

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
CHURCH COUNCIL
June 27, 2019
Conference Call

For those in the Lutheran Center: Council Room

AGENDA

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Participants

Voting Members

Pr. Hans Becklin

Mr. Allan Bieber (*excused*)

Pr. Wm Chris Boerger, Secretary

Ms. Lisa Burk

Ms. Cheryl Chatman

Mr. Reid Christopherson (*excused*)

Bp. Elizabeth Eaton, Presiding Bishop

Ms. Lori Fedyk, Treasurer

Pr. Dena Gable

Bp. William Gafkjen (*excused*)

Pr. Joyce Graue

Ms. Cynthia Gustavson

Mr. William Horne, Vice President

Pr. Chad Huebner

Ms. Maren Hulden

Mr. James Hushagen

Mr. James Jennings

Pr. Peder Johanson

Ms. Emilee Le Blanc

Mr. John Lohrmann

Mr. Joseph Nolte

Pr. Linda Nou

Mr. Gary Pederson

Ms. Meri Jo Petrivelli

Pr. Ricardo Rivera

Mr. Clarence Smith

Pr. Jonathan Splichal Larson

Ms. Ingrid Stafford

Ms. Leslie Swenson

Pr. James Utt

Mr. Vernon Veal

Pr. William Voss

Ms. Emma Wagner

Pr. Michael Ward

Mr. Philip Wirtanen

Ms. Sonja Wolfe

Ms. Man-Hei Yip

Mr. Seth Zimmann

Liaison Bishops

Bp. Jeffrey Clements

Bp. Terry Brandt (*on behalf of Bp. Delzer*)

Bp. Suzanne Dillahunt

Bp. Guy Erwin

Bp. Richard Graham

Bp. Michael Rinehart (*in behalf of Bp. Maas*)

Bp. John Macholz

Bp. Kirby Unti

Bp. Pedro Suárez

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

Ms. Judith Roberts, Program Director, Racial Justice Ministries

Deacon Mary Ann Schwabe, Natural Systems Coordinator

Ms. Jodi Slattery, Assistant to the Bishop, Governance

Dr. Mary Streufert, Director, Justice for Women (*excused*)

Pr. Kevin Strickland, Assistant to the Bishop, Executive for Worship (*excused*)

Pr. Roger Willer, Director, Theological Ethics

Office of the Secretary

Mr. Thomas Cunniff, General Counsel

Ms. Aja Favors, Associate General Counsel

Ms. Marit Johnson, Manager, Official Documentation

Deacon Sue Rothmeyer, Assistant to the Secretary

Unit Staff

Pr. Philip Hirsch, 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

Ms. Jocelyn Fuller, Director for Strategic Communications, MA

Pr. Albert Starr, Director for Ethnic Specific and Multicultural Ministries

Press

Ms. Candice Hill Buchbinder, Mission Advancement

African Descent Lutheran Association

Pr. Lamont Wells, president

PLENARY SESSION ONE

June 27, 2019

1:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m. CT

I.A Call to Order and Adoption of the Agenda

Agenda items have been distributed electronically.

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 Consideration of “A Declaration of the ELCA to People of African Descent”

At the 2016 Churchwide Assembly, the assembly received the African Descent Lutherans memorial from 10 synods calling for a number of actions related to the ELCA’s observance of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation and the commemoration of the United Nation’s International decade of People of African Descent. In response, the assembly requested in part that the Domestic Mission unit staff create a “Declaration to the African Descent Community.” [CA16.05.17]

For the past two years, staff have provided progress updates to Church Council on the development and challenges of the work. At the November 2018 meeting, the Church Council engaged in a “Cleansing and Contemplative Conversation on Racial Justice.” Following that conversation at the same meeting, the Church Council authorized a working group to draft a declaration to the African descent community [CC18.11.23]. Members of the working group are Ms. Emma Wagner, Ms. Sonja Wolfe, Mr. Clarence Smith, Bishop Bill Gohl, and Ms. Donna Matteis. Ms. Judith Roberts, program director for racial justice ministries, Pr. Albert Starr, director for ethnic-specific and multicultural ministries, and Ms. Jodi Slattery, assistant to the presiding bishop for governance, serve as staff resource persons to the group.

