



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

The Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) met at the Lutheran Center, Chicago, Illinois, November 10-13, 2016. The council centered its work around daily worship, frequent prayer and personal reflections on faith. It spent considerable time engaged in the Called Forward Together in Christ process.

Among the items on which the Church Council took action were the following:

- elected Ms. Emilee Le Blanc and the Rev. Karin I. Liebster to the Church Council and Mr. Allan Bieber, Ms. Marjorie Ellis and Ms. Maren Hulden to the Executive Committee
- adopted Called Forward Together in Christ – ELCA Strategic Directions 2025
- urged council members to have greater interaction with synod councils and synod assemblies in their respective areas
- authorized the Theological Education Advisory Committee to require those proposing theological education initiatives to complete a designated assessment tool; encouraged synods and directed the churchwide organization to maintain financial support for seminaries in 2017 without a percentage reduction
- resolved to stand with and support Bishop Eaton as she stands with and supports the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe in this church's ministry of reconciliation
- adopted the revised Candidacy Manual
- declined the request for a social message on regenerative medicine; affirmed prioritizing a social message on human rights and deferred developing a social message on U.S. National Drug Policy or aging
- requested the development of a social message on human rights and postponed the development of a general human rights social criteria investment screen until the approval of the human rights social message
- approved the Flexible Bundle for Non-Rostered Members as a pilot program for Portico Benefit Services
- established a task force to consider whether the ELCA Foundation should be separately incorporated
- approved a revised 2017 fiscal year current fund spending authorization of \$67,210,025
- approved the report of the ELCA Audit Committee
- approved application of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, Lutheran World Relief and Lutheran Educational Conference of North America to be Independent Lutheran Organizations
- approved bylaws of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, to be subsequently known as United Lutheran Seminary, with request for further review of certain sections
- approved changes to governing documents for the ELCA, Lutheran Services in America, The Publishing House of the ELCA and Mission Investment Fund
- approved amendments to certain corporate social responsibility documents
- ratified amendments to the synod constitutions of the Sierra Pacific and Eastern North Dakota

- elected members to the governing bodies of National Lutheran Campus Ministry, Inc., Endowment Fund of the ELCA, Evangelical Lutheran Good Samaritan Society, The Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, and to the ELCA Audit Committee

The Church Council received/engaged in the following:

- reports from the officers, its committees, the Executive for Administration and the Conference of Bishops
- conversation with ethnic-specific association representatives
- updates from Global Mission, Domestic Mission and Mission Advancement
- update on The Campaign for the ELCA
- greetings from ecumenical partners