

**EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA**  
**CHURCH COUNCIL**  
**November 8-11, 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	Ms. Leslie Swenson
Ms. Cynthia Gustavson	Pr. Lorie "L.B." Tatum ( <i>excused</i> )
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
Ms. Emilee Le Blanc	Ms. Man-Hei Yip
	Mr. Seth Zimmann ( <i>excused</i> )

**Liaison Bishops**

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

**Resource People**

**Office of the Presiding Bishop**

Pr. Wyvetta Bullock, Assistant to the Bishop, Executive for Administration  
Ms. Deborah Coe, Executive for Planning 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  
Deacon Mary Ann Schwabe, Natural Systems Coordinator  
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  
Pr. Roger Willer, Director for Theological Ethics, Theological Discernment  
Ms. Judith Roberts, Program Director for Racial Justice Ministries

**Office of the Secretary**

Mr. Thomas Cunniff, General Counsel  
Ms. Aja Favors, Associate General Counsel  
Mr. Frank Imhoff, Manager, Official Documentation  
Ms. Marit Johnson, 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 (*excused*)  
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

**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  
Mr. Tim Blevins, President and CEO, 1517 Media  
Pr. Martin Seltz, Publisher, 1517 Media  
Ms. Eva Roby, President and CEO, Mission Investment Fund (*excused*)  
Pr. Jeffrey Thiemann, President and CEO, Portico Benefit Services

**Press**

Ms. Candice Hill Buchbinder, Mission Advancement

**Ecumenical Guests**

Pr. Daniel Meeter, The Reformed Church in America  
Pr. Jeffrey Coppage, Moravian Church in North America  
Dr. Steven Nishibayashi, The Episcopal Church

**Ethnic Specific Ministry Association Guests**

Pr. Joan Conroy, American Indian Alaskan Native Lutheran Association, president  
Pr. Khader Khalilia, Association of Lutherans of Arab and Middle Eastern Heritage, representative  
Pr. Martín López Vega, Asociación Luterana de Ministerios Latinos, president  
Ms. Donna Matteis, European Descent Lutheran Association for Racial Justice, president  
Pr. Gigie Sijera-Grant, Asian and Pacific Islander Lutheran Association, president  
Pr. Lamont Wells, African Descent Lutheran Association, president

**Wednesday, November 7, 2018**

- 12:00 p.m. Task Force for Considering Future Campaign and Income Strategies
- 3:00 p.m. Audit Committee

**Thursday, November 8, 2018**

- 10:00 a.m. Executive Committee, Full Epiphany
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch for Executive Committee, outside Full Epiphany  
Joint lunch with Lutheran Campus Ministry Board
- 1:30 p.m. **WORSHIP SERVICE WITH HOLY COMMUNION**, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Chapel  
Presider: Pr. Chad Huebner  
Preacher: Pr. Martín López Vega  
Assisting Minister: Ms. Sonja Wolfe  
Lector: Ms. Lori Fedyk
- . Church Council Choir Rehearsal following worship, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Chapel

**PLENARY SESSION ONE**

Council Room  
November 8, 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 [spring 2018](#) 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 [May 15](#), [June 19](#), [July 26](#), [August 28](#), [September 21](#), and [October 16](#), 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 April 5-8, 2018 meeting of the Church Council; and  
To ratify actions of the council's Executive Committee as indicated in the minutes of the May 15, 2018, June 19, 2018, July 26, 2018, August 28, 2018, September 21, 2018, and October 16, 2018.**

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

**I.D [Update on Lutheran World Federation \(LWF\) Council](#)**

As is stated in the Constitutional Provision 3.04, "This church, inspired and led by the Holy Spirit, participates in The Lutheran World Federation as a global communion of churches, engaging in faithful witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ and in service for the sake of God's mission in the world." Also, the Executive Committee of the Church Council serve as members of the U.S.A. National Committee of The Lutheran World Federation when necessary (Continuing Resolution 14.41.01.g.).

