



Nov. 16, 2021

TO: Bishops of synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Vice presidents of synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Secretaries of synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Members of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Administrative Team of the churchwide organization
Chief executive officers of separately incorporated ministries
Seminary leaders
FROM: Deacon Sue E. Rothmeyer, secretary
SUBJECT: Report of Church Council Responses to Synod Council Resolutions (Nov. 11–13, 2021)

I. RESPONSES TO SYNOD COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS ..... 1
A. Guidance on Retired or Retiring Ministers from the Roster of the ELCA ..... 1
B. ELCA Advocacy Support for the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act..... 2
C. Gender Representation and Inclusion..... 4
II. RESPONSES TO PREVIOUS CHURCH COUNCIL ACTIONS..... 5
A. Deacons Unified Cross Design ..... 5
B. Climate Change Action..... 6
C. Declaration of the ELCA to the People of African Descent ..... 8
III. RESPONSES TO CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY ACTIONS ..... 9
A. Earth Charter ..... 9
B. Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Call to Action Social Statement..... 11

I. RESPONSES TO SYNOD COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS

A. GUIDANCE ON RETIRED OR RETIRING MINISTERS FROM THE ROSTER OF THE ELCA

Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod (8B) [2021]

Bishop Kurt Kusserow submitted a letter to the Church Council on behalf of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod Council seeking guidance regarding retired or retiring ministers from the roster of the church whose status is in question or uncertain. Specifically, the synod council is asking about the required triennial review of the ministers on this church's retired roster and proposing that the guidance be added to the Manual of Policies and Procedures for the Management of the Rosters of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for the benefit of this church.

Church Council action [CC21.04.06s]

To receive the request from the Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod Council requesting guidance regarding the review of retired ministers on the roster of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America;

To refer the matter to the Office of the Secretary for further research and to request that a response be provided at the Fall 2021 Church Council meeting; and

To request that the secretary of this church inform the synod of this action.

Response from Office of the Secretary (Nov. 2021)

Following the referral to the Office of the Secretary of the resolution from the Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod Council, Secretary Sue Rothmeyer conferred with Bishop Kurt Kusserow, whose letter had prompted the request. Bishop Kusserow has offered to serve on an ad hoc task force to consider guidelines for synods to use in conducting the status review of retired rostered ministers called for in the roster manual. He requested that a member of the Roster Committee of the Conference of Bishops also serve on the task force, and Bishop Shelley Wickstrom of the Alaska Synod has agreed. The task force will submit a proposal to the Roster Committee and the Conference of Bishops for possible guidelines to be inserted in the roster manual. A final draft would then be submitted to the Church Council to approve for inclusion in the roster manual.

Church Council action:

To receive the response on "Guidance on Retired or Retiring Ministers for the Roster of the ELCA" from the Office of the Secretary;

To anticipate a progress report at the Spring 2022 Church Council meeting with possible updates to the roster manual; and

To request that the secretary of this church inform the synod of this action.

## **B. ELCA ADVOCACY SUPPORT FOR THE ENERGY INNOVATION AND CARBON DIVIDEND ACT Northeastern Iowa Synod (5F) [2021]**

WHEREAS, God created heaven and earth and everything therein and proclaimed it good (Gen 1:1ff); and God has entrusted humankind with the care of the earth (Gen 2:15); and

WHEREAS, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America has adopted social policy statements, *Caring for Creation* (1993) and *Sufficient, Sustainable Livelihood* (1999) that call for economic and environmental justice, to protect the health and integrity of creation both for its own sake and for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations, and for economic justice, to consider how our actions affect the ability of all people to provide for their material needs and the needs of their families and communities; and

WHEREAS, in 1993 with the *Caring for Creation* social statement, we realized the urgency was already “widespread and serious, according to the preponderance of evidence from scientists worldwide [of] dangerous global warming, caused by the buildup of greenhouse gases, especially carbon dioxide” from the burning of fossil fuels, and that “action to counter degradation, especially within this decade, is essential to the future of our children and our children’s children. Time is very short;” and

WHEREAS, carbon pricing is one policy tool to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuel combustion, which complements other tools like regulations on polluting industries and tax incentives encouraging investment in energy efficiency and renewable forms of energy production; and

WHEREAS, in January 2019, over 3,500 of our nation’s leading economists across the political spectrum, including 28 Nobel Laureates and four former chairs of the Federal Reserve, issued a joint “Economists’ Statement on Carbon Dividends” that argued “A carbon tax offers the most cost-effective lever to reduce carbon emissions at the scale and speed that is necessary” but also recommended “the revenue should be returned directly to U.S. citizens through equal lump-sum rebates,” and concluded “The majority of American families, including the most vulnerable, will benefit financially by receiving more in ‘carbon dividends’ than they pay in increased energy prices;” and

WHEREAS, in 2019 the Churchwide Assembly received with gratitude a memorial from the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin regarding a Carbon Fee and Dividend, and the Church Council directed the Domestic Mission unit to develop “a plan that promotes educational resources on Carbon Fee and Dividend to assist in forming the basis for any potential advocacy strategy;” and

WHEREAS, in October 2019 ELCA Advocacy published a primer on “Carbon Pricing Basics” that provides an overview to the topic and identifies several principles rooted in ELCA social statements that should be used to assess carbon pricing proposals; and

WHEREAS, the “Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019” has received bipartisan support in the last two sessions in Congress and is consistent with the principles outlined in ELCA Advocacy’s “Carbon Pricing Basics;” and

WHEREAS, ELCA Advocacy does advocate for particular pieces of legislation after careful review and moral grounding in the ELCA’s social statements; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Upper Iowa River Conference of the Northeast Iowa Synod urges ELCA Advocacy to advocate for the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act, or similar legislation during the 117th United States Congress and, if necessary, future Congresses; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Upper Iowa River Conference directs the Synod Council to consider this resolution at their next meeting and to forward it to the ELCA Church Council or its Executive Committee for further consideration and action by directing ELCA Advocacy to advocate for the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act or similar legislation.

### *Church Council action [CC21.04.06r]*

To refer the “ELCA Advocacy Support for the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act” resolution from the Northeastern Iowa Synod Council to the Service and Justice unit for a report or for a timeline on when this will receive further attention; and

To request that the secretary of this church inform the synod of this action.

