

**EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA**  
**CHURCH COUNCIL**  
**November 12-14, 2020**  
**Virtual Meeting**

**AGENDA**

**Participants**

**Voting Members**

Mr. Kevin Anderson	Ms. Cherrish Holland
Bp. Tracie Bartholomew	Mr. William Horne, Vice President
Ms. Tracey Beasley	Mr. Jim Jennings
Pr. Marcus Bigott	Ms. Pat Kluetz
Pr. Nick Billardello	Mr. David Lenz
Ms. Susan Boxberger	Pr. Tara Lynn
Ms. Lisa Burk	Mr. Keoni Newman
Pr. Bill Callister	Mr. Joe Nolte
Pr. Karn Carroll	Mr. Gary Pederson
Ms. Cheryl Chatman	Mr. Bill Rice
Ms. Alyssa Cobb ( <i>nominee</i> )	Pr. Ricardo Rivera
Mr. Ismael Danforth	Deacon Sue Rothmeyer, Secretary
Ms. Divine	Mr. Noah Roux
Bp. Elizabeth Eaton, Presiding Bishop	Ms. Valerie Shaw
Pr. Joanne Engquist	Mr. Loren Solberg
Ms. Lori Fedyk, Treasurer	Pr. Kjersten Sullivan
Pr Dena Gable	Ms. Loni Taylor
Pr. Daniel Gerrietts ( <i>nominee</i> )	Ms. Sonja Wolfe
Pr. Emily Hartner	Ms. Merritt Zesinger
Pr. Pamela Hoh	

**Liaison Bishops**

Bp. Shelley Wickstrom	Bp. Donald Kreiss
Bp. Andy Taylor	Bp. John Macholz
Bp. Patricia Lull	Bp. Barbara Collins
Bp. Sue Briner	Bp. Pedro Suárez
Bp. Jeffrey Clements	

**Resource People**

**Office of the Presiding Bishop**

Pr. Wyvetta Bullock, Assistant to the Bishop, Executive for Administration  
Ms. Deborah Coe, Executive for Planning Research and Evaluation  
Ms. Rhondean Johnson, Executive for Human Resources  
Ms. Kathryn Lohre, Assistant to the Bishop, Executive for Ecumenical and Inter  
Religious Relations and Theological Discernment  
Pr. Walter May, Assistant to the Bishop, Executive for Synodical Relations  
Ms. Judith Roberts, Director, Racial Justice Ministries  
Pr. Carmelo Santos, Director, Theological Diversity and Engagement  
Deacon Mary Ann Schwabe, Natural Systems Coordinator  
Ms. Jodi Slattery, Assistant to the Bishop, Governance  
Dr. Mary Streufert, Director, Justice for Women  
Deacon John Weit, Assistant to the Bishop, Executive for Worship  
Pr. Roger Willer, Director, Theological Ethics

**Office of the Secretary**

Mr. Thomas Cunniff, General Counsel  
Ms. Aja Favors, Associate General Counsel  
Pr. Keith Fry, Assistant to the Secretary  
Ms. Marit Johnson, Manager, Official Documentation

**Unit Staff**

Pr. Philip Hirsch, Executive Director, Domestic Mission (DM)  
Ms. Kathy Freeman Summers, Executive Director, Mission Advancement (MA)  
Pr. Rafael Malpica-Padilla, Executive Director, Global Mission (GM)  
Ms. Evelyn Soto, Director for DM Operations and Programs, DM  
Ms. Rachel Wind, Executive for Development, MA  
Ms. Victoria Flood, Director for Mission Support, MA  
Mr. Nick Kiger, Associate Director for Mission Support, MA  
Ms. Jocelyn Fuller, Director for Strategic Communications, MA  
Pr. Albert Starr, Director for Ethnic Specific and Multicultural Ministries

**Separately Incorporated Ministries**

Ms. Linda Post Bushkofsky, Executive Director, Women of the ELCA  
Ms. Kathy Freeman Summers, President, ELCA Foundation  
Mr. Tim Blevins, President and CEO, 1517 Media  
Pr. Martin Seltz, Publisher, 1517 Media  
Ms. Eva Roby, President and CEO, Mission Investment Fund  
Pr. Jeffrey Thiemann, President and CEO, Portico Benefit Services

**Press**

Ms. Candice Hill Buchbinder, Mission Advancement

**Ecumenical Guests**

Pr. Judy Knopf, Moravian Church in North America  
Dr. Steven Nishibayashi, The Episcopal Church  
Pr. Rachel Birkhahn-Rommelfanger, The United Methodist Church  
Pr. Kennetha Bigham-Tsai, The United Methodist Church  
Ms. Elona Street Stewart, Presbyterian Church in America

**Ethnic Specific Ministry Association Guests**

Pr. Joan Conroy, American Indian and Alaska Native Lutheran Association, president  
Pr. Khader Khalilia, Association of Lutherans of Arab and Middle Eastern Heritage  
Ms. Jennifer DeLeon, Latino Association, president  
Pr. Russell Meyer, European Descent Lutheran Association for Racial Justice, president  
Pr. Gigie Sijera-Grant, Asian and Pacific Islander Lutheran Association, president  
Pr. Lamont Wells, African Descent Lutheran Association, president

**PLENARY SESSION ONE**  
[Microsoft Teams Meeting Link](#)  
November 12, 2020  
2 – 4 p.m. CST

**I.A Call to Order and Adoption of the Agenda**

Agenda items have been distributed electronically. Additional items will be distributed at the meeting to the members of the Church Council and invited resource people. The times noted in the agenda are estimates and are provided for information only.

