

**EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
IN AMERICA**

**Church Council**

**MINUTES**

**June 27, 2019**

**Prepared by the  
Office of the Secretary**

**EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA  
CHURCH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES  
June 27, 2019  
Chicago, Illinois**

The 94th meeting of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) convened on June 27, 2019, in the Epiphany Conference Room of the Lutheran Center in Chicago, Illinois, and by conference call.

**ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING**

The following people were present for all or part of the meeting:

***Voting members***

**Officers:**

Pr. Elizabeth A. Eaton, presiding bishop  
Mr. William B. Horne II, vice president  
Pr. Wm Chris Boerger, secretary  
Ms. Lori S. Fedyk, treasurer

**Chair of the Conference of Bishops:**

Pr. William O. Gafkjen, bishop of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod (*excused*)

**Church Council:**

Pr. Hans E. Becklin	Pr. Linda Nou
Mr. Allan J. Bieber ( <i>excused</i> )	Mr. Gary A. Pederson
Ms. Lisa Burk	Ms. Meri Jo Petrivelli
Ms. Cheryl T. Chatman	Pr. Ricardo Rivera
Mr. Reid A. Christopherson	Mr. Clarence M. Smith
Pr. William E. Flippin Jr.	Pr. Jonathan Splichal Larson ( <i>excused</i> )
Pr. Dena M. Gable	Ms. Ingrid S. Stafford
Pr. Joyce M. Graue	Ms. Leslie J. Swenson
Ms. Cynthia M. Gustavson	Pr. James H. Utt
Pr. Chad M. Huebner	Mr. Vernon K. Veal
Ms. Maren Hulden	Pr. William O. Voss
Mr. James M. Hushagen	Ms. Emma K. Wagner
Mr. James J.F. Jennings	Pr. Michael R. Ward
Pr. Peder J. Johanson	Mr. Philip Wirtanen
Ms. Emilee M. Le Blanc ( <i>excused</i> )	Ms. Sonja Wolfe
Mr. John W. Lohrmann	Ms. Man-Hei Yip
Mr. Joseph T. Nolte	Mr. Seth M. Zimmann ( <i>excused</i> )

***Representatives of the Conference of Bishops***

Bp. Terry A. Brandt, Region 3 ( <i>on behalf of Bp. Steven H. Delzer</i> )	Bp. John S. Macholz, Region 7
Bp. H. Jeffrey A. Clements, Region 5	Bp. Michael W. Rinchart, Region 4 ( <i>on behalf of Bp. Brian D. Maas</i> )
Bp. Suzanne D. Dillahunt, Region 6	Bp. Pedro M. Suárez, Region 9
Bp. R. Guy Erwin, Region 2	Bp. B. Kirby Unti, Region 1
Bp. Richard H. Graham, Region 8	

***Resource people***

**Office of the Presiding Bishop:**

Pr. M. Wyvetta Bullock, executive for administration  
Ms. Deborah Coe, executive for planning research and evaluation  
Ms. Kathryn L. Johnson, director for ecumenical and interreligious relations  
Ms. Rhondean Johnson, executive for human resources  
Ms. Kathryn M. Lohre, assistant to the presiding bishop for ecumenical and interreligious relations  
and assistant to the presiding bishop for theological discernment  
Pr. Walter S. May, assistant to the bishop and executive for synodical relations  
Ms. Judith Roberts, program director for racial justice ministries  
Deacon Mary Ann Schwabe, natural systems coordinator (*excused*)  
Ms. Jodi L. Slattery, assistant to the presiding bishop for governance  
Ms. Mary J. Streufert, director for justice for women (*excused*)  
Pr. Kevin L. Strickland, assistant to the presiding bishop for worship (*excused*)  
Pr. Roger A. Willer, director for theological ethics (*excused*)

**Office of the Secretary:**

Mr. Thomas A. Cunniff, general counsel  
Ms. Aja M. Favors, associate general counsel  
Ms. Marit E. Johnson, manager for official documentation  
Deacon Sue E. Rothmeyer, executive for Office of the Secretary administration

