



## Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

The Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) met at the Eaglewood Resort, Itasca, Illinois, March 6-8, 2020. The council centered its work around worship, prayer, and conversation with the Conference of Bishops at this historic first joint meeting of the Church Council and the Conference of Bishops.

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

- approved non-substantive edits to *Definitions and Guidelines for Discipline*
- approved non-substantive updates to the *Manual of Policies and Procedures for the Management of the Rosters of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*
- repealed “Vision and Expectations,” effective immediately; affirmed that *Definitions and Guidelines for Discipline* remains the basis for discipline in this church; and directed churchwide units to make necessary updates and changes to relevant documents by June 1, 2020
- directed Domestic Mission unit to update language, effective immediately, in the ELCA Candidacy Manual related to a candidate’s entrance and approval
- directed Portico Benefit Services to take actions necessary to offer at least two plans that have 78-82 percent actuarial value
- approved a Church Council Designated Fund with excess funds from FY2018 and FY2019 to be used for future budget shortfall
- approved Portico’s discontinuation of collection of a surcharge that was being used to fund the Benefits Contribution Trust
- received the response from the Domestic Mission unit to a request from the Conference of Bishops on climate change and approved a timeline for progress reports, with a final report to be given to the Church Council at its April 2022 meeting
- authorized the Executive Committee to elect trustees to fill, until the November 2020 meeting of the Church Council, vacancies in the board of trustees of the ELCA Foundation
- elected persons to the boards of directors of four seminaries
- expressed thanks to the Conference of Bishops for gathering with the Church Council at this meeting and sharing their knowledge, experience, and perspectives

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

- reports from the officers and its committees
- update on the ELCA Innovation Lab
- conversation with the Conference of Bishops of what it means to be a sanctuary church and potential future guidance for this church
- conversation with presidents and representatives of the Ethnic-Specific Ministry Associations
- update on Mission Support Experiment synods
- conversation on congregational vitality
- conversation on anti-racism and authentic diversity