### *Southeastern Iowa Synod (5D) [2021]*

WHEREAS, God created heaven and earth and everything therein and proclaimed it good (Gen 1:1ff); and God has entrusted humankind with the care of the earth (Gen 2:15); and

WHEREAS, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America has adopted social statements, *Caring for Creation* (1993) and *Sufficient, Sustainable Livelihood for All* (1999) that call for economic and environmental justice, to protect the health and integrity of creation both for its own sake and for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations, and for economic justice, to consider how our actions affect the ability of all people to provide for their material needs and the needs of their families and communities; and

WHEREAS, in 1993 with the *Caring for Creation* social statement, this church realized the urgency was already “widespread and serious, according to the preponderance of evidence from scientists worldwide [of] dangerous global warming, caused by the buildup of greenhouse gases, especially carbon dioxide” from the burning of fossil fuels, and that “action to counter degradation, especially within this decade, is essential to the future of our children and our children’s children. Time is very short;” and

WHEREAS, carbon pricing is one policy tool to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuel combustion, which complements other tools like regulations on polluting industries and tax incentives encouraging investment in energy efficiency and renewable forms of energy production; and

WHEREAS, in January 2019, over 3,500 of the nation’s leading economists across the political spectrum, including 28 Nobel Laureates and 4 former chairs of the Federal Reserve, issued a joint “Economists’ Statement on Carbon Dividends” that argued “A carbon tax offers the most cost-effective lever to reduce carbon emissions at the scale and speed that is necessary,” but also recommended “the revenue should be returned directly to U.S. citizens through equal lump-sum rebates,” and concluded “The majority of American families, including the most vulnerable, will benefit financially by receiving more in ‘carbon dividends’ than they pay in increased energy prices;”<sup>1</sup> and

WHEREAS, the 2019 Churchwide Assembly received with gratitude a memorial from the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin regarding a Carbon Fee and Dividend, and the Church Council directed the Domestic Mission unit to develop “a plan that promotes educational resources on Carbon Fee and Dividend to assist in forming the basis for any potential advocacy strategy;”<sup>2</sup> and

WHEREAS, in October 2019 ELCA Advocacy published a primer on “Carbon Pricing Basics” that provides an overview to the topic and identifies several principles rooted in ELCA social statements that “can move us toward the pressing goal of reduced GHG emissions and just application of that [carbon] pricing or policy;”<sup>3</sup> and

WHEREAS, the “Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019”<sup>4</sup> has received bipartisan support in the last two sessions in Congress and is broadly consistent with the following principles outlined in ELCA Advocacy’s “Carbon Pricing Basics” primer:

- Any carbon tax must be structured to respect the jeopardy of vulnerable populations and those living in poverty.
- Any carbon pricing mechanism must not be fiscally regressive but rather must respect vulnerable populations and those living in poverty.
- Emissions targets should be consistent with credible science and with the IPCC special report’s directive that global warming be kept at 1.5 degrees Celsius or less.
- An adjustment mechanism should be included in case the emissions targets are not being met.
- Federal agencies should not be prohibited from proposing new regulations on GHGs if such regulations are needed.
- An effective carbon tax must be applied to as many sectors as possible. Because of the global nature of the problem, border issues and trade policies must also be considered in designing the tax, so that problems are not remedied through workarounds.
- The process for identifying problems and implementing solutions in a carbon tax should be participatory and transparent for all stakeholders.
- The pricing mechanism itself should be transparent and accountable to government authority to ensure that goals are being met.
- Portions of the revenue collected should be used to invest in worker transition, community resilience and renewable energy, with priority given to helping all communities adapt and become more resilient.
- Transparency and accountability should be built into the pricing mechanism.
- The mechanism for awarding rebates to individuals/households should reach the most vulnerable, regardless of income or citizenship.
- Existing environmental and climate change protections should not be rolled back.

WHEREAS, ELCA Advocacy does advocate for particular pieces of legislation after careful review and moral grounding in the ELCA’s social statements; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Southeastern Iowa Synod urges ELCA Advocacy to advocate for the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act, or similar legislation during the 117th United States Congress and, if necessary, future Congresses; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Southeastern Iowa Synod thanks the ELCA Church Council for receiving this resolution at its next meeting, and requests the Council or its Executive Committee to forward this resolution to ELCA Advocacy with encouragement to advocate for the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act or similar legislation; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Southeastern Iowa Synod encourages congregations in our synod to utilize “Carbon Pricing Basics” in adult education offerings; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Southeastern Synod rededicates itself to care for creation and to advocate for social and environmental justice, using the resources of Lutherans Restoring Creation ([lutheransrestoringcreation.org](http://lutheransrestoringcreation.org)) and other organizations.

---

<sup>1</sup> Climate Leadership Council, “[Economists Statement on Carbon Dividends.](#)” January 17, 2019.

<sup>2</sup> [Report of Actions of the Church Council \(November 12-14, 2020\).](#)

<sup>3</sup> ELCA Advocacy, “[Carbon Pricing Basics.](#)” October 2019.

<sup>4</sup> [H.R. 763, Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019.](#)

*Executive Committee action [EC21.08.15b]*

To refer the “ELCA Advocacy Support for the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act” resolution from the Southeastern Iowa Synod Council to the Service and Justice unit for a report or for a timeline on when this will receive further attention; and

To request that the secretary of this church inform the synod of this action.

*Response from Service and Justice (Nov. 2021)*

Reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions into the atmosphere requires multiple approaches, including carbon pricing, setting emissions performance standards, and GHG mitigation technologies. Economists generally believe carbon pricing to be the best tool for having the most significant impact in the near term to spur GHG emission reduction mitigation efforts. Carbon pricing can take many forms, most familiar being an emissions trading system (ETS) or a carbon fee or tax. This resolution’s focus is on an Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act (Act).

**Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2021 Status:** H.R.2307—The act of 2021 was introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives (House) on April 1, 2021. The House of Representatives bill history record shows that the legislation was referred to the House Committees on Ways and Means, Energy and Commerce, and Foreign Affairs. On April 2, 2021, the Committee on Energy and Commerce referred the legislation to the Subcommittee on Energy, where it remains.

