



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Freed & RENEWED
in Christ 500 YEARS OF GOD'S
GRACE IN ACTION

Called Forward Together in Christ

August 7, 2016

To the ELCA Churchwide Assembly

Grace and peace in the name of Christ

In November last year, the presiding bishop and Church Council, supported by the Conference of Bishops, committed to Called Forward Together in Christ, a process to discern future directions and priorities for this church.

At this Churchwide Assembly, we have shared a directions paper titled “Called Forward Together in Christ for the Sake of the World” that captures what church leaders and members have said is important in discerning God’s call for the future of this church. It discusses the ELCA in its national and global context and proposes priorities that appear to have broad support across this church.

We are grateful to the members of this church for their openness to rediscover God’s call as well as their willingness to help us understand and plan to meet some of the big issues facing this church. We acknowledge this is a broad church and that God has a purpose for us — for the ELCA together and in our many expressions and through our wide ranging ministries.

We affirm our continuing support for this important process, and we pledge ourselves to listen well to the feedback we receive and to carry forward priorities for this church that help us more faithfully and effectively serve God’s mission and live into the Lutheran church God is calling us to become.

A Future Directions Statement will be launched in 2017, as we observe the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. We look forward to your support as we move forward to decisions in November and implementation of priorities for the ELCA together in the years ahead.

In Christ,

Conference of Bishops

Church Council

Synod Vice Presidents