



Summary of Church Council Meeting
Oct. 2–3, 2025

The Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) met in Minneapolis, Minn., Oct. 2–3, 2025.

The Church Council took action on the following:

- approved the Memorials Committee's responses to synod memorials referred to the Church Council from the Churchwide Assembly for the following:
 - Category C2: Update the Social Statement on Abortion
 - Category C8: Social Message on Rural Life and Ministry
 - Category D1: Justice for Palestinians and Israelis
- elected at-large members of the Executive Committee of the Church Council
- named the Rev. M. Wyetta Bullock to an interim appointment as Executive for Administration for the churchwide organization
- appointed persons to fill vacancies on the churchwide Committee on Appeals, Committee on Discipline, and Nominating Committee
- appointed new Church Council members to committees of the Church Council
- received reports and approved actions related to the following Churchwide Assembly and synod actions:
 - “Reconsideration of the Social Message on End of Life Decisions” (*received a response timeline from the Office of the Presiding Bishop*)
 - “Review of ELCA Investments and Procurement” (*received a response timeline from the Service and Justice unit*)
 - “Indian Boarding School Remembrance” (*received a response and timeline from the Service and Justice unit*)
 - “Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women” (*received a response and timeline from the Service and Justice unit*)
 - “Youth Gathering DEIA” (*received a response and timeline from the Christian Community and Leadership unit*)
 - “Interpretation for ELCA Churchwide Assembly and Youth Gathering” (*received a response from the Christian Community and Leadership unit and the Office of the Secretary*)
 - “Restoration of Funding of USAID” (*received a response from the Service and Justice unit*)
 - “Public Discourse about Palestine-Israel” (*received a response from the Service and Justice unit*)
 - “Stand for Palestinian Rights and End to Occupation of Palestine” (*received a response from the Service and Justice unit*)
 - “ELCA Middle East Strategy Follow-Up” (*requested that the presiding bishop consider directing the Corporate Social Responsibility Review Team to provide a public written report to the ELCA on the actions taken to adhere to the intent of the “Justice for Holy Land through Responsible Investment” social policy resolution [CA16.06.31]*)
- approved a revision to the ELCA churchwide organization personnel policies on social media presence
- approved an Artificial Intelligence Issue Paper
- approved amendments to the following corporate social responsibility documents as well as archival of the original issue papers:
 - Health Issue Paper
 - Climate Change Issue Paper
 - Tobacco Social Criteria Investment Screen
 - Alcohol Social Criteria Investment Screen
- reaffirmed the commitment of Church Council members to engage with meetings of the synod councils and synod assemblies in their areas
- appointed a Church Council liaison to the Gender Justice and Women's Empowerment Consulting Committee
- approved minutes of the July 2025 meeting of the Church Council and ratified actions taken by the Executive Committee of the Church Council
- ratified amendments to synod constitutions

The Church Council received/engaged in the following:

- reports and updates from officers and committees of the Church Council
- reports and updates from the churchwide organization units and teams
- a report from the acting chair of the Conference of Bishops
- an update from the ELCA Vision Team
- updates from the Executive Committee of the Church Council regarding:
 - appointment of members to the Task Force on Interdependence and Purpose
 - timeline for the “immediate action on dismantling racism” response
 - no action taken on the consideration of the ELCA name change in light of the newly appointed Task Force on Interdependence and Purpose
- racial justice and gender justice education
- a debrief of the 2025 Churchwide Assembly and preliminary report on the CWA voting member evaluation
- reports from the separately incorporated ministries (Portico Benefit Services, Augsburg Fortress, ELCA Foundation, Mission Investment Fund, and Women of the ELCA)
- personal reflections on faith from council members
- ecumenical greetings from The Episcopal Church, the Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria, and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
- worship, prayer, and fellowship