**Overview of Carbon Tax Legislation:** The probability of a stand-alone carbon tax legislation such as the Act coming to either the House or Senate floor for a vote is very slim. Despite the economics of the act put forth by economists, or the lobbying efforts of such groups as the [Citizen Climate Lobby](#) (CCL) or the bipartisan [Climate Leadership Council](#), none of which proves to be sufficient to bridge the political divide existing in the current partisan environment.

The carbon tax impasse is not new. [CCL](#) has been advocating for carbon fee and dividend legislation since 2010. Over ten different carbon pricing bills were introduced in Congress over the past few years. A [New York Times](#) article (dated 10/13/2021) gives an overview of how the political dynamics hinder bringing forth bills like the Act. The Times states, “[a] tax on carbon dioxide pollution could be the single most effective policy to tackle climate change. But, unfortunately, it could also be politically explosive.” There is a fear that even with the dividends used as rebates to citizens, higher prices for electricity, and some goods would be too much for people to handle. There have been rumors of including some type of carbon tax in the Build Back Better Act, which would if enacted, be the most significant climate legislation ever for the U.S., but the White House did not support this tax.

**WIS Advocacy:** In 2019, the Domestic Mission Unit (Advocacy) developed a primer covering [carbon pricing basics](#) and a [carbon pricing questions document](#) to analyze any carbon fee legislation.

Witnessing In Society (WIS, aka Advocacy) advocates for climate change legislation and collaborates with ecumenical, interfaith, and civil society working for climate justice and equity. WIS maintains leadership roles in organizations such as [America Is All In](#), and spearheads efforts to take our message to the highest levels of government, such as creating the opportunity for the presiding bishop to participate in a high-level White House meeting on the Build Back Better Act.

**Church Council action:**

**To receive the response on “ELCA Advocacy Support for the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act” from Service and Justice;**

**To commend the ELCA Advocacy staff for their overarching support of carbon tax legislation given the current impasse on such legislation, and their continued advocacy for climate justice and equity; and**

**To request that the secretary of this church inform the synods of this action.**

**C. GENDER REPRESENTATION AND INCLUSION**

**Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod (7E) [2021] (2021 memorial reclassified as resolution)**

RESOLVED, that the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod memorialize the 2022 Churchwide Assembly of the ELCA to expand gender/sex language beyond using binary terms for church members representing groups, congregations, conferences and other subunits within synods, and synods at gatherings in any of the three expressions of the church by changing section 5.01. in order to expand the gender quota requirement therein, and explicitly grant access and inclusion of nonbinary and gender fluid individuals in full participation of church life and to expand the ELCA’s commitment to inclusiveness in Chapter 5 of the ELCA constitution to include a specifically stated commitment to inclusion of nonbinary and gender fluid persons in the business of the church, including as voting members.

*Response from Office of the Secretary (Nov. 2021)*

The Church Council will consider at this meeting a proposed continuing resolution, 5.01.H21., which specifies that, for the purposes of the representational principles, the percentage of laypersons that is not allocated to women or men by 5.01.e. and f. may be allocated to persons who identify as gender non-binary, gender fluid, women, men, or other genders.

***Church Council action:***

**To receive the response on “Gender Representation and Inclusion” from the Office of the Secretary;**

**To acknowledge the action taken on proposed continuing resolution 5.01.H21 as the response of the Church Council to this resolution from the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod; and**

**To request that the secretary of this church inform the synod of this action.**

## **II. RESPONSES TO PREVIOUS CHURCH COUNCIL ACTIONS**

### **A. DEACONS UNIFIED CROSS DESIGN**

*Background:*

*Church Council Action [CC18.11.22]*

... To define the symbols of this ministry as a deacon’s stole and cross, both to be presented at the entrance rite, and to request the Office of the Presiding Bishop worship staff share information about the appropriate use of the deacon stole and facilitate a conversation among deacons regarding a unified cross design; ...

*Response from the Office of the Presiding Bishop (February 2020)*

In early Fall 2019, Deacon John Weit of the Worship team of the Office of the Presiding Bishop consulted with Deacon Sue Rothmeyer and Deacon Krista Anderson from the churchwide organization to begin addressing the need to facilitate a conversation among deacons regarding a unified cross design to be worn as a pin. A consultation with five additional deacons representing various ministry contexts was held in October. This consultation discussed the various cross designs that already exist within diaconal communities, both those represented by ELCA deacons and by ecumenical partners. We addressed several paths forward including looking to name a metal worker/designer that could work with the ELCA to potentially both design and produce pins for purchase by individual deacons.

Staffing transitions on the worship team caused this project to slow through the winter months. This work will continue this spring with the hope of engaging a designer to consider a sustainable process for production and a potential design. Although we anticipate that the production costs of the individual pins would likely be offset by individual purchases, we will likely need to identify funding to begin this design work. As this will become an official symbol of the ministry of Word and Service, a final design would be presented to the Program and Services Committee for affirmation, likely in Fall 2020.

*Response from Christian Community and Leadership (Spring 2021)*

*On Feb. 1, the Worship team in the Office of the Presiding Bishop moved to Christian Community and Leadership.*

Since the previous update to Church Council in February 2020, the swift change in focus due to the pandemic necessitated delaying further conversation regarding a unified deacon cross design. The subsequent elimination of a staff position on the worship team further required reprioritization of this work.

Deacon Krista Anderson and Deacon John Weit looked to resume this work in January 2021. Throughout the month of February, informal sharing and conversation among deacons occurred via social media and soliciting direct feedback. It was hoped that this conversation and collaboration might offer some consensus around imagery and concepts that would inform a jewelry designer to be commissioned to craft a proposed design. The feedback among deacons showed that there is a considerable variety of opinions on design concepts, or in some cases, an apparent lack of interest in a common cross design for ELCA ministers of Word and Service. The team’s research and conversation have found dozens of symbols used by diaconal communities worldwide, including former and current communities that include ELCA ministers of Word and Service.