The working group have reviewed previous apologies from the ELCA as well as from other ecumenical partners and begun drafting the apology. The Executive Committee has received updates on its progress and the Church Council provided feedback on a rough draft at its April 2019 meeting. At its June 2019 meeting, the Lutheran World Federation Council adopted a resolution titled [“Commemorating the 2019 Quad-centennial of the Forced Transatlantic Voyage of Enslaved African Peoples to the Americas – Human Beings Not for Sale!”](#) This resolution is timely as the Church Council considers a similar action.

At this meeting, Church Council will review and discuss the [proposed declaration](#). There will be approximately 25 minutes for this discussion and action.

Upon adoption by Church Council, the apology would be shared at the 2019 Churchwide Assembly.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To adopt “A Declaration of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to the People of African Descent” as a statement of apology for this church’s complicity in the legacy of slavery;

To thank the African Descent Lutheran Association for their 2015 biennial assembly resolution asking for a declaration of the ELCA to the people of African descent;

To call this church into a time of study and to request the Office of the Presiding Bishop to consider developing educational resources to support the apology and encourage congregations, synods and the churchwide organization to find ways to share this apology broadly;

To request Planning, Research and Evaluation to measure and report progress on the discriminatory treatment within the call process and to urge Portico to assist with providing

information to the churchwide organization to measure and report progress on inequitable compensation of clergy of color by the November 2021 meeting of the Church Council;

To request the presiding bishop to name a Day of Repentance for congregations, synods and churchwide organization to observe annually and to request the Office of the Presiding Bishop worship team develop a liturgical resource of lamentation and repentance to accompany this annual Day of Repentance; and

To affirm the June 2019 Lutheran World Federation Council resolution "Commemorating the 2019 Quad-centennial of the Forced Transatlantic Voyage of Enslaved African Peoples to the Americas - Human Beings Not for Sale!" and, in particular, LWF's call to engage in anti-racism and racial justice work, work toward economic justice (including the study of reparations), and work to address and end modern forms of slavery and human trafficking.

I.C Consideration of Governance Policy Manual

At the November 2018 meeting, the Church Council approved a [Preface and Part 1 of the Governance Policy Manual](#) [CC18.11.15]. More recently, at the April 2019 Church Council meeting, the Ad Hoc Governance Policy Committee presented an addition to Part 1 and a draft of Part 2. Church Council requested a final Governance Policy Manual be presented no later than the August 2019 Church Council meeting [CC19.04.06]. An executive summary of the changes from the April 2019 version can be found [here](#).

The ad hoc committee has completed its work and will be presenting a [final manual](#) for Church Council's consideration. There will be approximately 25 minutes for this discussion and action.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To approve the ELCA Church Council Governance Policy Manual as a whole (including the addition to Part 1 and Part 2);

To authorize the Office of the Presiding Bishop, in consultation with the Office of the Secretary, to make any necessary corrections for accuracy;

To request the Board Development Committee, in consultation with the Office of the Presiding Bishop, to review and revise the "Orientation Manual for Church Council Members" in accordance with the Governance Policy Manual; and

To request the Executive Committee and Board Development Committee to revise their committee charters to reflect each committee's governance function as noted in the Governance Policy Manual, consistent with the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*.

I.D *En Bloc* Approval of Certain Items

The following *en bloc* resolution includes agenda items that will be considered at the end 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](#). Please notify the chair of any items to be removed from *en bloc* consideration to discuss separately. The chair will not call for a discussion or separate vote on those items that are not removed from the *en bloc* resolution.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To take action *En Bloc* on the items listed in [En Bloc Items](#).

I.E Adjournment