

Revised Nov. 10, 2022

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
CHURCH COUNCIL
November 10-13, 2022
Chicago, Illinois

AGENDA

Participants

Voting Members

Pr. Lisa Ahlness (<i>excused</i>)	Ms. Cherrish Holland
Mr. Kevin Anderson	Mr. Rindra Josoa
Bp. Tracie Bartholomew	Pr. Gwendolyn King
Ms. Tracey Beasley	Mr. David Lenz
Pr. Marcus Bigott	Pr. Tara Lynn
Pr. Nick Billardello	Ms. Olivia Martin-Call
Ms. Susan Boxberger	Mr. Mitch McCartney
Pr. Heather Brown	Mr. Joel Miller
Ms. Jamie Bruesehoff (<i>excused</i>)	Mr. Ethan Miller-Perez
Pr. Bill Callister	Mr. Keoni Newman
Pr. Leroy Cannon	Deacon Kari Olsen
Pr. Karn Carroll	Mr. Iván Perez
Ms. Divine	Ms. Linda Rivera
Bp. Elizabeth Eaton, Presiding Bishop	Deacon Sue Rothmeyer, Secretary
Pr. Joanne Engquist (<i>excused</i>)	Mr. Noah Roux
Ms. Lori Fedyk, Treasurer	Ms. Valerie Shaw
Ms. Kerry Fehrman	Mr. Imran Siddiqui, Vice President
Ms. Sheena Foster	Ms. Andraine Sinaga
Mr. Hans Giller	Mr. Loren Solberg
Pr. Emily Hartner	Pr. Kjersten Sullivan (<i>excused</i>)
Ms. Kristy Henriksen	Ms. Loni Taylor (<i>excused</i>)
Pr. Pamela Hoh (<i>excused</i>)	Ms. Jennifer Trom

Liaison Bishops

Bp. Shelley Wickstrom	Bp. Donald Kreiss
Bp. Brenda Bos	Bp. Christopher deForest (<i>excused</i>)
Bp. Patricia Lull	Bp. Paula Schmitt (<i>excused</i>)
Bp. Sue Briner	Bp. Pedro Suárez (<i>excused</i>)
Bp. Yehiel Curry (<i>excused</i>)	

Resource People

Operations: Office of the Presiding Bishop

Ms. Jennifer DeLeon, director for racial justice
Ms. Victoria Flood, senior director for Mission Support
Ms. Jocelyn Fuller, senior director for strategic communications
Pr. Louise Johnson, executive for administration
Ms. Rhondean Johnson, executive for People and diversity, equity, and inclusion
Ms. Kathryn Lohre, executive for ecumenical and inter-religious relations and theological discernment
Ms. Judith Roberts, senior director for diversity, equity, and inclusion
Ms. Mary Streufert, director for gender justice and women's empowerment & director for Quality of Call Initiative
Pr. Roger Willer, director for theological ethics
Ms. Rachel Wind, executive for development

Operations: Office of the Secretary

Mr. Thomas Cunniff, general counsel
Mr. Dan Eppley, manager for official documentation
Ms. Aja Favors, associate general counsel
Pr. Keith Fry, executive for Office of the Secretary administration
Deacon Mary Ann Schwabe, executive for synod relations *(excused)*
Ms. Jodi Slattery, executive for governance

Christian Community and Leadership (CCL)

Pr. Philip Hirsch, executive director
Pr. Sara Cutter, senior director for operational effectiveness
Ms. Evelyn Soto, senior director for resources and relationships
Deacon John Weit, Executive, Worship

Service and Justice (SJ)

Pr. Rafael Malpica-Padilla, executive director
Pr. Barbara Lund, senior director for operations and innovation

Innovation (INO)

Mr. Iain Chester, executive director *(excused)*

Press

Ms. Candice Hill Buchbinder, public relations manager

Separately Incorporated Ministries

Mr. Tim Blevins, president and CEO, 1517 Media *(excused)*
Pr. Jeff Thiemann, president and CEO, Portico Benefit Services
Ms. Linda Post Bushkofsky, executive director, Women of the ELCA *(excused)*
Ms. Eva Roby, president and CEO, Mission Investment Fund
Ms. Annette Shoemaker, interim president and CEO, ELCA Foundation

Ecumenical Guests

Pr. Betsy Miller, Moravian Church in North America
Pr. Dale Buettner, The Reformed Church in America *(excused)*
Pr. Mark Goodman, The Episcopal Church
Pr. Kennetha Bigham-Tsai, The United Methodist Church *(excused)*
Ms. Elona Street Stewart, Presbyterian Church in America *(excused)*