The [LWF](#) is a global communion of 148 churches in the Lutheran tradition, representing 75.5 million Christians in 99 countries. It acts on behalf of its member churches in areas of common interest such as ecumenical and interfaith relations, theology, humanitarian assistance, communications and various aspects of mission and development work. ELCA members elected to the LWF Council are Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, Pr. William Flippin Jr., Pr. Robin Steinke and Ms. Cheryl Philip. Information about the work of the LWF Council will be provided as an annual update so Church Council is informed of our shared ministry.

**I.E Ecumenical Greetings**

**I.F Report from the Secretary**

**I.G EXECUTIVE SESSION: Update on 2019 and Beyond**

Bishop Eaton will provide an update to Church Council on the 2019 and Beyond process. 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.

*(10-minute break)*

**I.H Report of the Ad Hoc Governance Policy Committee**

As an outcome of the Church Council's retreat in April 2017, the council's Board Development Committee asked a sub-committee to propose a process for developing a governance policy manual for the council. The proposal was to take a two-part approach to consider the role of the Church Council and its governance, using an *ad hoc* committee to assist the council in this process. This work is in alignment with Future Directions 2025 Goal Five: "A well-governed, connected and sustainable church."

In April 2018, the Church Council approved the proposed process for developing an ELCA Governance Policy [CC18.04.04] and appointed members to serve on the Ad Hoc Governance Policy Committee (AHGPC). The committee contracted with former ELCA Secretary David Swartling to draft the governance policy manual. Additional background information about the process, rationale for the document and notes on the draft can be found under Current Meeting in the [Governance Policy Manual category](#).

The [draft governance policy manual](#) is in three parts: Preface, Part 1 and Appendix. Part 1 identifies what the Church Council's governance roles and responsibilities should be in order to best serve this Church. Part 2 will be developed to address how the Council can be best equipped to fulfill the roles and responsibilities outlined in Part 1. The discussion for Part 2 will take place on Saturday morning, Nov 10.

**CC ACTION**

**Recommended:**

**To approve the Preface and Part 1 of the ELCA Church Council Governance Policy Manual; and  
To authorize the Office of the Presiding Bishop, in consultation with the Office of the Secretary, to make any necessary corrections for accuracy.**

**I.I Congregational Vitality Learning by Pr. Joyce Graue**

**I.J Personal Reflection on Faith by Mr. Allan Bieber**

**I.K Hymn and Prayer**

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

**Friday, November 9, 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, Council  
Program and Services, Pentecost  
Planning and Evaluation, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor Training Room
- 12:15 p.m. Mid-Day Prayer, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Chapel  
Led by Mr. Gary Pederson
- 12:30 p.m. Lunch, Augsburg Room  
Ecumenical Liaison Lunch, Advent Room
- 1:30 p.m. Committees continue to meet  
Budget and Finance, Full Epiphany  
Legal and Constitutional Review, Council  
Program and Services, Pentecost  
Planning and Evaluation, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor Training Room
- 3:00 p.m. Break

**PLENARY SESSION TWO**

Council Room  
November 9, 2018  
3:30 – 5:00 p.m.

**II.A EXECUTIVE SESSION: Report from the Administrative Team: 2019 and Beyond**

This is a continuation from Plenary Session One executive session on the 2019 and Beyond process. This executive session is 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 Report from the Presiding Bishop**

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

The *Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA* is in its final year of its 5-year effort to raise \$198 million. We are grateful for the ongoing support of generous individuals like you.

Pr. Ron Gluskamp will present an update on the Campaign for the ELCA at this meeting. Mr. Joe Nolte serves as the Church Council liaison on the campaign steering committee.

**II.D Update on Racial Justice Work**

Ms. Judith Roberts will present an update on the work of the racial justice ministries. This will be helpful background as the Church Council prepares to engage in a cleansing and contemplative conversation on racial justice. The ethnic specific ministry association presidents/representatives will join us for the evening conversation.

