

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
CHURCH COUNCIL
Nov. 11-13, 2021
Chicago, Illinois

AGENDA

Participants

Voting Members

Mr. Kevin Anderson	Pr. Pamela Hoh
Bp. Tracie Bartholomew (<i>excused</i>)	Ms. Cherrish Holland
Ms. Tracey Beasley	Mr. Jim Jennings
Pr. Marcus Bigott	Mr. David Lenz
Pr. Nick Billardello	Pr. Tara Lynn
Ms. Susan Boxberger	Mr. Keoni Newman
Ms. Lisa Burk (<i>excused</i>)	Mr. Joe Nolte
Pr. Bill Callister	Mr. Gary Pederson
Pr. Karn Carroll	Mr. Bill Rice (<i>excused</i>)
Ms. Cheryl Chatman	Mr. Carlos Peña, Interim Vice President
Ms. Alyssa Cobb	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
Ms. Kerry Fehrman	Ms. Loni Taylor
Pr. Dena Gable	Ms. Sonja Wolfe
Pr. Daniel Gerrietts	Ms. Merritt Zesinger
Pr. Emily Hartner	

Liaison Bishops

Bp. Shelley Wickstrom (<i>excused</i>)	Bp. Donald Kreiss (<i>excused</i>)
Bp. Andy Taylor	Bp. Barbara Collins (<i>excused</i>)
Bp. Craig Schweitzer (<i>in lieu of Bp. Lull</i>)	Bp. Pedro Suárez (<i>excused</i>)
Bp. Sue Briner (<i>excused</i>)	
Bp. Jeffrey Clements (<i>excused</i>)	

Resource People

Operations: Office of the Presiding Bishop

Pr. Louise Johnson, Executive, Administration
Ms. Rhondean Johnson, Executive, People and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Operations: Office of the Secretary

Mr. Thomas Cunniff, General Counsel
Ms. Aja Favors, Associate General Counsel
Pr. Keith Fry, Executive, Office of the Secretary Administration
Ms. Marit Johnson, Manager, Official Documentation
Deacon Mary Ann Schwabe, Executive, Synod Relations and Natural Systems Coordinator
Ms. Jodi Slattery, Executive, Governance

Christian Community and Leadership (CCL)

Pr. Philip Hirsch, Executive Director
Deacon John Weit, Executive, Worship

Service and Justice (SJ)

Pr. Rafael Malpica-Padilla, Executive Director

Wednesday, November 10, 2021

3:00 p.m. Audit Committee, Full Epiphany, Lutheran Center

Thursday, November 11, 2021

10:30 a.m. Executive Committee, Marriott Chicago Ballroom C

12:00 p.m. Lunch for Executive Committee, Marriott Ballroom Terminal 1-3

1:30 p.m. **WORSHIP SERVICE WITH HOLY COMMUNION**, Ballroom A-B
Offering: Children – ELCA World Hunger
(Give online at <https://community.elca.org/hunger/children>, or make checks payable to Children - ELCA World Hunger, “In memory of Bill Horne” denoted on memo line)

Presider: Bp. Elizabeth Eaton
Preacher: Pr. Kjersten Sullivan
Assisting Minister: Mr. Joe Nolte
Lector: Divine

Installation of new Church Council member: Ms. Kerry Fehrman

PLENARY SESSION ONE
Marriott Ballroom Terminal 5
Nov. 11, 2021
3:00 – 5:30 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 Remembrance of ELCA Vice President William “Bill” Horne

William "Bill" Horne II, vice president of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), died Aug. 14. Bill was elected to serve a six-year term as ELCA vice president at the 2016 ELCA Churchwide Assembly in New Orleans. Previously, Bill served on the ELCA Church Council from 2009 to 2015, was a member of the ELCA Theological Education Advisory Council from 2013 to 2015, and served on the ELCA Inter-Religious Task Force to develop “A Declaration of Inter-Religious Commitment: A policy statement of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America,” which was adopted at the 2019 Churchwide Assembly.