Ethnic Specific Ministry Association Guests

Mr. Roberto Lara Aranda, president, Latino Ministries Association
Ms. Kelly Sherman-Conroy, representative, American Indian and Alaska Native Lutheran Association
Pr. Khader El-Yateem, president, Association of Lutherans of Arab and Middle Eastern Heritage *(excused)*
Ms. Shari Seifert, president, European Descent Lutheran Association for Racial Justice
Pr. Moses Penumaka, president-elect, Association of Asian and Pacific Islanders
Pr. Lamont Wells, president, African Descent Lutheran Association

Thursday, Nov. 10, 2022

10:00 a.m. Executive Committee, Full Epiphany

12:00 p.m. Lunch for Executive Committee, outside Full Epiphany

2:00 p.m. **HOLY COMMUNION**, 1st floor Chapel

Presider: Pr. Marcus Bigott

Preacher: Pr. Tara Lynn

Assisting Minister: Lori Fedyk

Lector: David Lenz

Installation of the newly elected Church Council members

PLENARY SESSION ONE

Council Room
Nov. 10, 2022
3:30 – 6:15 p.m.

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 only 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 [Report from the Presiding Bishop](#)

I.C [Report from the Vice President](#)

I.D Report of the Executive Committee

I.D.1 Ratification of appointments to committees

At its August 2022 meeting, the Church Council ratified provisional membership for the five standing committees of the Church Council: Budget and Finance; Christian Community and Leadership; Faith, Society, and Innovation; Legal and Constitutional Review; and Service and Justice [CC22.04.02].

Following the elections at the 2022 Churchwide Assembly, newly elected Church Council members indicated their committee preferences. At its September 2022 meeting, the Executive Committee completed its review of the requests and recommended ratification by the Church Council during the first plenary session of its November 2022 meeting [EC22.09.24].

New members of the Board Development Committee for the 2022–2025 triennium were approved by the Executive Committee [EC22.10.27b] and Resource Development Committee appointments will come to a future Executive Committee meeting. Appointments for the Audit Committee will come through the Budget and Finance Committee.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To ratify the appointments to the Church Council standing committees for the 2022-2025 triennium.

I.D.2 Process to elect members to Executive Committee

At the first meeting after the Churchwide Assembly, the Church Council elects a new Executive Committee. In addition to the four officers of this church and the chair of the Conference of Bishops, eight members of the Church Council will serve on this committee for the 2022-2025 triennium.

To facilitate its work between regular meetings by ensuring input and perspective from each of its standing committees, the chairs of those committees are elected to the Executive Committee. This was acted upon at the Spring 2022 Church Council meeting [CC22.04.03].

The remaining three members of the Executive Committee will be selected through the following process.

- a. The first ballot shall be a ballot for the following identified categories:
 - 1). Lay Person of Color/Speaks First Language Other Than English (one position). Vote for only one eligible nominee.
 - 2). Rostered Man or Non-Binary (one position). Vote for only one eligible nominee.
- b. A third category will be determined after the election of the first two categories are determined (one position). Vote for only one eligible nominee.
- c. After the first ballot for the first two categories, anyone wishing to withdraw may do so prior to the established deadline.
- d. The second ballot for the first two categories shall be conducted first. Each ticket will be limited to the two people (plus ties) receiving the greatest number of nominations on the first ballot who have not withdrawn. The one candidate receiving the highest number of votes cast on each ticket shall be elected.
- e. The third unidentified category shall then be determined by the Executive Committee. The first ballot for the third category will occur Saturday afternoon, Nov. 12. The deadline for nominees to withdraw will be announced before the second ballot is conducted.
- f. The second ballot shall be limited to the two people (plus ties) receiving the greatest number of nominations on the first ballot who have not withdrawn. The one candidate receiving the highest number of votes cast shall be elected.
- g. Upon completion of the balloting, the Executive Committee shall be deemed constituted.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To affirm the amended process for the election of the Executive Committee for the 2022-2025 triennium.

I.D.3 Synod visits by Church Council members

Since its November 2005 meeting, the Church Council has committed itself to building relationships between the churchwide organization and synods, congregations, and institutions and agencies.