**II.E Ecumenical Greeting**

**II.F Hymn and Prayer**

5:00 p.m. Dinner, Augsburg Room  
*Wine and beer available*

**6:00-9:00 p.m. Cleansing and Contemplative Conversation on Racial Justice**

*Led by Pr. Stephen Bouman and Ms. Judith Roberts*

**Saturday, November 10, 2018**

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

**PLENARY SESSION THREE**

**Council Room**

November 10, 2018

**8:30 a.m.** – 12:00 p.m.

**III.A Discussion on Part 2: Governance Policies**

The Church Council, liaison bishops and Administrative Team will engage in discussion and brainstorming about the content of Part 2 of the governance policy manual. You can view a [tentative list of topics](#) to be addressed in Part 2, which can be found under Current Meeting in the Governance Policy Manual category. There will not be time to address all the topics. Rather, the discussion will focus around some key issues to determine how Church Council can best and more effectively fulfill its role as stated in Part 1.

*(10-minute break)*

**III.B Conversation on Sustainability**

From the April 5-8, 2018 Church Council minutes (p. 30): “The presiding bishop presented a recommendation from the Future Directions Table for the development of a paper on sustainability for the three leadership tables – Executive Committee of the Church Council, Executive Committee of the Conference of Bishops and the Administrative Team of the churchwide organization – that will be available for consideration by the Conference of Bishops and Church Council in Fall 2018. Once the council endorses a sustainability framework, a task force will create a communications strategy to explain it to ELCA members and the three leadership tables will commit to a five-year strategy to align this church’s structures and resources to the sustainable model.”

The paper “[Toward a Faithful and Multidimensional Understanding of Sustainability](#)” is a thought piece for Church Council, Conference of Bishops and the Administrative Team to discuss. It was drafted by Lyla Rogan in consultation with a reference group (Bishop Tracie Bartholomew, Bill Horne, Christina Jackson-Skelton, Kathryn Lohre and Pr. Wyvetta Bullock). Conference of Bishops discussed it at their Fall 2018 meeting. Questions to guide Church Council’s discussion can be found on pg. 9-10 of the document.

**III.C [Report from the Conference of Bishops](#)**

**III.D Personal Reflection of Faith by Mr. Hans Becklin**

**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: 10<sup>th</sup> Floor Training Room*  
                  *ELCA Foundation: 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Planning Room*
- Board Development Committee Lunch Augsburg**
- 12:00 p.m.     **Deadline for Removal of Items from En Bloc**  
                  **Deadline for New Business**

**PLENARY SESSION FOUR**

Council Room  
November 10, 2018  
1:30 – 3:00 p.m.

**IV.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.

**IV.B Report of the Executive Committee**

Church Council will continue the executive session to discuss personnel matters. This is an executive session for Church Council, liaison bishops, executive for human resources, legal counsel and Minutes Team. Other guests will be invited back to the meeting after the executive sessions.

**IV.B.1 EXECUTIVE SESSION: Executive Director Elections**

**[Church Council action to be provided in executive session materials]**

**IV.C Update from Lutheran Services in America**

Periodically, Church Council receives updates from various Lutheran organizations and ministries. As stated in Constitutional Provision 8.23.: “This church shall seek to meet human needs through encouragement of its people to individual and corporate action, and through establishing, developing, recognizing, and supporting institutions and agencies that minister to people in their spiritual and temporal needs.” (See also bylaw 8.23.01)

[Lutheran Services in America](#) (LSA) was created in 1997 by the ELCA, The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS) and the social ministry organizations that are affiliated with the ELCA and/or recognized by The LCMS. Today, LSA represents a nationwide network of more than 300 health and human organizations that reaches 6 million people annually, serving 1 out of every 50 people in the U.S. each year.

President and CEO Charlotte Haberaecker will be present to provide an overview of LSA’s ministry work.

**IV.D 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.E Ecumenical Greeting**

3:00 p.m.      Break

**PLENARY SESSION FIVE**

Council Room  
November 10, 2018  
3:30 – 5:30 p.m.

**V.A Report of the Theological Education Advisory Committee**

**V.B Report of the Executive Committee (*continued*)**

The following report is provided by the Executive 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 Executive Committee section of My.ELCA.org.

