

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
CHURCH COUNCIL
April 5-8, 2018
Chicago, Illinois

AGENDA

Participants

Voting Members

Mr. Hans Becklin	Mr. John Lohrmann
Mr. Allan Bieber	Ms. Andrea Micovsky
Pr. Wm Chris Boerger, Secretary	Mr. Joseph Nolte
Ms. Cheryl Chatman	Pr. Linda Nou
Mr. Reid Christopherson	Mr. Gary Pederson
Bp. Elizabeth Eaton, Presiding Bishop	Ms. Meri Jo Petrivelli
Ms. Lori Fedyk, Treasurer	Mr. Clarence Smith
Pr. William Flippin Jr.	Mr. Ervin Sparapani
Pr. Dena Gable	Pr. Jonathan Splichal Larson
Bp. William Gafkjen	Ms. Ingrid Stafford
Pr. Joyce Graue (<i>excused</i>)	Ms. Leslie Swenson
Ms. Cynthia Gustavson	Pr. Lorie "L.B." Tatum
Mr. William Horne, Vice President	Pr. James Utt
Pr. Chad Huebner	Mr. Vernon Veal
Ms. Maren Hulden	Pr. William Voss
Mr. James Hushagen	Ms. Emma Wagner
Mr. James Jennings	Pr. Michael Ward
Pr. Peder Johanson	Ms. Sonja Wolfe (<i>nominated</i>)
Ms. Emilee Le Blanc (<i>excused</i>)	Ms. Man-Hei Yip (<i>excused</i>)
	Mr. Seth Zimmann

Liaison Bishops

Bp. Jeffrey Clements (<i>excused</i>)	Bp. Brian Maas
Bp. Steven Delzer	Bp. John Macholz
Bp. Suzanne Dillahunt	Bp. Kirby Unti
Bp. Guy Erwin	Bp. Herman Yoos (<i>excused</i>)
Bp. Richard Graham	

Resource People

Office of the Presiding Bishop

Pr. Wyvetta Bullock, Assistant to the Bishop, Executive for Administration
Mr. John Hessian, Research Analyst, Research and Evaluation
Ms. Kathryn Johnson, Director, Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Relations
Ms. Rhondean Johnson, Executive for Human Resources
Ms. Kathryn Lohre, Assistant to the Bishop, Executive for Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Relations and Theological Discernment
Pr. Walter May, Assistant to the Bishop, Executive for Synodical Relations (*excused*)
Ms. Jodi Slattery, Assistant to the Bishop for Governance
Dr. Mary Streufert, Director for Justice for Women, Theological Discernment
Pr. Kevin Strickland, Assistant to the Bishop, Executive for Worship (*excused*)
Pr. Roger Willer, Director for Theological Ethics, Theological Discernment

Office of the Secretary

Mr. Thomas Cunniff, General Counsel
Ms. Aja Favors, Associate General Counsel
Mr. Frank Imhoff, Manager, Official Documentation
Deacon Sue Rothmeyer, Assistant to the Secretary

Unit Staff

Pr. Stephen 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
Ms. Judith Roberts, Program Director for Racial Justice Ministries, DM

Separately Incorporated Ministries

Ms. Linda Post Bushkofsky, Executive Director, Women of the ELCA
Deacon Doug Haugen, Director, Lutheran Men in Mission
Ms. Christina Jackson-Skelton, President, ELCA Foundation
Ms. Beth Lewis, President and CEO, 1517 Media
Ms. Eva Roby, President and CEO, Mission Investment Fund
Pr. Martin Seltz, Publisher, 1517 Media
Pr. Jeffrey Thiemann, President and CEO, Portico Benefit Services

Press

Ms. Candice Hill Buchbinder, Mission Advancement

Ecumenical Guests

Ms. Pat Lovell, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada
Pr. Daniel Meeter, The Reformed Church in America
Pr. Betsy Miller, Moravian Church in North America
Dr. Steven Nishibayashi, The Episcopal Church
Ms. Elona Street Stewart, Presbyterian Church (USA)
Pr. Kyle Tau, United Methodist Church