**Unit staff:**

Ms. Jocelyn Fuller, director for strategic communications  
Pr. Philip C. Hirsch, executive director of the Domestic Mission unit  
Ms. Christina Jackson-Skelton, executive director of the Mission Advancement unit  
Pr. Rafael Malpica-Padilla, executive director of the Global Mission unit  
Pr. Darryl Powell, program director for African descent ministries  
Ms. Evelyn B. Soto, director for operations and programs of the Domestic Mission unit  
Pr. Albert Starr Jr., director for ethnic specific and multicultural ministries  
Pr. David C. Wunsch, director for operations of the Global Mission unit

**Press:**

Ms. Candice Hill Buchbinder, Mission Advancement

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Thursday, June 27, 2019

**CALL TO ORDER AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

(Agenda I.A.)

*Background:*

Agenda items were distributed electronically.

*Church Council action:*

Mr. William B. Horne II, vice president of the ELCA and chair of the Church Council, called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m. and welcomed participants. The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, presiding bishop of the ELCA, led the meeting in prayer.

Vice President Horne asked the Rev. Wm Chris Boerger, secretary of the ELCA to read the motion.

A motion was made to adopt the agenda.

There being no discussion, the chair called for the vote.

**VOTED:**

**CC19.06.21 To adopt the agenda and to permit the chair to call for consideration of agenda items in the order the chair deems most appropriate.**

Vice President Horne declared that the agenda was adopted.

**CONSIDERATION OF “A DECLARATION OF THE ELCA  
TO THE PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT”**

(Agenda I.B.; *Reference:* “A Declaration of the ELCA to the People of African Descent”)

*Background:*

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 reviewed previous apologies from the ELCA as well as from other ecumenical partners and begun drafting the apology. The Executive Committee 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. Upon adoption by Church Council, the apology would be shared at the 2019 Churchwide Assembly.

*Church Council discussion: [12:44]*

Mr. Clarence M. Smith presented an overview of the apology document. The working group decided to keep the document to a one-page apology. In preparation for writing the ELCA apology, the working group read and reviewed similar apologies from other religious traditions. Mr. Smith stressed that the African descent community rejected writing this document for themselves. The working group agreed that the apology needed to come from the white church community. One of the implementing resolutions calls for an annual day of repentance across all expressions of the ELCA. It also asks for worship resources to be used on that day of repentance.

A motion was made to amend the action for clarity so that the text read “to direct” both the presiding bishop and the Planning, Research and Evaluation team rather than “to request.” The Rev. M. Wyvetta Bullock, executive for administration, noted that the churchwide organization still needs to compute cost implications for crafting and distributing worship resources. She was hopeful that the costs could be covered between the budgets of the Office of the Presiding Bishop and the Mission Advancement unit, especially if these resources were distributed electronically. She noted that it may not be possible to get some of the requested information from Portico Benefit Services due to privacy laws.

A motion was made to vote on the amended item.

**VOTED:**

**CC19.06.22**

**To amend the language of the third and fourth paragraphs of the motion regarding “A Declaration of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to the People of African Descent” so that the first sentence of each paragraph reads “To call this church into a time of study and to request direct the presiding bishop,” “To request direct Planning, Research and Evaluation,” respectively.**

*Church Council action:*

A motion was made to adopt “A Declaration of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to the People of African Descent,” as amended.

There being no further discussion, Vice President William B. Horne II called for the vote.

**VOTED:**

**CC19.06.23**

**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 direct 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 direct 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.**

### **CONSIDERATION OF GOVERNANCE POLICY MANUAL**

(Agenda I.C.; *Reference*: ELCA Church Council Governance Policy Manual; executive summary)

#### *Background:*

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].

#### *Church Council discussion:*

Ms. Maren Hulden, chair of the ad hoc committee, reminded the council of the document’s timeline. A short executive summary highlights changes made to the manual since the April 2019 meeting. One of the changes addressed open meetings and visitors to those meetings. Ms. Hulden stated that visitors do not have voice or vote but are welcome at open meetings. She also noted that governance functions will be divided between the Executive Committee and the Board Development Committee. The chair of the meeting may invite visitors to speak. Ms. Hulden hopes to share this document with the Conference of Bishops before the August meeting.

