

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
CHURCH COUNCIL
March 30-31, 2017
Chicago, Illinois

AGENDA

Participants

Voting Members

Mr. Paul G. Archer	Pr. Peder J. Johanson
Mr. Hans E. Becklin	Ms. Emilee Le Blanc
Mr. Allan J. Bieber (<i>excused</i>)	Pr. Karin Liebster
Pr. Wm Chris Boerger, Secretary	Mr. John W. Lohrmann
Ms. Amanda E. Briggs	Pr. Loren Mellum
Ms. Cheryl Chatman	Ms. Andrea Micovsky
Mr. Reid A. Christopherson	Mr. Joseph Nolte
Deacon Christine P. Connell	Pr. Linda O. Norman, Treasurer
Bp. Elizabeth A. Eaton, Presiding Bishop	Pr. Linda Nou
Pr. Elizabeth Ekdale	Mr. Gary Pederson
Ms. Marjorie B. Ellis	Mr. John M. Pederson
Pr. William E. Flippin Jr.	Ms. Meri Jo Petrivelli
Pr. Dena Gable	Ms. Pamela E. Pritt
Mr. Gary D. Gabrielson	Mr. Clarence M. Smith
Bp. William Gafkjen	Mr. Ervin Sparapani
Pr. Vicki T. Garber	Pr. Jonathan Splichal Larson
Pr. Joyce M. Graue	Ms. Ingrid Sponberg Stafford
Ms. Cynthia M. Gustavson	Ms. Leslie J. Swenson
Pr. Stephen R. Herr	Pr. Lorie B. Tatum (<i>excused</i>)
Mr. William Horne, Vice President	Pr. James H. Utt
Pr. Chad Huebner	Mr. Vernon K. Veal
Ms. Maren Hulden	Pr. William O. Voss
Mr. James M. Hushagen	Ms. Emma Wagner
Mr. James J.F. Jennings	Pr. Michael R. Ward
Ms. Carolyn Jewett	Mr. Seth Zimmann

Liaison Bishops

Bp. Suzanne Dillahunt	Bp. Stephen Talmage
Bp. Mary Froiland	Bp. Kirby Unti
Bp. Richard Graham	Bp. Herman Yoos
Bp. Brian Maas	Bp. David Zellmer
Bp. John Macholz	

Resource People

Office of the Presiding Bishop

Pr. M. Wyvetta Bullock, Assistant to the Bishop, Executive for Administration
Mr. Kenneth W. Inskeep, Executive for Research and Evaluation
Ms. Rhondean Johnson, Executive for Human Resources (*excused*)
Ms. Kathryn Lohre, Assistant to the Bishop for Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Relations
Pr. Walter May, Assistant to the Bishop for Synodical Relations
Ms. Kathryn Johnson, Director, Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Relations (*excused*)
Ms. Jodi Slattery, Assistant to the Bishop for Governance
Pr. Kevin Strickland, Assistant to the Bishop for Worship

Office of the Secretary

Mr. Thomas Cunniff, Associate General Counsel
Mr. Phillip H. Harris, General Counsel (*excused*)
Mr. Frank F. Imhoff, Manager, Official Documentation
Deacon Sue Rothmeyer, Assistant to the Secretary

Unit Staff

Pr. Stephen P. Bouman, Executive Director, Domestic Mission (DM)
Ms. Christina Jackson-Skelton, Executive Director, Mission Advancement (MA)
Pr. Rafael Malpica-Padilla, Executive Director, Global Mission (GM)
Ms. Evelyn Soto, Director for DM Operations and Programs, DM
Pr. David Wunsch, Director for Unit Operations and Programs, GM
Pr. Ronald Glusenkamp, Director for *The Campaign for the ELCA*, MA
Ms. Victoria Flood, Director for Mission Support, MA
Ms. Jocelyn Fuller, Director for Strategic Communications, MA
Pr. Albert Starr, Director for Ethnic Specific and Multicultural Ministries, DM

Separately Incorporated Ministries

Ms. Linda Post Bushkofsky, Executive Director, Women of the ELCA (*excused*)
Ms. Beth A. Lewis, President, 1517 Media, Publishers (*excused*)
Ms. Eva M. Roby, President and CEO, Mission Investment Fund (*excused*)
Pr. Jeffrey D. Thiemann, President and CEO, Portico Benefit Services

Press

Ms. Candice Hill Buchbinder, Mission Advancement

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Agenda

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Thursday, March 30, 2017—Lutheran Center

- 10:00 a.m. Executive Committee, Full Epiphany
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch for Executive Committee, outside Full Epiphany
- 1:00 p.m. Committees meet
Budget and Finance, Epiphany
Legal and Constitutional Review, Advent
Program and Services, Pentecost
Planning and Evaluation, Easter
- 4:30 p.m. **WORSHIP SERVICE WITH HOLY COMMUNION**, 1st Floor Chapel
Installation of certain Church Council members
Presider: Pr. Vicki Garber
Preacher: Pr. Loren Mellum
Assisting Minister: Ms. Marjorie Ellis
Lector: Mr. Gary Gabrielson
- 5:30 p.m. Buses depart Lutheran Center for Eaglewood Resort in Itasca
- 7:00 p.m. **DINNER**, Eaglewood Resort Kegler's Bowling Alley
Cash bar available

Friday, March 31, 2017—Eaglewood Resort

- 8:00 a.m. Continental breakfast available at hotel kiosk (Outside Red Oak A Room)

PLENARY SESSION ONE

Red Oak A Room

March 31, 2017

9:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m.