**CC ACTION**

**Recommended:**

**To adopt the agenda and to permit the chair to call for consideration of agenda items in the order the chair deems most appropriate.**

**I.B Adoption of the Standing Rules**

The Church Council will conduct its business in this virtual meeting using standing rules. The document highlights deadlines for removal from *en bloc* and new business, instructions for Church Council members on how to ask a question or make a comment during the meeting, and the process for voting. The standing rules can be found [here](#).

**CC ACTION**

**Recommended:**

**To adopt the standing rules for the Fall 2020 Church Council meeting.**

**I.C Report from the Presiding Bishop**

The presiding bishop will provide a 20-minute verbal update and an additional 10 minutes will be available for questions. The written report from the presiding bishop can be found [here](#).

**I.D Report from the Vice President**

The written report from the vice president can be found [here](#). This 10-minute time is available for any questions for the vice president.

**I.E Report of the Executive Committee**

**I.E.1 Election to Church Council**

The nominating committee has nominated Ms. Alyssa J. Cobb, Pikesville, MD, to fill the vacancy of Ms. Emma Wagner, Delaware-Maryland Synod [8F], and Pr. Daniel “Dan” Gerrietts, Mason City, IA, to fill the vacancy of Pr. Chad Huebner, Northeastern Iowa Synod [5F]. Both Ms. Wagner and Pr. Huebner resigned this past summer. Biographical information for the nominees is provided [here](#).

**CC ACTION**

**Recommended:**

**To elect Ms. Alyssa J. Cobb, Pikesville, MD [8F], and Pr. Daniel W. Gerrietts, Mason City, IA [5F], to the Church Council for a term ending 2022.**

**I.F Report from the Secretary**

The written report from the secretary can be found [here](#). This 10-minute time is available for any questions for the secretary.

7 p.m. CST Informal Fellowship  
[\*Microsoft Teams Meeting Link\*](#)

**PLENARY SESSION TWO**  
[Microsoft Teams Meeting Link](#)  
November 13, 2020  
10 a.m. – 12 p.m. CST

**II.A Morning Prayer with a Reflection on *Freedom of a Christian***

**II.B Report from the Treasurer**

The treasurer will provide a 15-minute verbal update and an additional 5 minutes will be available for questions. The written report from the treasurer can be found [here](#).

**II.C Presentation on Future Church Design**

At its July 2020 meeting, the Church Council received a preview of a proposed Future Church design. After further consultation, the decision was made in August 2020 to extend the timeline for the Church Council to review and consider the design at its November 2020 meeting.

During this plenary session, the Future Church Implementation Team will provide a presentation to the Church Council on the final proposal for the design. When personnel matters are presented, the Church Council will enter into an executive session.

In Plenary Session Four, the Church Council will consider the recommendations from the respective council committees. The Planning and Evaluation Committee will bring recommendations on the structure and overall design for the proposal. The Legal and Constitutional Review Committee will bring recommendations on the constitutional amendments to implement the design. The Budget and Finance Committee will bring recommendations for the budgetary implications of the design.

1 p.m. CST      Legal Briefing (*executive session; a separate Microsoft Teams meeting link will be sent*)

### PLENARY SESSION THREE

[Microsoft Teams Meeting Link](#)

November 13, 2020

2 – 4 p.m. CST

#### III.A Report from the Conference of Bishops

The chair will provide a 5-minute verbal update and an additional 5 minutes will be available for questions. The written report from the chair of the Conference of Bishops can be found [here](#).

#### III.B Discussion on *Definitions and Guidelines for Discipline*

At its Spring 2020 meeting, the Church Council requested “that the Domestic Mission unit and the Committee on Appeals engage in conversation with the Conference of Bishops to seek further information and guidance regarding the needs of bishops to apply discipline as described in *Definitions and Guidelines for Discipline*, reporting that information to the Executive Committee of the Church Council at its October 2020 meeting.” [CC20.03.05]

Members of the Committee on Appeals met with the Conference of Bishops at their Fall 2020 online meeting to receive further input for the committee’s work on the document. At the Oct. 15, 2020 meeting, the Executive Committee received an update from the chair of Committee on Appeals, Murray Sagsveen.

At this meeting, Murray Sagsveen, chair, Fritz Fowler, vice chair, and Cheryl Meinschein, secretary, will provide a 15-minute verbal update and an additional 15 minutes will be available for discussion.