He served as congregational president in two ELCA congregations in Florida and, at the time of his death, was a member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Clearwater, Fla. He served as a member of the Florida-Bahamas Synod Council and later as its synod vice president.

He worked as city manager of Clearwater since 2001. Prior to his career as the city manager of Clearwater, Bill served as a colonel in the United States Air Force. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry from the University of Tulsa, a master's degree in human resource management from Pepperdine University, and a master's degree in political science from Auburn University in Montgomery.

Bill is survived by his wife, Loretta, son, LaMoyne Horne, daughter, Christina Marie Horne, sister, Anita Scott (Jerry), and a host of uncles, aunts, cousins, nieces and nephews. A memorial service was held on Aug. 21. He will be buried at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia at a future date.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

The ELCA Church Council gives thanks to God for the life and faithful service of William "Bill" Burt Horne II. As it meets for its biannual meeting, the council offers its prayers for comfort and peace to his family and friends upon Bill's death. The council expresses its appreciation for his wise, fair, and strong leadership as vice president of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and his collaborative spirit, steadfast commitment, and genuine compassion for the congregations and communities throughout the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

I.C Report from the Presiding Bishop

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

I.D Report from the Interim Vice President

The written report from the interim vice president can be found [here](#). This 10-minute time is provided for a verbal report, with an additional 5 minutes for any questions for the interim vice president.

I.E Report of the Executive Committee

I.E.1 Revisions to Declaration of ELCA to Jewish Community

In 1994, the Church Council adopted “A Declaration of the ELCA to the Jewish Community,” a statement repudiating Luther’s anti-Judaic writings, opposing anti-Semitism, and expressing the ELCA’s desire to build right relationships with the Jewish community. It provides a measure of accountability within the ELCA, and to this church’s Jewish partners. Amid today’s alarming rise in anti-Semitic rhetoric and violence, the Declaration continues to convey an important message to be amplified across the ELCA and throughout God’s world. It was reaffirmed at the 2019 Churchwide Assembly in its twenty-fifth anniversary year.

The ELCA Consultative Panel on Lutheran-Jewish Relations is proposing revisions to the Declaration, which the Executive Committee recommends to the Church Council for action. The background and rationale for the revisions can be found [here](#).

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To adopt the proposed revisions to “A Declaration of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to the Jewish Community” as an expression of this church’s continual opposition to rising anti-Semitism and ongoing work to repudiate the Doctrine of Discovery;

To reaffirm “A Declaration of the ELCA to the Jewish Community” as an enduring message for this church, this church's Jewish neighbors, and all of this church's ecumenical, inter-religious, and global partners; and

To call the ELCA into a time of study and reflection using the Declaration and other Lutheran-Jewish relations resources available from the Office of the Presiding Bishop.

I.E.2 Vaccination Requirement at 2022 ELCA Churchwide Assembly

The ELCA Youth Gathering recently made the decision to require proof of a full COVID–19 vaccination or a negative COVID–19 test result in order to attend the 2022 Gathering, MYLE or the tAble. The rationale provided was that science has shown such precautions will help limit the spread of COVID–19 as communities gather. The Gathering website states that requiring a full COVID–19 vaccine or negative test result to attend the Gathering will help create the safest event possible next summer, given the current information being provided by medical professionals

At this time, the information on the Churchwide Assembly website states, “Final decisions regarding a vaccine requirement or a negative COVID–19 test result for unvaccinated individuals will be made closer to the assembly time.” Due to the recent decision of the ELCA Youth Gathering related to vaccines, the timing is appropriate to make decisions for the churchwide assembly and provide clear communication regarding COVID–19 vaccine requirements at the 2022 ELCA Churchwide Assembly.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To direct the churchwide organization to require all participants (i.e., voting members, visitors, volunteers, contract staff and churchwide staff) attending the 2022 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to either show proof of being fully vaccinated for COVID–19 or provide upon arrival a negative

COVID-19 test result taken 1–3 days prior to traveling to the assembly for unvaccinated individuals, in accordance with the guidance from public health officials.