This unified cross pin, once designed, will need sustainable manufacturing and distribution venues. A preliminary conversation with Old Lutheran has presented a possible path forward. Such a partnership will need further collaboration and coordination with other ELCA ministries who have existing partnerships with Old Lutheran. The production and sale of these pins should be financially self-sustaining at a reasonable price point for deacons. The manufacturing and sales process must also account for a higher number of pins to be sold in the first months of availability. Subsequent sales will be generally limited to deacons soon to be ordained and those who need to purchase a replacement. Some funding for design, prototype, and start-up costs may be necessary.

A grass-roots effort for online Zoom conversation with ELCA deacons and candidates from across this church will occur in March and April 2021. We hope this emerging venue will allow an additional conversation opportunity

prior to commissioning a design. With a designer, funding, and manufacturing and distribution venues in place by Summer 2021, it is possible that a final design could be affirmed in Fall 2021.

*Church Council action [CC21.04.06q]*

To receive the update from the Christian Community and Leadership unit on a unified cross design for ministers of Word and Service; and

To request a final design be presented to the Fall 2021 Church Council meeting.

*Response from Christian Community and Leadership (Nov. 2021)*

The process to commission a unified cross design for ministers of Word and Service was delayed in 2021 as churchwide staff continued to reprioritize ongoing work, key projects and new tasks identified as a result of staffing reorganization and a lingering pandemic. Although work on this project is resuming, a proposed design could not be completed in time to bring to Church Council for the Fall 2021 meeting. The Worship team respectfully asks that this be delayed to 2022.

An updated timeline is already in process to identify a final design and solidify a sustainable manufacturing and distribution plan. Barring any delays outside the control of churchwide staff, the timeline anticipates a design to be presented to the Church Council at the Spring 2022 meeting.

An earlier report to Church Council noted a considerable variety of opinions among deacons about potential design concepts, or in some cases, an apparent lack of interest in a common cross design for ministers of Word and Service. One possible path forward may be to propose not adopting a unified cross design.

While it is anticipated that start-up and prototype costs may be funded from existing sources, some one-time funding may need to be proposed in the FY2022 budget. It is anticipated that ongoing manufacturing and distribution will be financially self-sustaining.

Appropriate guidance about the use of the symbols of the ministry of Word and Service will be drafted in collaboration with the Office of the Secretary and the Candidacy and Leadership Manager—Word and Service.

***Church Council action:***

**To receive the update from the Christian Community and Leadership unit on a unified cross design for ministers of Word and Service; and**

**To postpone a final design recommendation to the Spring 2022 Church Council meeting.**

**B. CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION**

*Background:*

At its November 2019 meeting, the Church Council referred a recommendation on climate change from the Conference of Bishops [CB19.09.26] to the Domestic Mission unit for a timeline on when the resolution would receive further attention [CC19.11.41].

*Response from the Domestic Mission unit (March 2020)*

The ELCA response to climate change is not unified but is conducted across all three churchwide expressions. Programmatic responsibility includes Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR), Advocacy, Global Mission, World Hunger, Stewardship, and Congregational Vitality. In addition, Lutherans Restoring Creation (LRC) as a grassroots Lutheran entity is instrumental in education and resourcing congregations and synods. These and other stakeholders met in January 2020 to propose a holistic and integrated approach and coordination on the impacts of climate change as a matter of sustainability.

The first phase in addressing climate change is the formation of a Sustainability Table that brings together the different churchwide programs and ministries to address not only climate change, but other environmental and energy matters that recognizes the intersectionality and impact of climate on every fiber of life; and to move with resolve to implement actions. (Please see below) The convener initially will be the Advocacy Program Director, Environment, and Corporate Social Responsibility.

	<b>Sustainability Table Description</b>
<b>Purpose</b>	To explore and pull together holistically ELCA churchwide and congregational strategies and activities that care for and protect all of creation into a coordinated effort for being more effective stewards of God’s good creation.
<b>Goal</b>	To build capacity at all levels for equipping the Church to actively utilize our many gifts in witness and service in response to human need in our communities, countries and the world.

<b>Design</b>	<p><b>1. Develop specific goals and measurements</b></p> <p><b>2. Establish Steering committee members:</b> Advocacy; Young Adult, Domestic Mission, Global Mission, Mission Advancement, Synods/Congregations, Lutherans Restoring Creation (LRC)</p> <p><b>3. Create Smaller Working Issue Groups:</b> Communication, Education, Advocacy, Energy/Building Grounds, Worship, Justice (racial, ethnic, economic, environmental) and Funding.</p>
<b>Membership</b>	Advocacy, LDR, Campus Ministries, Global Missions, Universities and Colleges, Young Adult Ministry, Multi-Cultural/Ethnic Ministry Associations, Synods Rep., Deacons, Lay people, Church Council, Outdoor Ministry, Bishop Rep., Facilities/Operations (CW), Investment staff, Strategic Communications, Coaches, Ecumenical Partners, Science/Tech & Faith; and Worship/Music, Stewardship, and Mission Advancement.
<b>Meeting Timeline</b>	<p>Initial Introductory Call-----December 16, 2019</p> <p>Organizing Meeting-----January 27, 2020</p> <p>Steering Committee Call-----On or before March 2, 2020</p> <p>Full Table Meeting-----On or before March 31, 2020</p> <p>Scheduled Meetings-----Once per quarter</p>

*Church Council action [CC20.03.03g]*

To receive the response on climate change from the Domestic Mission unit;  
 To affirm the coordinated approach and proposed timeline for this church’s response to climate change; and  
 To anticipate progress reports at future Church Council meetings with a final report by the April 2022 Church Council meeting.

*Response from Domestic Mission unit (Oct. 2020)*

Addressing climate change in a more unified manner across ELCA began with the 2019 fourth quarter launching of the Sustainability Table (Table). The Table seeks to build capacity and brings together the different churchwide programs and ministries. It embodies our responsibility as stewards of God’s creation through climate action seeking justice and equity for all. Below is a synopsis of the climate change work.