Ethnic Specific Ministry Association Guests

Pr. Joan Conroy, American Indian Alaskan Native Lutheran Association, president
Pr. Khader El-Yateem, Association of Lutherans of Arab and Middle Eastern Heritage, president
Pr. Martín López Vega, Asociación Luterana de Ministerios Latinos, president
Pr. Russell Meyer, European Descent Lutheran Association for Racial Justice, president
Pr. Moses Penumaka, Asian and Pacific Islander Lutheran Association, representative
Pr. Lamont Wells, African Descent Lutheran Association, president

Thursday, April 5, 2018

- 10:00 a.m. Executive Committee, Full Epiphany
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch for Executive Committee, outside Full Epiphany
- 1:30 p.m. **WORSHIP SERVICE WITH HOLY COMMUNION**, 1st Floor Chapel
Presider: Bp. John Macholz
Preacher: Pr. Joan Conroy
Assisting Minister: Mr. Bill Horne
Lector: Ms. Andrea Micovsky
- Installation of Treasurer Lori Fedyk*
- . Church Council Choir Rehearsal following worship, 1st Floor Chapel

PLENARY SESSION ONE

Council Room
April 5, 2018
3:00 – 6:00 p.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 [fall 2017 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 9, 2017](#), [December 6, 2017](#), [January 30, 2018](#), [February 21, 2018](#), and [March 23, 2018](#), have been provided electronically on My.ELCA.org 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 9-12, 2017 meeting of the Church Council; and
To ratify actions of the council's Executive Committee as indicated in the minutes of the November 9, 2017; December 6, 2017; January 30, 2018; February 21, 2018; and March 23, 2018 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 Church Council Nominations and Elections

The nominating committee has nominated Ms. Sonja Wolfe, Kenosha, WI to replace the resignation of Ms. Carolyn Jewett to a term ending in 2022. Biographical information for the nominee is provided [here](#).

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To elect Ms. Sonja Wolfe, Kenosha, WI [5J], to the Church Council for a term ending in 2022.

I.E.2 Introduction to draft Inter-Religious Policy Statement

At its April 5 meeting, the Executive Committee participated in a hearing on the Draft ELCA policy statement “[A Declaration of Our Inter-Religious Commitment.](#)”

This is an opportunity for Church Council to receive an introduction to the Inter-Religious Policy Statement led by Vice President Bill Horne, and Bishop Patricia Lull, St. Paul Area Synod and chair of the Inter-Religious Task Force. Ms. Kathryn Lohre, executive for ecumenical and inter-religious relations and theological discernment, will record the comments. Vice President Bill Horne is a member of the task force.

During this time, you will have an opportunity to share your concerns, appreciations and suggestions about the draft.

In addition to the Executive Committee, the draft has been reviewed by various full communion, ecumenical, and inter-religious partners, as well as by the Conference of Bishops and the board of the Lutheran Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Representatives Network (LEIRN).

A six-month comment period on the Draft began in January and continues through June 30, 2018. The Inter-Religious Task Force will receive the feedback and input from this comment period to revise the Draft before it goes to the Church Council for possible recommendation to the 2019 Churchwide Assembly. Final consideration of the Inter-Religious policy statement will come to the Church Council at its November 2018 meeting.

I.F Report of the Board Development Committee

I.F.1 Consideration of Proposal for Developing ELCA Governance Policy Manual

Following the Church Council retreat in April 2017, the Board Development Committee [Jim Utt, chair; Cheryl Chatman; Maren Hulden; Joe Nolte; Clarence Smith; Emma Wagner; Vern Veal] discussed the development of a governance policy manual. They asked a sub-group of the council’s Board Development Committee —Maren Hulden, Joe Nolte and Clarence Smith — to draft a proposed process to develop a governance policy manual. The Board Development Committee approved the proposal and asked that the Church Council consider it at the council’s April 2018 meeting.