At its November 2007 meeting, the Church Council voted (CC07.11.65):

To recall that, concerning changes in governance of this church, the 2005 Churchwide Assembly voted [CA05.06.21]: “To encourage greater interaction of members of the Church Council with synodical councils and synodical assemblies in their respective areas”;

To urge members of the Church Council to accept this responsibility and interact with their own synods and their partner synods in various ways, including attending at least one Synod Council meeting per year and participating in Synod Assemblies, especially in years when a synod is considering nominations to the Church Council; and

To note that expenses for attending Synod Council meetings and Synod Assemblies will be reimbursed by the churchwide organization in accordance with the ELCA travel policy.

Members of the Church Council now make the commitment, as available, to be in contact with specific synods during the triennium. Current [suggested commitments](#) are listed in “Other Documents” of the November 2022 Church Council materials. A summary of reports of these contacts is available under “Other Documents” as well.

Members of the Church Council will be invited to review the commitments during the November 2022 meeting. After the review is complete, the document will be revised and distributed.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To acknowledge the commitment of the Church Council to have greater interaction of members of the Church Council with synod councils and synod assemblies in their respective areas;

To urge members of the Church Council to accept this responsibility and interact with their own synods and assigned synods in various ways, including attending at least one Synod Council meeting per year and participating in a Synod Assembly, especially in a year when a synod is considering nominations to the Church Council; and

To note that expenses for attending Synod Council meetings and Synod Assemblies will be reimbursed by the churchwide organization in accordance with the ELCA travel policy.

I.E Stewardship conversation

After churchwide assemblies, stewardship conversations are held with Church Council members. Church Council members can financially support the ELCA in a variety of ways and the board of directors' support of the ministries of this church is significant. One of the responsibilities as a council member is to support the mission of the ELCA through an annual financial gift to the churchwide organization. (Orientation Manual for Church Council Members, p. 6)

Cherrish Holland will lead the Church Council in an approximately 15-minute conversation about stewardship and tithing.

I.F Recess (10-minute)

I.G [Report from the Conference of Bishops](#)

I.E Report from the Administrative Team

The Administrative Team of the churchwide organization will offer a report. There will be approximately 50 minutes for this time.

I.H Ecumenical Greeting, The Episcopal Church

I.I Personal Reflection on Faith, Kevin Anderson

6:30 p.m. Welcome Dinner, Augsburg Room
Assorted sodas (complimentary); Wine and beer available (\$5 suggested donation)

Friday, Nov. 11, 2022

- 6:00 a.m. Breakfast, Marriott Hotel (Buffet opens at 6 a.m.)
- 7:30 a.m. Board Development Committee, Epiphany I (*working breakfast*)
- 9:00 a.m. Committees meet
Budget and Finance, 5th floor screening room
Christian Community and Leadership, Epiphany I
Faith, Society, and Innovation, Pentecost
Legal and Constitutional Review, Advent
Service and Justice, Epiphany II
- 12:15 p.m. Mid-Day Prayer, 1st floor Chapel
Led by Valerie Shaw
- 12:30 p.m. Lunch, Augsburg Room
Ecumenical Liaison Lunch, reserved seating in Augsburg Room
- 2:00 p.m. Committees continue to meet
Budget and Finance, 5th floor screening room
Christian Community and Leadership, Epiphany I
Faith, Society, and Innovation, Pentecost
Legal and Constitutional Review, Advent
Service and Justice, Epiphany II
- 3:30 p.m. Break; Intentional one-on-one time for mentors and mentees

PLENARY SESSION TWO

Augsburg Room
Nov. 11, 2022
4:00 – 7:00 p.m.

II.A First Ballot for Two Categories to Executive Committee

The first ticket (one position) is open to the category of Lay Person of Color/Speaks First Language Other Than English. Vote for only one eligible nominee.

The second ticket (one position) is open to the category of rostered man or non-binary. Vote for only one eligible nominee.

Following the first ballot, anyone wishing to withdraw from subsequent Executive Committee ballots may do so prior to the established deadline. Nominees wishing to withdraw should notify Secretary Rothmeyer by Saturday, Nov. 12 at 9 a.m.

II.B Gender and Racial Justice Education

This education time will be led by Mary Streufert, director for gender justice and women's empowerment, and Jennifer DeLeon, director for racial justice. There is nearly 3 hours dedicated to this session.

