



**Summary of Church Council Meeting
November 10–13, 2022**

The Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) met November 10–13, 2022.

The Church Council took action on the following:

- approved a nomination process for a Commission on a Renewed Lutheran Church of up to 35 voting members, to include at least 25% persons of color/primary language other than English and a goal of at least 20% youth/young adults, with names to come both from the synod councils or synod Executive Committees and from an open nomination process, with a slate of nominees to be presented by the Executive Committee to the council at its April 2023 meeting
- authorized engagement of a firm to conduct a comprehensive audit for diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA) of the *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the ELCA*, the roster manual, the Church Council Governance Policy Manual, and *Definitions and Guidelines for Discipline*, with a report at the Fall 2023 Church Council meeting
- scheduled for 2024 the initiation of a task force for reconsideration of *Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust* (2009)
- deferred questions of development of social messages on U.S. national gun policy and child abuse and protection, as well as of the revision of the “Message on Homelessness” (1990), until the April 2023 Church Council meeting
- adopted a continuing resolution establishing advisory members of the council to include the presidents (or designee) of the ELCA ethnic associations and a representative of Reconciling Works and approved revisions to the ELCA Church Council Governance Policy Manual to reference advisory members
- repealed the 2003 “Policy on Criteria for Synodically Authorized Worshiping Communities” and directed consideration of a new policy
- authorized the Executive Committee to issue letters of call on behalf of the Church Council for those calls for which the council is the calling body, rescinding a 2008 action that had given that responsibility to the secretary of this church
- received a progress report regarding the “Unaltered Augsburg Confession,” and urged actions to increase awareness of the Confession in advance of the 500th anniversary in 2030
- affirmed the Witness in Society Team’s decision to not endorse the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act or similar legislation and directed the team to continue its climate advocacy efforts on legislative opportunities that will have a transformational impact on U.S. carbon emissions and achieve net-zero emissions by 2050
- referred to the Commission on a Renewed Lutheran Church the question of changing the name of the denomination
- encouraged the Task Force Addressing Disciplinary Concerns of Leaders of Color to have continued conversation regarding the position of a Racial Justice Ombudsperson
- received a report regarding research work being done related to discriminatory treatment within the call process and inequitable compensation of rostered ministers of color, and called for interaction with and among Christian Community and Leadership home area, the Leadership Committee of the Conference of Bishops, and the Candidacy and Leadership Development Working Group
- received the response to the Southwest California Synod’s resolution concerning “Adoption of Gender Inclusive Language,” affirming the actions of the 2022 Churchwide Assembly and of the Church Council related to gender-inclusive language, and urging the churchwide organization to review and update its reports and forms by the end of 2023
- supported the recommendation of the Roster Committee of the Conference of Bishops to postpone decisions on “Guidance on Retired or Retiring Ministers for the Roster of the ELCA” until other decisions concerning the roster manual are made

- added a provision concerning nondisclosure agreements to the Churchwide Organization Personnel Policies as requested by a 2022 Churchwide Assembly memorial on “Separation Agreements”
- received reports and called for future progress reports on the following memorials and resolutions:
 - “Fortifying Urban Ministries in Underserved Urban Areas” (Spring 2024)
 - “Equity and Clarity in the Mission Development Process” (Fall 2023)
 - “Greenhouse Gas Reduction” (Spring 2025)
 - “Voting Rights and D.C. Statehood” (Fall 2023)
 - “Right to Boycott” (Spring 2024)
 - “Salary Equity in the ELCA” (Spring 2023)
 - “Motion I: Nominations and Elections Process” (Fall 2023; final report Fall 2024)
 - “Addressing Anti-Semitism in Lectionary Readings” (Spring 2024)
 - “LGBTQ+ Programming for Events” (April 2023)
- revised the 2023 fiscal year current spending authorization from \$68,814,000 to \$68,429,562 and for 2023 ELCA World Hunger from \$22,869,000 to \$25,250,000
- approved the report of the ELCA Audit Committee concerning the financial statements for the fiscal year ended January 31, 2022
- approved the accounting firm to conduct the audit of the 2022 fiscal year
- adopted revisions to the Mission Development Fund policy, which provides seed money for new and innovative ministries
- transferred excess accrual from Post-Retirement Medical Benefits to the Designated Fund for Budgeted Operations Support
- closed the special appeal for the COVID-19 Response Fund, which raised \$2,112,429
- approved amendments to three corporate social responsibility issue papers and a new “Privatized Immigration Detention Social Criteria Investment Screen”
- elected members of the advisory board of Trinity Lutheran Seminary at Capitol University and boards of directors of Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, Wartburg Theological Seminary, the Mission Investment Fund, and National Lutheran Campus Ministry, and elected a member of the Committee of Hearing Officers
- approved amendments to the bylaws of Portico, Lenoir-Rhyne University, and United Lutheran Seminary
- ratified appointments to the committees of the Church Council, elected at-large members of the Executive Committee, and approved revised charters for council committees
- urged council members to have greater interaction with synod councils and synod assemblies in their respective areas as well as with their own synods

The Church Council received/engaged in the following:

- installation of the new members elected by the 2022 Churchwide Assembly
- conversation on the establishment of the Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church (CRLC)
- reports from the officers, its committees, and the Conference of Bishops
- reports and updates from the home areas of the churchwide organization
- progress report on synod diversity goals
- progress report from the Candidacy and Leadership Development Working Group
- report from the Church Council Youth and Young Adult Working Group
- debriefing of the 2022 Churchwide Assembly
- personal faith statements from council members
- education on gender and racial justice
- learning about the work of the separately incorporated ministries (Portico Benefit Services, 1517 Media, ELCA Foundation, Mission Investment Fund, and Women of the ELCA)
- ecumenical greetings from The Episcopal Church and the Moravian Church Northern Province
- worship, prayer, and fellowship