII	Page 5 – 18

Proposed revisions in the governing documents of this synod.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE PACIFICA SYNOD CONSTITUTION/BYLAWS	Page 5 – 20
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### **Compensation Guidelines for Rostered Leaders of the Pacifica Synod**

The Pacifica Synod Council recommends to the 2005 Synod Assembly for approval a three per-cent (3 %) increase in the Baseline Salary for Rostered Leaders (Pastors, Associates in Ministry and Diaconal Ministers) of the Pacifica Synod for the year 2006. The synod council encourages congregations use Pastor and People Making Mutual Ministry Work, Augsburg Fortress 2003, from the Congregational LEADER Series in their annual ministry review. Reproducible tools included in the book can be downloaded at [www.augsburgfortress.org/CLS](http://www.augsburgfortress.org/CLS).

## CONGREGATIONS NEW TO SYNOD

WHEREAS, the Lord of the Church has raised up Spirit of Peace, Big Bear City, California, to minister with us in the proclamation of the gospel; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that we receive with joy Spirit of Peace, Big Bear City, into the membership of the Pacifica synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

WHEREAS, the Lord of the Church has raised up Redeemer Lutheran Church, Chino, California, to minister with us in the proclamation of the gospel; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that we receive with joy Redeemer Lutheran Church, Chino, into the membership of the Pacifica synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

## **Increased Support for Augsburg Fortress**

**Whereas** Augsburg Fortress has offered a specific and specialized ministry of publication to Lutheran people, churches, schools, colleges and universities, seminaries and agencies and institutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and its predecessor church bodies, and

**Whereas** Augsburg Fortress has also provided many resources for Christian ministry beyond the Lutheran family, and

**Whereas** many ELCA congregations and rostered leaders utilize the rich variety of resources offered by Augsburg Fortress, it is also true that many of the ELCA congregations and rostered leaders have chosen to purchase materials, supplies and other products from a variety of publishing and religious supply vendors, and

**Whereas** the current level of support for the publishing ministry of Augsburg Fortress from the ministries, ministers and people of the ELCA has not been enough to generate a margin of profit, and

**Whereas** Augsburg Fortress has depleted all of its reserves and made significant cutbacks in employees in order to continue offering the ELCA a ministry of publication,

**Be it resolved** that the congregational leaders of the Pacifica Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America are encouraged to carefully evaluate their purchasing of all religious, educational, stewardship, book and other supplies and consider Augsburg Fortress if the quality and costs are comparable, and

**Be it further resolved** that congregational leaders of the Pacifica Synod would offer helpful evaluation and recommendations to Augsburg Fortress that would suggest how this publication ministry might improve its products and gain stronger support from this synod's ministries, and

**Be it finally resolved** that we give thanks for the many years of service and dedication to the church that the people of Augsburg Fortress have contributed to the whole church, and for the many resources, books and supplies that they have made available to Christian ministries around the world.

**NOTE:** One example of possible support -- Augsburg Fortress provide offering envelopes in a style and at a cost that is very competitive with other offering envelope suppliers, however many ELCA congregations do not use the Augsburg Fortress envelopes. If every ELCA congregation were to order their offering envelopes from Augsburg Fortress, that one decision alone would secure the financial future of Augsburg Fortress

To Contact Augsburg Fortress

Web site: [www.augsburgfortress.org](http://www.augsburgfortress.org)

Mailing address: Augsburg Fortress, P.O. Box 1209, Minneapolis, MN 55440-1209



## **Pacifica Synod 2007 Assembly in Hawaii**

**Whereas** the Pacifica Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America has conducted all of its eighteen assemblies in the state of California, and

**Whereas** a significant part of the Pacifica Synod is in the Hawaiian Islands, rich in culture and diversity, sights and sounds that cannot be experienced or captured without being in Hawaii, and

