

***En Bloc* Items**

**1. 2025 Churchwide Assembly Rules of Organization and Procedure**

At its April 2025 meeting, the Church Council authorized the presiding bishop and secretary to make any necessary further editorial revisions and to report those changes to the Church Council at its July meeting. [CC25.04.24e2] Those changes are found [here](#).

In addition, there is a more substantive change that clarifies the purpose and use of “white paper” and the procedure of making a motion, found [here](#).

Voting members of the assembly act on the rules in the first plenary session. A two-thirds vote of the assembly is required for adoption of the rules. The text of the proposed rules can be found [here](#).

**CC ACTION** [EN BLOC]

**Recommended:**

*To recommend adoption of the following proposed action by the 2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly:*

**To adopt the “Rules of Organization and Procedure” for the 2025 Churchwide Assembly (exclusive of quoted and highlighted constitutional provisions and bylaws that are already in force).**

**2. Proposed continuing resolution amendment to the *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America***

The Office of the Secretary recommends a proposed amendment to a continuing resolution in the ELCA Constitution.

The process for continuing resolutions is specified in Chapter 22 of the ELCA Constitution. A two-thirds vote of the Church Council is required for adoption.

**CC ACTION** [EN BLOC] [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.***

**3. Approval of the Minutes**

The minutes of the Church Council meeting on [April 3-6, 2025](#) have been provided to council members electronically on Church Council Microsoft Teams.

The minutes of the council’s Executive Committee meetings on [March 18, 2025](#), [April 2025](#), [May 6, 2025](#), and [June 10, 2025](#) have been provided electronically to members on Church Council Teams.

Please provide any notations or typographical errors in the distributed text of the minutes in writing to the executive for Office of the Secretary administration ([Keith.Fry@elca.org](mailto:Keith.Fry@elca.org)). Proper corrections will be entered into the protocol copies of the minutes. Such corrections need not be raised in the plenary session in connection with the approval of the minutes.

**CC ACTION** [EN BLOC]

**Recommended:**

**To approve the minutes of the April 3-6, 2025 meeting of the Church Council; and**

**To ratify actions of the council’s Executive Committee as indicated in the minutes of the March 18, 2025, April 2025, May 6, 2025, and June 10, 2025, meetings.**

**In Honor of**  
**the Reverend Elizabeth A. Eaton**  
**Presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
**2013-2025**

On August 14, 2013, the Reverend Elizabeth A. Eaton was elected presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Her term began November 1, 2013, and she will complete her tenure in that office September 30, 2025. In honor of her distinguished service as the presiding bishop of this church, her leadership is acclaimed and her contributions to the well-being of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America are acknowledged with gratitude to her and thanksgiving to God. Her history-making as the first woman elected to this office is widely celebrated. Therefore, it is hereby declared and acknowledged:

To be the presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is a call to serve as this church's pastor, a teacher of the faith and administrator of the sacraments.

The presiding bishop provides leadership for the life and witness of the whole of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and oversees the work of the churchwide organization. The presiding bishop also represents this church ecumenically and inter-religiously and speaks on behalf of the ELCA and does so on the basis of faithfulness to the scripture, the Lutheran Confessions, the constitution, and ELCA social teaching.

When Presiding Bishop Eaton began her tenure, she identified four emphases for the ELCA: We are church; We are Lutheran; We are church together; We are church for the sake of the world. Presiding Bishop Eaton's four emphases describe the identity and vocation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

***We are church.*** The call to be presiding bishop is to follow the call of the gospel to tell people about Christ and to proclaim the mystery of faith: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again, because we are church first and foremost. She has followed this call with gracious humility.

***We are Lutheran.*** The call to be presiding bishop is a call to share our distinctive voice as Lutherans, and to embody the themes of the Reformation—justification, grace, law and gospel, the theology of the cross, God's two kingdoms, the Lutheran scriptural hermeneutic—because we are Lutheran. She has shared our distinctive Lutheran voice in ecumenical, inter-religious, and public conversations with thoughtfulness and courage.

***We are church together.*** The call to be presiding bishop is a call to serve in partnership with the three expressions of the ELCA, global companions, and other related institutions, organizations, and ministry partners of this church because we are church together. She has been a faithful and supportive partner and colleague.

***We are church for the sake of the world.*** The call to be presiding bishop is a call to be a faithful witness to Christ and ambassador of God's extravagant love in Jesus. Set free through the death and resurrection of Christ, we are free to love and serve our neighbor because we are church for the sake of the world. She has been a witness to the freedom of a Christian to seek justice and peace for all people and creation in this world God so loves.

Throughout her twelve years of service, she has led during a global pandemic and in times of enormous ecclesial and social change. She has demonstrated courage in the face of difficulties, insight amidst her duties, and dedication to fulfillment of the heavy burdens of office.