II.C Process Observation

II.D Announcements, including First Ballot Results

7:00 p.m. Dinner, Augsburg Room
Assorted sodas, wine and beer available

7:00 p.m. Church Council Youth and Young Adult Working Group, Epiphany I (*working dinner*)

Saturday, Nov. 12, 2022

- 6:00 a.m. Breakfast, Marriott Hotel (Buffet opens at 6 a.m.)
- 8:00 a.m. Tour of Lutheran Center (meet outside 1st floor Chapel)
- 9:00 a.m. *Deadline for Removal of Items from En Bloc*
Deadline for New Business
Deadline for removal of name from Executive Committee ballot

PLENARY SESSION THREE

Council Room
Nov. 12, 2022
9:00 – 10:30 a.m.

III.A Bible Study

This 30-minute Bible Study will be led by Pr. Carmelo Santos, director for theological diversity and ecumenical and inter-religious engagement. Pr. Santos will help set the table as the council prepares to discuss the Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church in Plenary Session V.

III.B [Report from the Secretary](#)

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 section of Microsoft Teams.

III.C.1 Advisory Members to Church Council

CC ACTION *(Two-Thirds Vote Required)*

Recommended:

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

14.33.A22. *The Church Council shall have as advisory members each president, or the designated representative of the president, of the ELCA ethnic associations, as well as a representative of Reconciling Works. Advisory membership of the Church Council shall be reviewed each triennium.*

III.C.2 Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Accessibility (DEIA) ELCA Governance Audit

The 2022 Churchwide Assembly directed the Church Council to “engage an external auditor to conduct a comprehensive audit for diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility of the Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the ELCA and related governance documents.” [CA22.04.26]

The report of the findings is to be presented at the Fall 2023 Church Council meeting and released to this church. The Legal and Constitutional Review Committee will utilize the findings to recommend changes to the governing documents to the 2025 Churchwide Assembly.

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CC ACTION

Recommended:

To approve the engagement of Fox Swibel Levin & Carroll LLP to perform a diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility audit of the *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the ELCA*, the Roster Manual, the ELCA Church Council Governance Policy Manual, and the Definitions and Guidelines for Discipline, with the total cost not to exceed \$100,000.

III.D Report of the Christian Community and Leadership Committee

The following report is provided by the Christian Community and Leadership 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 Christian Community and Leadership Committee section of Microsoft Teams.

III.E Personal Reflection on Faith, Susan Boxberger

III.F Ecumenical Greeting, Moravian Church

15-minute break

PLENARY SESSION FOUR

Council Room
Nov. 12, 2022
10:45 a.m. – 12:10 p.m.

IV.A Legal Briefing (*executive session for Church Council, Liaison Bishops, Administrative Team, Minutes Team, and Legal Counsel*)

IV.B Second Ballot for Two Categories to Executive Committee

The second ballot for the first two categories will be conducted first. Each ticket is limited to the two people (plus ties) receiving the greatest number of nominations on the first ballot who have not withdrawn. The one candidate receiving the highest number of votes cast on each ticket shall be elected.

IV.C Report of the Service and Justice Committee

The following report is provided by the Service and Justice 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 Service and Justice Committee section of Microsoft Teams.

IV.D Report of the Faith, Society, and Innovation Committee

The following report is provided by the Faith, Society, and Innovation 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 Faith, Society, and Innovation Committee section of Microsoft Teams.

IV.D.1 Reconsideration of Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust (2009)

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To direct the Office of the Presiding Bishop to manage the initiation of work on the reconsideration of *Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust (2009)*, per authorization of the 2022 Churchwide Assembly, by delaying task force initiation to 2024 due to timing, budgetary, and leadership capacity demands.

IV.E Process Observation

IV.F Announcements

12:15 p.m. **SIM (Separately Incorporated Ministry) Lunch Presentations**
Lunches available for pick up outside 11th floor
1517 Media, Epiphany I
ELCA Foundation, Epiphany II
Portico Benefit Services, Pentecost
Mission Investment Fund, 4th floor Learning Center Planning Room
Women of the ELCA, Advent

PLENARY SESSION FIVE

Augsburg Room
Nov. 12, 2022
2:00 – 3:30 p.m.

V.A First Ballot for Third Category to Executive Committee

The third unidentified category will be determined by the Executive Committee following the election of the first two categories. The deadline for nominees to withdraw will be announced before the second ballot is conducted so eligible nominees may withdraw before the second ballot.

V.B Conversation on Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church

The 2022 Churchwide Assembly adopted a memorial directing the Church Council to establish a Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church.

