



**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 4-7, 2019. The council centered its work around worship, Bible study, prayer and personal reflections on faith.

**The Church Council took action on the following:**

- elected Mr. Philip Wirtanen, Ms. Lisa A. Burk and the Rev. Ricardo E. Rivera to the Church Council; declared the newly elected committee chairs members of the Executive Committee following the 2019 Churchwide Assembly
- affirmed “Towards a Faithful and Multidimensional Understanding of Sustainability”
- designated Columbus, Ohio, as the site for the 2022 Churchwide Assembly, subject to satisfactory final negotiations
- commended the work of the Ad Hoc Governance Policy Committee and requested a final Governance Policy Manual by August 2019
- requested the churchwide organization lead broad fundraising efforts throughout the ELCA focused on Future Directions 2025 and affirmed the continuation of the Task Force on Income Strategies and Future Campaigns to consider how to grow resources
- approved the revised ELCA Philosophy of Benefits
- declined to consider “Trustworthy Servants of the People of God” and referred the document to the Domestic Mission unit for further review and redrafting with attention given to how to listen to other voices with intentional transparency, requesting quarterly reports on the process to the Church Council and a draft for consideration by the fall 2020 meeting
- recommended to the 2019 Churchwide Assembly the report and recommendations of the Task Force for Strategic Authentic Diversity
- recommended to the 2019 Churchwide Assembly adoption of the proposed social statement, “Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Lutheran Call to Action” and the related implementing resolutions
- accepted a process to measure and communicate the results of the Mission Support Experiment in the following synods: Lower Susquehanna, Metropolitan Washington, D.C., Nebraska, New England, Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast
- received the ELCA Churchwide Organization Operational Plan Report for 2018
- affirmed ethnic-specific ministry strategic plans
- designated churchwide representatives to synod assemblies
- recommended adoption by the 2019 Churchwide Assembly of “Rules of Organization and Procedure”
- recommended amendments to the constitutions of this church for adoption by the 2019 Churchwide Assembly
- recommended adoption of FY20-22 churchwide budget proposal of \$68+ million and \$21,500,000 for ELCA World Hunger by 2019 Churchwide Assembly
- revised 2019 spending authorization from \$67,164,676 to \$68,167,676
- approved a Church Council Designated Fund of \$1,554,686 representing excess revenue over expenses from fiscal year 2018
- approved the report of the audit committee and appointed members

- elected members to the boards of separately incorporated ministries and seminaries
- ratified amendments to synod constitutions
- approved amended Corporate Social Responsibility Roles and Responsibilities Chart
- archived “A Changing Europe: Peace and the Churches” social message
- recommended archival of certain social policy resolutions by the 2019 Churchwide Assembly

**The Church Council received/engaged in the following:**

- reports from the officers, its committees, the Administrative Team and the Conference of Bishops
- conversation on *Trustworthy Servants of the People of God*
- reflection with Church Council Class of 2019
- update on *The Campaign for the ELCA*
- greetings from ecumenical partners