I.F Report from the Secretary

The secretary will provide a 15–minute verbal update, with an additional 10 minutes for questions. The written report from the secretary can be found [here](#).

I.G Personal Reflection on Faith, Sonja Wolfe

I.H Prayer

6:00 p.m. Welcome Dinner, Marriott Ballroom Terminal 1-3
Remembering Bill Horne

Friday, Nov. 12

- 6:00 a.m. **BREAKFAST BUFFET**, Marriott Brickton Grill (opens at 6 a.m.; closes at 10 a.m.)
- 9:00 a.m. **Church Council Committees Meet** (various locations in Marriott)
- Budget and Finance, River Room
 - Program and Services, Salon 8 Room
 - Legal and Constitutional Review, Salon 9 Room
- 10:00 a.m. Planning and Evaluation, Salon 10 Room
- 12:15 p.m. Mid-Day Prayer, Marriott Chicago Ballroom A-B
- 12:30 p.m. Lunch, Marriott Ballroom Terminal 1-3
- 1:30 p.m. Break
- 2:00 p.m. College Corporation Meeting for St. Olaf College, Marriott Ballroom Terminal 5
Church Council members to be present; [Separate Agenda and Materials](#)
- 2:45 p.m. Break
- 3:00 p.m. *Deadline for New Business* (send request to Sue.Rothmeyer@elca.org)
Deadline for Removal of Items from En Bloc (send request to Sue.Rothmeyer@elca.org)

PLENARY SESSION TWO
Marriott Ballroom Terminal 5
Nov. 12, 2021
3:00 – 5:00 p.m. CST

II.A Legal Briefing, executive session

General Counsel will provide a legal briefing in executive session. There are 20 minutes allotted for this time. The executive session is only for voting members, liaison bishops, Administrative Team, Legal Counsel, and Minutes Team.

II.B 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.

II.C 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.

II.C.1 Suicide Prevention Social Message

Many social messages from the late 1980s and 1990s continue to serve the ELCA’s social teaching and policy admirably in terms of their key ideas, theological argument, social analysis and calls to action. However, they do show their age to readers with outdated terminology, faulty references and dated statistics. The social message on Suicide Prevention (1999) is a case in point and an edit was authorized by the Church Council in November 2020. [CC20.11.32a]

“Edit” serves as a technical term in [Policies and Procedures of the ELCA for Addressing Social Concerns](#), defined as “the update of particular wording for the sake of accuracy and relevance to the contemporary social context involving no change in substantive meaning;” (p. 23).

In the case of the Suicide Prevention social message, the necessary changes to passe wording, statistics, resources, and references have been dramatic but a careful reading will demonstrate there have been no substantive change in the structure, key concepts, theological analysis, or other core items.

The [background information](#) and the [revised text of the social message](#) is located in the Program and Services Committee folder.

CC ACTION [Two-thirds vote required]

Recommended:

To adopt the proposed editorial update as the revised text of the ELCA social message on Suicide Prevention (1999) in order to provide accuracy and relevance to the contemporary social context;

To encourage conversation within ELCA congregations and to invite similar conversations with ecumenical and inter-religious partners to study this social message; and

To direct the churchwide organization to promote communication of this message throughout this church.

II.D Report of the Planning and Evaluation Committee

The following report is provided by the Planning and Evaluation Committee. Additional items may be distributed following the committee's meeting.

