



Summary of Church Council Meeting November 14–17, 2024

The Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) met in Chicago November 14–17, 2024.

The Church Council took action on the following:

- received reports and approved actions related to the following Churchwide Assembly actions and synod resolutions:
 - “Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church” (*recommended to the 2025 Churchwide Assembly certain amendments to the governing documents brought forward by the commission*)
 - “Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Accessibility (DEIA) ELCA Governance Audit” (*approved amendments to the Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the ELCA drafted in response to the audit*)
 - “Non-Binary Inclusion” and “Amending Gendered Constitutional Language” (*acknowledged amendments to the governing documents of this church as the response of the Church Council*)
 - “Specialized Ministries and On-Leave-from-Call Status” (*received a report and affirmed recommendations of the On-Leave-from-Call and Specialized Ministries Task Force and requested a final report for Spring 2025*)
 - “Nominations and Election Processes” (*received the report of the Task Force on Synod Nominations and Elections*)
 - “ELCA Name Change” (*deferred action until after the 2025 Churchwide Assembly*)
 - “Holy Communion Practices” (*received the report of the Worship Team in the Office of the Presiding Bishop and encouraged continued dialogue and discernment on sacramental practice*)
 - “Black Migrant Strategy” (*affirmed the recommendations of the Service and Justice home area*)
 - “Concurrent Calling of Pastors by More than One Congregation” (*requested a report and recommendations for Spring 2025*)
 - “Seasonal Membership” (*declined to propose amendments to the governing documents*)
 - “Including Creation Care” and “Supporting Vulnerable Youth” (*referred to the Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church*)
- received reports and approved actions related to the “Creation of Racial Justice Ombudsperson Position”
- approved a social policy resolution affirming support for and collaboration with Jubilee USA Network
- responded to “ELCA Advocacy for Peace and Justice in the Middle East and Dismantling of Christian Zionism in Our Churches” (*encouraged congregations to implement the recommendations of the resolution*)
- approved criteria to establish and maintain relationships with the outdoor ministries of this church
- approved a 2025 fiscal year current fund spending authorization of \$67,875,000 and a 2025 ELCA World Hunger spending authorization of \$21,500,000
- approved the report of the ELCA Audit Committee concerning the financial statements for the fiscal year ended Jan. 31, 2024, and approved the accounting firm to conduct the audit of the 2024 fiscal year
- approved a fiscal compliance policy and amendments to ELCA cash management, operating investment, and core investment policies
- approved termination of the ELCA Supplemental Retirement Plan for Government Chaplains
- approved two at-large Church Council positions for election by the 2025 Churchwide Assembly
- approved appointment of members to the Memorials Committee and the Reference and Counsel Committee for the 2025 Churchwide Assembly
- approved Des Moines, Iowa, as the site for the 2028 Churchwide Assembly
- approved amendment of continuing resolutions in the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the ELCA*
- recommended amendments to the *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the ELCA* to the 2025 Churchwide Assembly that include the following topics, among others:
 - recommendations of the Candidacy Working Group (*Chs. 7 and 9*)
 - recommendations of the Task Force on OLFC and Specialized Ministry (*Ch. 7*)
 - clarifying the process for recognition and reception of congregations (*Ch. 9*)
 - streamlining the reporting of synod boundary changes (*Ch. 10*)
 - allowing SAWC participants to be elected as voting members of assemblies and to other elected positions (*multiple locations*)

- ratified amendments to synod constitutions and received a report of synods that amended their constitutions in accord with amendments approved by the 2022 Churchwide Assembly
- approved amendments to various corporate social responsibility documents
- approved amendments to this church's "Terms and Conditions of Support for Long-Term Global Personnel"
- elected members of the boards of directors of Wartburg Theological Seminary, Inc., and the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago; elected a member of the advisory board of Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary at California Lutheran University; elected a member of the Publishing House of the ELCA (Augsburg Fortress) board of trustees; and appointed a member of the board of directors of National Lutheran Campus Ministry
- ratified amendments to the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws of National Lutheran Campus Ministry, Inc.
- approved minutes of the Spring 2024 meeting of the Church Council and ratified actions taken by the Executive Committee of the Church Council

The Church Council received/engaged in the following:

- an update on and discussion of the work of the Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church
- an update from the ELCA Vision Team and an update on the God's Love Made Real initiative
- an update from Portico's Benefits reExamined project team
- a report from the chair of the Conference of Bishops
- learned about the work of the separately incorporated ministries (Portico Benefit Services, Augsburg Fortress, ELCA Foundation, Mission Investment Fund, and Women of the ELCA)
- reports and updates from the home areas and teams of the churchwide organization
- reports and updates from the officers and committees of the Church Council
- racial justice and gender justice education
- the College Corporation meeting for Luther College
- personal reflections on faith from council members
- worship, prayer, Bible study, and fellowship