Ms. Hulden, Mr. Nolte and Mr. Smith will walk us through the document for Church Council’s consideration. You can read the proposal [here](#). If approved, we will consider names for the Ad Hoc Governance Policy Committee during Plenary Session Six.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To approve the proposal for a process to develop an Evangelical Lutheran Church in America governance policy manual.

I.G Discussion on Gender Identity

The Church Council was asked to study gender identity and review existing ELCA definitions and policies regarding gender identity that affect “the full inclusion of individuals of a broad variety of gender identities into the mission and ministry of the ELCA” (language from Sierra Pacific Synod Assembly resolution, which memorialized the 2016 Churchwide Assembly). This request was amended through a 2016 Churchwide Assembly memorial as well as a resolution on gender identity.

In preparation for discussion and possible decision-making on the request, Church Council members were asked to complete a questionnaire. You can see the results of that questionnaire [here](#).

Dr. Mary Streufert, director for justice for women, and Pr. Roger Willer, director for theological ethics, will give a brief report on the results and guide the council in an open discussion on next steps to assist in council's decision-making on existing gender identity definitions and policies.

I.H Ecumenical Greetings

I.I Share a Congregational Vitality Learning, by Ms. Meri Jo Petrivelli

I.J Hymn and Prayer

6:15 p.m. Welcome Dinner, Augsburg Room
Wine and beer available (\$5 suggested donation)

Friday, April 6, 2018

- 6:00 a.m. Breakfast, Marriott Hotel (Buffet opens at 6 am)
- 9:00 a.m. Committees meet
Budget and Finance, Full Epiphany
Legal and Constitutional Review, Advent
Program and Services, Pentecost
Planning and Evaluation, 10th Floor Training Room
- 12:15 p.m. Mid-Day Prayer, 1st Floor Chapel
Led by Mr. Clarence Smith
- 12:30 p.m. Lunch, Augsburg Room
- 1:30 p.m. Committees continue to meet
Budget and Finance, Full Epiphany
Legal and Constitutional Review, Advent
Program and Services, Pentecost
Planning and Evaluation, 10th Floor Training Room
- 3:00 p.m. Break

PLENARY SESSION TWO

Council Room
April 6, 2018
3:30 – 5:30 p.m.

II.A Executive Session: Legal Briefing

Mr. Thomas Cunniff, General Counsel, will provide a briefing to Church Council on legal matters. This is an executive session for Church Council, liaison bishops, Administrative Team and Minutes Team. Other guests will be invited back to the meeting after this executive session.

II.B Hearing on the [Draft Social Statement on Women and Justice](#)

In 2009, the Churchwide Assembly authorized the development of a social statement on women and justice. The ELCA Task Force on Women and Justice: One in Christ has been at work since 2012 and brought the work to a crucial stage. On November 15, 2017 it released the Draft of a Social Statement on Women and Justice. The comment period on the Draft is open until September 30, 2018.

This hearing is an opportunity for Church Council to respond to specific parts of the text. We will work section by section, even line by line, so that you can share with the task force your concerns, appreciations and suggestions about the draft. A hearing is not a discussion or a debate in the abstract, it stays close to the wording and the draft. The basic question is: what should our church be saying about these issues?

Ms. Leslie Swenson and Pr. Jim Utt are the Church Council liaisons to the task force. Ms. Swenson will be the convener for this hearing and Pr. Utt will serve as task force representative. Pr. Roger Willer and Dr. Mary Streufert, as staff, will share the recording job.

Members of the task force will review each response made during the comment period and consider what they have heard when they begin to prepare the “Proposed Social Statement” in the fall of 2018. The proposed social statement will come to Church Council in the spring of 2019. A recommended proposed statement will be considered by the 2019 Churchwide Assembly; a two thirds vote is required for approval.

II.C Update on the [Campaign for the ELCA](#)

The *Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA* is now in its final year of its 5-year effort to raise \$198 million in support of new and expanded churchwide ministries above and beyond those supported by your regular weekly offerings. We are grateful for the ongoing support of generous individuals, congregations and synods.