II.E New Business

A Fresh Perspective: ELCA Church Council Young Adults

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To receive the working document entitled “A Fresh Perspective: ELCA Church Council Young Adults” and prayerfully consider it;

To create a working group composed primarily of Youth and Young Adult members of the council, with additional youth and young adults of this church and other members of this church to be lifted up by the Executive Committee; and

To direct this group in consultation with other Church Council members, and churchwide staff, to discuss the ELCA goal to reach one million new, young, and diverse people, and to prepare a report consisting of ideas, concerns, recommendations, and aspirations to be given at the next regular meeting of the Church Council.

II.F Personal Reflection on Faith, Pr. Emily Hartner

II.G Process Observation

II.H Prayer

6 p.m. CST **DINNER**, Marriott Ballroom Terminal 1-3
Board Development Committee, River Room (*working dinner*)

Saturday, November 13

6:00 a.m. **BREAKFAST BUFFET**, Marriott Brickton Grill (opens at 6 a.m.; closes at 12 p.m.)

PLENARY SESSION THREE

Marriott Ballroom Terminal 5

Nov. 13, 2021

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. CST

III.A. Morning Devotion/Primer on Indigenous Perspective in Our Country

Church Council member, Loni Taylor, will provide a 20–minute morning devotion and primer on the Indigenous Perspective in Our Country.

III.B Report of the Board Development Committee

III.C Report from the Treasurer

The treasurer will provide a 15–minute verbal update, with an additional 10 minutes available for questions. The written report from the treasurer can be found [here](#).

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.D.1 FY2022 Budget

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To revise the 2022 fiscal year current fund income proposal from \$68,507,018 to \$65,816,150;

To approve a 2022 fiscal year current fund spending authorization of \$65,816,150;

To revise the 2022 fiscal year World Hunger income proposal from \$21,500,000 to \$22,665,000; and

To approve a 2022 ELCA World Hunger spending authorization of \$22,665,000.

III.E Consideration of Items Removed from *En Bloc*

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To recommend the following for adoption by the 2022 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:

To adopt the following amendment to the *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*:

14.41.01. Executive Committee. The Church Council shall have an Executive Committee composed of the churchwide officers, the chair of the Conference of Bishops, and ~~seven~~ eight members of the Church Council elected by the council. The vice president of this church shall chair this committee. The Executive Committee shall:

f. demonstrate concern for the spiritual, emotional, and physical well- being of the ~~full-time-salaried~~ officers of this church; and

III.F *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 Churchwide Assembly Actions](#), [Responses to Previous Church Council Actions](#), and [Responses to Synod 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 [*EN BLOC* – Two-thirds vote required]

Recommended:

To adopt the amendments to the *Constitution, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* as described in “Proposed Amendments – Continuing Resolutions.”

CC ACTION

Recommended:

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

III.G Report of the Temporary Select Committee on Committees

At its Spring 2021 meeting, the Church Council authorized an extension to the Temporary Select Committee on Committees to provide a proposed committee restructure for the Church Council. [CC21.04.12]

The committee proposes a restructure that aligns with the churchwide organization design. The [proposal](#) is located in the Temporary Committee folder.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To approve the proposed Church Council committee restructure as detailed in “Proposed CC Committee Restructure” for full implementation immediately following the 2022 ELCA Churchwide Assembly;

To direct the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee to prepare and forward to the Church Council the revisions to the continuing resolutions under constitutional provision 14.41. to establish each of the new standing committees and to remove provisions for committees that will be discontinued and to present the continuing resolution amendments to the Spring 2022 Church Council meeting;

To direct the Board Development Committee to plan for the size and composition of the new standing committees and to forward preliminary committee assignments to the Executive Committee;

To direct the Executive Committee to review the proposed committee assignments and to forward to the Church Council for ratification;

To direct all new standing committees of the Church Council to prepare committee charters for alignment with the proposed restructure; and

To express appreciation to the members of the Temporary Select Committee on Committees for their diligent and thoughtful work.

III.H Personal Reflection on Faith, Gary Pederson

III.I Unfinished Business

III.J Process Observation

III.K Evaluation

III.L Adjournment

Sending Word and Prayer