A motion was made to amend the action for clarity so that the text read “direct” rather than “request” in the third and fourth paragraphs.

#### **VOTED:**

**CC19.06.24 To amend the language of the third and fourth paragraphs on the motion relating to the ELCA Church Governance Policy Manual so that the first sentence of each paragraph reads “To ~~request~~ **direct** the Board Development Committee” and “To ~~request~~ **direct** the Executive Committee and Board Development Committee” respectively.**

A council member raised a question on Part 2, Section 2, “Meetings of the Church Council.” The Executive Summary notes that the council can call for its own meeting or special session. The council member did not see that item addressed in the manual itself. Ms. Hulden stated that according to Minnesota non-profit law, any member of a board of directors can call for a special session. In order to change this item, it must be addressed in a constitutional bylaw. The committee decided to consider proposing a new constitutional bylaw to the 2022 Churchwide Assembly.

#### *Church Council action:*

A motion was made to adopt the “ELCA Church Council Governance Policy Manual.”

There being no further discussion, Vice President William B. Horne II called for the vote.

**VOTED:**

**CC19.06.25**

**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 direct 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 direct 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.***

**EN BLOC APPROVAL OF CERTAIN ITEMS**

(Agenda I.D.)

An *en bloc* resolution was presented to the Church Council of constitutional amendments that will be voted on by the 2019 Churchwide Assembly. No members asked to remove the item from *en bloc*.

**VOTED:**

**CC19.06.26**

**To take action *En Bloc* on the item listed in *En Bloc* items.**

**A. Proposed amendments to the *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America***

The Churchwide Assembly adopts amendments to the *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*. The process for amending the governing documents is specified in Chapter 22 of the ELCA Constitution. The adoption of bylaw amendments and continuing resolutions can be submitted closer to a Churchwide Assembly. The following bylaw amendments and continuing resolutions are being proposed. A two-thirds vote of the 2019 Churchwide Assembly is required for adoption.

**VOTED:**

**CC19.06.26a**

**To recommend the following for adoption by the 2019 Churchwide Assembly of the *Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*:**

**To adopt, *en bloc*, with the exception of such amendments as may be considered separately, the amendments to the *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*; and**

**To authorize the Office of the Secretary to make appropriate changes in the Constitution for Synods and the Model Constitution for Congregations congruent with the ELCA Constitution as amended.**

- 10.01.01. Names and Boundaries.** The names and boundaries of the synods shall be:
- Synod 1.A—Alaska. The state of ALASKA.
- Synod 1.B—Northwest Washington. The counties of Island, King (north), San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish, Whatcom in the state of WASHINGTON; the congregation Bethany, Kitsap County, in the state of WASHINGTON.
- Synod 1.C—Southwestern Washington. The counties of Clallam, Clark, Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, King (south), Kitsap, Lewis, Mason, Pacific, Pierce, Skamania, Thurston, Wahkiakum in the state of WASHINGTON.
- Synod 1.D—~~Eastern Washington Idaho~~ **Northwest Intermountain**. The state of IDAHO; the counties of Adams, Asotin, Benton, Chelan, Columbia, Douglas, Ferry,
- ...

- 18.01.A08.** *The regions shall be numbered 1 through 9 and comprised of the following synods (as designated in bylaw 10.01.01.):*
- Region 1—Alaska Synod; Northwest Washington Synod; Southwestern Washington Synod; ~~Eastern Washington Idaho~~ **Northwest Intermountain** Synod; Oregon Synod; and Montana Synod.*
- ...

- 19.02.C05.** *For purposes of nominations for the Church Council on a rotating basis, the following pairing of synods shall be observed insofar as possible: Alaska Synod and Northwest Washington Synod; ~~Eastern Washington Idaho~~ **Northwest Intermountain** Synod and Montana Synod; Southwestern Washington*
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## **ADJOURNMENT**

(Agenda I.E.)

The 94th meeting of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America adjourned at 1:47 p.m. on Thursday, June 27, 2019.