Sustainability Table: The Table operates with Funding, Faith Formation, Capacity Building, Organizational and Operational, Communication, and Advocacy workgroups; and a Steering Committee. The work includes seeking sources of funding for resiliency projects; building up ELCA congregations’ and ministries’ capacities for adapting to climate change; piloting a Rainwater Harvesting project to teach and share learnings about water conservation; developing plan to address the impact of racism on sustainability; and formulating strategies to address the interconnectivity of climate change and disasters. Areas being evaluated include notification to potential buyers of areas prone to flooding and subject to wildfires, how to build back better, assist Lutheran Disaster Response in preparing for January 2021 consultation; identifying role for ELCA in greenhouse gases mitigation measures, and devising climate migration action plan.

Advocacy: Promoting policies to equitably transition to resilient societies without leaving anyone behind. ELCA leadership and interfaith colleagues organized two (2019 and 2020) innovative interfaith events to galvanize experiences, relationships, and resources toward addressing the climate crisis infused with conviction and hope at this watershed moment each held during United Nations Climate Change Week. Through collaboration with ecoAmerica’s Blessed Tomorrow, the ELCA co-branded an ELCA-specific video and researched resources for talking about climate change with congregations and members (available at [Resources](#)). ELCA votes initiatives and advocacy tools equip members with facts and tips to express their creation care concerns in policy consideration and the ballot. Awareness of intersection of environmental racism and health is raised in resources produced by ELCA advocacy staff. Arranged for diverse ELCA group to participate in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP) as an accredited party.

Corporate Social Responsibility: Review and update issues sheets and screens for social purpose funds investing guidance. Participate in the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility (ICCR) committees addressing justice and climate change issues; and serve on ICCR’s Board.

Stewardship: ELCA Caring for Creation Coaching has 16 Level II coaches prepared to work with congregations. We are currently preparing guidelines and orientation for some of these coaches to accompany

congregations on their Earth Charter Implementation Plans. A new cohort of coaches will start in October. Also introducing 10 Questions to Manage Your Energy Footprint to congregations and synods.

The next update will be issued in the Spring of 2021.

*There was not significant progress to report to the Spring 2021 meeting of the Church Council, so the progress report was postponed to the Fall 2021 meeting.*

#### *Response from Service and Justice (Nov. 2021)*

The Sustainability Table (Table) established in 2019 assists ELCA in addressing climate change. Below is a synopsis of the ongoing climate change work.

The Sustainability Table (including Building Resilient Communities (BRC) and Witness In Society (WIS)): The Table's work includes preparing ELCA congregations' and ministries' capacities for building resilient communities in the face of climate change and other environmental matters.

The Table's Capacity Building working group from December 2020 to February 2021 conducted an online survey in the Delaware-Maryland Synod on Care for Creation. The survey helped develop a baseline understanding of environmental issues. Most respondents believed climate change is happening now but see a gap between what they perceive can be done and what is being done. The follow-up work assisted by ELCA Creation Care Coaches (now numbering 22) includes holding eight focus group sessions. The Capacity Building working group submitted a question on creation care in the Form C questionnaire for the ELCA Congregation Annual Report for inclusion in the 2021 report. The responses will help inform the current thinking and capacities of the church and its ministries. Listening sessions were held with Central States and Arkansas-Oklahoma synods. The sessions helped identify needed resources for synods. The Table, working with the Member Communications Strategy working group, will develop a sustainability website to provide a centralized churchwide space for resources. The Table's Organizational and Operational working group will assist in procuring the resources.

WIS led a coalition of partners in holding a side event during President Biden's April 2021 Summit on Climate Change. The consultation called for the inclusion of the expertise of Indigenous and faith communities alongside career politicians and others to implement climate solutions. The ELCA will send a diverse delegation to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change's Conference of the Parties (COP 26) from October 31 to November 12, 2021. COP 26 will be the most significant COP since 2015 for addressing the climate crisis, "seen as the summit to both address what has and hasn't been achieved since 2015, while also setting concrete plans to reach the Paris Agreement targets" ([Euronews](#) Sept. 30), and the US also having rejoined the Paris Agreement." The ELCA met with high level Treasury Department officials on ways multilateral financial institutions can align with climate change goals.

BRC and WIS are partnering to initiate a Net-Zero by 2050 Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions pilot project with the Pennsylvania synods to accompany communities on the journey to a livable future where no one is left behind, starting with support for ministries in reducing their GHG emissions. Interested facilities will receive a baseline assessment of their emissions and site-specific long-term evergreen climate action plan proposals informed by their ministry priorities. Depending upon the ministry site, the recommendations may cover energy efficiency, water use, waste reduction, transportation, and land use/farming.

The Corporate Social Responsibility staff updates documents for social purpose funds investing guidance and is a member of the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility (ICCR) committees addressing justice and climate change issues and serves on ICCR's Board.

The final update will be issued in the Spring of 2022.

#### ***Church Council action:***

**To receive the progress report on climate change from the Service and Justice unit; and  
To request the final report at the April 2022 Church Council meeting.**

### **C. DECLARATION OF THE ELCA TO THE PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT**

#### *Background:*

At the 2016 Churchwide Assembly, the assembly received the African Descent Lutherans memorial from 10 synods calling for a number of actions related to the ELCA's observance of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation and the commemoration of the United Nation's International Decade of People of African Descent. In response, the assembly requested in part that the Domestic Mission unit staff create a "Declaration to the African Descent Community." [CA16.05.17]

At its special meeting in June 2019, the Church Council adopted "A Declaration to the People of African Descent" and directed additional action steps to be taken. [CC19.06.23]



*Church Council action [CC19.06.23]*

...To direct Planning, Research and Evaluation to measure and report progress on the discriminatory treatment within the call process and to urge Portico to assist with providing information to the churchwide organization to measure and report progress on inequitable compensation of clergy of color by the November 2021 meeting of the Church Council...

*Response from Christian Community and Leadership (Nov. 2021)*

Due to the transition of related research staff, the progress report will be delayed, and the Christian Community and Leadership (CCL) home area will not be ready to report by the Nov. 2021 meeting. However, this work is expected to be included as part of the Quality of Call project, which is considering barriers faced by women, people of color, and LGBTQIA+ pastors in the ELCA.

Additionally, Portico Benefit Services has reported that it does not have ethnic background in its systems and therefore would not have any data to segment rostered ministers of color. The terms of Portico's privacy policy by which Portico gathers compensation information from membership precludes using that data for purposes other than providing benefits.