In this final year, we are focused on: 1) Reaching our \$115 million goal for ELCA World Hunger. One way we can do this is supporting and lifting up efforts like the Global Farm Challenge as part of the Youth Gathering; 2) Investing in our future leaders through this year’s annual theme of Leadership – including Fund for Leaders and Youth and Young Adult ministries; 3) Continuing to accompany our neighbors from around the world through the Global Church priority; and 4) Advancing congregational vitality by starting and renewing congregations, as well as enhancing ministries with those with disabilities.

Thank you if you have already made a commitment to the campaign as a Church Council member. There are six members who have not made a commitment to the

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
CHURCH COUNCIL
April 5-8, 2018

Agenda

Page 9 of 16

campaign as a Church Council member, and we encourage those members to do so at this meeting. Please see Pr. Ron Glusenkamp, director for the campaign, if you are uncertain if you are one of the six. It would be wonderful to have 100 percent participation from the churchwide organization's board of directors.

Pr. Glusenkamp will present an update at this meeting. Mr. Joe Nolte serves on the Campaign for the ELCA steering committee and will be speak following the update.

II.D Ecumenical Greeting

II.E Process Observation

II.F Announcements

II.G Hymn and Prayer

5:30 p.m. Dinner, Augsburg Room
Wine and beer available

Ecumenical Liaison Dinner, Augsburg Room
Board Development Committee, Advent (*working dinner*)
Executive Committee teams meet with Officers (*working dinner*)

Saturday, April 7, 2018

6:00 a.m. Breakfast, Marriott Hotel (Buffet opens at 6 a.m.)

PLENARY SESSION THREE

Augsburg Room
April 7, 2018
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

III.A Bible Study

Bishop Richard Graham, Metropolitan D.C. Synod, will lead the Church Council in a Bible study on faith and governance and poisonous snakes.

III.B Discussion on Governance Policies

Goal 5 of Future Directions 2025 refers to a “Well-Governed, Connected and Sustainable Church.” What is council’s role? How can council strengthen governance of the ELCA to provide for clarity in roles and authority, strong relationships and shared leadership and a culture of willing accountability?

Ms. Maren Hulden, Mr. Joe Nolte and Mr. Clarence Smith will lead the Church Council, liaison bishops and the Administrative Team in a discussion. The goal of this discussion is to reach consensus around a shared understanding of the governance role of the Church Council to assist with the development of a governance policy manual.

III.C Café Conversation with Ethnic-Specific and Multicultural Ministry Associations

III.D [Report of the Theological Education Advisory Committee](#)

III.E Announcements

12:00 p.m. **SIM Lunches**
1517 Media: Pentecost
Lutheran Men in Mission: Epiphany I
Mission Investment Fund: Advent
Portico: Epiphany II
Women of the ELCA: 10th Floor Training Room
ELCA Foundation: 6th Floor Planning Room

12:00 p.m. **Deadline for Removal of Items from En Bloc**
Deadline for New Business

PLENARY SESSION FOUR

Council Room
April 7, 2018
1:30 – 3:00 p.m.

IV.A. Ecumenical Greeting

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

IV.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.

IV.D Report of the Administrative Team

IV.E Report of the Planning and Evaluation Committee

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

IV.E.1 [Churchwide Organizational 2018-19 Operational Plan](#)

Church Council received a draft of the Churchwide Organizational Operational Plan for 2018-19 at its November 2017 meeting. At this meeting, the final version is being presented for Church Council's affirmation.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To affirm the 2018-2019 Operational Plan of the Churchwide Organization.

3:00 p.m. Break

PLENARY SESSION FIVE

Council Room
April 7, 2018
3:30 – 5:30 p.m.

V.A Personal Reflection on Faith, by Pr. Jonathan Splichal Larson

V.B [Report from the Treasurer](#)

V.C 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.