The action read, in part, “To direct the Church Council to establish a Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church comprised of leaders of diverse representation from all three expressions that, working in consultation with the Conference of Bishops and the Church Council, shall reconsider the statements of purpose for each of the expressions of this church, the principles of its organizational structure, and all matters pertaining thereunto, being particularly attentive to our shared commitment to dismantle racism, and will present its findings and recommendations to the 2025 Churchwide Assembly in preparation for a possible reconstituting convention to be called under the rules for a special meeting of the Churchwide Assembly.” [CA22.01.06]

This agenda time is an opportunity to discuss how such a commission will be established and structured. The Legal and Constitutional Review Committee and Office of the Secretary have developed a [proposal and timeline](#) for the Church Council to consider.

3:30 p.m. Break

PLENARY SESSION SIX

Augsburg Room
November 12, 2022
4:00 – 5:30 p.m.

VI.A Report of the Church Council Youth and Young Adult Working Group

The report is provided by the Church Council Youth and Young Adult Working Group. There is approximately 20 minutes dedicated for this time.

VI.B Consideration of Items Removed from *En Bloc*

VI.C *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 Synod Actions](#), and [Responses to Previous Church Council Actions](#). On the first day of the Council meeting, the chair will remind members of the deadline to remove items from *en bloc* consideration in order to discuss separately any of the items listed in the *en bloc* resolution;

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any such item will be removed from the *en bloc* resolution and discussed at the appropriate point in the agenda.

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

Recommended:

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

VI.D New Business

VI.E Report of the Board Development Committee

The following report is provided by the Board Development Committee. Additional items may be distributed following the committee's meeting.

VI.F Personal Reflection on Faith, Divine

VI.G Process Observation

VI.H Announcements

5:30 p.m. Dinner (on your own)

Sunday, Nov. 13, 2022

- 6:00 a.m. Breakfast, Marriott Hotel (Buffet opens at 6 am)
7:30 a.m. Executive Committee, Epiphany (*working breakfast*)

PLENARY SESSION SEVEN

Council Room
November 13, 2022
9:00 – 11:15 a.m.

VII.A Debrief of 2022 Churchwide Assembly

The [report of the evaluation](#) of the 2022 Churchwide Assembly is located in the Other Documents folder. At the council's November 2022 meeting, members who attended the assembly will have an opportunity to share their perspectives on the assembly, which will inform those who will be planning for the 2022 Churchwide Assembly. Adam DeHoek, congregation statistics analyst, will be sharing an overview of the key findings. There is approximately 15 minutes dedicated for this debrief.

VII.B [Report from the Treasurer](#)

VII.C 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 section of Microsoft Teams.

VII.C.1 Revisions to FY23 Spending Authorization

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To revise the 2023 fiscal year current fund spending authorization from \$68,814,000 to \$68,429,562; and

To revise the 2023 ELCA World Hunger spending authorization from \$22,869,000 to \$25,250,000.

VII.D Report of the Executive Committee

The following report is provided by the Executive Committee. It is a follow-up to the Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church. In addition, there will be actions to amend certain committee charters.

VII.D.1 Revised Committee Charters

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To approve the revised committee charters; and

To authorize the Office of the Secretary to make any necessary editorial corrections for accuracy.

VII.D.2 Process to Establish a Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To establish a Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church consisting of no more than 35 voting members, directing the Executive Committee of the Church Council to initiate the process of forming the commission, fulfilling the responsibilities of the Church Council related to nominations in accordance with 14.41.01.c., and receiving nominations to fill positions allocated in the following manner:

- 3 voting members from each region for a total of 27, two of whom will be selected from nominations received by each Synod Council/Synod Executive Committee and one of whom will be received through an open nomination process;
- Each Synod Council/Synod Executive Committee will be invited to submit two potential nominees;
- Up to 8 at-large voting members will be selected from either the synod nominations or the open nomination process;

To populate the commission according to the representational principles of this church, requiring that at least 25% of the commission be persons of color/language other than English; and striving for at least 20% of members be youth/young adults;

To request the nomination process be completed prior to the April 2023 Church Council meeting, presenting a slate of nominees to the Church Council for action; and

To invite this church to join us in prayer as this church embarks on this process of renewal.

VII.E Evaluation and Debriefing

VII.F Announcements and Adjournment

11:30 a.m. **HOLY COMMUNION**, 1st floor Chapel
Presider: Pr. Karn Carroll
Preacher: Pr. Khader El-Yateem
Assisting Minister: Noah Roux
Lector: Cherrish Holland

Offering: "Where Needed Most" priority

12:30 p.m. Lunch, Brown bag lunch available in Augsburg Room