An update on this work is anticipated for the Spring 2022 meeting with a full report in Fall 2022

***Church Council action:***

**To receive the update from the Christian Community and Leadership unit and Portico Benefit Services on the research work related to the discriminatory treatment within the call process and the inequitable compensation of rostered ministers of color; and**

**To request a progress report be presented at the Spring 2022 Church Council meeting with a final report at the Fall 2022 Church Council meeting.**

### **III. RESPONSES TO CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY ACTIONS**

#### **A. EARTH CHARTER**

*Background:*

*Churchwide Assembly action [CA19.02.06c]*

To receive with gratitude the memorials from the Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast, New England, Upstate New York, and Southeastern Pennsylvania synods concerning endorsement of the "The Earth Charter";

To endorse the Earth Charter;

To reaffirm the commitment of this church to engage in creation care through principles of sufficiency, sustainability, solidarity, and participation; and

To refer to the Domestic Mission unit for implementation consistent with this memorial.

*Executive Committee action [EC19.09.28.a2]*

To refer the 2019 Churchwide Assembly action on the "Earth Charter" to the Domestic Mission unit for a report or for a timeline on when this will receive further attention; and

To request that the secretary of this church inform the synod of this action.

*Response from the Domestic Mission unit (November 2019)*

The ELCA endorsed the Earth Charter on Oct. 4, 2019. Endorsement of the Earth Charter means that the ELCA will support the charter's implementation, values, and principles and will work with others toward the same goal.

Endorsers are expected to contribute to the charter initiative and to charter-inspired action projects, implement the charter in its professional work, and agree with this endorsement statement: "We, the undersigned, endorse the Earth Charter. We embrace the spirit and aims of the document. We pledge to join the global partnership for a just, sustainable, and peaceful world and to work for the realization of the values and principles of the Earth Charter."

To raise awareness of this endorsement, the Earth Charter logo and a link will be added to the [elca.org/environment](http://elca.org/environment) webpage. In early 2020, ELCA Advocacy will convene a staff team to develop a high-level formalized plan promoting the transition to sustainable ways of living into forthcoming resource development and projects. These will center on the Earth Charter action guidelines:

1. Respect and care for the community of life
2. Ecological integrity
3. Social and economic justice
4. Democracy, nonviolence, and peace

A progress report will be brought to the Fall 2020 Church Council meeting.

*Church Council action [CC19.11.47m]*

- To receive the response on “Earth Charter” from the Domestic Mission unit;
- To receive a progress report at Church Council’s Fall 2020 meeting; and
- To request that the secretary of this church inform the synods of this action.

*Response from the Office of the Presiding Bishop (November 2020)*

The Earth Charter’s (“Charter”) pillars and 16 principles address equitable sustainability and sufficiency for all communities; and it aligns with ELCA social teachings. ELCA’s Sustainability Table (“Table”) conducts the implementation work to fulfill the Charter endorsement. The Table includes ELCA churchwide staff (Advocacy, Stewardship, World Hunger, Global Mission, Lutheran Disaster Response, Office of the Presiding Bishop, Lutheran Office for World Community, Campus Ministry, Outdoor Ministry, colleges and universities, Ethnic Specific and Multicultural Ministries, Mission Advancement, Faith Formation, and Young Adult ministries), Lutherans Restoring Creation, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, rostered ministers, and lay leaders. Listed below is ongoing implementation work.

**Pillar 1—Respect and Care for the Community of Life:** Equip congregations and members for advocating in their communities’ interest; support #ELCAvotes initiative; advocate for child nutrition programs and housing reform; support federal disaster aid resources and equitable access programs that assist communities impacted by natural disasters; advocate for support for international antipoverty, humanitarian and global health funding; advocate for migrant rights and immigration reform both domestically and globally through Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities (“AMMPARO”) and our international companions; advance immigration reform; train Creation Care Ambassadors (to date over 50 trained).

**Pillar 2—Ecological Integrity:** Implement through pillar-focused leadership of the Delaware-Maryland Synod energy conservation and waste reduction (<https://youtu.be/Lo5qIVjTIVs>); explore funding options for projects with the Mission Investment Fund through the Table; lead a global interfaith “Good Trouble for a Healthy Planet” webinar with follow-ups; promote policies to protect all from the impacts of environmental degradation; received Stewardship of Life Institute grant with which synod leaders in four synods will be trained, accompanied and encouraged with skills identified by the ELCA Organized for Mission Network on local and state level stewardship of creation. (The Young Adult Ministry led efforts to give up plastics for Lent in the first quarter of 2020.)

**Pillar 3—Social and Economic Justice:** Produce resource series on intersectionality of racism and sexism for a just society supporting global health, racial equity, hunger eradication, environment, and housing; advance intra-ELCA and social efforts for equitable compensation; foster ongoing dialogical and theological engagement across this church towards gender and racial justice; address the disproportionate impact environmental injustice and climate change have on people of color and poor communities globally; utilize a racial justice lens to end the impacts of racism and develop models of equitable sustainability for all communities; assist migrants not covered by stimulus packages as well as support state and local advocacy through the AMMPARO network, congregations and synods.

**Pillar 4—Democracy, Nonviolence, and Peace:** Advocate for support of international funding for conflict prevention and peace-building programs; support and encourage global cooperation, such as the Paris Agreement, to protect the environment; protect human rights to defend democratic values, reject all forms of discrimination, encourage nonviolence and work for peace with the aim of creating a rich and varied space to enable sustainable development (SD); promote election integrity and voter protection; and participate in LWF’s Waking the Giant initiative focused on SD goals related to health, justice, education, reduced inequalities, and peace.

The Earth Charter implementation work is ongoing. The final report will be issued to the Fall 2021 Church Council meeting.

*Church Council action [CC20.11.33r]*

- To receive the progress report on “Earth Charter” from the Domestic Mission unit;
- To request that a final report be provided at the fall 2021 Church Council meeting; and
- To request that the secretary of this church inform the synods of this action.

