



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, April 5-8, 2018. The council centered its work around worship, Bible study, prayer and personal reflections on faith.

The Church Council took action on the following:

- elected Ms. Sonja Wolfe to the Church Council
- approved the process for developing an ELCA governance policy manual
- affirmed the 2018-2019 Operational Plan
- received the report and proposed recommendations concerning the entrance rite for ministers of Word and Service
- approved the policy and procedure for the allocation of “where needed most” dollars in *Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA*
- approved a Church Council Designated Fund in the amount of \$2,750,000 representing the excess revenue over expenses from fiscal year 2017 to be released to fund the post-retirement medical benefit obligations of the churchwide organization
- designated churchwide representatives to synod assemblies
- approved “Political and Civil Human Rights: Equal Access and Participation” Social Criteria Investment Screen
- approved the report of the audit committee
- approved a continuing resolution which invites an identification process prior to the Churchwide Assembly for those who might be considered for election as Secretary
- elected members of the boards of separately incorporated ministries, seminaries, and other organizations and approved appointments to the ad hoc governance policy committee and Strategic Task Force Towards Authentic Diversity
- approved revised constitution and bylaws of the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago
- created a task force to consider a future ELCA campaign and a strategic focus on generating additional revenue for the church

The Church Council received/engaged in the following:

- reports from the officers, its committees, the Administrative Team and the Conference of Bishops
- introduction to the draft Inter-Religious Policy Statement
- hearing on the Draft Social Statement on Women and Justice
- discussion on gender identity
- discussion of Future Directions 2025, including governance topics
- café conversation with ethnic-specific and multicultural ministry associations
- report of the Theological Education Advisory Committee (TEAC)
- shared congregational vitality learnings
- update on The Campaign for the ELCA
- presentations from this church’s separately incorporated ministries
- greetings from ecumenical partners