**V.B.1 Proposed Draft of the Inter-Religious Policy Statement**

In late September, the Conference of Bishops and Church Council were invited to submit in writing any specific amendments to the proposed draft inter-religious policy statement. During its Fall 2018 meeting, the Conference of Bishops recommended two amendments. A Church Council member submitted a list of suggestions, as well. These amendments and suggestions were considered by a small group of the Inter-Religious Task Force members and staff. [Four amendments to the proposed draft](#) were accepted by the Task Force and will be considered by the Executive Committee for its consideration. Church Council will consider the proposed draft inter-religious policy statement during Plenary Session Five.

**CC ACTION**

**Recommended: To recommend the following to the 2019 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:**

**To adopt the proposed policy statement, "A Declaration of Inter-Religious Commitment: A policy statement of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America."**

**V.C Bible Study led by Rev. Barbara Rossing, professor of new testament, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago**

**V.D Announcements**

**V.E Hymn and Prayer**

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

**Sunday, November 11, 2018**

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

9:00 a.m. **WORSHIP SERVICE WITH HOLY COMMUNION**, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Chapel  
Offering: New and Renewing Congregations campaign priority

Presider: Bp. Guy Erwin

Preacher: Pr. Eric Wester

Assisting Minister: Mr. Reid Christopherson

Lector: Ms. Emma Wagner

**PLENARY SESSION SIX**

Council Room  
November 11, 2018  
10:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**VI.A Update on Day of Discernment Event**

**VI.B Report from the Treasurer**

**VI.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.

**VI.C.1. 2019 Revised Income Estimates and Spending Authorizations**

**CC ACTION**

**Recommended:**

**To approve a 2019 fiscal year current fund spending authorization of \$67,164,676; and  
To approve a 2019 ELCA World Hunger spending authorization of \$21,500,000.**

**VI.C.2. Mission Support Experiment**

At its April 2015 meeting, the Church Council adopted a number of resolutions recommended by the presiding bishop's think tank on mission funding. One of the resolutions affirmed a three-year experiment, beginning in fiscal year 2016, and involved five synods "to form a 'learning community' to explore whether retaining the new and renewing ELCA grants for ministries and the total compensation for the director for evangelical mission will produce an increase in mission support and more effective management and oversight for the sake of mission." [CC15.04.14]

Additional detail regarding the structure of the synod experiments was presented to the Church Council through the Budget and Finance Committee at its November 2015 meeting. The director for mission support was requested to consult with the five synods and provide periodic updates throughout the duration of the experiment. The Budget and Finance Committee regularly receives a written and verbal report from the director for mission support.

The five synods participating in the Mission Support Experiment are Nebraska, Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast, New England, Lower Susquehanna, and Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Given the original action by Church Council in April 2015, the three-year experiment is scheduled to end at the end of this fiscal year on January 31, 2019. Two of the five synods submitted [letters](#) summarizing their perspective and learnings from the experiments.

At its Fall 2018 meeting, the Conference of Bishops received two reports. One from the five synods and the other from Deborah Coe, executive for planning, evaluation and research, and Victoria Flood, director for mission support. The bishops of the five experimenting synods proposed suggestions for a way forward in their report. The Conference of Bishops discussed both reports as well as a proposed recommendation brought by the Executive Committee of the Conference of Bishops in response to the five synods' suggestions.

The adopted recommendation was as follows:

"The Conference of Bishops encourages the Church Council to:

- Extend the five-synod experiment in mission and Mission Support for two more years, through January 31, 2021;
- Not expand the experiment to include more synods through the end of the experiment;
- Request that experiment synod leaders and appropriate churchwide staff work together to come to agreement about the experiment's purposes, goals, definitions, language, and learnings and to publish a joint report."

Bishop Bill Gafkjen, chair of the Conference of Bishops, provided rationale for the recommendation. An extension would allow more time for further longitudinal gathering of data and in-depth conversation among synod, churchwide, and Church Council leadership in consideration of the many questions and concerns raised in the reports. In addition, the extension would allow for more time to explore and agree upon learnings from the experiment, to apply those learnings across the church, and to plan for transition from the experiment. Adding more synods to the experiment at this time or before January 31, 2021 would complicate the process and likely hinder rather than help the learning process for which this experiment was established.