**Whereas** our Hawaiian voting members, guests, and church leaders, approximately 50 in number, have annually made the effort and journey to join the California voting members, guests and church leaders, approximately 400 in number, for the synod assembly in California, and

**Whereas**, while it is true that should the synod conduct an assembly in Hawaii, the costs of travel would be more for the voting members of California for that one year and less for the voting members of Hawaii, and

**Whereas** systems have been utilized in the past that allowed for travel equalization and assistance,

**Be it resolved** that the Pacifica Synod vote in 2005 to conduct its Twentieth Annual Synod Assembly in May of 2007 in Hawaii, and

**Be it further resolved** that all congregational and specialized ministries, upon approval of this resolution, begin now to set aside funds for the added expense of the 2007 assembly, and

**Be it further resolved** that over the next two years congregations and specialized ministries creatively implement fundraising efforts to raise the necessary funds for a full representation of voting members to an assembly in Hawaii, and

**Finally, be it resolved** that the Synod Assembly Planning Team for the 2007 assembly, should it be approved for Hawaii, begin immediately making preparations and communicating dates, costs, travel arrangements, opportunities for extended travel and other pertinent information to the synod on a monthly basis.

NOTE: Supportive statistics and facts will be presented at assembly.



## Proposed changes to the Pacifica Synod Constitution/Bylaws:

All changes shown with a ~~strikethrough~~ to show text to be deleted and **underlined bold italic** type to reflect text to be added.

**S3.01.02** The following congregations affiliated with this church shall be deemed to be within the territory of this synod for all purposes: St. Andrew Lutheran Church, Whittier, California; Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church, Whittier, California; Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, Whittier, California; Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church, Claremont, California; ~~First Lutheran Church, Pomona, California;~~ and Prince of Peace, La Mirada.

**S9.03** There shall be a Nominating Committee consisting of seven members who shall be appointed by the Synod Council to serve **for one year, effective January 1, including** ~~for~~ each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly at which elections requiring nominations from the Nominating Committee are to be held. Additional nominations may be made from the floor for all elections for which nominations are made by the Nominating Committee, provided that the nominees meet the inclusivity qualifications, if any, established by the Synod Council. (See S9.04.01)

**S9.04.01** There shall be a Synod Bishop Nominating Task Force, separate from the Synod Nominating Committee, who shall present to the Synod Assembly nominees for the office of bishop.

b. Appointments to the Synod Bishop Nominating Task Force shall be approved by the Synod Council at its ~~winter~~ **spring** council meeting ~~two~~ **one** years prior to the Synod Assembly year in which a Synod bishop is to be elected.

c. The Synod Bishop Nominating Task Force will assure that the Synod bishop election procedures are printed in the Synodical newsletter ~~each~~ **the** year preceding the Synod bishop election.

**S9.04.02** During the year in which a bishop is to be elected, each Conference of the Synod described in the bylaws shall be requested to submit to the Synod Bishop Nominating Task Force **up to** ~~5-12~~ names of ordained ministers of the ELCA as potential candidates for Synod bishop.

Delete all of existing S9.04.04 and replace with the following:

**S9.04.04** **At the Synod Assembly in which a bishop is to be elected, the slate of Synod Bishop nominees shall be presented to the Assembly at the first business meeting following the opening of the Assembly. The first ballot in the election of a bishop shall not be limited to the names proposed by the Synod Bishop Nominating Task Force. Voting members of the Assembly who intend to vote on the first ballot for a candidate who has not been included in the prior nominating process may, on the first day of the Assembly, submit to the task force a completed copy of the approved**

biographical information form for duplication and distribution to the voting members prior to the second ballot.