*Response from Service and Justice (Nov. 2021)*

The [Earth Charter](#)’s (Charter) pillars and 16 principles address equitable sustainability and sufficiency for all communities, and it aligns with ELCA social teachings. The ELCA’s Sustainability Table (Table) supports and other ELCA ministries carry out the implementation work to fulfill the Charter endorsement. Listed below is ongoing implementation work.

**Pillar 1—Respect and Care for the Community of Life:** Equip congregations for advocating in their communities’ interest; support #ELCAvotes initiative; advocate for child nutrition programs and housing reform; support federal disaster aid resources and equitable access programs that assist communities impacted by natural

disasters; advocate for support for international antipoverty, humanitarian, and global health funding; advocate for migrant rights and immigration reform both domestically and globally through AMMPARO and our international companions; advance immigration reform; and train Creation Care Ambassadors (242 trained and 48 have signed to become Ambassadors).

**Pillar 2—Ecological Integrity:** Implement through leadership of the [Delaware-Maryland Synod](#) energy conservation and waste reduction; pilot efforts in Pennsylvania’s synods for significant carbon footprint reduction; promote policies to protect all from the impacts of environmental degradation; and received Stewardship of Life Institute (SOLI) grant for training leaders in four synods with skills identified by the ELCA Organized for Mission Network for local and state level stewardship of creation.

**Pillar 3—Social and Economic Justice:** Produce resource series on intersectionality of racism and sexism for a just society supporting global health, racial equity, hunger eradication, environment, and housing; advance intra-ELCA and social efforts for equitable compensation; foster ongoing dialogical and theological engagement across this church towards gender and racial justice; address the disproportionate impact environmental injustice and climate change have on people of color and poor communities globally; utilize a racial justice lens to remedy the impacts of racism and develop models of equitable sustainability for all communities; assist migrants not covered by stimulus packages as well as support state and local advocacy through the AMMPARO network, congregations, and synods; and advance prevention of gender-based violence across U.S. foreign policy engagement.

**Pillar 4—Democracy, Nonviolence, and Peace:** Advocate for support of international funding for conflict prevention and peace-building programs; support and encourage global cooperation, such as the Paris Agreement, to protect the environment; protect human rights to defend democratic values, reject all forms of discrimination, encourage nonviolence, and work for peace with the aim of creating a rich and varied space to enable sustainable development; promote election integrity and voter protection; and participate in the Lutheran World Federation’s Season of Creation and climate change initiatives.

The Earth Charter implementation work is ongoing within the ELCA. This document serves as the final report on the Earth Charter endorsement implementation. The project initiated by the SOLI grant will be sustained into the future through a new program called “Community Organizing for Climate Justice as Faith Active in Love,” offered by Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary’s Center for Climate Justice and Faith in collaboration with the ELCA’s Organizing for Mission Network. This new program begins in Feb. 2022 and will give priority to teams coming from synods and congregations. To apply or for more information, see:

[https://www.plts.edu/programs/continuingeducation/community\\_organizing\\_climate\\_justice.html](https://www.plts.edu/programs/continuingeducation/community_organizing_climate_justice.html).

***Church Council action:***

**To receive with gratitude the final report on the implementation of the “Earth Charter” memorial from the Service and Justice unit; and**

**To request that the secretary of this church inform the synods of this action.**

**B. FAITH, SEXISM, AND JUSTICE: A CALL TO ACTION SOCIAL STATEMENT**

*Background:*

*Churchwide Assembly Action [CA19.05.20]*

1. To urge members, congregations, synods, churchwide ministries, social ministry organizations, church-related institutions, ecumenical partners, and all people of good will to be guided by this statement’s convictions and commitments to resist and dismantle patriarchy and sexism, and to transform life in the church and in society;
2. To call upon members of this church to pray, work, and advocate for justice for all those affected by sexism and patriarchy and to draw upon this statement in forming their judgments and actions in daily life;
3. To encourage members to be guided by the ELCA social message on “Gender-based Violence” (2015) in taking action, such as urging their congregations to implement policies and to become intentional sites of advocacy and support for local efforts that serve those affected by such violence;
4. To call upon all members of this church to reflect on how mass media (films, video games, etc.) and social media distort sex, gender, and sexuality and to address this problem in their own actions (especially their care for children);
5. To call upon congregational leaders, rostered and lay, to encourage women and girls to pursue leadership roles within congregations and in discernment toward rostered ministry;
6. To encourage ELCA congregations to present positive gender roles in their educational activities, preschools, and day care, and to urge youth-related ministries within this church to adopt positive modeling of gender equity in all leadership, programs, and educational events;
7. To urge congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization (CWO) to address inequities (in pay, senior leadership, availability of second and third calls, etc.), as well as the systemic causes of such inequities, for

- rostered and lay women of various backgrounds, identities, and personal experiences and to advocate for adequate and equitable leave for all parents and families;
8. To call upon the Conference of Bishops, synods, and the churchwide organization to use gender-inclusive and expansive language for God, and to direct the ELCA worship team
    - a) to use such language whenever it commissions, curates, or develops new liturgical and related educational resources;
    - b) to supplement existing resources toward that end; and
    - c) to explore the development of an inclusive language lectionary similar to the Psalter in Evangelical Lutheran Worship.
  9. To direct the Mission Advancement unit of the CWO to collaborate with the Office of the Presiding Bishop in creating a single page at ELCA.org where readers can access the existing resources of the ELCA and the Lutheran World Federation related to the concerns of this statement and to work to make those resources available in languages other than English;
  10. To call upon this church's advocacy and related ministries, such as ELCA Advocacy and ELCA World Hunger, to support and advocate for measures, policies, and laws consistent with this social statement and to give sustained attention to its convictions and commitments in the creation of programs and projects;
  11. To recognize past and present CWO efforts to address institutional sexism and foster gender justice in this church, and to urge sustained devotion of resources, such as support for the CWO's Justice for Women program;
  12. To encourage the ministries of Women of the ELCA and Lutheran Men in Mission to continue and expand their work to address the issues identified in this social statement and to commend greater participation in these efforts;
  13. To call upon those engaged in publishing activities throughout the ELCA to continue and extend their support for gender equity in ELCA resources and communications through such dimensions as language, images, stories, Bible studies, themes, and representation of contributors;
  14. To urge faculty, staff, and administrators of ELCA-related colleges, universities, and seminaries to renew their efforts to develop syllabi and best practices that affirm and promote the gifts of women from varied identities and backgrounds;
  15. To call upon rostered and lay congregational leaders, synod and CWO staff, social ministry organizations, and faculty and staff at ELCA colleges, seminaries, and universities to renew their efforts to welcome, care for, and support the lives and gifts of LGBTQIA persons and to oppose discrimination against these persons so that they may live into the promise of gender justice envisioned in this social statement;
  16. To call on the church in all its expressions and related agencies, organizations, and institutions to embed and incorporate anti-sexism training and protocols in their ongoing work, including appropriate adaptations to boundaries training for rostered ministers, and to create institutional resources to support rostered ministers who experience sexual misconduct or gender-based harassment, as well as pastoral care resources for all affected by sexism;
  17. To direct the ELCA Church Council to establish a process for public repentance regarding the sins of patriarchy and sexism and establish a churchwide day of confession and repentance no later than the 2022 ELCA Churchwide Assembly; and
  18. To call upon the Office of the Presiding Bishop, in collaboration with appropriate units in the CWO, to establish and oversee processes for implementation of and accountability for these resolutions and to report to the fall meeting of ELCA Church Council in 2021.