I.A Call to Order and Adoption of the Agenda

Agenda items have been distributed electronically. Additional items will be distributed at the meeting to the members of the Church Council and invited resource people.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To adopt the agenda and to permit the chair to call for consideration of agenda items in the order the chair deems most appropriate.

I.B Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of the [November 10-13, 2016](#) meeting of the Church Council have been provided to council members electronically on My.ELCA.org. Minutes for meetings held in executive session were added to the protocol file in the Office of the Secretary.

The minutes of the council's Executive Committee meetings on [November 10-13, 2016](#), [December 13, 2016](#), and [January 17, 2017](#) have been provided electronically on My.ELCA to members. Minutes for meetings held in executive session have been added to the protocol file in the Office of the Secretary.

Please provide in writing for the Executive for Office of the Secretary Administration any notations or typographical errors in the distributed text of the minutes. 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

Recommended:

**To approve the minutes of November 10-13, 2016 meeting of the Church Council; and
To ratify actions of the council's Executive Committee as indicated in the minutes of the November 10-13, 2016, December 13, 2016, and January 17, 2017 meetings.**

I.C [Report from the Presiding Bishop](#)

I.D [Report from the Vice President](#)

I.E Report of the Executive Committee

I.E.1 Continuity of Executive Committee

The chairs of the Church Council's Budget and Finance, Legal and Constitutional Review, Planning and Evaluation and Program and Services committees serve on the council's Executive Committee. The Church Council terms of Deacon Christine Connell, the Rev. Vicki Garber, the Rev. Stephen Herr and Mr. Paul Archer end on Aug. 31, 2017. At their Spring 2017 meetings, the council's committees will elect new chairs to begin their terms on Sept. 1, 2017.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To declare that the newly elected chairs of the Budget and Finance Committee, the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee, the Planning and Evaluation Committee, and the Program and Services Committee shall be members of the Executive Committee of the Church Council beginning on September 1, 2017.

I.E.2 Site for the 2019 Churchwide Assembly

The Office of the Secretary is responsible to “arrange for and manage meetings of the Churchwide Assembly...” (ELCA 13.41.02) and presents its recommendation for a Churchwide Assembly site to the Church Council for approval.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To designate [the Wisconsin Center,] Milwaukee, Wisconsin – subject to the satisfactory completion of negotiations in the judgment of the secretary of this church – as the site for the Fifteenth Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, August 5-10, 2019 or August 12-17, 2019; and

To authorize the Executive Committee to select another venue, if negotiations are not successful.

I.F [Report from the Treasurer](#)

I.G Report of the Budget and Finance Committee

The following report is provided by the Budget and Finance Committee. Additional items or revised actions may be distributed following the committee’s meeting. *En Bloc* items will be acted upon later in the meeting. Background information can be found in the Budget and Finance Committee section of My.ELCA.org.

I.G.1 ELCA Foundation Governance and Structure

At its November 2016 meeting, the Church Council established “a task force to consider whether the ELCA Foundation should be separately incorporated from the churchwide organization or otherwise reorganized, and to make recommendations on governance and structure.” (CC16.11.40)

The ELCA Foundation Task Force on Structure and Governance met on Jan. 12 and held conference calls on Feb. 21 and March 10 to discuss the possibilities. The task force report outlining the potential structures can be found [here](#). The information was presented to the Endowment Fund Board of Trustees at its March 16-17 meeting.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To affirm the direction of the ELCA Foundation Task Force on Structure and Governance to move towards a structure in which the deferred giving programs of the ELCA Foundation are transferred to the Endowment Fund of the ELCA; and

To authorize the Task Force and the staff to begin steps to lay the groundwork for that transition, including the hiring of such advisors and consultants as reasonably necessary, with the goal of bringing a complete proposal, including the necessary

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implementing continuing resolutions, before the Church Council at its November 2017 meeting.

I.H Report of the Program and Services Committee

The following report is provided by the Program and Services Committee. Additional items or revised actions may be distributed following the committee's meeting. *En Bloc* items will be acted upon later in the meeting.

I.I Report from the Executive for Administration

I.J Executive Session – Legal Briefing

10:30 a.m. Break
Deadline for Removal of Items from En Bloc
Deadline for New Business

PLENARY SESSION TWO

Red Oak A Room
March 31, 2017
10:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

II.A Report of the Planning and Evaluation Committee

The following report is provided by the Planning and Evaluation Committee. Additional items may be distributed following the committee's meeting. Background information can be found in the Planning and Evaluation Committee section of My.ELCA.org.