V.C.1 Executive Session: Ad Hoc Working Group on Post-Retirement Benefits

Church Council will enter an executive session to discuss financial matters related to the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Post-Retirement Benefits.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

[To be provided in executive session materials]

V.C.1.i Report of Executive Session actions

V.C.2 Plan for Campaign for the ELCA “Where Needed Most”

At the November 2017 meeting of the Church Council, it requested “that the churchwide organization prepare a plan for the process by which ‘where needed most’ dollars in *Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA* will be allocated...” [CC17.11.28] Budget and Finance Committee received a report on the plan at its committee meeting.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To approve the policy and procedure for the allocation of “where needed most” dollars in *Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA*.

V.D Announcements

V.E Hymn and Prayer

5:30 p.m. Dinner (on your own)

Sunday, April 8, 2018

6:00 a.m. Breakfast, Marriott Hotel (Buffet opens at 6 am)

9:00 a.m. **WORSHIP SERVICE WITH HOLY COMMUNION**, 1st Floor Chapel
Offering: Youth and Young Adult ministries priority of the *Campaign for the ELCA*

Presider: Pr. Dena Gable

Preacher: Pr. LB Tatum

Assisting Minister: Dr. Elona Street Stewart

Lector: Mr. Ervin Sparapani

PLENARY SESSION SIX

Council Room
April 8, 2018
10:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

VI.A Ecumenical Greeting

VI.B 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.

VI.B.1. Update on the Entrance Rite for Ministers of Word and Service

The Entrance Rite Discernment Group was tasked with engaging the larger church in conversation and drafting recommendations regarding the entrance rite for Ministers of Word and Service, appropriate symbols for ministers of Word and Service and representational principles.

A report and draft recommendations are being presented for a first reading at this meeting. It will be shared broadly throughout the church for comment. Final recommendations will be brought to the Conference of Bishops and Church Council in the fall of 2018 for consideration to the 2019 Churchwide Assembly.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To receive with gratitude the report and proposed recommendations from the Entrance Rite Discernment Group;

To refer the proposed recommendations to the Office of the Secretary for preliminary work on possible amendments to the Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America;

To encourage the Entrance Rite Discernment Group to share the proposed recommendations throughout the church and with full communion partners for further conversation; and

To request the Entrance Rite Discernment Group present final recommendations to the November 2018 Church Council meeting.

VI.C New Business

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To create a task force composed of Church Council members, churchwide organization staff and liaison bishops to consider a future ELCA campaign and a strategic focus on generating additional revenue for the church; and

To authorize the Executive Committee of the Church Council to appoint members to the task force.

Revised April 7, 2018

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
CHURCH COUNCIL
April 5-8, 2018
Agenda
Page 15 of 16

VI.D Report of the Board Development Committee (*continued*)

VI.D.1 Wrap-up Discussion of Saturday's Conversation

VI.D.2 Appointment of Ad Hoc Committee Members

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To appoint Maren Hulden, Joseph Nolte, Clarence Smith, Gary Pederson, James Jennings, Wm Chris Boerger, Wyvetta Bullock, Christina Jackson-Skelton, and R. Guy Erwin to an ad hoc governance policy committee; and

To authorize the Executive Committee of the Church Council to make additional appointments as necessary.

VI.E Report of the Conference of Bishops

VI.F Announcements

12:00 p.m. Lunch, Augsburg Room

PLENARY SESSION SEVEN

Council Room
April 8, 2018
1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

VII.A Ecumenical Greeting

VII.B Discussion on Future Directions 2025

We have set aside time to continue intentional conversations on the work of council related to Future Directions 2025. You can read the summary of the generative conversations from the November 2017 Church Council meeting [here](#). In addition, the Future Directions Team met on March 21 and will have a report with questions for Church Council to consider.

VII.C Share a Congregational Vitality Learning, by Mr. Vernon Veal

VII.D Consideration of Items Removed from *En Bloc*

VII.E *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 (Two-thirds approval required)

Recommended:

To approve the *En Bloc* continuing resolution amendments to the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* as listed in [En Bloc Items](#).

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](#).

VII.F Personal Reflection on Faith, by Ms. Cynthia Gustavson

VII.G Process Observation

VII.H Evaluation and Debriefing

VII.I Hymn and Prayer

VII.J Adjournment