*Response from Office of the Presiding Bishop (Nov. 2021)*

The 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly adopted *Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Call to Action* (FSJ) as this church's thirteenth social statement. (Social statements are theological-ethical teaching and policy documents that guide this church's public witness and faith formation. They are rooted in the Scriptures and Lutheran theology. All but one are available in English and Spanish.)

Implementing resolutions associated with ELCA social statements are voted upon separately from them. The 2019 Churchwide Assembly voted in favor of 18 resolutions, which includes the request for a report from the Office of the Presiding Bishop on progress made on the implementing resolutions (English, pp. 81–83; Spanish pp. 90–93).

This report includes known activities and is not intended to be exclusive. Across the ELCA, many individuals, congregations, synods, agencies, and institutions, including schools, live out the implementing resolutions in a variety of ways, even while opportunities for serving neighbors with gender justice continue to abound. Not every resolution requires action from the churchwide organization, as noted at the end of the chart.

<b>WORK: What has been or is being done?</b>	<b>WHO</b>	<b>RELATED IMPLEMENTING RESOLUTION/S</b>	<b>TIMELIN E</b>	<b>NOTES</b>
study guide to <i>FSJ</i>	Justice for Women, Theological Ethics, and Ecumenical and Inter-religious Relations, Communications	1, 2	November 2021	six digital sessions, in-person or online
online engagement with <i>FSJ</i>	Justice for Women	1, 2		
50 40 10 ordination anniversary initiatives	Office of the Presiding Bishop (OPB), including Justice for Women, Communications, Research and Evaluation, Archives	5, 7, 11	March 2019 to fall 2021	
50th anniversary of the ordination of women survey and report	Research and Evaluation, Office of the Secretary (OS), Justice for Women, (former) Domestic Mission	1, 5, 7	final report posted by end of November 2021	
ELCA Quality of Call initiative	OPB (including Justice for Women), Christian Community (CCL) and Leadership, OS, Conference of Bishops, synods, rostered ministers	1, 2, 5, 7, 15, 16	ongoing	three foci to Quality of Call initiative: pastors who are women, BIPOC, LGBTQIA+.  focus on women underway  other two foci in planning stages  donor-funded
Report on ELCA family leave policies	ELCA Quality of Call initiative (OPB, CCL)	7		
ELCA Womanist Theology Initiative	Justice for Women, Quality of Call, Trinity Lutheran Seminary, Luther Seminary, Thrivent (in part). All seminaries are working in conversation on this initiative.	1, 2, 5, 14, (15), (16)	begun fall 2020 and ongoing	proposed pan-seminary courses and certification (courses January and June 2021; January 2022)  lecture series  online reading groups  young women and girls of African Descent participated in cohorts organized by the Rev. Dr. Beverly Wallace in an online womanist conference

online sessions on language and images for God	Justice for Women	8	ongoing	
book publication by Fortress Press, <i>Language for God: A Lutheran Perspective</i>	Mary J. Streufert, director for Justice for Women	8	anticipated publication, June 2022	written for rostered leaders and lay members
consultation with NCC partners on possible ecumenical collaboration on an inclusive lectionary supplement	Ecumenical and Inter-religious Relations and Justice for Women	8	open	
legislation that affects and effects gender justice	Witness in Society, with occasional consultation with Justice for Women	10	ongoing	
online database of Lutheran Women's Works in Religion	Justice for Women	14	ongoing	allows searches by race and ethnicity, subject, and Lutheran World Federation regions  national and global database  includes broad theological work—sermons, lessons, articles, books, etc.
gender justice orientation	People First, Justice for Women	16	ongoing	
ELCA Candidacy Summit, workshop on sexism in candidacy process	CCL, Quality of Call	16	March 2021	led by former social statement task force member and ELCA deaconess
boundary education	CCL, Quality of Call, Region 9 synods, unknown others	16	ongoing	some boundary educators incorporate anti-sexism into education; required boundary education for persons in candidacy process
finance and gender-based violence	Justice for Women	3	fall 2020 and 2021	early stages of collaboration with Criterion Institute, which works with financial entities to invest in ways that prevent and mitigate the effects of gender-based violence

Lutheran World Federation collaboration on 2017 assembly resolutions related to gender justice	Justice for Women, Service and Justice, Ecumenical and Inter-religious Relations	1, 2, 3, 7, 16	ongoing	
relational influence	ELCA Church Council	12, 13, 14, 15	ongoing	
governance influence	ELCA Church Council	11	ongoing	
process of public repentance and day of confession and repentance for Churchwide Assembly 2022	ELCA Church Council in collaboration with Justice for Women	17	Nov. 16, 2021, meeting planned with key staff and council members  Spring 2022 Church Council meeting	
	Various spheres of the church	4,6		

***Church Council action:***

To receive the report from the Office of the Presiding Bishop in response to the 2019 Churchwide Assembly action related to the implementing resolutions for the social statement, *Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Call to Action*.