



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 8-11, 2018. The council centered its work around worship, Bible study, prayer and personal reflections on faith.

The Church Council took action on the following:

- re-elected the Rev. Rafael Malpica Padilla to a four-year renewable term as executive director of the Global Mission unit, beginning February 1, 2019
- elected the Rev. Philip Hirsch to a four-year renewable term as executive director of the Domestic Mission unit, beginning February 1, 2019
- thanked the Rev. Stephen Bouman for his faithful service as the executive director of the Domestic Mission Unit
- recommended to the 2019 Churchwide Assembly adoption of “A Declaration of Inter-Religious Commitment: a policy statement of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.”
- defined the symbols for the roster of Ministers of Word and Service as a deacon’s stole and a cross and requested the Office of the Presiding Bishop worship staff to develop an appropriate rite and rubrics for the ordination of deacons, pending 2019 Churchwide Assembly approval of ordination as the entrance rite for the roster of ministers of Word and Service
- approved the Preface and Part 1 of the ELCA Church Council Governance Policy Manual and engaged in further discussion
- formed a working group to draft a Declaration to People of African Descent to be presented to the 2019 Churchwide Assembly
- extended 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) and requested an initial report be brought to the April 2019 Church Council meeting and a final report and recommendations to the November 2019 Church Council meeting
- received reports on the implementation of the Strategy Toward Authentic Diversity within the ELCA and the repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery (actions from the 2016 Churchwide Assembly)
- recommended amendments to the constitutions of this church for adoption by the 2019 Churchwide Assembly
- approved a 2019 fiscal year current fund spending authorization of \$67,164, 676; approved a 2019 ELCA World Hunger spending authorization of \$21,500,000
- approved a Church Council Designated Fund in the range of \$1.5-2.5 million
- approved the report of the audit committee and reappointed a member
- appointed members of the Memorials Committee and Reference and Counsel Committee
- elected members of the Committee of Hearing Officers, boards of separately incorporated ministries, seminaries, and other organizations
- approved revised bylaws and Articles of Incorporation of Wartburg Theological Seminary
- ratified amendments to synod constitutions
- revised the Policies and Procedures of the ELCA for Addressing Social Concerns
- revised the Alcohol Social Criteria Investment Screen
- acted on resolutions received from synods

The Church Council received/engaged in the following:

- reports from the officers, its committees, the Administrative Team and the Conference of Bishops
- conversation on racial justice
- conversation on sustainability
- report of the Theological Education Advisory Committee (TEAC)
- update on Day of Discernment Event
- shared congregational vitality learnings
- update on Lutheran Services in America
- update on The Campaign for the ELCA
- greetings from ecumenical partners