

**EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
CHURCH COUNCIL
July 27, 2025
Phoenix, Arizona
Sheraton Phoenix Downtown**

Participants

Voting Members

Pr. Lisa Ahlness
Mr. Kevin Anderson
Ms. Tracey Beasley
Pr. Benjamin Bergren
Pr. Marcus Bigott
Pr. Nick Billardello
Ms. Susan Boxberger
Pr. Heather Brown
Ms. Jamie Bruesehoff
Pr. Bill Callister
Pr. Leroy Cannon
Bp. Yehiel Curry
Ms. Divine
Bp. Elizabeth Eaton, Presiding Bishop
Pr. Joanne Engquist
Ms. Lori Fedyk, Treasurer
Ms. Kerry Fehrman
Ms. Sheena Foster
Mr. Hans Giller
Pr. Emily Hartner
Ms. Kristy Henriksen (*excused*)
Pr. Pamela Hoh (*excused*)

Ms. Cherrish Holland
Mr. Rindra Josoa
Pr. Gwendolyn King
Mr. David Lenz
Pr. Tara Lynn
Ms. Olivia Martin-Call
Mr. Mitch McCartney
Mr. Joel Miller
Mr. Ethan Miller-Perez
Mr. Keoni Newman
Deacon Kari Olsen (*excused*)
Mr. Iván Perez
Ms. Linda Rivera (*excused*)
Deacon Sue Rothmeyer, Secretary
Mr. Noah Roux
Ms. Valerie Shaw (*excused*)
Mr. Imran Siddiqui, Vice President
Ms. Andraine Sinaga
Mr. Loren Solberg
Ms. Loni Taylor
Ms. Jennifer Trom

Liaison Bishops

Bp. Laurie Jungling, Region 1
Bp. Brenda Bos, Region 2
Bp. Craig Schweitzer, Region 3
Bp. Scott Johnson, Region 4
Bp. Amy Current, Region 5
Bp. Suzanne Dillahun, Region 6
Bp. Christopher deForest, Region 7
Bp. James Dunlop, Region 8
Bp. Kevin Strickland, Region 9

Resource People

Operations: Office of the Presiding Bishop

Pr. Wyvetta Bullock, executive for administration
Mr. Aaron Cooper, senior director, strategic communications
Ms. Victoria Flood, senior director, Mission Support
Ms. Kathryn Lohre, executive, ecumenical and inter-religious relations and theological discernment
Deacon John Weit, executive, worship
Ms. Rachel Wind, executive, development

Operations: Office of the Secretary

Mr. Thomas Cunniff, general counsel
Mr. Dan Eppley, manager for official documentation
Pr. Keith Fry, executive, Office of the Secretary administration
Mr. Paul Irwin, associate general counsel

Deacon Mary Ann Schwabe, executive, synod relations
Ms. Jodi Slattery, executive, governance

Christian Community and Leadership (CCL)

Pr. Philip Hirsch, executive director
Pr. Sara Cutter, senior director, operational effectiveness

Service and Justice (SJ)

Pr. Khader El-Yateem, executive director
Pr. Barbara Lund, senior director, operations and innovation
Vance Blackfox, director, Indigenous ministries and tribal relations
Justice Nichols, Indigenous ministries and tribal relations program coordinator
Wanda Frenchman, program assistant, Indigenous ministries and tribal relations

Innovation (INO)

Mr. Iain Chester, executive director

Press

Ms. Candice Hill Buchbinder, public relations manager

Separately Incorporated Ministries

Mr. Tim Blevins, president and CEO, Augsburg Fortress Publishers
Ms. Jennifer Hockenbery, interim executive director, Women of the ELCA
Mr. Christopher Johnson, president and CEO, Portico Benefit Services
Ms. Eva Roby, president and CEO, Mission Investment Fund
Ms. Annette Shoemaker, interim president and CEO, ELCA Foundation

Advisory Members

Pr. Alejandro Mejia, president, Latino Ministries Association
Pr. Joan Conroy, representative, American Indian and Alaska Native Lutheran Association
Ms. Dina Tannous, vice president, Association of Lutherans of Arab and Middle Eastern Heritage
Ms. Desta Goehner, president, Association of White Lutherans for Racial Justice
Pr. Moses Penumaka, president, Association of Asian and Pacific Islanders
Pr. Jesse W Brown Jr, president, African Descent Lutheran Association
Ms. Aubrey Thonvold, executive director, ReconcilingWorks

Sunday, July 27, 2025

10:00 a.m. Registration opens, Sheraton Phoenix Downtown, outside Valley of Sun Ballroom

10:00 a.m. Executive Committee meeting, Sheraton, Ahwatukee A

12:00 p.m. Executive Committee lunch, Sheraton, Ahwatukee B

1:00 p.m. Worship with Church Council, Conference of Bishops, Synod Vice Presidents,
Sheraton, Valley of the Sun Ballroom Hall D/E

Presider: Bishop Deborah Hutterer

Preacher: Pr. Leroy Cannon

Assisting Minister: Molly Berry

Lectors: Andraine Sinaga
Simon Wong

2:00 p.m. Group photos: Church Council
Conference of Bishops
Association of Synod Vice Presidents

PLENARY SESSION ONE

Joint Session with the Conference of Bishops and Association of Synod Vice Presidents
Sheraton Phoenix Downtown, Valley of the Sun Ballroom Hall C
2:30 – 3:30 p.m.

I.A Call to Order and Adoption of the Agenda

Agenda items have been distributed electronically.

