



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

**Summary of Church Council Meeting
Nov. 12, 2025**

The Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) met electronically Nov. 12, 2025.

The Church Council took action on the following:

- took actions to support educational debt relief for rostered ministers, particularly rostered ministers who are women and/or members of historically underrepresented groups, in response to the final report of the Educational Debt Task Force appointed by the Church Council in 2022
- adopted “Child Protection” as a social message of the ELCA
- authorized reconsideration of identified sections in the social message on “Homelessness” (1990)
- directed the Theological Discernment team of the churchwide organization to begin development of study resources related to white supremacy
- approved revisions of the *Manual of Policies and Procedures for Management of the Rosters of the ELCA* (the “Roster Manual”) related to amendments to the ELCA Constitutions approved by the 2025 Churchwide Assembly
- approved amendments to ELCA churchwide organization personnel policies
- authorized the Executive Committee of the Church Council to assess and respond to a request from the Endowment Fund of the ELCA (the “ELCA Foundation”)
- appointed/elected persons to fill open positions on the following:
 - Church Council (*to fill vacancy*)
 - Audit Committee
 - Committee of Hearing Officers
 - Committee on Appeals
 - Board of Directors of Trinity Lutheran Seminary at Capital University
 - Board of Trustees of United Lutheran Seminary
 - Church Council Liaison to the Corporate Social Responsibility Review Team
- approved amendments to continuing resolutions in the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the ELCA* related to governance of the Association of Synod Vice Presidents
- revised the spending authorization for fiscal year 2026
- received the draft report of the Audit Committee related to fiscal year 2024 and authorized the Executive Committee of the Church Council to engage a firm to conduct an audit for fiscal year 2025
- approved amendments to the Restated Bylaws of the Board of Pensions of the ELCA (“Portico”)
- approved new health plan benefit options and proposed amendments to the ELCA Medical and Dental Benefits Plan, effective Jan. 1, 2026
- received reports and approved actions related to the following Churchwide Assembly actions:
 - “Decarbonization of the Energy Grid” (*received a response from the Office of the Treasurer*)
 - “Increasing Continuing Education Commitments” (*received a response timeline from the Christian Community and Leadership unit*)

The Church Council received/engaged in the following:

- reports and updates from officers and from committees of the Church Council
- prayer and fellowship