The Budget and Finance Committee of the Church Council will discuss the Mission Support Experiment and proposed recommendations at its committee meeting. Church Council will consider the action during Plenary Session Six.

#### CC ACTION

##### **Recommended:**

**To extend the Mission Support Experiment with the five synods (Nebraska Synod, Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod, New England Synod, Lower Susquehanna Synod, and Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod) through January 31, 2021; and**

**To request the five synod leaders and appropriate churchwide staff bring an initial report to the Church Council by the April 2019 meeting and a final report and recommendations to the Church Council by November 2019 that:**

- **Clearly states the impact that the experiment(s) have had on Mission Support through the first three years of the experiment;**
- **Clearly states the impact that the experiment(s) have had on management and oversight of grants for congregation vitality and the position of director for evangelical mission;**
- **Clearly states how synodical cultures have been changed by greater nimbleness in overall decision making, articulating the various strategies implemented by the experiment synods in achieving this goal;**
- **Addresses the broader implications if the specifics of this experiment were to become permanent for these five synods; and**
- **Addresses the broader implications if the specifics of this experiment were to be adopted by other synods.**

**VI.D New Business**

**VI.E Announcements**

12:00 p.m.

Lunch, Augsburg Room

**PLENARY SESSION SEVEN**

Council Room  
November 11, 2018  
1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

**VII.A Report of the Board Development Committee**

**VII.B Follow-Up Discussion of Saturday's Governance Policy Conversation**

**VII.C 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.

**VII.D 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. Background information can be found in the Program and Services Committee section of My.ELCA.org.

**VII.D.1 Entrance Rite Discernment Group Report**

At its last meeting, the Church Council received a proposed report and recommendations from the Entrance Rite Discernment Group (ERDG). With the affirmation of the Church Council, the proposed recommendations were sent via email to all rostered ministers in April with the hope of engaging the church in conversation around the specific proposed recommendations.

The ERDG received feedback from the Conference of Bishops and Church Council last spring, as well as rostered ministers, ecumenical partners, and other leaders throughout the church over the last few months.

A final recommendation, reflecting the feedback that was received, was reviewed by the Conference of Bishops at its Fall 2018 meeting. A [final report and recommendation](#) will be considered by the Program and Services Committee. Church Council will consider the recommendations during Plenary Session Seven.

**CC ACTION**

**Recommended:**

**To receive with gratitude the report and recommendations from the Entrance Rite Discernment Group and thank the discernment group members for their faithful service;**

**To define the symbols of this ministry as a deacon's stole and a cross, both to be presented at the entrance rite, and to request the Office of the Presiding Bishop worship staff to share information about the appropriate use of the deacon stole and to facilitate a conversation among deacons regarding a unified cross design;**

**To encourage synods, congregations and the churchwide organization to increase opportunities for lifting up, recognizing, fostering and encouraging recognition of deacons for the mission and witness of the church in the world;**

**To continue Domestic Mission unit funding for transition events and ongoing leadership and formation events to ensure growth and understanding of the roster of Ministers of Word and Service; and**

To approve the implementation of the following actions, subject to the approval of the governing documents establishing the rite of ordination as the entrance rite for deacons entering the roster of Ministers of Word and Service:

- request the Office of the Presiding Bishop worship staff to develop an appropriate rite and rubrics for the ordination of deacons;
- request the Domestic Mission unit, in consultation with appropriate churchwide organization offices and units, to review the ELCA candidacy process for appropriate modifications as necessary;
- continue, through the appropriate churchwide organization office or unit in consultation with ecumenical partners, the preparation of appropriate and informative materials for the ongoing study of how this church lives into its diaconal vocation.

VII.E Congregational Vitality Learning by Mr. Jim Hushagen

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

VII.G *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](#).

VII.H Personal Reflection on Faith by Ms. Leslie Swenson

VII.I Process Observation

VII.J Evaluation and Debriefing

VII.K Hymn and Prayer

VII.L Adjournment