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 Reports of the Officers

I.B.1 Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton

I.B.2 Secretary Sue Rothmeyer

I.B.3 Treasurer Lori Fedyk

I.C Churchwide Assembly Overview

The Conference of Bishops and Association of Synod Vice Presidents will join the Church Council for an overview of Churchwide Assembly business and procedures presented by Bishop Eaton and Secretary Rothmeyer.

DISCUSSION

I.D Cultural Competency Education – Powwows

At the Churchwide Assembly, an educational/exhibition powwow will be held on Tuesday, July 29 from 6:15–9 pm in the North Ballroom of the Phoenix Convention Center.

Vance Blackfox, director for Indigenous ministries and tribal relations, Justice Nichols, Indigenous ministries and tribal relations program coordinator, and Wanda Frenchman, program assistant for Indigenous ministries and tribal relations will present a 20-minute education session regarding powwows. Topics include how attendees should enter that space, what attendees will experience, and language and vocabulary around the word ‘powwow’ and the colloquially use of the word.

DISCUSSION

3:30 p.m. Break

Deadline for Removal of Items from En Bloc

Deadline for New Business

PLENARY SESSION TWO

Sheraton Phoenix Downtown, Maryvale A
3:45 – 5:00 p.m.

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

II.B Items for Action

II.B.1 Churchwide Assembly Citation in Honor of Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton

CC ACTION

Recommended:

[To be provided]

II.B.2 Churchwide Assembly Citation in Honor of Secretary Sue Rothmeyer

CC ACTION

Recommended:

[To be provided]

II.B.3 Consideration of Items Removed from *En Bloc*

II.B.4 *En Bloc* Approval of Certain Items

The following *en bloc* resolution includes agenda items that reflect 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 the [En Bloc Items](#) document.

Any council member may request, by the deadline, to remove items from *en bloc* consideration to discuss separately any of the items listed in the *en bloc* resolution; 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.

CC ACTION *[Two-thirds approval required]*

Recommended:

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

19.05.B25. No member of the Church Council other than the salaried officers may serve on the board of a separately incorporated ministry. No member of the Church Council may serve on the Nominating Committee, the Committee on Appeals, the Committee on Discipline, or the Committee of Hearing Officers.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To take action *En Bloc* on the remaining items listed in “*En Bloc Items*” document.

II.B.5 New Business

II.C Items for Information and Discussion

II.C.1 Feedback from the Class of 2025

The Board Development Committee invited the outgoing Church Council members to respond to a series of questions reflecting on their service on council. The [report of the feedback](#) can be found in Church Council Microsoft Teams under the Public Current Meeting channel.

Members of the Class of 2025: Kevin Anderson, Tracey Beasley, Benjamin Bergren, Marcus Bigott, Nick Billardello, Susan Boxberger, Bill Callister, Divine, Joanne Engquist, Kerry Fehrman, Emily Hartner, Pamela Hoh, Cherrish Holland, David Lenz, Tara Lynn, Ethan Miller, Keoni Newman, Noah Roux, Valerie Shaw, Andraine Sinaga, Loren Solberg, and Loni Taylor.

The Church Council Class of 2025 will be honored during the final plenary session of the 2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly.

CC DISCUSSION

II.C.2 Information about the upcoming Church Council Meetings

The October 2025 meeting of the Church Council will be held Oct. 2-3, 2025, at the Hilton hotel in Minneapolis, Minn. Orientation for newly elected members of the Church Council will be Wednesday afternoon, Oct. 1, in Minneapolis from 1 – 6 pm CT. Mentors have been identified for the incoming class of Church Council members.

Executive Committee will meet on Wednesday evening, Oct. 1, in Minneapolis at 7 pm CT. Council will begin at 8:30 am on Thursday, Oct. 2. The meeting will conclude on Friday, Oct. 3 at 6 pm. Following the meeting, dinner and an orientation on the Council's role in the presiding bishop installation will be held at Central Lutheran Church.

The installation for the presiding bishop-elect will be held on Saturday, Oct. 4, at 2 pm CT at Central Lutheran in Minneapolis.

An online Church Council meeting will be held on Wednesday, Nov. 12, from 6-9 pm CT.

CC INFORMATION

II.C.3 Churchwide Assembly Orientation for Church Council

Vice President Imran Siddiqui has assigned some Church Council members particular roles during the Churchwide Assembly. Regardless of such assignments, there is an expectation that you will be present during the breaks and throughout the assembly seeking out conversation and opportunities to provide information on how this church's shared ministries are having an impact. Church Council members are great ambassadors, who can deepen voting members' understanding of the work done *together* as the ELCA and to show how each member, congregation and synod is an essential partner in sharing God's love for the life of the world.

As voting members of the assembly, you will be seated in a special section in the front of Hall D/E. There will be a resource microphone available for when a council member is called upon to pray or speak as a resource person. A plenary microphone should be used for any other times.

CC DISCUSSION

II.D Adjournment

5:30 p.m. Reception, Outside Valley of the Sun Ballroom

6:00 p.m. Dinner, Valley of the Sun Ballroom Hall C

Monday, July 28, 2025

Lunch on your own

1:00 p.m. Assembly Orientation, Phoenix Convention Center, Hall D/E

2:00 p.m. ELCA CWA Guide Training, Hall D/E

3:00 p.m. Holy Communion, West Ballroom (*2:30 p.m. pre-service music*)

5:00 p.m. Dinner, Hall A/B; Multicultural Voting Members Dinner, 224 A/B

6:30 p.m. 2025 Churchwide Assembly begins with Plenary Session 1, Hall D/E