- a. On the first ballot, three fourths (3/4) of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election. If no election results, the first ballot shall be considered the nominating ballot and all names will be forwarded to the second ballot. Persons desiring to have their names removed from the second ballot for bishop shall indicate their desire, in writing, to the chairperson of the Synod Bishop Nominating Task Force by a time designated by the Synod Assembly and prior to the preparation of the Second Ballot for the election of a Bishop
- b. On the second ballot three fourths (3/4) of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election.
- c. The third ballot shall be limited to the seven persons (plus ties) who received the greatest number of legal votes on the second ballot. Two thirds of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election.
- d. Prior to the third ballot, a question and answer period, not to exceed one hour, shall be held. The Synod Bishop Nominating Task Force will provide up to seven questions to be submitted to each nominee for their response. The order in which each candidate receives the question shall be rotated in such a manner as to allow each candidate a "first response".
- e. The fourth ballot shall be limited to the three persons (plus ties) whose names received the greatest number of votes on the third ballot. Sixty percent of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election.
- f. Prior to the casting of the fourth ballot, the three persons (plus ties) whose names will appear on the fourth ballot, may each address the Assembly for no more than five minutes.
- g. Subsequent ballots shall be limited to the two persons (plus) ties whose names received the greatest number of legal votes on the fourth ballot. A majority of legal votes cast shall be necessary for election.
- h. Once the balloting for the office of Synod Bishop has begun, the Assembly shall not adjourn until a Synod Bishop is elected.

**S10.03.** f. Fill vacancies that occur up to January 1 until the next regular meeting of the Synod Assembly except as may otherwise be provided in the constitution or bylaws of this synod, and determine the fact of the incapacity of an officer or other member of the Synod Council of the synod. Vacancies occurring after January 1 will be filled at the next regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.

**S10.04.** Any proposal to appropriate funds, whether by amendment to the budget or otherwise, which is presented to a meeting of the Synod Assembly without the prior approval of the Synod Council shall be immediately referred to the Synod Council

for an opinion and report prior to any debate or action by the Synod Assembly. **Any amendment(s) shall require a two-thirds vote by the Assembly.**

**S12.01.01**

This synod shall be subdivided into ten conferences. Three conferences shall consist of congregations in San Bernardino and Riverside Counties. Three conferences shall consist of congregations in Orange County. Three conferences shall consist of congregations in San Diego and Imperial Counties. The tenth conference shall consist of the State of Hawaii. A congregation which is affiliated with this synod, but not located within the territory of this synod, shall, for all purposes, be deemed to be a part of the conference to which it is geographically closest as determined by the Synod Council. (See S3.01.02). The conferences shall be organized and function pursuant to these guidelines:

- e. Each conference shall have a dean who shall be an ordained minister under call on the roster of this synod with his/her principle place of ministry within the conference. The dean shall be elected by the conference according to its organizational documents and may serve as the conference clergy representative on synod council. In addition to such other responsibilities as may be delegated to the dean by the conference, the dean shall:
  - 1) assist the bishop in providing pastoral care and leadership to the congregations, institutions, agencies within the conference, the ordained ministers within the conference, ~~and~~ the associates in ministry, **and diaconal ministers** within the conference;
  - 2) confer regularly with the bishop of this synod regarding the pastoral care and leadership being provided to the conference, its congregations, institutions, agencies, its ordained ministers, ~~and~~ its associates in ministry, **and its diaconal ministers**;
  - 3) facilitate the interpretation of the mission and ministry of this synod and this church to the congregations, institutions, agencies within the conference, and similarly facilitate the interpretation of the mission and ministry of the conference to this synod and the ELCA; and
  - 4) facilitate the regular convening of groups of ordained ministers under call and serving in this conference, ~~and~~ groups of active associates in ministry serving in the conference, **and groups of active diaconal ministers** for the purpose of peer support, working together in ministry, and continuing theological education.

**†S17.04.**

When **a** component or beneficiary of a synod has a disagreement on a substantive issue that it cannot resolve, it may address an appeal to the synodical bishop and the Executive Committee of the Synod Council. In this case, the decision of the Executive Committee shall prevail, except that upon the motion of a member of the Synod Council, the decision shall be referred to the Synod Council for final action.

