



Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
in America

### 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. Wyvetta 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