II.A.1 [2016 ELCA Churchwide Organization Operational Plan Report](#)

CC ACTION

Recommended:

**To receive the ELCA Churchwide Organization Operational Plan Report for 2016; and
To thank the staff of the churchwide organization for their ongoing work.**

II.A.2 Strategy on Authentic Diversity in the ELCA (Motion B)

The 2016 Churchwide Assembly referred Motion B, "Strategy Toward Authentic Diversity within the ELCA," to the Church Council (CA16.05.25). An initial response from the Domestic Mission unit was received at the November 2016 Church Council meeting and the unit requested more time for further consultation and reflection before advising on a proposed task force and the work involved. The full report with recommendations is included in the [Responses to Churchwide Assembly Actions](#) document. The Planning and Evaluation Committee will consider the proposal and bring an action for Church Council consideration.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To authorize the Domestic Mission Unit and representatives of the ethnic specific ministry associations, in consultation with Conference of Bishops, Women of the ELCA, and ecumenical partners to provide recommendations of names of persons to be appointed to the task force for implementation of resolution CA.16.05.25;

That the Task force be convened by the DM unit comprised of both association and non-association participants with attention to regional representation, lay/clergy and gender balance; and

To receive a progress report and further recommendations including analysis of scope of work called for by Motion B, names of recommended members to the task force, projection of funds to support implementation, at the November 2017 Church Council meeting.

II.B [Report from the Secretary](#)

II.C **Report of the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee**

The following report is provided by the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee. Additional items or revised actions may be distributed following the committee's meeting. *En Bloc* items will be acted upon later in the meeting. Background information can be found in the Legal and Constitutional Review Committee section of My.ELCA.org.

II.D [Report from the Conference of Bishops](#)

II.E **Report of the Theological Education Advisory Committee**

At its spring 2016 meeting, the ELCA Church Council approved the recommendations of the Theological Education Advisory Council (TEAC) and referred them, along with their implementing strategies, to the new Advisory Committee and the Office of the Presiding Bishop for analysis and implementation.

The last implementing strategy for TEAC's final recommendation was to bring to the Church Council "a proposed revision of the ELCA funding formula for seminaries . . . designating a portion (10-15 percent) of the total grant to be directed to promote and facilitate measures undertaken by the seminaries to move toward a common theological education enterprise that enables operational efficiencies and innovation." The Advisory Committee is concerned about producing financial instability for our seminaries by shifting such a significant portion of the total grant, especially without a more detailed plan of action, and so it recommends a more modest, focused approach that hopefully will also produce needed impact in a crucial area.

Indeed, several current factors support a revision to the last implementing strategy, including (a) the ELCA's identified need to raise up more leaders, especially persons of color, (b) the Conference of Bishops' commitment to work with our seminaries and other partners to address this challenge, and (c) the seminaries' recent receipt of a renewable grant from inFaith, which they have dedicated to a shared project for improved recruitment. In this context, the Advisory Committee recommends that 5 percent of the churchwide support for seminaries in FY2018 be reserved for a focused, collaborative project among all the seminaries that expands the number of persons of color preparing for rostered ministry in our church. We believe this is the best way both to foster the rapid development of a common theological enterprise and to serve the ELCA's mission priorities.

Mr. John Lohrmann, chair of the Theological Education Advisory Committee, will bring a report on the progress of the committee's work and a recommendation. The [written report](#) and supporting documents can be found in the [Advisory Committee](#) folder.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To designate five **percent of the churchwide seminary grant in 2018** fiscal year for a focused, collaborative project among all seminaries that expands the number of persons of color preparing for rostered ministry in this church.

II.F New Business

II.G Consideration of Items Removed from *En Bloc*

II.H *En Bloc* Approval of Certain Items

The following *en bloc* resolution includes agenda items that will be considered on the last day of the Church Council meeting. Inclusion of these items in the *en bloc* action reflects a judgment that these items are relatively non-controversial in nature and may not require plenary discussion and a separate vote.

Each of the items is noted as [*En Bloc*] in En Bloc Items. On the first day of the Council meeting, the chair will remind members of the deadline to remove items from *en bloc* consideration to discuss separately any of the items listed in the *en bloc* resolution; any such item will be removed from the *en bloc* resolution and discussed at the appropriate point in the agenda.

The chair will not call for a discussion or separate vote on those items that are not removed from the *en bloc* resolution. The items remaining in the *en bloc* resolution normally will be considered as one of the last items of council business.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To take action *En Bloc* on the remaining items listed in [En Bloc Items](#), [Responses to Churchwide Assembly Actions](#) and [Responses to Synod Resolutions](#).

II.I Honoring Church Council Class of 2017

On behalf of a grateful church, we are blessed to have this opportunity to honor and thank the Church Council Class of 2017. They have served thoughtfully and diligently as this church's board of directors.

Members of the Class of 2017 are: Paul Archer, Christine Connell, Elizabeth Ekdale, Marjorie Ellis, Gary Gabrielson, Vicki Garber, Stephen Herr, Karin Liebster, Loren Mellum, John Pederson and Pamela Pritt.

II.J Announcements

II.K Hymn and Prayer

Adjournment