

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
CHURCH COUNCIL
April 8, 2020
4:00 – 5:00 pm CT (Central Time)
Conference Call

AGENDA

To join the online meeting automatically: [Join Skype Meeting](https://meet.elca.org/jodi.slattery/RMNRP1DN?sl=1)

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For assistance

If you need any assistance, please contact Joseph Schmidt (773) 380-2438 or joseph.schmidt@elca.org

Participants

Voting Members

Mr. Kevin Anderson

Bp. Tracie Bartholomew

Ms. Tracey Beasley

Pr. Marcus Bigott

Pr. Nick Billardello

Ms. Susan Boxberger

Ms. Lisa Burk

Pr. Bill Callister

Pr. Karn Carroll

Ms. Cheryl Chatman

Mr. Ismael Danforth

Ms. Divine

Bp. Elizabeth Eaton, Presiding Bishop

Pr. Joanne Engquist

Ms. Lori Fedyk, Treasurer

Pr Dena Gable

Pr. Emily Hartner

Pr. Pamela Hoh

Ms. Cherrish Holland

Mr. William Horne, Vice President

Pr. Chad Huebner

Mr. Jim Jennings

Ms. Pat Kluetz

Mr. David Lenz

Pr. Tara Lynn

Mr. Keoni Newman

Mr. Joe Nolte

Mr. Gary Pederson

Pr. Ricardo Rivera

Deacon Sue Rothmeyer, Secretary

Mr. Noah Roux

Ms. Valerie Shaw

Mr. Loren Solberg

Pr. Kjersten Sullivan

Ms. Loni Taylor

Ms. Emma Wagner

Ms. Sonja Wolfe

Ms. Merritt Zesinger

Liaison Bishops

Bp. Jon Anderson

Bp. Sue Briner

Bp. Jeffrey Clements

Bp. Barbara Collins

Bp. Guy Erwin

Bp. Donald Kreiss

Bp. John Macholz

Bp. Pedro Suárez

Bp. Shelley Wickstrom

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. Rhondean Johnson, Executive for Human Resources
Ms. Kathryn Lohre, Assistant to the Bishop, Executive for Ecumenical and
Pr. Walter May, Assistant to the Bishop, Executive for Synod Relations
Ms. Mikka McCracken, Executive, Innovation, and Director, ELCA Leadership Lab
Deacon Mary Ann Schwabe, Natural Systems Coordinator
Ms. Jodi Slattery, Assistant to the Bishop, Governance
Deacon John Weit, Assistant to the Bishop, Executive for Worship

Office of the Secretary

Mr. Thomas Cunniff, General Counsel
Ms. Aja Favors, Associate General Counsel
Pr. Keith Fry, Assistant to the Secretary
Ms. Marit Johnson, Manager, Official Documentation

Unit Staff

Pr. Philip Hirsch, Executive Director, Domestic Mission (DM)
Ms. Kathy Freeman Summers, Executive Director, Mission Advancement (MA)
Pr. Rafael Malpica-Padilla, Executive Director, Global Mission (GM)
Ms. Evelyn Soto, Director for DM Operations and Programs, DM
Ms. Jocelyn Fuller, Senior Director for Strategic Communications, MA
Ms. Rachel Wind, Executive for Development

Press

Ms. Candice Hill Buchbinder, Mission Advancement

- 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 Vacancies in Committee on Appeals**

ELCA bylaw 14.41.11.a. directs the Executive Committee to “perform those functions of the Church Council assigned to it by the Church Council.”

Secretary Sue Rothmeyer has declared vacancies on the Committee on Appeals. Candidates have not been identified to fill the vacancies. As the committee would like to fill these vacancies soon given the time-sensitive work of the committee, the Office of the Secretary asks Church Council to consider authorizing the Executive Committee to appoint members to fill the remainder of the term caused by vacancies.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To authorize the Executive Committee to elect members to fill vacancies in the Committee on Appeals until the June 2020 Church Council meeting.

- I.C Consideration of COVID-19 Response Appeal**

On March 27, 2020, ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton [announced](#) a comprehensive Covid-19 response from the churchwide office. From initial conversations, the special appeal prong of the response seemed to fit within our existing appeal fundraising mechanisms like Lutheran Disaster Response. However, as of early April, the conversations shifted to allow a broader reach for the funds of the special appeal to be used to support ELCA congregations, ministries and synods.

This response fund would be a new, restricted fund that can collect revenue to be distributed to any Covid-19 related need (prioritizing congregation/synod/local ministry support). These funds would support ministries of the ELCA most in need and best positioned to help. This includes ELCA congregations as well as local and churchwide ministries capable of reaching and assisting people in need. This umbrella approach would comprehensively reflect the variety of routes through which this church is responding.

Such an appeal would need action by the Church Council in accordance with ELCA Constitution Bylaw 11.41.06, which states in part, “No churchwide appeal to congregations or individuals of this church for the raising of funds shall be conducted by the churchwide organization or churchwide units without the consent of the Churchwide Assembly or the Church Council, following consultation with the Conference of Bishops.”

Bishop Eaton has consulted with the Conference of Bishops about the appeal. The Executive Committee proposes the following recommendation for Church Council consideration.

CC ACTION

Recommended:

To approve a special appeal in response to COVID-19 (coronavirus disease 2019) as a fundraising effort of this church in order to support congregations, synods, relief and development, global mission, and affiliate ministries that have been negatively impacted by the pandemic;

To request the relevant churchwide organization units and offices provide periodic reports on the appeal to the Executive Committee and to anticipate a recommendation for a timeline on the completion of the appeal; and

To give thanks to God who gives us strength to endure and peace to comfort us all.

- I.D Adjournment**