



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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Information for Synod Assemblies

Living into the Future Together: Renewing the Ecology of the ELCA (LIFT)

April 2011

Dear Synod Assembly Planner,

The report* of the Living into the Future Together: Renewing the Ecology of the ELCA task force was submitted to the ELCA Church Council on April 9, 2011. The Council took the following actions:

1. Recommended:

To receive with gratitude the report and recommendations of the Living into the Future Together (LIFT) task force in response to its call to “study the evolving societal and economic changes that have occurred in the 20 years since the formation of this church and to evaluate the organization, governance and interrelationships among this church’s expressions in the light of those changes”;

To recognize the vital input provided by the ELCA members, congregations, synods and related agencies and institutions in the development of the report and recommendations;

To acknowledge with deep appreciation the work of the LIFT task force and its significant and comprehensive documentation in response to the questions that have guided their work:

What is God calling this church to be and to do in the future?

What changes are in order to help us respond most faithfully?

To anticipate joyful response by the 2011 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to the LIFT task force recommendations as this church and its various expressions participate in carrying out God’s mission in this changing world.

2. Recommended:

To thank the LIFT task force and the Planning and Evaluation Committee for their work on the report and recommendations of the task force;

To refer the work of finalizing recommendations in the LIFT report and the development of proposed implementing resolutions for the task force’s report and recommendations to a writing team consisting of members of the Office of the Presiding Bishop, the Office of the Secretary, the Planning and Evaluation Committee, and the LIFT task force; and

To anticipate an electronic meeting of the Church Council in May to consider the recommendations and proposed implementing resolutions.

Since the LIFT report affects the ELCA as a whole, it is important that it be shared and discussed at synod assemblies. The accompanying FAQs are for use at the assembly. The churchwide rep-

representative to your assembly is oriented and prepared to either lead a discussion or answer questions. You can let that person know what format would be best for your assembly. The church-wide representative can relay messages from the LIFT discussion during your synod assembly to the Office of the Presiding Bishop. Information is also available at www.elca.org/LIFT.

Thank you for your consideration. Blessings on the work of your synod as it meets in assembly.

Sincerely yours,

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*To view the entire LIFT report, go to: www.elca.org/LIFT.