While carrying out her responsibilities as presiding bishop, she was elected as vice president for the North America region of the Lutheran World Federation, our global Lutheran communion. From 2017-2023, she served as a wise and thoughtful leader, stewarding the ELCA's accompaniment of and solidarity with other Lutheran churches around the world, and supporting the theological, diaconal, service, and justice work of the communion. In her capacity as chief ecumenical and inter-religious officer, she served a two-year term as chair of the board of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA and as president of Religions for Peace USA, among other leadership roles.

For her faithful service as a dedicated minister of Word and Sacrament since her ordination on June 4, 1981, including as a pastor of three congregations, synod bishop, and presiding bishop, the seventeenth Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America expresses the heartfelt gratitude of members of this church for the life and ministry of Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton.

The blessing of Almighty God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—be with you and sustain you in hope and peace throughout all of the years to come.

Upon action and approval of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the *Servus Dei* Award is conferred upon the Reverend Elizabeth A. Eaton, presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (November 1, 2013-September 30, 2025).

**In Honor of**  
**Deacon Sue E. Rothmeyer**  
**Secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
**2019-2025**

On Aug. 9, 2019, the fifteenth Churchwide Assembly elected Deacon Sue Rothmeyer as secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. She was installed the next day and began her term of office November 1, 2019, becoming the first woman to serve as secretary of this church. In her remarks to that assembly, Deacon Rothmeyer began by thanking the assembly for entrusting her with a new sense of vocation, and expressed gratitude for parents, Linus and Elsie, who instilled in her at a very young age an understanding of vocation. Citing former Secretary Chris Boerger, she spoke of the Office of the Secretary as a service unit to this whole church, highlighting her understanding of the important role of this office.

Those two themes, vocation and service, have been central to Secretary Rothmeyer's entire professional life. Her first vocation was to teaching in higher education, which led to a vocation as campus minister serving the Lutheran Campus Ministry of Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa, for nine years. During this time, she responded to the additional call to serve as the first synod secretary of the Southeastern Iowa Synod, newly formed at the inception of this church in 1987, one of the youngest synod secretaries ever elected to that office. Furthermore, she took on the vocation of becoming an Associate in Ministry, commissioned to that roster in 1992.

In 1995, Deacon Rothmeyer received a new vocation in service to this church through the churchwide organization, where she served initially as director for administration and finance in the Division for Higher Education and Schools. Continuing with her passion for campus ministry and for the formation of young adults and youth for a life of discipleship in their own vocations, she answered the call to become director for campus ministry, followed by successive vocations as Interim Executive Director for the Division for Higher Education and Schools, Associate Executive Director for Youth and Young Adult Ministry and Director for Campus Ministry, and Program Director for Youth, Young Adult and Campus Ministry. In total, she served 18 years in these ministries within the churchwide organization.

A new vocation came to Deacon Rothmeyer in 2012 when she was called to serve in the Office of the Secretary as executive for Office of the Secretary administration, combining her love for good order in the church and precision and beauty in rhetoric and the written and spoken word, where she helped support the work first of Secretary David Swartling and then of Secretary Chris Boerger. Her encyclopedic knowledge of this church, her renowned ability to remember details, and her gift for remembering people and networking with them have been an invaluable gift to this church in all its expressions.

Shortly after the commencement of her new vocation as secretary, a global pandemic posed seemingly insurmountable challenges to good order, leaving congregations and synods in need of urgent guidance as to how to conduct meetings and elections in an electronic environment. Secretary Rothmeyer and her team in the Office of the Secretary ably stepped forward with new solutions that enabled the continuous functioning of congregation meetings and synod assemblies.

Throughout her years in the Office of the Secretary, Secretary Rothmeyer has been a vital part of the elections of many synod bishops, from advising synod election committees to serving as the churchwide representative for conduct of the election. Her wise advice and exhaustive knowledge of the constitutions and policies of this church have allowed her to provide trustworthy counsel to many bishops and bishops' associates, synod vice presidents and synod secretaries, and congregation leaders, and she is a trusted friend to countless leaders throughout the three expressions.

Alongside her professional vocations, Secretary Rothmeyer has responded to the call to serve the boards of both Portico and Augsburg Fortress, the White House Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships, the Luther College Board of Regents, the board of directors of the Concordia Place ministries in Chicago, and numerous civic and arts organizations, guided always by her love for service to the neighbor.

And now, as she follows her next vocation to serve church and world as a retired person after 30 years of service to the churchwide organization, the seventeenth Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America expresses the heartfelt gratitude of members of this church for the life and ministry of Secretary Sue Rothmeyer.

The blessing of Almighty God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—be with you and sustain you in hope and peace throughout all the years to come.

Upon action and approval of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the *Servus Dei* Award is conferred upon Deacon Sue Rothmeyer, secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (November 1, 2019-October 31, 2025).