



July 28 – August 2
PHOENIX, ARIZONA



Supplemental Report of the Memorials Committee

July 29, 2025

The Memorials Committee received four motions from members of the assembly prior to the 9:35 p.m. on July 28, 2025, deadline (all times Pacific Daylight Time unless otherwise indicated).

The recommended responses to the following memorials were removed from *en bloc* for separate consideration:

- Category A3: Indian Boarding School Remembrance, beginning on p. 11
- Category B14: Consideration of Recommendation 1 of the CRLC, beginning on p. 60
- Category C2: Update the Social Statement on Abortion, beginning on p. 66
- Category C8: Social Message on Rural Life and Ministry, beginning on p. 79
- Category D1: Justice for Palestinians and Israelis, beginning on p. 80
- Category D4: Stand for Palestinian Rights and End to Occupation of Palestine, beginning on p. 84

The Memorials Committee met in Conference Room 225A in the Phoenix Convention Center at 7:00 a.m. on July 29, 2025, to discuss responses to memorials removed from *en bloc*.

1. Category D4: Stand for Palestinian Rights and End to Occupation of Palestine, beginning on p. 84

To amend the recommended response by substitution:

To receive with gratitude the memorials on “Stand for Palestinian Rights and End to Occupation of Palestine” from the Northwest Washington Synod, Oregon Synod, Rocky Mountain Synod, Nebraska Synod, Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod, Metropolitan Chicago Synod, Southeast Michigan Synod, New England Synod, Delaware-Maryland Synod, Metropolitan Washington, D.C., Synod, and Southeastern Synod;

To reaffirm the public policy advocacy of the Witness in Society (WiS) team;

To urge the WiS federal policy team to identify and provide support for meaningful and impactful opportunities for the public witness of the presiding bishop with the U.S. administration and Congress on the issues identified in the memorials;

To reaffirm the ELCA’s sense of urgency and action for ongoing advocacy, awareness, and accompaniment through the ELCA Sumud initiative;

To reaffirm the work of the ELCA through the MENA (Middle East and North Africa) Desk, Sumud, WiS Advocacy, and the Office of the Presiding Bishop to encourage ELCA members, congregations, synods, and appropriate churchwide units to advocate for human rights, justice, and peace for all Palestinians and Israelis and support policies that bring an end to the occupation and promote a just and peaceful resolution of the conflict;

To reaffirm the ELCA’s commitment to amplifying ELCA partners’ voices from Palestine and Israel and their language of justice for their own people, and

To reaffirm the work of the ELCA through the MENA Desk, ELCA Sumud, ELCA WiS Advocacy, and the Office of the Presiding Bishop to encourage prayerful response to ongoing devastation unfolding in the Holy Land.

With:

Recommended for Assembly Action:

To receive with gratitude the memorials on “Stand for Palestinian Rights and End to Occupation of Palestine” from the Northwest Washington Synod, Oregon Synod, Rocky Mountain Synod, Nebraska Synod, Metropolitan Chicago Synod, Southeast Michigan Synod, New England Synod, Delaware-Maryland Synod, Metropolitan Washington, D.C., Synod, and Southeastern Synod;

To encourage ELCA members, congregations, synods, and appropriate churchwide units to advocate for human rights, justice, and peace for all Palestinians and Israelis and support policies that bring an end to the occupation and promote a just and peaceful resolution of the conflict;

To reaffirm our deep commitment to justice, peace, and the sanctity of every human life, and join the call of the World Council of Churches for an immediate end to the mass killing in Gaza. With grief and moral urgency, we recognize the profound human toll of the violence and displacement against Palestinian civilians,

which constitutes a crisis of international conscience. As we lament this unfolding tragedy, we acknowledge a distinction between our Jewish siblings and the policies of the present government of Israel. We reaffirm our unwavering opposition to antisemitism and Islamophobia in all their forms;

To direct the Office of the Presiding Bishop, in consultation with the Witness in Society Advocacy Team, to write to the President and Vice President of the United States, the Secretary of State, and the majority and minority leaders of the U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives calling on the U.S. government:

- to recognize and work to end the genocide against the Palestinian people, to halt military assistance to Israel used to devastate Gaza, and to investigate the use of U.S. military aid to Israel to ensure compliance with U.S. and international human rights law;
- to redouble its efforts to end human rights violations in Gaza and the West Bank, focusing on the most egregious and ongoing violations, including: indiscriminate and disproportionate bombing of Gaza resulting in the deaths of tens of thousands of children, women and men; deprivation of adequate access to drinking water, food, medical care, and electricity; destruction of buildings—including hospitals, places of worship, homes, and schools—and the destruction of electricity, sewage and water infrastructure essential for survival; and, the detention of hostages and political prisoners;
- to recognize Palestine as a sovereign state, and support Palestine’s full membership in the United Nations, and
- to reject proposals to remove Palestinians from Gaza and the West Bank, to address the catastrophic living conditions that could force Palestinians to leave, and to work to end the rampant settler violence and vandalism against Palestinians in the West Bank;

To encourage prayerful response to the ongoing devastation in Gaza and the West Bank and encourage individuals, congregations, and synods of the ELCA to pray for Palestinians and Israelis, Jews, Christians and Muslims, who work to create a future of justice, equality, reconciliation, and peace for all, including our siblings of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL), Augusta Victoria Hospital operated by the Lutheran World Federation (LWF), and the World Council of Churches/Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel (WCC/EAPPI) who offer comfort, support, accountability, and relief, and

To reaffirm the ELCA’s commitment to amplifying the voices of ELCA partners in Palestine and Israel and their language of justice for their own people; and the urgency and importance of the advocacy, awareness building, and accompaniment work of the ELCA through the Office of the Presiding Bishop, the MENA (Middle East and North Africa) Desk, the Sumud initiative, and the Witness in Society (WiS) public policy team.

2. Category B14: Consideration of Recommendation 1 of the CRLC, beginning on p. 60

To amend the recommended response by addition:

Recommended for Assembly Action:

To receive with gratitude the memorials on “Consideration of Recommendation 1 of the CRLC” from the Pacifica Synod, Metropolitan New York Synod, Delaware-Maryland Synod, and Metropolitan Washington, D.C., Synod;

To acknowledge the importance of accountability in addressing racism within all structures of the ELCA;

To affirm the work of the Strategy Toward Authentic Diversity Advisory Team and request that the Church Council continue to work with the team to clarify the nature of mutual accountability as referenced in Recommendation 1 of the CRLC Report;

To direct the Church Council to add a timeline to its actions taken in response to CRLC Recommendation 1 and to provide progress updates to this church with a final report by Fall 2027, including possible constitutional changes, and

To recommend that if this work is not accomplished by Fall 2027, the Church Council consider calling a special meeting of the Churchwide Assembly to enact necessary revisions to the governing documents of this church.