More information about Definitions and Guidelines for Discipline can be found on [ELCA.org](#).

#### III.C Report of the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee

The following report is provided by the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee. Additional items or revised actions may be distributed following the committee’s meeting. *En Bloc* items will be acted upon later in the meeting. Background information can be located in the [Legal and Constitutional Review Committee folder](#) of Church Council Microsoft Teams.

#### III.D Report of the Budget and Finance Committee

The following report is provided by the Budget and Finance Committee. Additional items or revised actions may be distributed following the committee’s meeting. *En Bloc* items will be acted upon later in the meeting. Background information can be located in the [Budget and Finance Committee folder](#) of Church Council Microsoft Teams.

#### III.E Report of the Program and Services Committee

The following report is provided by the Program and Services Committee. Additional items or revised actions may be distributed following the committee’s meeting. *En Bloc* items will be acted upon later in the meeting. Background information can be located in the [Program and Services Committee folder](#) of Church Council Microsoft Teams.

#### III.F Report of the Board Development Committee

The following report is provided by the Board Development Committee.

#### III.G Installation of new Church Council members

4 p.m. CST     **Deadline for Removal of Items from *En Bloc*** (send request to [Sue.Rothmeyer@elca.org](mailto:Sue.Rothmeyer@elca.org))  
**Deadline for New Business** (send request to [Sue.Rothmeyer@elca.org](mailto:Sue.Rothmeyer@elca.org))  
7 p.m. CST     Informal Fellowship ([Microsoft Teams Meeting Link](#))

**PLENARY SESSION FOUR**

*Executive Session*  
November 14, 2020  
10 a.m. – 12 p.m. CST

**IV.A. Morning Prayer with a Reflection**

**IV.B Recommendations on Future Church Design**

The following recommendations from the committees are related to the Future Church Design. As some of the discussion may involve personnel matters, this plenary session will be held in executive session. Actions taken in this session will be reported out in Plenary Session Five.

**IV.B.1 Recommendations from Planning and Evaluation and Legal and Constitutional Review committees**

The recommendations from the Planning and Evaluation Committee will be related to the structure and overall design. The recommendations from the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee will be related to the constitutional amendments in the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the ELCA* to implement the Future Church design.

**CC ACTION**

**Recommended:**

*[to be provided in Church Council Executive Session agenda]*

**IV.C Report of the Budget and Finance Committee**

The following report is a continuation of the Budget and Finance Committee.

**IV.C.1. FY2021 Revised Spending Authorization**

**CC ACTION [EN BLOC]**

**Recommended:**

**To approve a 2021 fiscal year current fund spending authorization of \$xxx; and  
To approve a 2021 ELCA World Hunger spending authorization of \$xxx.**

**PLENARY SESSION FIVE**  
[Microsoft Teams Meeting Link](#)  
November 14, 2020  
2 – 4 p.m. CST

**V.A Report of executive session actions**

**V.B Report of the Temporary Select Committee on Committees**

The following report is provided by the Temporary Select Committee on Committees.

**V.C Discussion on Aspirational Document**

At its Spring 2020 meeting, the Church Council requested that “the Domestic Mission unit engage in conversation with the Conference of Bishops at its Fall 2020 meeting and the Church Council at its November 2020 meeting to consider the goals and purpose behind a new aspirational document;” [CC20.03.05]

At this meeting, Phil Hirsch, executive director for Domestic Mission, will provide a 15-minute verbal update and an additional 15 minutes will be available for discussion.

**V.D Consideration of Items Removed from *En Bloc***

**V.E *En Bloc* Approval of Certain Items**

The following *en bloc* resolution includes agenda items that will be considered on the last day of the Church Council meeting. Inclusion of these items in the *en bloc* action reflects a judgment that these items are relatively non-controversial in nature and may not require plenary discussion and a separate vote.

Each of the items is noted as [*En Bloc*] in [En Bloc Items, Responses to Previous Church Council Actions, Responses to Synod Council Actions](#), and [Responses to Churchwide Assembly Actions](#).

The chair will not call for a discussion or separate vote on those items that are not removed from the *en bloc* resolution. The items remaining in the *en bloc* resolution normally will be considered as one of the last items of council business.

**CC ACTION** (Two-Thirds Vote Required)

**Recommended:**

**To approve the *En Bloc* continuing resolution amendments to the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* as listed in *En Bloc* Items.**

**CC ACTION** (Two-Thirds Vote Required)

**Recommended:**

**To approve the *En Bloc* reconsideration of a social message as listed in *En Bloc* Items.**

**CC ACTION**

**Recommended:**

**To take action *En Bloc* on the remaining items listed in *En Bloc* Items, Responses to Previous Church Council Actions, Responses to Synod Council Actions, and Responses to Churchwide Assembly Actions.**

**V.F New Business**

**V.G Sending Word and Prayer**

*6 p.m. Additional Evening Session, if needed*